

Memorial

United Methodist Church

A great place to meet new friends, find needed encouragement and discover God's plan for you.

Sunday Morning Worship

10:30 a.m.

Sunday School

9:15-10:00 a.m.

9:00 a.m.- Prayground - Third Sundays

November 15, 2012 Newsletter

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Church Office Hours

Mon-Thurs: 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Fridays - 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Contact Us

Phone: 452.5796 Fax: 450.0323

6100 Berkman Dr, Austin, TX, 78723

Web site: www.memorialumcaustin.com

Email:

secretary@memorialumcaustin.com

News by Email - Contact the office by phone or email and give us your email address.

November 15, 2012

DECEMBER WORSHIP NEWS!

Do you remember the joy of getting ready for Christmas? Of the anticipation and the excitement and the wonderful smells? We all have things that we remember.



This December, come and see those memories in Scripture. Come and experience them again for the first time. See that the JOY and the FRUITS OF THE SEASON have been there all along, woven into the Story that God has been writing since the beginning of the world! We will be asking people to share favorite recipes and childhood traditions and memories, so think about what you would like to share with everyone!

Christmas Eve Services



3:00 PRAYGROUND: The Christmas Eve Edition.

Our special kids service, all decked out for Christmas eve. What a great opportunity to invite families in our neighborhood to a service especially for them!

6:30 Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion

We will gather once again to hear the prophets and the Christmas story through word and song as we celebrate communion and let the light of Christ shine into the world. We will also wrap up our series on JOY in the FEAST.



Monday Morning

Prayer Time - 6:15 am- Chapel

Come join us for early morning prayer at 6:15 am on Mondays in the chapel. It's a great way to start the week!

DECEMBER'S SCHEDULED EVENTS

Sunday, Dec. 2

- 1st Sunday Pancake Breakfast-8:15am
- Sunday School for all ages - 9:15 am
- Worship Services -10:30 am
- Hanging of the Greens Service- 6:30pm

Monday, Dec. 3

- Morning Prayer - Chapel - 6:15 am
- Boy Scouts - Gym - 7:30 pm

Tuesday, Dec. 4

- BIF Christmas Gift Wrapping - 9:30am
- Staff Meeting - 9:30 am

Wednesday, Dec. 5

- Bell Practice - 6 pm
- Choir Practice - 7 pm

Friday, Dec. 7

- Bible Study - 10:00 am

Saturday, Dec. 8

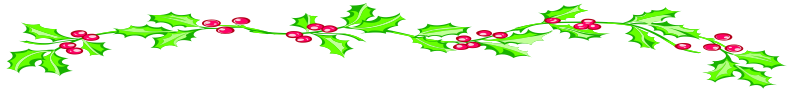
- WPNA - 10:00 am - Gym

Sunday, Dec. 9

- Sunday School for all ages - 9:15 am
- Worship Services -10:30 am
- Trustee Meeting - 11:30 am
- Reading/Library Circle - Noon
- Youth - Noon
- UMW Parsons House Christmas - 3 pm

continued

MORE DECEMBER WORSHIP



"Hanging of the Greens"

December 2, 2012

6:30 p.m.

Come see and hear the story of Hanging of the Greens. It's a beautiful traditional service of the church where we prepare the church for the celebration of the coming of Christ's birth.

Many volunteers are needed to help make this service go smoothly. We need people who can help hang the greens, be readers, tall people for angel hanging, banner carriers, help with putting the tree up earlier, and candle carriers. If you are interested in helping, please see Alberta Shelton right after worship Sunday or call her at 926-8645.



CHRISTMAS CANTATA

On December 16, the Chancel Choir will present *Heaven's Child*, a new Christmas musical from Pepper Choplin in our 10:30am worship service. This is a great opportunity to invite friends to hear the Good News, Christmas Edition!

PRAYGROUND

You'll have TWO opportunities to come and invite your friends to the Prayground this December. On our regular day, December 16, we'll have Prayground **at 9:30am instead of 9:00am**. And then on Christmas Eve, we'll have a Special Edition Prayground at 3:00pm, just right for the kids to come and see Rocky and his friends! Remember that invitation cards are available in the back.

DECEMBER'S SCHEDULED EVENTS

Monday, Dec. 10

Newsletter Deadline

- Morning Prayer - Chapel - 6:15 am
- Finance Meeting - Pearce - 6:30 pm
- Church Council - Pearce - 7:30 pm
- Boy Scouts - Gym - 7:30 pm

Tuesday, Dec. 11

- Staff Meeting - 9:30 am

Wednesday, Dec. 12

- Bell Practice - 6 pm
- Choir Practice - 7 pm

Thursday, Dec. 13

- Austin Ukulele Society - 7-8:30 pm

Sunday, Dec. 16-Memorial for Christ Cantata Sunday

- Playground - Sanctuary - 9:30am
- Sunday School for all ages - 9:15 am
- Worship Services - 10:30 am
- Youth - Noon

Monday, Dec. 17

Poinsettia Order Deadline

- Morning Prayer - Chapel - 6:15 am
- Boy Scouts - Gym - 7:30 pm

Tuesday, Dec. 18

- Staff Meeting - 9:30 am

Wednesday, Dec. 12

- Bell Practice - 6 pm
- Choir Practice - 7 pm

continued

CHRISTMAS CAROLING Dec. 23 - 5:30 pm



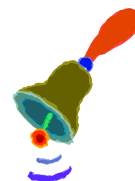
Everyone is invited to join the Christmas caravan as we travel to carol to some of our homebound members. We'll carpool from the church and enjoy a time of fellowship after singing back at the church.

Bring your favorite holiday treat to share and join the Christmas chorus.

RING THOSE BELLS!

Remember on December 30 to bring bells to worship - jingle bells, cow bells, school bells, door bells, big bells, little bells - any kind of bells that can make a joyful noise!

Let's ring them in celebration of Christ's birth!



FAITHWORKS - The gifted become the gifters! On December 30, during our worship service, we will be taking clothing donations and sorting them to go to various agencies that help people. The end of the year is a great time to clean out your closet and start fresh - and there are probably some people who can use the gift of a warm shirt or jacket! Deliveries will be made during the next week leading up to Epiphany, the coming of the Gift Givers, the Wise Men.

December Communion Offering

Our December Communion offering will go to support Student Day Ministries. These funds go to help support seminary students as well as college students who have shown potential for leadership in the United Methodist Church. With our church needing to reach out more and more to young adults, programs like these are vital in keeping connection with leadership under the age of 25.

Apportionment Sunday

December 30 will be a last opportunity to help us with our missional giving to the wider United Methodist Church. The Finance Committee has designated that every 5th Sunday be a Sunday on which we emphasize another area of this missional giving, and so on this Sunday, our apportionment giving will go to the Austin District Missions line item. This money goes to support district-wide events, such as leadership training and large youth events. In addition, Memorial will be applying for a grant from this fund hopefully within the next year to help us with some specific ministry opportunities.

DECEMBER'S SCHEDULED EVENTS

Sunday, Dec. 23

- Sunday School for all ages - 9:15 am
- Worship Services - 10:30 am
- Youth - Noon
- Christmas Caroling - 5:30 pm

Monday, Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve

- Morning Prayer - Chapel - 6:15 am
- Children's Christmas Eve Service - 3pm
- Christmas Eve Service - 6:30 pm

Tuesday, Dec. 25 - Christmas Day

Church Office and Wesley School Closed

Wednesday, Dec. 26

Church Office and Wesley School Closed

- No Bell or Choir Practice

Sunday, Dec. 30

Apportionment Sunday

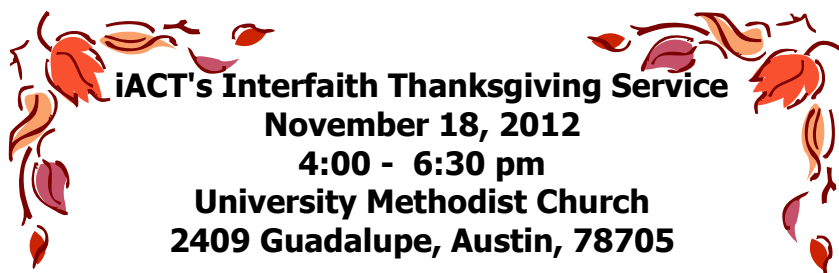
- Sunday School for all ages - 9:15 am
- Bell Ringing Worship Services - 10:30 am
- Youth - Noon
- **Monday, Dec. 31 - New Year's Eve**

Church Office and Wesley School Closed

Study Opportunities in December

The Breadbasket is Full! - Sundays in December at 4:00pm, led by Pastor Cynthia. The name "Bethlehem" means "House of Bread". Pastor Cynthia will lead us on an exploration each week of a different character within the Christmas story as we break bread together. We'll use all of our senses to enter into the Biblical world. Bring your favorite Bible translation, no other books required!

Prayer Workshop - Thursday, December 13, 9am-3:30pm, led by Clayton Karrer. Jesus' disciples wanted him to teach them how to pray. Today, many Christians still wonder if they're praying "the right way." In this workshop we will learn a variety of ways to pray that take advantage of the different ways we listen and communicate in order to help us better connect with God. This workshop will also be offered again in the spring on a series of weeknights for those who work.



Every year, iACT's Interfaith Thanksgiving Service and Celebration provides a joyous start to the holiday season. This year will be no exception as representatives from many diverse faith traditions gather to express their gratitude for the opportunity to serve others.

You and your family are invited to join in for a genuine interfaith worship experience filled with music, poetry and inspiring reflections. Your presence will be a blessing to all involved - come stand with your neighbors who are united in following the "golden rule" of compassion. This will mark the 28th anniversary of our Thanksgiving service and the event is being co-hosted by University United Methodist Church and the Austin Muslim community.

The service will take place at University United Methodist Church. Following the service there will be a reception, we encourage you to bring your favorite dish and share in the warmth of community.





Note From the Pastor

"God tells Zechariah through an angel's visit that he and his wife will know the joy of having a child, but Elizabeth comes to that knowledge without an angel or a dream or any special sign to help her believe. She knows...the joy of recognizing that God is about to do something even more wonderful, and not just for her and Zechariah personally but for the whole world. She realizes that the Messiah is about to be born.

"Elizabeth asks Mary, 'Why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me?' Her question reflects the wonder of realizing that God comes to us individually. And that reality is remarkable. God could herd us all together like flocks of sheep and redeem us in groups. God could zap whole congregations and speed up the process of saving the world. But God wants relationship with each of us and so chooses to come to us one by one....

"Elizabeth is overwhelmed when she realizes that the mother of the Messiah has come to her personally. A righteous and blameless person, she finds that fact of being sought by God difficult to grasp and impossible to explain. We ordinary folks who intimately know ourselves to be less than righteous and less than blameless find it even more difficult to understand that God seeks us out and wants relationship with us! Because relationships are built one person at a time, God invests time and energy in each one of us, knowing each one of us is unique and infinitely valuable."

*-- From *While We Wait* by Mary Lou Redding*

God is coming in Jesus, not only because Jesus is for the whole world - peace on earth and all that jazz.

God is coming in Jesus because God wants to be in relationship to YOU.

Never forget that we each have a part in God's story. YOU are important to God. YOU need this birth... and life...and death...and resurrection.

God is spending time and energy trying to get our attention in this busy season, trying to help us remember that beyond everything else, there is more than a single day of celebration for this Baby. There is no let-down afterwards. What will you do in Advent to listen to what God is saying to YOU?





CONSIDER JOINING BOY SCOUTS

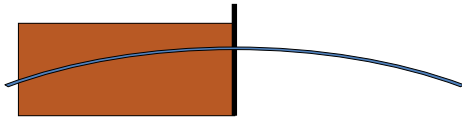
Troop 88 in Action

Who: 5th – 8th Grade Boys

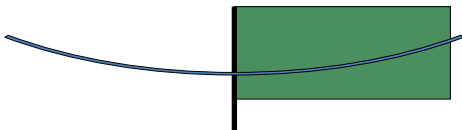
Where: Memorial United Methodist Church
6100 Berkman Drive

When: Mondays 7:30-9:00 pm

Contact Scoutmaster: Brian Kent at 577-5523 or
email: b0k3nt@yahoo.com



Newsletter Deadline - Monday, Dec. 10



ReThink Green Reminder !

To decorate your dinner table this holiday season opt for eco-friendly decorations. They can be decorations you swapped with friends, or bought at a resale shop. Whatever you do avoid buying new decorations this year. Save money and help the environment by decorating second hand.



December

Birthdays

2nd	Laura Ruth Kozelsky Sandra Bissett Ron Frederick Norma Hauser Charlyne Schmidt
3rd	Caitlyn Dennig
5th	Drianna Gonzales
6th	Ann Brady
7th	Don Mohler Paula Garner Harry Pomerleau
12th	Michaelle Bills Evelyn Capps
13th	Christine Crowe Michael Moore
15th	Carol Combs Susan Froebel
17th	Michael Shelton, Jr.
19th	Gaines Leavelle Kel Pomerleau Bills
22nd	Lilia Gail Mohler James Rhoades
26th	Mark Corry Laurie Dennig
27th	Wanda Anderson Thomas Bissett
28th	George Berglund

United Methodist Women
by Jane Friedrich

PANCAKE BREAKFAST NEWS! While we probably (hopefully) can't top the excitement of the November pancake breakfast, we do have a good deal for you! Make your plans now to come for pancakes on December 2. We will be collecting toys for Brown Santa and you can bring an unwrapped toy and get your breakfast free! If it isn't convenient for you to get a toy, just come anyway - we just thought this would be a novel way to collect some toys for this worthwhile project.

BIF and others will meet at 10:00 am on December 4. This is that special day of the year when we prepare our gifts for our shut-ins. We have a number of shut-ins to remember, so be as generous as you can. This is not just a UMW effort and we hope that all ladies of the church will be actively involved in this special project. Additionally, don't forget to bring some goodies to share for lunch. It is always an event that we look forward to and enjoy so much.

Prior to preparing the gift bags, we will have a brief but important business meeting. We need to turn our completed pledge forms as well as our World Thank Offering. You can also turn in your book order if you have not already.

Our Christmas party for residents of Parsons House will be held at 3:00 p.m., on Sunday, December 9. Please plan to attend and bring some Christmas goodies - cookies, bars, etc. Norma will take care of the punch.

Hold the date of January 21, 2013, for the Prayer Vigil and Self-Denial event. We will begin the day by meeting in the Chapel at 6:15 a.m., (with the prayer group) with the prayer vigil beginning at 7:00 a.m. (A time schedule will be available in the sanctuary, so you can sign up for your preferred time during the day). We will return at 6:00 p.m. for the closing.

News from the Pew

by Billie Nixon

Sympathy

Love and concern go to the family of Thelma Latz. Thelma was a long-time member of Memorial and died Sunday, November 4, 2012, at the Covenant Hospital in Lubbock Texas.

She was born November 12, 1922 in Tamaqua, PA, Thelma graduated in 1944 from Thomas Jefferson Nursing School in Philadelphia prior to joining her husband, Lt. Col. David J. Latz, in Germany.

They moved around the US before finally settling in Austin, TX. She took a position at the Seton Hospital Nursery. Thelma also helped support various activities for her children and the community where she continued to volunteer well in to her 80's. She loved giving to people and was a long-time supporter of the Special Olympics and other local charities.

Her proudest accomplishment and greatest joy came from her family. She is preceded in death by her husband, Lt. Col. David J. Latz and eldest son, David T. Latz. Thelma is survived by Dana Latz Madison and Ronnie Madison of Lubbock, Carla and Kelly Latz of Austin, and Adriane and Kevin Latz of Kansas City in addition to 12 grandchildren, 1 great-grandchild, and another great-grandchild due in December.

A service in celebration of her life was held at Memorial on Monday, November 12, 2012. Interment followed at Capital Memorial Parks in Pflugerville, Texas.

We at Memorial cherish our deceased members and pray that God will bless the family with comfort and love.



Do Acts of Caring To Shut-ins (ACTS) by picking up an ACTS envelopes in the foyer and put a smile on our shut-ins faces by sending them a card!

Order Your Poinsettias!

Poinsettias - \$10 each

Poinsettias will be placed in the Chancel, Sunday, December 23. Deadline for purchasing poinsettias is Monday, December 17. Sign up early! Any questions, please call the church office at 452-5796 or secretary@memorialumcaustin.com



2012 POINTSETTIA ORDER - \$10 each



From Whom	How Many	In Honor of or In Memory of	Donate	Keep



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

TO:

Sunday Services - Rev. Cynthia Kepler-Karrer

9:15 a.m.-Sunday School (all ages)

10:30 a.m.-Worship Service

Prayground - Every Third Sunday - 9-9:30 am

Wesley School - Chris Banda, Director (467-9740)

Church Office Hours

Church Secretary - Joanne Macon

8:30 a.m.– 12 noon and 1– 4:00 p.m.

Monday through Thursday

Fridays - 8:30 - 12:30 pm

www.memorialumcaustin.com

E-Mails: secretary@memorialumcaustin.com

pastor.cynthia@earthlink.net