

# 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.**

Find all our Newsletters on our

Web site: [www.memorialumcaustin.com](http://www.memorialumcaustin.com)

Live Stream: Find us on Facebook at

Memorial United Methodist Church-Austin

Email:

[secretary@memorialumcaustin.com](mailto:secretary@memorialumcaustin.com)

Phone: 512. 452.5796

Fax: 512.450.0323



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## May 2021



### Memorial Renovation Updates

Over the last year, we have had a major update of the equipment in the sanctuary thanks to insurance covering us after a probable lightning strike took out much of the Audio-Visual Equipment and even damaged the organ. Though our organ is still being repaired and upgraded (we hope it will be back by June), we have almost finished replacing everything else and are finishing working out the kinks.

While we were up on the steeple replacing the lighted cross, we also realized that our steeple has come loose! We are waiting for Church Mutual to get back with us as to next steps for that.



As of the mailing of this newsletter, we are planning on having in-person worship services available in the sanctuary starting Sunday, April 25. We will still be masked and distanced in the sanctuary, and there will still be a worship service online/emailed.



**Enclosed is a summary of our health protocols** determined by our re-

engagement team, and we invite you to read through them before you come for the first time.

Entry to the facility will start at 10:30am each Sunday (through the office door under the portico, where there will be a health screening) and the service will begin at 11:00am. In future weeks, we hope to be able to work with Sunday School classes to bring those groups back as well.



# News From Pews

Hello! My name is Allison Angell (pronounced like the heavenly beings) and I'll be learning and serving with you this summer as part of an internship for the Masters in Divinity program at Austin Seminary. I am a life-long Methodist. I was born a few miles down the road at St. David's and have lived in El Paso, Waco, and Charlotte, NC. My husband Jay and I have called Austin home for the last 24 years. We have four daughters (you'll see them at church) and a Golden Retriever (you may see Maisy Ruth in a photo).



Connection is my favorite word. It seems all of life can be described with this one word — though I often like to link it to other concepts like beauty, truth, wonder, and love. As an internal connector, I like to read and write so as to learn and express ideas, which inevitably leads to sharing them with others. As an external connector, I enjoy listening to and talking with people both individually and in gatherings. All of these actions, plus worship, prayer, and service connect me with God.

“When I look at the two beautiful sheep I received, I feel joy.”  
Semerzie Djoulie



CWS has partnered with the community of Cassovon, Haiti, for years. Our team helped them rebuild their public school after Hurricane Matthew in 2016. The newest chapter in our partnership involves sheep. Our team has provided sheep to students in the community – livestock being an important source of income and stability as the students and their families continue their recovery from the impact of the hurricane.

Read again Semerzie Djoulie's words; "...when I look at the two beautiful sheep I received, I feel joy." Joy! You are part of that joy through the Austin CROP Hunger Walk. Joy! It is with joy that I can tell you the 2021 Austin Walk has now raised over \$77,287. This exceeds our 2020 total of \$76,183. Think about it: for our first-ever "virtual" walk; in a pandemic year; with so much uncertainty; Austin has responded to help neighbors near and far.

If you wish to make a contribution to the Austin Walk it is not too late. You may make a donation online at [www.crophungerwalk.org/austintx](http://www.crophungerwalk.org/austintx) or make a check payable to "Austin CROP Hunger Walk".

Kevin Murphy, CWS Community Engagement Manager



# May Birthdays

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

## Vote at Memorial Gym May 1st 7am-7pm in the Gym





# What to expect when you come to the Memorial UMC Facility

*All of these protocols are subject to change as the situation changes, cases go down and guidance from the Texas Health Department, medical professionals and the CDC changes.*

## **COVID-19 RISK STATEMENT**

**By attending a Memorial UMC gathering, you acknowledge the contagious nature of COVID-19, the inherent risk of public assembly, and the possibility that you may be exposed to or infected by COVID-19 at Memorial UMC. If you are unable to accept these risks, do not attend a Memorial UMC event.**

## **DESIGNATED POINT PEOPLE/HEALTH GREETERS**

*We will have health greeters to help you as you enter and move through the building. Please pay attention to them—they are trained in our protocols and can help you understand how we are keeping ourselves and others safe.*

***IF AT ANY TIME, YOU DO NOT WISH TO COMPLY WITH A HEALTH GREETER'S REQUESTS OR ARE IN VIOLATION OF THESE PROCEDURES, YOU WILL BE ASKED TO LEAVE THE BUILDING. THIS IS FOR YOUR SAFETY AND FOR THE SAFETY OF OTHERS.***

## **ENTRY PROCEDURES**

Entry to the Office Area/Sanctuary/Parlor Area will be at the office door under the portico

Entry to the Gym will be at the door by the restrooms (NE corner of the gym)

There will be a temperature check and a symptom screening for each person who enters the building as well as attendance registration. We require masks, but if you do not have one, we can provide one for you.

## **PHYSICAL DISTANCING**

Please try to maintain a 6 foot distance from people from other households. We know there will be some places this will be difficult, but we will try! For the sake of maintaining distancing inside, we ask that any visiting closer than 6 feet between households be done outside. We will stagger entrances and exits and have alternatives to passing the peace. There will also be a limit to the number of people who can be in the restrooms at a time (1 person or household in the front restrooms, 2 people or 1 large household in the gym restroom).

## **FACE COVERINGS**

Masks and face coverings are mandatory at all times for anyone over the age of 2 (with some very limited exceptions). Masks in an appropriate size will be provided if you do not have one, and bandanas or gaiters are not considered adequate face coverings for this purpose. In addition, masks with vents on the front are

## **HYGIENE**

We strongly recommend handwashing or the use of hand sanitizer (we have dispensers located throughout the building). Water fountains will not be available. Please avoid touching high-touch areas. If you have a group meeting, you are in charge of sanitizing the high-touch surfaces before you leave (instructions and supplies will be provided).

## **IF SOMEONE IS EXHIBITING SYMPTOMS**

We will ask you to remain in an isolation space until you can safely leave the building, masked if possible. We will call all those who have been in close contact with a symptomatic person.

## **CONTACT TRACING**

We will do contact tracing through our attendance registration. If you become symptomatic or have a positive COVID test within 48 hours of coming to an event, please contact the church immediately.

## **WORSHIP PROTOCOLS**

You will be instructed as to how to enter and exit the sanctuary. Once in the sanctuary, please remain in your seat and do not walk around. We will tape off pews that should not be used. We will remain distanced and masked during worship and will have limited capacity. If you need to go to the restroom, ask a health greeter about which path to take. Bags with communion elements will be distributed to receive at home. If we are live streaming a service where you may be on screen, we will let you know.

## **FOOD AND BEVERAGES**

For now, we will not have food or beverages at any event, including receptions. Sunday School classes are asked not to provide coffee or snacks. If you have a medical or other need for water, ask a health greeter.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

All rooms will have a capacity based on distancing recommendations. If a room exceeds its capacity, your group will be asked to move to a larger space.

We will communicate with each group (Sunday School class, UMW, youth group) to see if the space they wish to use will accommodate their needs

For the purposes of this document, a "household" is defined as

Anyone you share a living space with

Anyone around whom you are regularly unmasked

Anyone you have provided transportation to the church

**BE AWARE OF REMINDER SIGNS AROUND THE FACILITY AND KEEP YOURSELF AND YOUR NEIGHBORS SAFE!**



# The Pastor's Corner

*I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. Ephesians 1:16*

Thank you.

Thank you for doing hard things since March 2020.

Thank you for masking and allowing there to be a physical distance.

Thank you for discovering new ways of worshiping.

Thank you for calling one another and keeping track of each other.

Thank you for logging in, checking email, sending in prayer requests.

Thank you for being patient when the technology didn't work.

Thank you for postponing special moments or figuring out alternatives.

Thank you for coming to services on the lawn (if Wesley preached in the church graveyard, the lawn is at least slightly less creepy!).

Thank you for notes of encouragement.

Thank you for asking hard questions.

Thank you for trusting our re-engagement task force.

Thank you for your financial faithfulness.

Thank you for saying yes when you could and no when you couldn't.

Thank you for praying.

Thank you for setting up worship areas in your homes.

Thank you for singing loudly to a YouTube video or a facebook post or with just some words in front of you.

Thank you for asking what you could do to help when the ice came.

Thank you for offering your gifts and talents.

Thank you for finding ways to grieve together.

Thank you for sending in pictures of your companion animals.

Thank you for coloring pages and giving them to the office.

Thank you for reading devotionals.

Thank you for helping with insurance claims.

Thank you for loving Jesus and loving your neighbors.

There is no end to the things I could give thanks for over this past year. And there will be many more hard things ahead because we're not out of this yet, even though it is a bit brighter every day.

What is on your list of things to be thankful for? When you are frustrated that things are moving slowly, start with your list of thanksgivings.

And end with...*Thanks be to God! Amen!*



*Synthia Kepler-Karrer*

# May Newsletter



5/09/21  
Regular Youth  
5/23/21  
Regular Youth

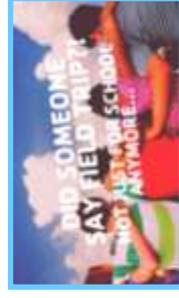
6/06/21 **END of Year Trip**  
June 20-24 **UM Army**



A few slots are still available for youth who want to participate in the cooking club. These meetings will happen twice in May on a

Saturday. The next cooking club dates will be May 1<sup>st</sup> and May 29th via zoom. Please reach out to Daphne if interested.

The end of the year trip for youth 6<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup> grade planning is underway. We are planning for the trip to happen Early June. We are finalizing plans and safety that are inline with CDC covid guidelines. More information will be given out soon.



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