

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

Memorial United Methodist Church-Austin

Email:

secretary@memorialumcaustin.com

Phone: 512. 452.5796

Fax: 512.450.0323



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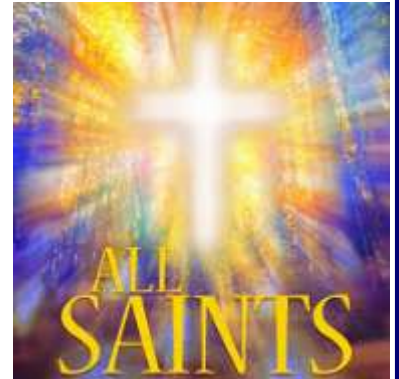
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November 2020

Celebrating All Saints Sunday— November 1st

In Person outside with Communion at 10:00am

Online at 11:00am



For instructions about how to worship online see May 2020 Newsletter.

Extended Advent Begins

Though much of this year has seemed like a nightmare, our Extended Advent will invite us to be like “those who dream.” We all look forward to the restoration of at the very least something we recognize in being able to see each other in Sunday School and worship and across the table and without masks. But until that time, we will take this season to make our dreams broader and wider and deeper than just “back to normal”.

Nov 8—“Living the Dream”

Nov 15—“Those Who Dream...Make the Days Count”

Nov 22—“Those Who Dream...Share It With Others”

Nov 29—“Those Who Dream...Keep Awake”

Dec 6—“Those Who Dream...Prepare the Way”

Dec 13—“Those Who Dream...Sow Joy”

Dec 20—“ Those Who Dream...Are Not Alone”

December 24—“We Are...Those Who Dream”

(Note: We will also celebrate Christ the King Sunday on November 22 and have a Thanksgiving remembrance on November 29)





By Billie
Nixon
Membership
Coordinator



All Saints Sunday

October 28, 2019
Geraldine Boydston

June 26, 2020
Everette Owens

February 23, 2020
Syble Berglund

June 29, 2020
Werner Stalbaum

March 6, 2020
Virginia Smith

July 12, 2020
Jean Sheffield

April 26, 2020
Shirley Wehmer

September 10, 2020
Renee Wardrum
Simmons

June 13, 2020
Carolyn Brown

October 15, 2020
Janet Clark

June 17, 2020
Keith Schmidt



Update on the Dennig Family

We all know that William and Laurie moved to Tyler, TX in the spring. Although we miss them we are happy they are doing well. Though William had heart surgery while in Tyler, he has recovered.

The best news is, they live right next door to their daughter & son in law, Nicole & Erin Sword. Now that includes their granddaughter, Avery Love Sword born on Monday October 12, 2020, weighting 8 lbs. 10 oz. and 20" long.



What a wonderful gift for all of them. Their two daughters still living in Austin are doing well and enjoy traveling to visit the rest of the family in Tyler.

We will pray for good health and happiness for all. Love from your Memorial Friends!



REMINDER—please keep praying for our schools at 5:11pm daily!

We will be gathering prayers of thanks for our November 29 service. What are you thankful for in this time? Send us a message, and we will include your thanksgivings in our worship service!

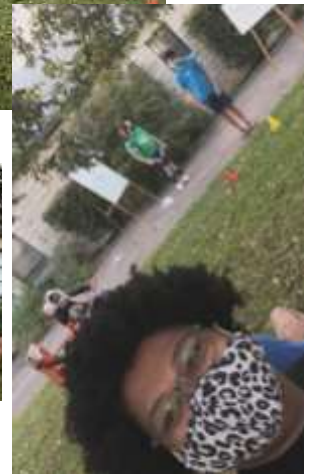


November

- 4th Karl Amundson
Larry Tiemann
- 7th Holly (Shelton) Wright
- 10th Wanda Stout Adams
- 11th **Mary Beth O'Hanlon**
- 15th Afton Pomerleau Cherry
Richard Macon
Gerry Almquist
- 16th Jonathan Ader
- 17th Jessica Christine McFarland
- 18th Stefani Stephens
- 24th Bob Hauser
- 25th Pat Gibson
Barbara Metzger
Michael Stratton
Cesar Benavides
- 27th David Elliott
Billie Nixon
- 28th Ronald Dee Gray

Youth Fall First In Person, Success!!

The youth enjoyed their time together as it had been months since our last time together. We hope to plan more in person Covid safe events for them. It was such a blessing to get together and have fellowship.



Fall Schedule

10/31/20

Trunk-O-Treat
at Church

11/1/20

Youth

11/15/20

Youth

11/29/20*

Youth

12/13/20

Youth

Memorial is a voting site on
Election Day Tuesday
November 3rd, from 7am-7pm
in the Gym





The Pastor's Corner



"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Matthew 11:28-30

When I talk to parishioners or colleagues or even folks out in our neighborhood, one of the common answers to the question, "How are you doing," is, "I'm tired, though I have no idea why."

There are lots of good reasons why we're tired—the emotional energy to maintain vigilance around mask wearing and hand

washing and staying 6 feet apart from each other, trying to remember if we have a curbside pickup or if we're going to have to run into the store. One person described online meetings as taking all of the same emotional energy plus a little bit more, but not giving back the same emotional payoff.

And we don't know when the end will be.

I know that I have been willing to take a few more risks as we have learned more about the disease. But I also know lots of folks who just can't afford to do that. Families are navigating holidays right now—can we go see our uncle, who may have cancer? What if we inadvertently bring the disease to his house? With his compromised immune system, he may not survive.

These are the kinds of things we spend a lot of time thinking about now, and they take up space in our brains.

As a part of that and to try to save some money for the church, I have been working more from home (so we don't have to turn on the air in the office area). But I have slowly realized that one thing that happens at home is that I am overwhelmed by something else.

From alumni magazines to denominational papers, I have drawers and cabinets full of paper. One day when I was feeling particularly heavy and unable to concentrate, the thought came to me that I am the carrier—the caretaker—of all of these items. I asked myself if I truly wanted to caretake things that I hadn't looked at or used in years, and I decided no.

In the weeks since, I've recycled about 2-3 full boxes worth of paper, and we've started to organize lots of music (that we now have room for!). I feel lighter, like I don't have to keep up with nearly as much.

I wonder if it might be the same way for regrets and dashed dreams and lost opportunities from this time. I can keep carrying them, even though there's nothing more to learn from them and they get heavier every time I try to pick up something else that really is necessary. We normally interpret Jesus to be talking about rules and laws that people kept to exhibit faithfulness. But it could be a lot more that keeps me trapped and tired.

It's also true that I don't just get to lay down everything—Jesus clearly has a yoke for me and for each of us. But I believe it is a yoke that I can carry or bear with joy and with hope and yes, with rest. The burdens that I place on myself are different than the things Jesus asks me to be yoked to.

And what are the things Jesus asks? That I be yoked to my neighbors, my enemies, to practices that honor God and share Good News with others. In short, he asks that I be yoked to the promises made in my baptism and confirmation. I don't have to be yoked to impossible expectations or to political affiliations or to literal objects that I'm only holding on to because I've held on to them for so long.

I believe that this process of unburdening happens best when we allow Jesus to be by our side, to help us sift through what is important and life-giving and what isn't. I pray that all of us in this time are finding that Jesus is closer than we think to do this kind of soul work and to encourage us. May his presence give you the rest that you need and the yoke that brings life.

November Newsletter

Luminarias for Christmas Eve

We are certainly hoping that we will be able to safely gather for Christmas Eve this year, but we are also making plans for alternative services, including some opportunity to drive through and see the Christmas story. While we hope that we can also decorate the sanctuary with poinsettias (and if we are, you will hear about the opportunity to order those!), we would also like to prepare the outside of the church and light the way for people to join us.

To that end, we will be offering an opportunity to purchase luminarias for the outside of the church, placing the names of people you wish to remember or honor on the bags. You can choose to take the bag home with you and add your own light to remind you that the Christ Child has also found a home with you or you may choose to leave the bag with the church for use in future years. Each bag will be a \$5 contribution—look for order forms soon!



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Fax: 512-450-0323
Web site: www.memorialumcaustin.com

