

The Newsletter

Memorial United Methodist Church

6100 Berkman Drive Austin TX 78723

Rev. Cynthia Kepler-Karrer - Pastor

Feeding Northeast Austin, body, mind, and spirit in the name of Jesus.

Sunday Schedule

Sunday School 9:30-10:15 a.m.

Worship - 11:00 a.m.

Find all our Newsletters on our

Web site: www.memorialumcaustin.com

Find us on Facebook at

Memorial United Methodist Church-Austin

Email:

secretary@memorialumcaustin.com

Phone: 512. 452.5796

Fax: 512.450.0323



In this issue:

Sympathy & Birthdays.....	2
Finance, Youth & Partners.....	3
Pastor's Corner.....	4
Trustee Update/Recycle.....	5
UMW, Book Study.....	6



MARCH 2022

Full to the Brim *An expansive lent*

March 2--Ash Wednesday 7:00pm (in-person and online)

March 6—"Even in the Desert"

March 13—"Under God's Wing"

March 20—"You Are Worthy"

March 27—"Prodigal Grace"

April 3—"Brazen Acts of Beauty"

April 10—"Even the Stones Cry Out"

April 14—Maundy Thursday

April 15—Good Friday

April 17—Easter Sunday

Resources for the Lenten Journey (contact the office to receive any of these):

- ◆ Devotion Booklet
- ◆ Affirmation/Prayer Cards
- ◆ Lent Reflections and Intentions Worksheet
- ◆ Daily affirmation emails/texts

See Pastor Cynthia's article for more about our Lenten theme and join us for a Lent that expands our sense of God's grace in our lives and in our life together!



News From pews



Carol Lee Combs, age 80, of Cedar Park, Texas passed away on Sunday, January 30, 2022. Carol was born December 15, 1941.

Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/georgetown-tx/carol-combs-10556467> for the Combs family.

Our Thoughts and Prayers go out to the family and friends of Carol. May God comfort you.



March Birthdays

- 1st Craig Amundson
- 2nd Travis Rychlik
- 3rd Elizabeth Bach-Miller
- 4th Eva Davila
- 5th Linda Eaker
James Journigan
- 6th Carole Garner
Judy Johnson
Krystal Walker
- 7th David Amundson
Chad Ericson
- 8th Mary Bryant
- 9th Laura Elizabeth Smith
Grant Walker Zapalac
- 12th Wanda Anderson
Minda Egbert
Jules Harrison Pomerleau
- 15th Jacy Kuruk Gray
Danielle Webster
- 16th Alberta Shelton
- 17th Elizabeth Aeon Petersen
- 19th Julian Dahan
Josh Jourdan
- 24th Courtney Garner
- 25th Jonathan Mohler
Jack Dahan
- 26th Misty Ericson
- 30th Patrick Tafoya
- 31st Deborah Bryant
Steve Reinhart



Webinar on Mental Health

The signs of someone struggling with mental health are often subtle, leaving many conditions undetected and therefore undiagnosed and untreated. It's important to not only recognize these signs in ourselves

but in our family, friends and colleagues so that we can give them the support they need when they need it.

All Memorial UMC congregants are invited to a free online webinar in two parts (1 hour for each part). Taught by a First Aid for Mental Health trainer who is also a professional hostage and crisis negotiator, this webinar will offer insight into how to identify and understand better both the mental health needs of those around you as well as yourself.

This webinar is FREE, and both parts are necessary.

Part 1: March 10th and March 17th (1-hour sessions held at 10am, 2pm, and 7pm)

Part 2: March 23rd & 24th (1-hour sessions held at 10am, 2pm, and 7pm)

Pastor Cynthia will be watching the 2pm session on March 10th & March 24th in the parlor both days on the big screen.

For more information and to sign up:

<https://a18814.actonsoftware.com/acton/fs/blocks/showLandingPage/a/18814/p/p-0005/t/page/fm/0>



Financial Moves

As of this newsletter publication, we have had a slight hiccup in our move to migrate our online giving from our current platform (still functioning) to Breeze, our integrated church software. While we do not anticipate that you will see a huge difference in the online giving experience, we wanted to have information to you about the change.

We will publish information on the website as well as in an email and our April newsletter. If you are currently giving automatically each month, you will receive special instructions as to how to stop your gift on our current platform and begin it in Breeze.

Thank you for your patience! We know that this will save us time and money, so we are eager to make the switch. We also thank you for giving to the church in this way!



What are Your Goals for 2022?

Is volunteering in your community one of them? Senior Access needs volunteers can help provide transportation



and other essential services for seniors who are no longer able to drive for themselves. Children are welcome to go with you. Drive at your convenience with no long term commitments. Volunteering with us is easy! Assign yourself rides that work with your calendar. Learn how you can serve by contacting Sherrie at 512-310-1060 or visit sherrie@senioracesstx.org.

Youth Schedule

March 6th & 20th 6-8pm

In the Gym



Wesley Recreation is a free sports program for 5th grades. **Beginning Feb.1 2022, we will meet on Tuesdays in the gym for Basketball from 4pm-6pm.** There is no fee, but Pre-registration is required. If you have any questions please email the office at secretary@memorialumcaustin.com or contact Kendall or Matt for details.



Calling all volunteers! We're in need of drivers at our Central Kitchen, St. Marks, Memorial United Methodist, Round Rock Grace and Pflugerville sites. If you, or someone you know in these area neighborhoods, would be interested in volunteering one hour of their time, we have plenty of opportunity to help!

Please call 737-218-4260 or email volunteer@mealsonwheelscentraltexas.org for any questions.



The Pastor's Corner

“And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth. ... From his fullness we all have received, grace upon grace.” (John 1:14, 16)

Here at the beginning of March, the season of Lent will be upon us.

And it feels like that sometimes. In fact, in many ways, people in our congregation and community have been going through an unrelenting season of Lent—of scarcity and deprivation, of heaviness and emptiness.

This may be related to COVID. Or it may just be where each person finds their life.

In the midst of such a time, I find it easier to lose sight of that fullness of Jesus among us. Not only is Jesus full of God’s grace and truth, but Jesus brings fullness to all of the promises of God and to our lives.

And while Lent has come to represent a time of confession, piety and emptying, I wonder if that is the most appropriate way to approach it, not only this year, but many years. In the earliest days of the church, it was a time to prepare for baptism and a new way of living.

There may be habits and practices that we use to embody the set-apartness of this season, such as not using “Alleluia” in our time of worship and paying special attention to the spiritual disciplines in our everyday life. But I believe that we also need to pay attention to how God expands our lives in this time.

If the grace of Easter overflows us, let it be the overflowing of a cup that is not so much empty, but more full than we can remember... and becomes yet more and more. Instead of just emptying our cups this year and longing for them to be filled again (sometimes with more of the same), let us fill ourselves up with the loving grace and tender mercy of God, ready for the resurrection that will not just allow us to go back to what we have always been, but will allow us an expanded view of our life in Christ.

As a part of our Lenten journey, we have a traditional devotional book that is available. For many of you that kind of devotion is key to your Lenten experience—as are practices of giving something up or taking something on as a discipline. But this year, we have two other resources that will be available.

First--a worksheet that will ask you to reflect on different components of wellness (spiritual, emotional, financial, environmental, physical, mental, occupational and social) in order to see yourself more wholly and imagine what an expansive life means in all of those ways. If possible, I encourage you to do this toward the beginning of Lent so that you might look at ways this Lent can truly carry through on the hope of living more expansively.

Second—a set of cards that are short affirmations and reminders (with an attached prayer). These cards are not just meant to sit with your other devotional materials, but to be placed where you might need to remember them—on a mirror or a fridge or where you can see them to start your day...or all of the above! Let them remind you of what you most need to hear, especially if what you need to hear is that you are a beloved child of God!

So I hope that you will join in our community during these six weeks leading up to our Holy Week and Easter celebrations, whether through these materials or in a Sunday School class/discipleship group or in worship. In all of it, I pray that you will find a holy Lent that is full to the brim with hope.





Your Memorial UMC Trustees have been hard at work over the past few months with multiple projects going on! Some highlights:

- Our project to move our banners and other delicate material items to the closet next to the parlor kitchen is proceeding well. Thank you to Betty Sanders, Gloria

McPhail, Pat Marcum, Patti Marcum, Kathleen Beuttenmueller, Billie Nixon and members of the UMW for their help in both banner management and space redesign and re-use!

- The organ project is getting closer to completion—we hope that it might be finished by this month (March)
- We hope that within the next month we will also have the last pieces of our worship AV system. The steeple is still waiting on someone to look at it, though we hope that the high wind events of the winter are over and it will be stable until we can find someone
- All of the repairs related to damage from the 2021 winter storm in our parlor area are still ongoing, as there are several moving pieces that require information. Right now we are moving forward with asbestos abatement from under the current carpeting (so we may have uncarpeted spaces for awhile!)

Remember that if there are issues with our facility that our Trustees need to address, you can contact the office or Chuck Garner (Chair) directly. The highlights only represent a very long list of projects, so we will do our best to attend to things in order of urgency.

RECYCLING NEWS

As Christians, we are called to practice stewardship of our resources, including the earth. One practical way to be good stewards is to recycle. Here at Memorial, we have blue recycling bins near all our trash cans, so it's easy to recycle. Here's a list of things you can put into those bins:

- Bulletins, newsletters (like this one!), and other clean paper.
- Plastic cups and plates from potlucks, condiment cups used for communion, and other hard plastics with the recycling symbol on them.
- Clean cardboard boxes that used to hold Christmas decorations or Spring Fling supplies.
- Aluminum cans and other metal cans.
- Glass bottles and jars.

There are some things we can't recycle, even if they are similar to the items we can recycle. For instance, we can't recycle:

- Coloring sheets that were colored with wax crayons.
- Paper plates, napkins, or paper towels with food stains on them.
- Styrofoam plates and cups and plastic utensils.
- Pizza boxes and other cardboard with food and grease stains.
- Food scraps from a potluck.
- Leaves, branches, and grass from the church yard.



Thank you for practicing good stewardship by doing your part to recycle carefully and considerately.

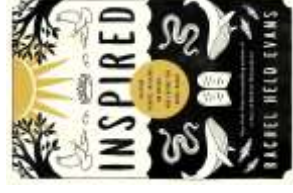


United
Methodist
Women
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

**United
Methodist
Women
is back!**

2nd Wednesday at 10:30am

In the Parlor



Book Study

**Tuesdays at 12:30pm
In the Parlor
Beginning March 8th
Brown Bag Lunch**

“Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again”
What does it mean that the Bible is “inspired” and that it inspires us?
Rachel Held Evans’ writing leads us on a tour of different Bible stories and how we wrestle with them.

If you cannot attend because of work or other commitments and wish to read along or participate, please let her know. You may order books on Amazon or Barnes and Noble.

Web site: www.memorialumcaustin.com

Memorial United Methodist Church
6100 Berkman Drive
Austin, Texas 78723
Phone: 512-452-5796
Fax: 512-450-0323

