

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

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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September Worship: Open Letters

September 4: Philemon 1

September 11: 1 Timothy 1:12-17

September 18: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

September 25: 1 Timothy 6:6-19

An open letter is one that is addressed to a person or persons but is clearly meant to be made public. Both the letters of Philemon and 1 Timothy were likely read out loud in public, though they are directed to their namesakes. What does it mean when the lines between public and private are erased? Join us in worship as we explore that question and these scriptures!



Sept. 11th Y'all Come /

Grandparents Day



After worship, join us in the parlor for a BBQ potluck! We'll provide the BBQ and drinks, and we ask everyone to bring a side or dessert to share. This is a great opportunity to bring a friend to church as well!

In addition, we will be honoring grandparents on this day—so we want to use pictures of your grandkids OR your grandparents in our centerpieces! You can either send us pictures by email (preferred) or bring them in and we will scan them before using them—we promise that no originals will be exposed to BBQ sauce! Contact the church office for more information



News From pews



United
Women
in Faith

Pancake Breakfast



2nd Sunday of each month in
the Gym Kitchen
8:30am September 11th



UWF meets the 3rd
Wednesday of each month:
September 14th 10:30am

Celebrating 150 years

In December 2023, the congregation which is currently called Memorial UMC will be 150 years old!

We are looking for people who have a vision for any events leading up to our celebration to vision those events and then help to make them happen!

We hope that this celebration isn't just about a single day or party, but about an exploration of how God has been with us and who God might be inviting us to be in the future.

These events won't happen without YOU--so make sure you let us know that you would like to do something!



September Birthdays

- 1st Geoffery Adams
Bob Johnson
John Alan Nixon
- 3rd Sandra Amundson
Nathaniel Rodriguez
Hannah Smith
- 4th Hildegard Kothman
- 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





The Pastor's Corner

“Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you, yet do it with gentleness and respect.” (1 Peter 3:15b-16a)

On September 4, and probably once a month going forward as is needed, I will be holding an information session on what is going on in the general United Methodist Church. The background to these sessions is that ever since the UMC was founded in 1968, it has experienced conflict. At this point some of that conflict has gotten so divisive that some people and even whole congregations are choosing to leave the UMC. In addition, there has been misinformation being disseminated, and I hope to provide both corrections to misassumptions as well as resources where you can get good info.

But in the midst of everything, I wanted you to know why I am UMC and plan to stay.

I grew up here. That may seem like taking the path of least resistance, but I have been formed and shaped by United Methodist congregations in South, West and Central Texas since I was born. I have been loved, challenged, and supported by folks in those congregations, many of whom encouraged me when I most needed it.

The Wesleyan understanding of grace gives me hope. Rather than speaking of only certain people as “chosen”, Wesley understood that EVERY single person from the moment they come into being is loved and cherished and given grace by God without ever doing anything to earn it. For anyone who has felt like they have to be something else or something more in order for someone to love them, imagine what can happen when we tell them that Jesus loved them—even at their lowest, least faithful, or least successful point. And what’s more—that same love is what can help us to love not only God and ourselves, but also our neighbors.

Our understanding of baptism and communion makes sense to me. In both of our sacraments, we view God as the primary actor. In baptism, that means that it is a celebration of God’s love, no matter what age the person is baptized at or what they understand or don’t understand. In communion, that means that I don’t have to fully comprehend what is going on when Jesus says “this is my body”—I can trust that it is a gift from God that I can receive without passing a test first!

We have a bedrock of doctrinal standards AND we choose to make and amend statements about where we see God at work in our everyday lives. Our doctrinal standards (the Articles of Religion, Confession of Faith and General Rules) **cannot** be changed, even if the General Conference wanted to. Our social principles can (and have!) change every four years with a General Conference vote.

We are a connection. The UMC isn’t just one church—it is a whole bunch of churches who share ministries, missions, and resources, all so we can learn from and teach one another, experience diversity while having a core community, and “provoke one another to love and good deeds” (Hebrews 10:25). When we live into this ideal, there is no more fun way to do church!

We have an appointive system for most pastors. While that may seem self-serving, it really is a benefit to the church as well. I’ve watched churches who have fewer resources go for months and even years without successfully hiring (“calling”) a pastor. And I’ve seen churches with many resources start church feuds over which group got more say in selecting the most recent pastor. The appointive system is also better for women and people of color, who are less likely to be successful in finding a church to serve on their own.

We value some good things...and we value them for everyone. I like that we support education and health care and the rights of workers. I like that we believe conversations on race and the rights of children need to still happen. I like that we are constantly trying to learn about how we can see our neighbors’ gifts alongside their needs so that we don’t think of ourselves as better than, but see ourselves as partners alongside. And we have done this since the time of Wesley, who was one of the first clergy in England to establish schools for non-wealthy kids, start health clinics for the working people, speak out against slavery, and work on prison reform.

So how about you? What brought you to or keeps you in the UMC?



Wesley Recreation Center is a free sports program for incoming 5th and 6th Graders. For the fall we will be offering soccer on

Mondays from 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm. The program will include instruction, games, and free time. There is no fee, but pre-registration is required. If you have any questions please contact Kendall Smith 512-844-6809 or Kathleen Beuttenmueller 920-980-7313.

Dates for the Fall: September 12, 19, 26,
October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31,
November 7, 14, 21, 28



PLEASE JOIN US

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4th, 4:30 PM –
7:30 PM AT THE SMITH HOUSE
FOR A YOUTH GATHERING AND POOL
PARTY!

ALL YOUTH IN 6TH THROUGH 12TH GRADE ARE
WELCOME!

**September
18th 6pm**



Bread Church

September 15th

7pm Gym Kitchen

Two Too Many” A Picture Give Away



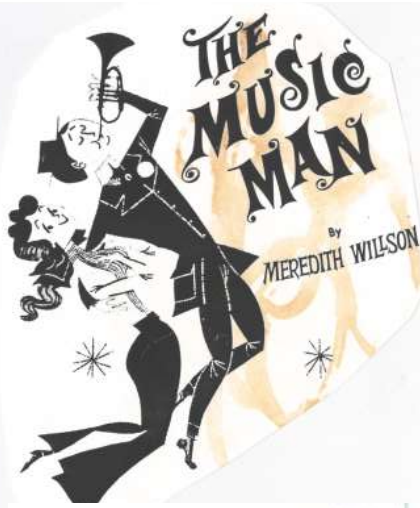
While waiting for church to start, take some time to browse through the pictures in the Narthex. We have doubles of so many pictures and want to share with everyone. Please take the picture of your family and friends who have moved away. Please Share.

Do you remember?



6:30 p.m. DINNER THEATER July 31
MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
6100 BERKMAN DRIVE
PRESENTS
"THE MUSIC MAN"
In the church gymnasium
Musical: Adult \$2.00 Dinner: Adult \$5.00
Child \$1.00 Child \$5.00

TABLE
SEAT



Memorial's 1982 Production of The Music Man

Director: Ross Hise Assoc. Pastor: Bobbi Kaye Cloninger Asst. Director: Laura Hise Coordinator: Cora Fuller Pianist: Paula White Flutist: Paula Blaha

The summer musical completed its final run without anyone missing a performance. Over 108 people ages 6-75 participated in the production and more than 500 attended the 3 shows. Countless hours were given to assure its success. Despite the hard work and long hours, the final question was, "What are we doing next year?"



CAST

Harold Hill	Dick Weaver
Marian Paroo	Janet Weaver
Marcellus Washburn	Marvin Carson
Jacey Squires	Robert Neubauer
Ewart Dunlop	Jon Weaver
Oliver Hix	Leon Willhite
Olin Britt	Carter Jones
George Shinn (Mayor)	Boyd Eaker
Eulalie Mackecknie Shinn	Alberta Shelton
Alma Hix	Jean Neubauer
Ethel Toffelmier	Gail Stiles Brown
Maud Dunlop	Afton Pomerleau
Evelyn Squires	Susie Hartsfield
Charlie Cowell	Marty Brown
Peg Paroo	Betty Moore
Winthrop Paroo	Harry Pomerleau
Tommy Djilas	Jonathon Langham
Zaneeta Shinn	Vidette Keene
Gracie Shinn	Joanna Langham
Alvin Locke	Tom Langham
Amaryllis Taylor	Tammy Brown
Orville Simms	Tom Langham
Mike Nelson	Steve Terry
Jason Finney	Scott Tyson
Raymond Fife	Jeff Sacco
Archie Todd	Jesse Moore
Don Simpson	Carter Jones
Newspaper Reader #1	Jon Weaver
Newspaper Reader #2	Robert Neubauer
Buster Simpson	Jim Shelton
Clyde Jones	Matthew Shelton
Ralph Taylor	Jim Cloninger
Cyrus Woods	Louis Lee
Nan Woods	Ruth Bohn
Gladys Taylor	Bobbi Kaye Cloninger
Martha McDonald	Cora Fuller
Agnes Fulton	Gene Lee

Kathleen Locke	Mavis Langham
Nora Anderson	Virginia Smith
Phyllis Toffelmier	Mildred Rucker
Priscilla McDonald	Suzanne Wright
Beatrice Todd	Erica Moore
Rose Dunlop	Shelly Keene
Patty Squires	Laura Rhoades
Ellen Hix	Elise Webb
Kate Britt	Kim Brymer
Lois Locke	Karen Johnston
Penny Woods	Laura Hise
Kathy Locke	Jessica Moore
Joyce Britt	Malena Pomerleau
Emily Britt	Michaela Pomerleau
Linus Dunlop	John Shelton
Barney Hix	Dan Rucker
Eddie Squires	Kyle Hartsfield
Peter Locke	Mike Shelton
Steven Woods	Les Brooks
Tony Hix	Lee Willhite
Josh Britt	Gary Gray
Davey Hix	Melissa Willhite
Elsie Taylor	Elisabeth Cloninger



By Gloria McPhail

CREW

Technical Director Geraldine Brooks
 Stage Manager Steve Terry
 Crew Jess Moore, Jimmy Shelton, Laura Hise,
 Jeff Sacco, Kel Pomerleau
 Stage Erection Jim Rhoades
 Crew Duke Rumpf, Joe Spelman, Ross Hise,
 Marvin Carson, Pat Marcum, Wilbur Davis
 Scenery Coordinator Marvin Carson
 Scenic Design Edna Marie Moore
 Scenery Execution Linda Linden
 Crew Wilbur Davis, Frank Linden,
 Joan Linden, Mike Shelton
 Lighting Tom Langham
 Crew Larry Hartsfield, Patty Marcum,
 Mike Sanchez, Margaret Loveless
 Sound Ken Jourdan
 Crew Scott Tyson, Suzanne Wright
 Properties Alberta Shelton
 Crew Gerri Brooks, Linda Linden
 Costumes Millie Rucker
 Crew Norma Jones, Faye Dysart,
 Linda Linden, Lori Jones
 Make-Up Laura Hise, Elise Webb
 Prompter Suzanne Wright
 Band Scott Tyson
 Photography Anna Lea Faulk
 Crew John Faulk
 Choreography Vidette Keene
 Crew Kareo King, Steve Terry
 Barbershop Quartet Coach Betty Sampler
 Publicity Kathy Gray
 Crew Charlotte Neese, Nancy Helgé
 Program Debbie Higgins
 Ticket Sales Debbie Higgins
 House Billie Nixon
 Crew Kay Merritt, Eloise Keesen,
 Freddie Potts, Georgie Kirksey

 Ticket Takers Debbie Higgins and Daniel Robledo
 Billie Nixon
 Patty Marcum
 Servers Marian Ottinger, Betty Sanders, Lori Jones,
 Lynn Willhite, Faye Dysart, Pam Ross, Phyllis Moore
 Hazel Wright, Marie Carson, Nancy Helge,
 Georgia Kirksey, Barbara Kretsinger, Lonny Bohn,
 Mary Ann Baker, Nadine Hendricks, Sheila Weaver
 Kathy Gray, Norma Jones, Nan Berkley, Sheryl Cheatham
 Shirley Rhoades, Dorothy Barton
 Greenroom/Facilities Suzanne Wright
 Crew Rob & Pam Ross, Hazel Wright, Norma Jones
 Chef Duke Rumpf
 Crew Gaines Leavelle, Dick Moore, Bob Loveless
 Joe Spelman, Jim Rhoades, Pat Marcum, Pat Rumpf
 Ice Cream Sociable Sheila Weaver, Mavis Langham
 Crew Pam & Rob Ross, Norma Jones,
 Lynn Willhite, Kathy Gray
 Food and Supplies Marty Brown
 CLEAN UP EVERYONE



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Stop-N-Go Markets of Texas Inc.
Safeway Stores #703
Swenson's Ice Cream Restaurant
Baskin-Robbins Ice Cream Stores
Sonic Drive
Borden's Ice Cream
Mrs. Bairds
Butterkrust
Schepps Dairy
Dolly Madison
Bette's
Winn's
Jerry Ingram
L.C. Anderson High School
Crockett High School
Reagan High School
St. Edwards University
Zacery Scott Theatre
Lon and Cherrill Rose
Fred Rymer - Dept. of Public Safety
Martha Rissmann
Marvin Carson
Steve Terry
Zilker Elementary
Reitz Music Company
Shelton Family
Pomerlau/Keene Family
Hartsfield Family
Scott Tyson
Dick Moore Family
Willhite Family
Hise Family
Linda Linden
Langham Family
Nixon Family
Jess Moore
Elise Webb





Pastor Cynthia will be having an information session on September 4 to give the current state of the General UMC and the Rio Texas Conference in particular. As you may have heard, the wider church is in the middle of change (see my article for some of my commentary), and I want to keep people who may have heard that we need to take votes or have discussions an opportunity to ask questions about what processes are happening right now and whether or not those are appropriate for Memorial UMC.



If you are already "in the know" about what is going on but have some specific questions, please let Pastor Cynthia know by August 29 (there is a meeting on August 30 where she may be able to ask questions).

This will not be the only information session at Memorial UMC, so if you miss the deadline for questions, please send them in anyway for use at a future meeting (or so that Pastor Cynthia can answer you directly).

The conference has a page of general information and frequently asked questions at riotexas.org/we-are-umc

[Rio Texas information page](#)

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