

# 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](http://www.memorialumcaustin.com)

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



### In this issue:

<b>World Communion Sunday.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>News From Pews &amp; Birthdays.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Pastor's Corner.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Harris Elementary &amp; Youth Update.....</b>	<b>4</b>

# October 2020

**Celebrating  
World  
Communion  
Sunday—  
October 4**



We will be heading outdoors again for communion the first Sunday in October! Our service will be very similar to last month, though we are waiting until closer to the date to finalize the exact location and time (these may be weather dependent).

In case you missed our service last month, here's how it works:

- To prepare to come and receive, consider setting up a place in your home to place the elements on when you get home (like our Communion Table at the church)—this can be setting out a plate and candle/Bible/other worship elements.
- If you wish to take communion before you leave the Memorial area, consider bringing a plate and other elements with you—there is a picnic table on the back lot and we will have some other tables set up for this purpose.
- You can choose to either remain in your car or find a seat on the lawn (bring a lawn chair, or we can bring you a chair from inside)
- If you choose to get out on the lawn, please bring a mask
- Pastor Cynthia will be amplified
- We will have a few spaces marked out closer to the area we are using for those who will remain in their cars—if you are more mobile and plan on sitting on the lawn, please reserve those spots for someone who has a harder time walking distances or those who will want to stay in the car
- You will receive a bag with bread and a juice box (communion elements) at the end of the service as you drive under the portico. Please use the printed prayers for after you eat and drink, whether you stop in the parking lot before you leave to do that or go to your home
- We will have a basket to receive offerings if you choose to make one

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



## “Oh What A Happy Day!”

This should have been our theme song Sunday 13, 2020 at our drive up Communion Service.



There were 28 people at Memorial either in lawn chairs, under the beautiful pecan tree or in their cars. All coming to hear Pastor Cynthia’s communion message of faith, hope and love from God.

After many welcome greetings and her program, the cars lined up, drove through the portico to receive premade packets of literature, fresh homemade bread (courtesy of Kiki & Mark Corry) and juice boxes for our communion.

We appreciate those involved in the special service and hope there will be more to come.



SIMMONS, Renee Dailey Renee Dailey Simmons stepped on a rainbow on September 10, 2020 in Austin, Texas at the age of 88.

Renee outlived two husbands Gerald "Jerry" Wardrum and William "Bill" Simmons and a daughter, Jennifer Shugart Bolen-Monroe. She leaves three sons Ken (Del), Mike, and Bill Wardrum, and two grandchildren Aaron Wardrum and Rachel Holbrook.

She was a true Texas matriarch, giving quiet advice to family and friends, sharing graciously her time and gifts, and always being there for others. After raising her first family, Renee began work in the administrative offices of ACC. A strong Austin woman, she was active in the mental health field as an advocate and an informal lobbyist.

Renee married Bill Simmons late in life and, in many ways, those were her happiest years.

The family wishes to thank the Ron and Linda Standish family (Lisa, Jill, Sara, and Emily), Reverend James Varner, the Simmons family, the Atkinson family (Lorie and Joel), her many close friends and the staff at Green Ridge at Buckner, and the hospital staff at Ascension Seton Hospital for the many kindnesses shown to our Mom.

Renee was a good Christian, a kind friend, a loving wife, and a truly sacrificing Mother. She loved Texas, God, Democrats, and Family. She is again with her loved ones and will always be in our hearts.

Due to the Covid-19 restrictions, a private ceremony will be held at a later date.



# October Birthdays

1st	Clayton Karrer
2nd	Rachelle Webb
5th	Frances Beerwinkle
7th	Clifford Brown
10th	John William Anton Nixon
15th	Curt Swenson
20th	Malena Pomerleau Peterson
22nd	John Adams Sandra Davis
25th	Irene Shelton
26th	Betty Sanders
29th	Jo-Ann Bennink



# The Pastor's Corner

*“Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”* Philippians 4:6



We started off this time in March with a lot of worry and anxiety. Many different reasons to worry or be anxious have cropped up since then! The contagiousness of the disease, our own health, the scarcity of resources, the condition of the economy, how to grieve or celebrate important life moments...and the list could probably be expanded from there.

Along the way, some of that anxiety began to grow into annoyance. It was inconvenient to have to remember masks. We really want to get together with friends or go back to in-person church. We miss movies and singing together and eating out. We are annoyed at people telling us what to do, and we are also annoyed that not enough people have done their part. We are annoyed that as fast as technology and innovation have moved, there is still a lot we don't know about this disease.

In addition to our swirling anxieties and annoyances with everything brought on by the pandemic, we've got plenty else to be anxious or annoyed about as well, worries and displeasures that predate March, sometimes by months, if not years or decades. Some of our worries and annoyances are the result of depression or clinical anxiety or trauma and require professional help, but some we just carry around with us like comfortable old friends.

I don't know about you, but one of the things that is sure to bring on annoyance from me is someone telling me not to worry. The number of people who have stopped worrying just because someone told them not to is probably pretty low! I feel that I have a right to my fears and worries.

And I do—I have a right to feel the feelings that I have and not to ignore them. AND that's exactly where God steps in and says, “Let me also see them.” Sometimes just stating them out loud, I realize that they have had a power over me that I believe to be stronger than God. It isn't. What God promises is a *peace that passes all understanding*.

Now, I want to understand. I want to know how everything works, how my worries are going to be taken care of. But lately, especially in these days of anxiety and annoyance, when I feel a peace wash over me, when I feel that sense of confidence that God is God and God is love and God loves me and God loves my neighbor, I'm trying not to immediately dissect it. Instead, I'm trying to linger in it, hold on to it like the gift from God that it is. It clears my sight, it helps me to live out the love of Christ, it makes me more generous and less afraid to help others.

I pray every day for that peace—for myself, for those I love, for people in our congregation, for people in the neighborhood. Whether you find it in the memory of a loved one or a particular Bible story or in getting outside or eating a good meal or talking to a friend or hearing a lovely piece of music, I pray that when it comes, you too will hold on to it and let it remind you that there is something greater than everything that we can worry about and everything that annoys us.

There is God's peace.

*Synthia Kepler-Harver*

# October Newsletter

Our partners at Harris Elementary have been reaching out to us as they contemplate going back to in-person instruction. We have helped with getting some resources to kids at the school who are experiencing homelessness. In addition, as we start cautiously opening up to other activities, we may become a site for a parenting class and a class to help parents learn how to use the technology that is necessary for their kids' instruction. What a joy to be connected in our neighborhood community, keeping people safe!



**HARRIS**  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
AUSTIN Independent School District

*We are still praying!* My alarm goes off every day at 5:11 pm, and I take a full minute to ask God for discernment—both for the teachers and staff and families AND for our congregation and how we can reach out with the love of Christ and in the spirit of John Wesley, who established places of learning throughout England, especially for those who would not have otherwise had access. Pray for all institutions of learning throughout our city and state!

---

**YOUTH UPDATE**—Daphne is talking to parents and kids about safety precautions in coming back to do some activities in-person. If you have a youth or know a youth who would like to get involved, please call her at the church (512-452-5796 option 7) and let her know. There will be announcements before our next newsletter, so watch our website and emails for the latest!



Memorial United Methodist Church  
6100 Berkman Drive  
Austin, Texas 78723  
Phone: 512-452-5796  
Fax: 512-450-0323  
Web site: [www.memorialumcaustin.com](http://www.memorialumcaustin.com)

