

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 Worship

Find all our Newsletters on our

Web site: www.memorialumcaustin.com

Find us on Facebook at

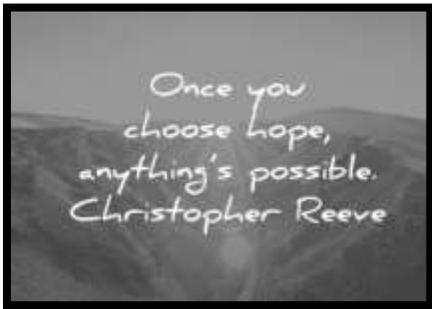
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May 2020



Pastor Cynthia's Virtual Office Hours

There is also another way we can meet together in smaller groups or as an individual!

If you'd like to visit with Pastor Cynthia on a video chat, you can either just "drop by" during the office hours that will be published both through the email list and on facebook each Monday OR you can call her and arrange for a specific time for her to be in the virtual office.

To get to the virtual office, just go to

<https://whereby.com/pastorcynthia-onlineoffice>

and knock! It will ask you if you want to share video and audio—please say yes! Pastor Cynthia will let you in, and you can visit. Up to 3 people other than Pastor Cynthia can be in the room at any time. There are no passwords, but Whereby is a secure site that has no third-party cookies, which they don't sell data to other websites, so it is a bit more secure than some other platforms.

Right now, Pastor Cynthia is trying to have at least some office hours each day and trying to spread those out at different times a day throughout the week. BUT—if you don't like the idea of a video chat, you can always call her by phone to set up a meeting! She is getting a lot of spam calls, so if she doesn't answer, please leave a voice mail or text her to let her know you'd like to talk!

Kc is on site as needed to keep us running and also working remotely, accessing email and voicemail. Feel free to continue to contact us this way at



512-452-5796 option 2

secretary@memorialumcaustin.com



The Pastor's Corner

Worshipping and Meeting Online

And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (Hebrews 10:24-25)

It has been more than a month now since we met together in person, but I have heard from so many of you by phone, in online worship, by mail, or by email that I have been truly encouraged that the Good News is still alive and well in the congregation of Memorial UMC! When I read this passage from Hebrews, I remember that many of the letters in the New Testament—letters that still bring us hope and encouragement—were written from prison and in isolation.

One of the ongoing conversations right now is how quickly to allow for people to begin meeting in person, businesses to open or come back to their regular schedule, schools to start coming back to campus. One of the unique things about our congregation is that we tend to be a bit more high risk—in addition to our average age, we also have had many who have compromised immune systems or other risk factors. I and the Trustees are monitoring the risk closely.

The likelihood is that we will continue to worship primarily online for at least the month of May, even if we begin to make some adjustments to allow for more people to come onto campus or for smaller groups to meet. If we do start allowing for adjustments, we will publish that information far and wide, but for now, we are still in a mode of asking people to stay at home unless they have to be out.

We have been using facebook for our primary online “live” worship experience each Sunday, but as of April 26, we will be adding an additional component—at 11:45 each Sunday, we will have a call-in time of prayer on Zoom. That meeting ID and password (or phone number) will go out both in the comments on our facebook live worship service and on the email link that we send out on Sunday mornings. If you do not receive email but would like to participate in those meetings by calling in, please contact me (512-921-3473)! See the opposite page for information on how to Zoom.

We have been modifying our live worship based on feedback, and we now have a program that allows for me to be live for several portions of the worship service but also to be able to integrate pre-recorded videos of Daniel providing music for us. Obviously, there have been some hiccups along the way (like on Easter Sunday when I forgot to hit the button to take the actual service LIVE for the first 24 minutes!), but we think we have a workable system now. From facebook, you can access our page (make sure to “like” the page so that you get notifications!) at “Memorial United Methodist Church-Austin”. Usually we try to pin the live feed to the top of our page. In addition, on Monday, the pin at the top of the page will feature my drop in virtual office hours as well as links to individual worship materials (or you can watch the entire live feed at any time further down the page—it’s saved there). I am grateful for this technology that allows us to meet and pray together—even while we keep each other safe by staying apart!

Synthia Kepler-Kramer



May Birthdays

- 1st Jennifer Smith
- 4th Peter Vasquez
- 5th Sheryl Cheatham
Jessica Shelton Williams
- 7th Hannah Egbert
- 11th Hale Roy Bills
Hunter Eddie Bills
- 14th Greg Mikeska
- 16th Andrew Friedrich
Gary Alan Gray
- 17th James Leavelle
- 19th Mary Linda Gray
- 25th Lisa Schmidt Mosley
- 26th Don Morrison
- 28th Emily Anne Egbert
- 29th Judy Friedrich
- 31st Margaret Adams



Zoom Meetings: Seeing Each Other From Home!

We have had at least one **Zoom gathering**, and I am thinking of doing more get-togethers this way. Zoom is an online program that allows people to video conference or to join the conversation on their phone. If you've never done it before, it can be confusing, but here are some instructions.

FOR YOUR COMPUTER: Ideally, you will have a built-in or external camera, but it will also work with just audio. The program usually downloads automatically the first time you try to go to a Zoom meeting, but you can also go to zoom.us/download. You want the "Zoom Client for Meetings".

FOR YOUR PHONE: Go to the app store and download Zoom Cloud Meetings. You do not have to do this if you are just calling in instead of wanting to join the video chat.

Once you have the program downloaded, you can get into it and ask to join a meeting. It will then ask for a Meeting ID (which we will provide) and then a password. Enable your microphone and your camera (sometimes having headphones with a microphone on them help) and you'll appear on the screen! If you are given a link with a built in Meeting ID, all you will have to provide is the password.

CALLING IN FROM PHONE: There will also be a phone number provided that you can call to just hear and be able to speak. Once you have dialed that phone number, it will ask you for that Meeting ID. You can dial that in and then, when prompted, dial in the password. That will connect you to the meeting on something like a conference call—you can hear and speak (unless you are muted by the host), but you won't be able to see anything. But it can allow you to participate if you don't have other technology or just don't want anyone to see your COVID hairstyle!



Worship Input!

As we prepare resources for people to worship at home, we would love to have your input! If you are willing to be

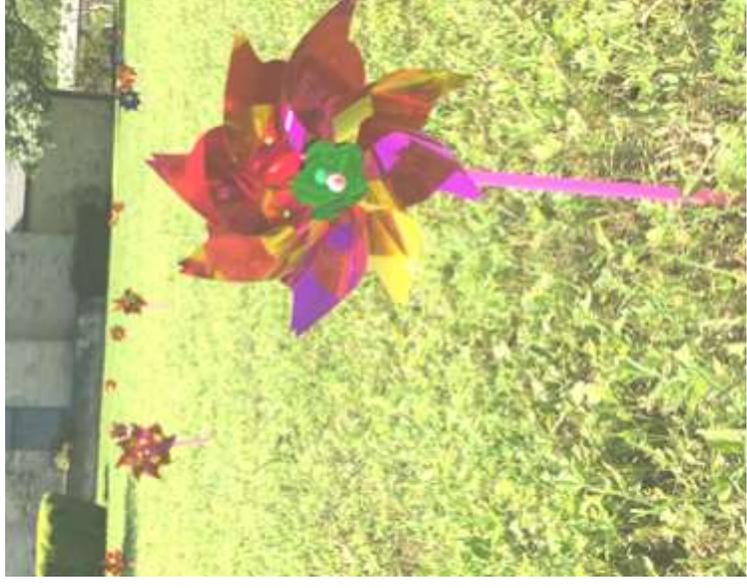
in contact with us through email or phone with ideas for hymns, stories and other resources we can provide people with for the various scriptures, please let us know! Pastor Cynthia will be working with Daniel and Kayce & others to produce both online resources and resources that can be mailed to people for personal use. To participate, call the office at 512-452-5796 (we have a way to check messages, even remotely!) or Pastor Cynthia at 512-921-3473.

May Newsletter

Bringing Joy to Our Neighborhood

Pinwheels and folded cranes are going up on the front lawn of Memorial UMC. For each pinwheel or crane, we are hoping to gather a name or story of someone we want to honor for going above and beyond to do good in this time of difficulty for so many. If you would like to fold cranes, just go for it and either ask for someone to come **and pick them up or let us know you've dropped them off** at the door to the office! You can use any paper for the cranes—just make sure you cut it square and follow the directions here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KfnypoxdJXQ>
(that's the easiest one I could find!).



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