

# 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 9:30-10:15 a.m.

Worship - 11:00 a.m.

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



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## September 2021



### Communion Sunday

**September 5:**

Allison Angell

Rev. Tina Carter Presiding

**September 12:**

Kathleen Beuttenmueller

**September 19: TBA**

**September 26:**

Rev. John Wright

We're so excited about all of the speakers who will be joining us! Whether you watch online, read their transcript through email or physical mail or come in person, we hope that you will be praying for those who will bring the Word of God to us in new and fresh ways.



# CHURCH News



While Pastor Cynthia is out of the office on a much deserved Sabbatical, please contact the following (all individual phone numbers are available

through the office):

**For Pastoral Care and Prayer Concerns:**

Office (512-452-5796) or

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

Billie Nixon

Alberta Shelton

Allison Angell (pastoral care assistant)

For a change in worship materials (getting on email list, having a physical copy mailed to you or help navigating to the online service)

(materials) Office (512-452-5796) or

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

(online help) Greg Mikeska

For messages or concerns about the facility:

Chuck Garner



Our deepest sympathies go out to Michael and Monica Moore on the passing of Monica's mother last month. May the Lord comfort you with His peace at this difficult time.



# Memorial UMC Reaches Out

After the 18 months worth of worldwide disaster, it is difficult sometimes to comprehend other tragedies in our world. Many times, we have a desire to help after a tragedy which particularly touches our hearts.

Primarily, our giving here in Austin is done through our Memorial for Christ fund (just indicate on a check, envelope or pull down menu that you wish to contribute to it). These funds are spent to help locally.

The two international organizations we work through are the United



Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and Church World Service (CWS). UMCOR has the ability to direct funds anywhere in the world, particularly for disaster relief. They have some general funds for domestic relief (anywhere in the US) and international relief (everywhere else).

100% of money given to UMCOR projects goes to

direct relief with no administrative costs removed.



CWS is both the sponsor of Crop Hunger Walk and does hunger and humanitarian work around the world. They particularly do work with refugees, which is



If you have signs of any COVID-19 symptoms please stay home.



Wear a face covering when required, always recommended.



Wash or sanitize your hands often to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

For questions about our COVID protocols and current COVID status:

Office (512-452-5796) or

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

Margaret Adams



# September Birthdays

- 1st Geoffery Adams  
Bob Johnson  
John Alan Nixon
- 3rd Sandra Amundson  
Nathaniel Rodriguez  
Hannah Smith
- 4th Hildegarde Kothmann
- 7th Charles Waits
- 8th Jason Ramos
- 9th Billy Ray Capps
- 10th Bea Bailey  
Kenneth Jourdan
- 11th Kevin McFarland
- 12th Priscilla Bissett  
Kristin Shelton  
Taylor Elaine Stewart
- 17th Linda Arbuckle
- 19th Pat Teaney
- 21st Afton Phoenix Petersen
- 23rd Isabel Shelton  
Irene Wright
- 24th Jason Petersen
- 25th Cameron Rodgers  
Irene Shelton
- 27th Marsha Fowler



You can help homebound adults in Austin! Volunteer to provide weekday meals, safety checks and friendship by volunteering with Meals on Wheels Central Texas, and help us get back to daily hot meal deliveries. Memorial United Methodist church is one of our pick-up locations, and to get started fill out our online volunteer form here: <https://www.mealsonwheelscentraltexas.org/get-involved/volunteer-application>.

Jason Kamimoto Volunteer Recruitment Coordinator  
3227 East 5<sup>th</sup> Street Austin, Texas 78702  
p. 512.476.6325 | 737.218.4188 (direct) | f. 512.476.6478  
[www.mealsonwheelscentraltexas.org](http://www.mealsonwheelscentraltexas.org)



## They Gave! Now In Gratitude - Planting Seeds For Your Community

Your seemingly small acts of service can have lasting effects – some which may not manifest immediately, but suddenly spring into a garden that you’ll enjoy for years to come. Volunteer to drive for a senior who can no longer drive for themselves. Learn more **by** contacting Sherrie at 512-310-1060 or visit [sherrie@senioracesstx.org](mailto:sherrie@senioracesstx.org).



# The Pastor's Corner

<sup>24</sup> And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup> 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)

I confess that I have not always had pure religious motivations for going to either church or mid-week worship activities.

Sometimes it was because I liked to dress up and it was an excuse.

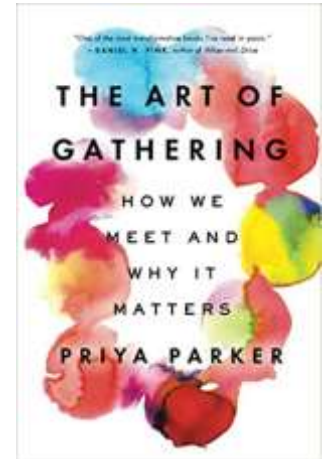
Sometimes it was because I wanted to sing.

Sometimes...well...boys!

Sometimes I had friends I wanted to see.

Sometimes it was habit.

Sometimes it was because I was in charge of something.



One of the things I love is that in the middle of all of those other motivations, God found me with the love of Jesus. I discovered something way more transformative than whether or not I hit all the right notes or whether or not I was with my friends.

But it doesn't mean that those things are not important.

Because there have been times when I have showed up over and over again for Jesus' sake, and I have subsequently found a song my heart wants to sing, friends I could count on, activities that I could offer my gifts and skills and leadership to.

God is a Great Gatherer.

I'm at the very beginning of reading one of the books that I hope to finish over the course of my renewal leave. It's called, *The Art of Gathering*. I'm through the introduction, and I'm already intrigued at the approach.

The author is someone who does conflict resolution, and she is guided by the idea that when people gather, they long to have an experience of belonging. She says that we don't often feel that when we gather in groups, but we keep on doing the same things, hoping that we will. She reminds us: "Gatherings crackle and flourish when real thought goes into them, when (often invisible) structure is baked into them, and when a host has the curiosity, willingness, and generosity of spirit to try." (from the introduction)

God does something on Sunday mornings that I'm always amazed at—God invites every single one of us to belong to Jesus and to one another. When you come to worship, whether you gather virtually or sit in the sanctuary, you are connected to love and hope. You are connected to caring and compassion. You are connected to a confessing and repenting and forgiving and reconciling people. If you don't feel connected, then perhaps there is more we can intentionally do to make those connections "crackle and flourish" with energy and with hope.

Over these next months, pay attention to ways in which you gather in which you do feel connected or like you belong. How or why does that happen? Does something transformative happen to you when it does?

As we "keep on meeting" in all of the ways we have learned to do over this pandemic, I am hopeful (always hopeful!) that God is calling us to learn new ways for others to feel welcomed and that sense of belonging. As the refrain of "When We Are Living (Pues Si Vivimos)" says, "We belong to God, we belong to God." See you in November!

*Synthia Kepler-Harer*

## Submit a Prayer Request

### Weekly Prayer List Process

Each Sunday, through our worship services (in person during the Prayers of the People, online at the end of the worship service and in the text of the emailed/mailed service), we will use a current prayer list. Please be aware of how we will maintain that list and what we will publish:

Names will be added to the list when they are received in the office (512-452-5796 or [secretary@memorialumcaustin.com](mailto:secretary@memorialumcaustin.com)). Please let the office know if you have received permission to put a name or situation on the prayer list (if you are calling on behalf of someone else) and any information that may be made public. If this is a situation where pastoral care follow up needs to be made, please get in touch with Allison Angell (the office will have her number).

Names will remain on the prayer list for 2 Sundays following the most recent update the office has received.



Book of Discipline ¶350.3: A clergy member may request a formational and spiritual

growth leave of up to six months while continuing to hold appointment in the local church. Such leaves are available to clergy members who have held full-time appointments for at least six years.

I am grateful that in conjunction with the Staff-Parish Relations Committee and our District Superintendent, Rev. Laura Merrill, we were able to schedule this renewal leave, which will go from September 1 through October 31.

A list of preachers will be announced as they become known—keep checking the website and stay up-to-date through our email list. Most of the questions and requests that you may have during this time will go through the church office, though they will be handled by volunteers and other pastors. Kendall Smith (SPRC chair) and Kc Nixon (church administrative assistant) are good places to start if you don't know where to direct your question or request.

Many of you have asked where I'll be traveling during this time. The truth is that I'm still cautiously waiting to see what is happening with COVID cases and the spread of the delta variant. I have hopes to see family on the West Coast at some point, but those plans are up in the air. I will be spending some time helping my parents and Clayton's mom, and doing some consulting work.

My main hope and goal for this time is to spend time doing the reading and re-centering that the past 18 months has not allowed for. I hope to re-establish patterns of taking care of myself physically and spiritually--I already have preventative tests like a colonoscopy and a mammogram scheduled as well as piles of reading I have been hoping to do.

These times of rest can be as important to the congregation as to the pastor. Already we have discovered, in trying to make sure we had coverage for the two months, how many decisions and tasks flowed through me! It will help us in the long run to have people more involved, especially in things where I

### Looking for Liturgists

Several people have made themselves available for helping with the Sunday morning liturgies, especially while Pastor Cynthia will be gone, but in these days, we would really love to have backups!



Being a liturgist involves:

Greeting the congregation at the beginning of the service

Announcing the hymns (but not leading them!)

Reading the prayer concerns

Introducing the preacher

Reading scripture (if the preacher does not)

Leading an affirmation of faith

Praying an offertory prayer (provided for you)

On occasion, Greg Mikeska may also get in touch with you to record you introducing the preacher, reading scripture or praying the offertory prayer for our online service, which is fun because you get to do as many takes

**CANCELLED**

**Y'ALL COME**



**SUNDAY**

We had hoped that we would be able to safely gather for our traditional BBQ luncheon on the second Sunday of September, but with so many needing to stay home for their own safety and the safety of others, Pastor Cynthia and the Re-Engagement Committee have advised that it will be best to cancel this year. Our protocols that require us to be masked for all gatherings remain in place, and it is unlikely that Austin will get back to Stage 3 before this event was to have taken place.

**BUT!** We are working toward and hopeful about the possibility of being able to gather for Thanksgiving luncheon. Will you join us in praying and working toward that possibility? Stay masked, stay safe, if you are able, please talk to your doctor about getting vaccinated if you have not already.

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