

The Newsletter

March 2019

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 9:15-10:00 a.m.

Worship - 10:30 a.m.

Web site: www.memorialumcaustin.com

Find us on Facebook at

Memorial United Methodist Church-Austin

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March 2019

Ash Wednesday Services at noon & 6:30pm



Lent Begins March 6th



March 10th Lent Worship Series: Every Moment Holy

Girl Scout Sunday March 10th





From Pews



Father Larry Covington officiating. Interment followed at Cook-Walden/Capitol Parks in Pflugerville, Texas.

By **Billie Nixon**



Peggy Lee Sismilich, 89, of Austin, Texas, was called home to meet our Lord on January 22, 2019. She was born in San Antonio, Texas on July 6th, 1929 and graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School in San Antonio.

Peggy was married to George Anthony Sismilich on September 9, 1950. She worked as a housewife and homemaker. She also worked for Memorial United Methodist Church as an accountant for 40 years. Peggy was a member of the founding families of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Austin and was a member of St. Theresa's Catholic Church in Austin.

She had a passion for reading novels, needlework, doing crossword puzzles, and playing bridge, but her greatest passion was for her grand and great grand kids.

Peggy is survived by her son David and his wife Theresa Sismilich of Pflugerville, as well as her daughter, Barbara and her husband Kelly Crane of Sugarland and brother Travis Monroe Fleming, Jr. of San Antonio, Texas. She is also survived by grandchildren Jason, Christopher, Michael, Emily, and Matthew and his wife Ashley; great grandchildren, Drake, Kole, Kayleigh, Jordan, Selena and Levi. Peggy also treasured her friendship of over 60 years with Carole Garner.

The family received friends on Thursday, January 24, 2019 at Saint Theresa's Catholic Church from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The Rosary was recited at 7:00 p.m. A Mass of Christian Burial took place on Friday, January 25, 2019 at 10 a.m. at Saint Theresa's Catholic Church, 4311 Small Drive in Austin with

María Elena Castaño-

Benavides, mother of César I. Benavides-Castaño and grandmother of Lucas and Zachary Benavides, died on December 23rd, 2018 in Austin, Texas. She was born in Nuevo León, México on December 2nd, 1931. She lived most of her life in Laredo, TX, with her husband, Cesar, who preceded her in death.



María Elena experienced many hardships and misfortunes early in her life, but she brought stability to the family she helped eventually create. She also ran a successful business in Laredo for many years.

After her husband died, María Elena moved to Austin to live with her only child and his family. There, she found great joy and delight in helping to raise and care for her two grandsons, Lucas and Zachary.



Howard S. Jenkins, Austin native, passed away peacefully Tuesday, February 12, 2019 at the age of 91. He is survived by his wife, Polly, of 67 years; children, Brenda Bishop and husband Jeff, Cathy Scott and husband Rick,

Becky Wyatt and husband Bobby; and son, Howard Jenkins Jr. and wife Denise. He enjoyed his eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. He will be fondly remembered as a loving father, a US Navy Veteran, an avid golfer, and as always having a ready joke. We love and miss you, Papa. Services were held at 10:00 am Friday, February 15, 2019 at Weed-Corley-Fish Funeral Home, 2620 South Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas. Interment followed at Kyle Cemetery. Remembrances may be left at www.wcfish.com



We thank Wanda Adams & Susan Froebel for heading up this year's cook-off.

Sunday 2/17/19 we had a fun competition at the annual chili cook-off. As you are aware the proceeds go to our Rainbow Girls for their annual Kingdom Kamp. They enjoy this camp, held over Labor Day weekend. We are delighted that over \$300 was raised from this dinner to help all the girls go to "kamp".

After all the samples were eaten up and the visitors voted... the winners are:

1st place: Laura Smith

2nd place:

Billie & John Nixon

3rd place: The Youth Group



It was a fun day and we hope it will be remembered as a good day for all!



Spring Fling Egg Stuffing Party

Sunday March 31st
At 5pm In Parlor

For questions please contact Kendall or Laura Smith or Pastor Cynthia

Spring Fling Egg Hunt Sunday
April 14th



2:30 to 4:30pm

We welcome all volunteers for set up, manning booths and cleanup!

2019 Calendar for

Altar Flowers Posted



Altar flowers may be given in memory or honor of loved ones or for special mission projects. *Fill out a form designating your wish and leave at the office or drop it off in the offering plate on Sunday. Bouquets are \$20.00 each - two maximum per Sunday. Stop and signup today!*

Changing Schedules at Memorial UMC

Some of our community partners have needed to make changes lately, and we wanted to let the congregation know what to expect.

The FreeStore is going to only one Saturday for shopping each month, which will be the third Saturday. Because the FreeStore is not just a clothes closet, but the clothes are the means to establishing relationships across boundaries, the FreeStore board determined that a having minimal participation on Saturday was not helpful to that goal. Instead, they will be encouraging churches to take on a larger event-oriented day on the third Saturday. Their first Third Saturday event will be March 16.

Girl Scouts temporarily moved their meetings to Mondays, but they are now back on Friday evenings in the gym.

Austin Harmony, which has been in the choir room, has now outgrown that space and, pending making sure that we have appropriate room for them, will be rehearsing in the gym on Monday nights. They will be doing a family and friends concert on Monday, March 18 at 7:30 in the gym, and invite the congregation to come and enjoy their music!



Schedule Your Building Space Use

Any group wanting to use a room at the church for a meeting needs to make arrangements with the church office. You can make a one-time reservation or an on-going reservation. Check availability at 512-452-5796 or secretary@Memorialumcaustin.com



Are You Suffering from the Winter Blues?

With shorter days and inclement weather, it's common for people to get a little depressed during the winter months, especially young parents with small children that feel cooped up and just need to get out. Experts say that one of the best ways for beating the winter blues is to donate your time. Giving makes us feel good! Volunteering in the community gets you out and about and interacting with others. At Senior Access, we're looking for volunteers to help drive and serve the elderly in your community. Don't worry about grabbing a babysitter, we invite you to serve together – young children and families are welcome!



At Senior Access, we provide important services for more than 1,600 seniors – which included giving nearly 14,000 rides last year. Our ability to provide these services is only limited by the number of volunteers willing to help us. Whether you have an extra of couple of hours a week - or perhaps only a couple of hours a month – you can choose your availability and make a huge difference in someone's life.

Drivers are our biggest need, but other ways to serve include: Office Work, Light Yard Work, Friendly Phone Calls, In-Home Visits, and Handyman Services.

Shake off the winter blues, grab your children, and make a difference today! If you're interested in volunteering or learning more, contact Sherrie at 512 310 1060 | vr@senioraccesstx.org, or visit our website at www.senioraccesstx.org.



MEALS on WHEELS CENTRAL TEXAS

Help Deliver Meals in your Neighborhood near Memorial United Methodist. Weekday Volunteer Substitute Drivers needed; delivery routes take one hour or less; additional sites open all over Austin.

Thanks!

Denise Jimenez

Director of Volunteer Services

3227 East 5th Street

Austin, Texas 78702

p. 512.476.6325 x 134

www.mealsonwheelscentraltexas.org



Wednesdays

11am-1pm

and ****NEW****

Every 3rd

Saturday

9am-11am



NEW SATURDAY HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday

10am-1pm

and Every

3rd Saturday

8:30am-11am



In the Gym (not the office)

512-350-2845 frestoreaustin.org

Pastor's Corner

The king and his men marched to Jerusalem against the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land, who said to David, "You will not come in here,

even the blind and the lame will turn you back"—thinking, "David cannot come in here." ⁷ Nevertheless David took the stronghold of Zion, which is now the city of David. ⁸ David had said on that day, "Whoever would strike down the Jebusites, let him get up the water shaft to attack the lame and the blind..."

(2 Samuel 5:6-8a)

Over the past seven and a half years that I have been at Memorial, we have replaced multiple HVAC systems (culminating with replacing the boiler system which had served the congregation since its move to Berkman Dr), had work done on the roof (with more to come), had sewer pipes replaced and, as of this week, a water heater in the gym. In addition, of course, there have been plenty of minor repairs—fixing ceiling tiles, taking care of leaks, replacing old appliances—in addition to work done to renew and update, as in our gym kitchen and putting the AV systems in the sanctuary.

The Trustees have typically been at the forefront of this work, either doing it themselves in some cases, or at the very least diagnosing the issues, meeting with contractors and closely supervising the work. It's not the kind of thing that gets a lot of kudos or is seen as particularly spiritual.

Except I'm reminded that it is. When David was anointed the king of all of Israel, he wanted to make a statement—he wanted a capital worthy of his position. Jerusalem was thought to be impregnable, but it was held at the time by the Jebusites, an ancient tribe who were original inhabitants in the land of Canaan. The Jebusites were so confident that Jerusalem could not be invaded that they said that even the blind and the lame could repel David's forces.

But Jerusalem's water supply came from outside the walls. The water tunnel system which brought water into the city became David's entry point, allowing him to come into the middle of the city and take the Jebusites by surprise.

Caring for our property and doing things to improve it, does not make it impregnable. It simply reminds us that God makes us of all things to accomplish the purposes of God. It is a part of our work together, and that work is ongoing.



I wonder what work we don't find spiritual but actually is. I wonder how we might be offering Good News through all of our work. I wonder if someone has ever felt welcome at the church because we had a working sink or HVAC or toilet.

In the weeks following the release of this newsletter, I will be releasing a special update on the outcome of our called General Conference. Whatever decisions are made, there will still be a Memorial UMC with a call to offer Good News to our neighbors. I'm grateful that hundreds through the years have experienced the transforming love of Christ both inside and outside of our walls. I am constantly praying that what we do—*everything we do*—allows even more people to experience that.

Synthia Kepler-Haver



MARCH CALENDAR

There are several ongoing events and new events that may not be listed. Please check the building use calendar or call office if you need to reserve space.

*** Starred * Events Happen Each Week**

Friday March 1

*6:00pm Girl Scouts #172 - Believer's/Gym
7:00pm Austin Ukulele Special Event- Parlor

Saturday March 2

Sunday March 3

9:15am Sunday School for all ages
10:30am Worship Service
5:00-7:00pm Youth Group - Youth Room/Gym

Monday March 4

*9:00am-1:00pm - Freestore Accepting Donations
*6:30pm Austin Harmony - Gym

Tuesday March 5

*9:00am-1:00pm - Freestore Accepting Donations
* 9:30am-12:30pm English Class - FHL
*10:00am-1:00pm - Freestore Accepting Donations
10:00am BIF - Pearce

Wednesday March 6

*11:00am-1pm FreeStore Shopping
*7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday March 7

* 9:30am-12:30pm English Class - FHL

Friday March 8

Saturday March 9

8am-1pm Girl Scout Event - Gym
10am Windsor Park Neighborhood Assoc. - FHL

Sunday March 10 Spring Forward

8:30am Pancake Breakfast - Gym
9:15am Sunday School for all ages
10:30am Worship Service
11:30am Trustees - Pearce



Monday March 11

6:30pm Finance Team - Pearce

Tuesday March 12

10:00am Reading & Library - Children's Library
6:00pm Wesley Board - Pearce

Wednesday March 13

Thursday March 14

4:00-6:30pm Girl Scouts #45400 - Believer's/Gym
7:00pm Austin Ukulele Society - Gym

Friday March 15 April NL Content Due

7:00pm Youth Group Movie Night- Parlor

Saturday March 16

9:00-11:00am FreeStore Shopping

Sunday March 17 St. Patrick's Day



9:15am Sunday School for all ages
10:30am Worship Service

Monday March 18 SPRING BREAK BEGINS

7:30-8:30pm Austin Harmony Friends/Family Concert All Are Invited - Gym

Tuesday March 19

8am-5pm TMVA Board - Parlor

Wednesday March 20

Thursday March 21

7:00pm Bread Church - Gym

Friday March 22

Saturday March 23

Sunday March 24

9:15am Sunday School for all ages
10:30am Worship Service
11:30am WHO Group - Pearce

Monday March 25

Tuesday March 26

Wednesday March 27

Thursday March 28

4:00-6:30pm Girl Scouts #45400 - Believer's/Gym

Friday March 29

Saturday March 30

Sunday March 31

9:15am Sunday School for all ages
10:30am Worship Service
5pm Egg Stuffing Party- Parlor



***Please Note that these ongoing events are in the same space and on the same day each week, such as: Choir Rehearsal, FreeStore Shopping, Girl Scouts, AH Choral and more.**



March Birthdays

- 1st Craig Amundson
Joel Britt
- 2nd Travis Rychlik
- 3rd Elizabeth Bach-Miller
- 4th Eva Davila
- 5th Linda Eaker
James Journigan
- 6th Carole Garner
Judy Johnson
- 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
- 23rd Dorothy Langston
- 24th Courtney Garner
- 25th Jonathan Mohler
Jack Dahan
- 26th Misty Ericson
- 30th Patrick Tafoya
- 31st Deborah Bryant
Steve Reinhart



Worship Readers Wanted

We are constantly seeking people who would like to participate in worship by reading scripture or offering the Prayers of the People. We believe that the more voices we hear, the more we understand that liturgy is the work of all the people-- not just the pastor and choir. If you would like to receive more information about doing this or would like to receive some tips and tricks for how to do it more effectively, please let the office know, and Pastor Cynthia would be happy to speak with you. You can also speak directly to Connie Tatom, our scheduler, to be on the list of readers and pray-ers!



Join Your Church
Every 2nd
Sunday of the
month in the
Gym
March 10th

Do you enjoy making bread from scratch? Have you always wanted to learn how to make your own, but are just a little intimidated by the process? Want to hang out, learn some new recipes and think about the way that God works on your spirit?



Bread Church
Thursday 7pm
March 21st in the Gym

Spring Fling

Sunday

April 14th

Egg Hunt

2:30pm - 4:30pm

All Welcome!



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