

The Newsletter

Rev. Dr. Robyn Bishop - Pastor
**We love Windsor Park and Northeast Austin
through creating safe space for healing and
connection through Jesus Christ.**

Sunday Schedule

Sunday School Classes: 9:30am
Children, Youth,
Adult- Faith, Hope, Love & New Friends
Worship - 11:00am

Find all our Newsletters on the
Who We Are Today tab at
www.memorialumcaustin.com



Find us on Facebook at
Memorial United Methodist
Church-Austin

Follow us on Instagram at
[https://www.instagram.com/
memorialumcaustin/](https://www.instagram.com/memorialumcaustin/)



Email:
secretary@memorialumcaustin.com

Phone: 512. 452. 5796

Press 1 for info, Press 2 for directory,
Press 3 to connect to the Wesley School

In this issue:

Sundays in March

Church News, Spring Fling, Events

Insert: 2024 Lily Order Form & Creation Care

UWF, Birthdays, Parsonage Updates

Wesley School, Talent Show Invite, Labyrinth

From Pastor Robyn & New Members

Youth & Wesley Rec

March 2024



March 3 -3rd Sunday:
No Communion
Exodus 20:1-17,
1 Corinthians 1:18-25

March 3--- Egg Stuffing 5pm Parlor

March 10-4th Sunday:
Numbers 21:4-9, John 3:14-21

March 17-5th Sunday:
Jeremiah 31:31-34,
John 12:20-33

March 24-Palm Sunday:
Mark 11:1-11, Phil. 2:5-11



Mar. 28- Maundy Thursday:
6:30pm (Tenebrae Service)
7:30-9:30pm Stations of Cross
(Personal Prayer at Stations)

March 30—Saturday
Spring Fling 10am-12pm



Mar. 31 Easter Sunday:
7am (30 minute "In the
Garden" service) and
11am Worship



Church news

**Egg Stuffing
Party Sunday
March 3rd
Parlor @ 5pm**



**Spring Fling
Easter Event**
Egg Hunt &
Games
**Saturday
March 30th
10am - 12pm**

Online Giving Breeze

[www.
memorialumcaustin.com](http://www.memorialumcaustin.com) or link here:
[Breeze Online Giving](#)



Instructions:

1. Enter Amount 2. Enter Fund to Direct Your Gift/Payment
3. Choose One Time or Recurring Setting
4. Enter Payment Method & Details
5. Choose whether gift the fee to process your gift (this is based on the amount)

****To manage and set up a recurring gift, please login to your personal Breeze account.**

Email secretary@memorialumcaustin.com for more info.

Join the Merry Makers for games & fellowship

Next: Mar. 14 & 28— 10:30am
Room 403 (FHL) off the gym
Meets 2nd & 4th Thursdays

For more info, contact
Alberta Shelton, Betty
Sanders or Connie Tatum
at itsjustclt@outlook.com



Pancake Breakfast

2nd Sunday of the Month



8:30 - 9:30am before Sunday
School in the FHL Room 403

NEXT: Mar. 10th

A \$5 donation is appreciated.

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." Philipians 4:6



2 Ways to Join Others in Prayer:

1). Every Thursday we send an email with a list of prayer requests and reminders of upcoming events for the week. If you would like to receive this weekly email, please contact our Administrative Assistant, Kc secretary@memorialumcaustin.com.

2). Afton Cherry will lead prayer in the Chapel on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday each month.
Next. Mar. 5th & 19th

3.) If you have a prayer request or would like to have a pastoral call, please contact Pastor Robyn, robynbmumc@gmail.com



2024 Easter Lily Order Form: **Deadline March 15th**

Please fill in the information below to ensure that your message will be included in the Lily Insert on Easter Sunday. **Return this form along with your payment no later than March 15th**

Name: _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

IN HONOR _____

IN MEMORY _____

How many plants? (\$12.00 each) _____ **Total Due: \$** _____ ****PLEASE Pick: Donate or Take Home With You**

Drop Order Form in Offering Plate, (do not place in envelope) , drop in Secretary Office, email it to secretary@memorialumcaustin.com Or Mail to: Memorial UMC

Attn: KC 6100 Berkman Dr. Austin, TX 78723 **The Payment ONLY can go in an offering envelope – not this form. Please designate your check or envelope with name for cash: Easter Lily Order

** Scan QR code to go to online purchase option:

Choose Lily/Poinsettia/Flower Fund



Creation Care at Memorial

Memorial is a member of One Home One Future, a multi-faith campaign that educates, activates, and supports all spiritual people in meaningful and just solutions locally, regionally, and nationally in ways that are **accessible and positive**. As part of our creation care ministry, we'll be focusing on Restoring Healthy Creation and Allocating for Climate in 2024.



We'd love you to join us! We are establishing a Creation Care Committee who will oversee continuing updates to our landscaping including adding more native plants, pollinator preservation, xeriscaping and community gardening as well as classes on these topics plus recycling, composting, sustainable practices and more. If any of these topics are on your heart, please contact Taylor Youngblood or Kiki Corry to sign up. You can see more of our ideas and projects at <http://www.memorialumcaustin.com/CreationCare>.

Kiki will host a new class series, A-Mazing Creation, a 4-part lesson series to honor God's creation at Memorial United Methodist Church in April. We hope you'll join us!



UWF meets on the
3rd Wednesday of each
month

**Next: March 20th at
10:30am in Pearce**

See Women's Ministries page
www.memorialumcaustin.com.



March Birthdays

- 5 Linda Eaker
- 6 Carole Garner
- 8 Robyn Bishop
- 12 Wanda Anderson
- 16 Alberta Shelton
- 17 Elizabeth (Elle) Petersen
- 30 Matthew Ortiz

What's Happening at the Parsonage?

You may not know, but our church has a parsonage, a home where the pastor traditionally lives. Our parsonage, built in 1956, is connected to the southside of our church property by a driveway and chain link fence.

Through the fall of 2023, our Finance Team and Trustees, gathered information from contractors to determine what costs would be involved for much needed repairs to the home and yard. At our annual Church Charge Conference in December, we approved to take on a loan from The Texas Methodist Foundation to fund the many repairs and much needed renovations in the hope we could recoup our cost within a few years through rental income.

So what work is being done? Upon inspection, it was determined that all plumbing supply lines to the house needed to be replaced; some pipes crumbled even when touched.



All of the electrical outlets needed to be grounded and brought up to code. Essentially the bathrooms and the kitchen were gutted, asbestos removed, new drywall and cabinets installed. The iron rod door and pillar on the front porch were removed and a new front door installed. All of the molded, inoperable windows have not been replaced yet but will by mid March. The entire interior and exterior will be painted and after permits are given and final inspections completed, a new HVAC system will be installed. The HVAC work has to wait until all else is complete so we can pursue the Austin Energy rebate.



We are currently 1 of 3 United Methodist Churches in the district that still maintain a parsonage. Most churches have sold theirs and choose to pay a housing allowance instead.

Please help us extend our gratitude to Kendall Smith for all his efforts to produce the paperwork needed to secure our loan, the contractor as well as other vendors we have hired.

Thank you also goes to Taylor Youngblood and her mom, Barb Pfaff, for all their work on the yard and driveway. We also want to thank Chuck Garner for meeting with the various entities to make sure everything is done correctly.

Please stay tuned for more updates on our website. We should have all the work on the home completed by May.



July 2023



February 2024

More to Come.....



Wesley School Now Enrolling

connecting@growingatwesley.org

www.growingatwesley.org

512-467-4790

Open 7am-6pm

*Care Starting at 6wks up to 5 years of age



**Wesley School
Talent Show**
You're invited:
April 19th, 6pm
Hot Dogs and
Silent Auction

Join the fun and help us raise
funds for our school!

We are accepting items for our auction until April 1st. Maybe you want to offer a skill you have to be auctioned, or a gift card for an experience or an item of value like basket with stuff for pampering or making an Italian dinner or a game night for a family.

Please contact Pastor Robyn,
robynbmumc@gmail.com with auction items or questions.

Chili Cook Off 2024

was a great success! It was so exciting to have it again after a four year absence during COVID.

Our [Youth Group](#) sponsored it this year and funds went to support Youth Ministry.

We had 13 contestants in the Gym for the actual event. The numbers kept fluctuating right up until the last minute! Voting was tough and was so close we had to count the votes twice!



Prayer... Our Labyrinth

As the song goes, I come to the garden alone, while the dew is still on the roses....

Isn't that the essence of finding peace and comfort with our Lord? Don't we all have a mental image of that place. Maybe a grandparents' garden. Maybe the tended geometric landscaping of a formal palace. Perhaps a grove of olive trees. For me it is a respite, an outdoor sanctuary; protected from the noise of the world, filled with nature's beauty. A place with a winding path that I can follow as meditation.

Memorial United Methodist Church's labyrinth is just that.

Sheltered on three sides by the stone church and shaded by two towering elms it is calm, quiet, cool, and still. Although the path is not a traditional church labyrinth, it was built so that I enter on one side, follow a continuous spiral to the center and out on the other



side. I can see from the outset exactly where it goes, but walk the twisty turns one step at a time. It is a physical metaphor for my walk with Christ. After spending time in contemplation with Him in the center, how could I leave the same way I entered? Like the wise men, I go home in a different way.



To the casual eye, the "garden" is landscaped in the loosest possible sense of the word. Upon closer study, you find remnants of the hearty dichondra lovingly planted and tended by the founders on this space who imagined it a flat green canvas for church activity. Here and there are native plants that thrive and bloom in the shade on heaven-sent rain. The best of those came up on their own.

Native gardens and groves take a long time to grow into their potential. As teens go through awkward stages, so do gardens. Sometimes Memorial's labyrinth has seemed a little shaggy and unruly. Nurturing the desirable parts while carefully pruning back the troublesome takes discernment and patience.

Luckily the granite gravel path is packed smooth. The few weeds don't get in the way of a meditative stroll. Take a moment to walk it. Listen for the calm still voice of God. Notice the stages and seasons of the garden.

If you want to learn more about what is growing visit us at <http://www.memorialumcaustin.com/CareMinistry>.

.... *With Love from your Pastor*

Creating Connection...

At the beginning of Lent we considered what it means to come from dust and return to dust. Some of you may have decided to give up something and to add something to your life in order to be intentional about connecting with God as you consider your mortality and need for God.

What have you chosen to use as a bridge to create connection with God? Or maybe you have noticed God trying to show you a new way to connect as God did with a rainbow in the story of Noah?

In the Church, catechism or confirmation is a means of creating connection. We have 4 youth going through "Confirmation classes" which means they are seeking understanding of what it means to be baptized into the Christian faith and what it means to be a member of the Church, specifically Memorial United Methodist Church.

We are using a book, "The Absolute Basics of the Christian Faith," to help in discussion around things like "What does it mean that God is a Trinitarian God?" or "What does salvation really mean?" We will also use the book, "The Absolute Basics of the Wesleyan Way," to give us an understanding of who John Wesley was and what makes the Methodist denomination different from others.

One of the big differences between Wesleyan theology and other more "reformed" traditions is our belief in "Free Will." We believe God gives us a choice to choose to accept his gift of love and grace. If God didn't, then we would be more like a robot programmed to do only what God wants us to do. We do not believe God has predetermined who is "in or out" of his family. Our belief in Free Will vs Predestination is a "hair's breadth" apart and yet so important to our theological understanding of who we are in light of who God is.

If you would like to know more about what makes us Methodist, please let me know. I'm thinking about having a class on Methodism beliefs. And if you would please be in prayer for our Confirmation mentees and their mentors as they ponder these things: Lucas Benavides with Cliff Masters, Zachary Benavides with Cameron Luecke, Holly Wright with Jana Alexander, and Billie Nixon with Connie Tatom.

In the midst of this Lent, I pray your understanding of God's prevenient, justifying, and sanctifying grace deepens as you grow in love with God and receive God's love for you!

A means of connecting is also through the audio visual system which connects with people online. I'd like to extend thanksgiving to Mark Corry for helping us reconnect after our break in in August and his continuing to get resources for our church as needed. Thank you to John Adams, Kendall Smith, Taylor Youngblood and everyone who has helped in the A/V box for worship services.

I love YOU and I love our CHURCH and our COMMUNITY! Come Holy Spirit! In Christ,

Pastor Relynn

WELCOME
new members



Whoohoo! We had 5 people join our church Sunday, February 11, 2024! Praise to God for our 5 new members: Jana, Jerry and Hannah Alexander, Cameron Luecke, and Mark Spencer. We are so excited to share in this journey of following Jesus and sharing the love God first gave to us!!! Thank you God!!!!!!

Kids & Youth



March Schedule

**Sunday School is every week at 9:45am
(No UMYF in March)

- ♦ Sunday March 3 – Spring Fling Egg Stuffing 5pm – 7pm Parlor
- ♦ Friday March 22- Spring Fling Pre-setup
- ♦ Sat. March 23– Spring Fling 10am-12pm
Set up 8:30am -cleanup 12pm to 2pm
- ♦ Sunday March 31 – Easter Sunday
Sunrise service at 7 am
Worship service 11 am

Confirmation Classes Resume in April



Wesley Recreation Center

Free sports program for 5th graders! Spring of 2024,

*basketball and/or Soccer

Mondays, 3:30pm- 5:30pm. Program includes instruction, games, and free time.

No fee, but pre-registration is required.

Questions, please contact

Kendall Smith 512-844-6809 or

Kathleen Beuttenmueller 920-980-7313.

Spring Dates: March 4, 18, 25

Web site: www.memorialumcaustin.com

Fax: 512-450-0323

Phone: 512-452-5796

Austin, Texas 78723

6100 Berkman Drive

Memorial United Methodist Church

