

The Newsletter

December 2015

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 9:15-10:00 a.m.

Worship - 10:30 a.m.

Web site:

www.memorialumcaustin.com

Find us on Facebook at

Memorial United Methodist Church-Austin

Email:

secretary@memorialumcaustin.com

Church Office Hours

Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Monday, Thursday, and Friday

12:30 pm-3:00 pm

Phone: 512.452.5796

Fax: 512.450.0323

In this issue:

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| News from the Pews..... | 2 |
| Women's News..... | 2 |
| Pastor's Corner..... | 3 |
| Youth News..... | 4 |
| Calendar..... | 5-6 |
| Birthdays..... | 6 |
| Poinsettia Order Form..... | 7 |



Join Us for Christmas All December Long

Sunday, December 6th

Hanging of the Greenery at
10:30 AM

Lunch followed by Movie and
Ornament Making at 11:45 AM

Sunday, December 13th

Special Music at 10:30 AM

Lunch followed by Movie and
Cookie Decorating at 11:45 AM

Sunday, December 20th

Lunch followed by Movie and
Christmas Caroling at 11:45 AM

Thursday, December 24th

Candlelight Christmas Eve
Service at 7:00 PM

News from the Pews

If you missed our Thanksgiving dinner and November 22, 2015 you missed a treat!

We want to thank everyone for their interest. The designated crews worked so hard setting up tables and chairs, cutting up the turkeys, and keeping the food organized by hot and cold. And after the dinner more crews put everything away, washed dishes, and cleaned the floors. Unless you have served on one or more of these crews, you really do not understand how much has to be done.

Our famous cooks outdid themselves. There was plenty of delicious turkey, dressing, and gravy to go with the other side dishes, salads, vegetables, and croissant rolls. If you had a desire for desserts I do believe there was one of every kind that anyone could want.

Words alone cannot express our gratitude for the cooperation from all of you who participated in the success of this meal. Happy Thanksgiving and we can now enjoy Christmas.

**Submitted by Billie Nixon
Membership Coordinator**



Women's News

Submitted by Alberta Shelton

United Methodist Women will be collecting toys and money for Brown Santa. Please drop off any toy donations in the box in back of the sanctuary or come to our First Sunday Breakfast and in lieu of a money donation for your breakfast, drop off a toy. Last year we had a carload to deliver along with a nice check. Money donations may be given to Patty Marcum or Alberta Shelton.

Mark your calendars for:

January 26, February 2, and February 9 at 6:00 PM for supper and study of "Finding Happiness Through Your Faith" led by Rev. Cynthia Kepler-Karrer. On February 9th we will have our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper.

March 21 at 7:00 PM, following a day long prayer vigil, we will observe a time of Prayer and Self-Denial led by Connie Tatom.

June 3 at 9:30 AM we will host Church Women United's annual Bible study..

Memorial UMC's UMW was recognized as a Five Star Unit at the first meeting of the UMW Rio Texas Conference in San Antonio at Coker UMC.



**UMW Accepting
Toy Donations for
Brown Santa at
next Pancake
Breakfast,
December 6th**

Some of Brown Santa's suggested gifts for 3-9 year olds: soccer balls, basket balls, footballs, and Barbie dolls

For 10-14 year olds: Handheld games, wallets, purses, hair dryers, flat irons or curling irons

Or board games and card games for all ages



Pastor's Corner

“But the angel said to him, ‘Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John.’” (Luke 1:13)

“The angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.’” (Luke 1:30)

“But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.’” (Luke 2:10-11)

For those of us who call Jesus by the titles which were spoken at his birth—Savior, Messiah, Lord—this is a special time of year. But those titles aren't just wonderful to sing. In the days in which they were originally spoken, they had all sorts of implications.

To call Jesus Savior is to say that we are in need of salvation. That we believe that salvation comes through a person—specifically this person, who is God Incarnate and not some random guy who is promising us a better life. This person was born in a barn because there was no room in the inn. And this person was driven out of the country because there were those who sought to kill him, though they didn't wind up killing him, but every other boy under the age of two. Our Savior escaped infanticide by fleeing his country.

To call Jesus Messiah or “Christ” is to say that we believe he is the “anointed one”, the one who has come and is coming to reconcile us to God and to one another. Which means we are in need of reconciliation! We acknowledge that our relationships aren't what they should be—and not just our relationships with those we like. Isaiah 11 reminds us that the Messiah will “set up a banner for the nations”—that in the Messiah, God will be gathering all people together, led by the children of Israel. So this is news of great joy not just for the Jews, but for all people everywhere!

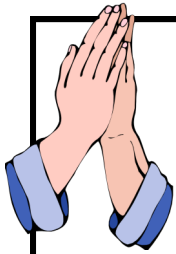
To call Jesus Lord is a countercultural statement, then and now. It means that so many other things, including our priorities *and* our prejudices are placed in the context of Jesus, who called us to love God, and to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. In the time Jesus was born, it was a direct affront to the government, where the rulers believed that they had a special relationship with the gods and even claimed divinity for themselves. (Or maybe that's today!) But to call Jesus Lord is to say that we allow that love for God and love for neighbors to trump every other claim on our lives.

All of these titles are risky to live out and to claim. Sometimes, following Jesus will make us look like fools—the world can't make sense out of loving others that much, even when they don't “deserve” love or haven't earned it. Following Jesus reorganizes our priorities.

It's no wonder to me that the first word the angels had to say to everyone was “Do not be afraid.” When a messenger of God comes and tells you that the world will be turned upside down and that you will have to change, there's some real fear there. But our job as Christians is to say that fear is not our motivator. Love and hope and joy and peace and faith are the things that motivate us because they are the things that help us to live out what we say—that Jesus is our Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.

So when you are feeling anxious this season, when there are those who would like your allegiance, think to yourself, “Do not be afraid. For the Christ who is coming is greater than all our fears.”





Praying for our congregation and friends

For privacy we do not publish in the newsletter the reason these individuals are on our prayer chain. You may contact the church office for information if it is available.

Kathy Gray

Dorothy Dennig

William Bennink Sr.

Bill and Renee Simmons

Kay Allen

Geraldine Boydston

Lester and Ann Bryant

Syble Berglund

Dorothy Burnup

Janet Clark

Jane Friedrich

Bill Head

Ross Hise

Bob Johnston

Mildred McCullough

Grace Morris

Betty Sampler

Liz Sanford

Charleyne Schmidt

Anna Belle Turner

Diana Valastro

Cleo Wilson

Irene Wright

Jane Shive

Earl Cole

Norma Jones

Mike Pena



UMYF-United Methodist Youth Fellowship

The District Lock-In date has been set for Friday December 18th, the day after AISD school lets out and will again be at Blazer Lazer tag. Mark your calendars now!

MIDWINTER 2016!

Four events hosted by our seven districts. All are welcome at each event. Mark your calendars now!

Jan 15-18—Las Misiones
@ Camp Young Judea

Jan 29-31—Coastal Bend and El Valle
@ Camp Zephyr

Feb 12-14—Hill Country, West, and Crossroads
@ Mt. Wesley (with the Mark Swayze Band!)

Feb 26-28—Capital
@ Camp Tejas

Feel free to contact Kendall for more information, 512-844-6809 or kendallsmith@accentfoods.com.

**See you on Sunday!
Kendall**



"...and [Mary] wrapped him in bands of cloth"

Even though many of us lived in fear of getting something practical like underwear for Christmas, there are many kids out there for whom it would be a great help. Bring a new package of kids underwear (any size) or socks to church for Christmas. We will be donating them to Harris Elementary!



underwear

CALENDAR

Tuesday, December 1

9:30 am - Staff meeting

9:30 am - BIF (Bible Information Fellowship)
United Methodist Women— Pearce Room

Wednesday, December 2

7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal—Choir room

Saturday, December 5

All Day - Society of Creative Anachronism will be using our gym for their holiday gathering

Sunday, December 6

8:30 am - UMW Pancake Breakfast

9:15 am - Sunday School for all ages

10:30 am - Worship Service— Hanging of the Greenery

11:45 am— Lunch followed by Ornament Making

Monday, December 7

6:15 am - Morning Prayer -Chapel

6:00 pm - Girl Scouts—Gym area

7:00 pm - Austin Harmony— Choir room

7:30 pm - Boy Scouts -Gym area

Tuesday, December 8

6:30 pm - Wesley Board—Pearce Room

Wednesday, December 9

7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal—Choir room

7:00 pm - Reading and Library UMW— Library

Thursday, December 10

7:00 pm - Austin Ukulele Society— gym

Friday, December 11

6:00 pm - Wesley School Christmas Program—
Sanctuary and Parlor

Saturday, December 12

10:00 am - Windsor Park Neighborhood
Association Monthly Meeting— gym

Sunday, December 13

9:15 am - Sunday School for all ages

10:30 am - Worship Service

11:30 am - Trustees— Pearce Room

12:00 pm - UMYF (Youth group)

Monday, December 14

Newsletter Deadline

6:15 am - Morning Prayer -Chapel

6:00 pm - Girl Scouts—Gym area

6:30 pm - Church Council— Pearce

7:00 pm - Austin Harmony— Choir room

7:30 pm - Boy Scouts -Gym area

Tuesday, December 15

9:30 am - Staff meeting

9:30 am - Honeybees UMW crafters— Pearce

Wednesday, December 16

10:00 am - Wesley School Chapel

7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal—Choir room

Friday, December 18

10:00 pm— 6:00 am - District Youth Lock-In @
Blazer Tag

Sunday, December 20

9:15 am - Sunday School for all ages

10:30 am - Worship Service

Monday, December 21

6:15 am - Morning Prayer -Chapel

6:00 pm - Girl Scouts—Gym area

7:00 pm - Austin Harmony— Choir room

7:30 pm - Boy Scouts -Gym area

Tuesday, December 22

9:30 am - Staff Meeting

Wednesday, December 23

10:00 am - Wesley School Chapel

7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 24

Office closes at 12:00 Noon

7:00 pm - Candlelight Christmas Eve Service—
Sanctuary

CALENDAR

CONTINUED

Friday, December 25– Christmas Day

Office Closed

Sunday, December 27– Bell Ringing Sunday

9:15 am - Sunday School for all ages

10:30 am - Worship Service

Monday, December 28

Light coverage in office

6:15 am - Morning Prayer -Chapel

Tuesday, December 29

Light Coverage in office

Wednesday, December 30

Light Coverage in Office

7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 31

Light coverage in office

Friday, January 1

Office Closed

Looking Ahead

January 3– Epiphany Sunday

January 10– Baptism of the Lord Sunday

January 18– Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Building Use Calendar



Any group wanting to use a room at the church for a meeting needs to make

arrangements with the church office. You can make a one-time reservation or an on-going reservation.



Birthdays

2nd Laura Ruth Kozelsky

Sandra Bissett

Ron Frederick

Norma Hauser

Charlyne Schmidt

3rd Caitlyn Dennig

5th Drianna Gonzales

Sharon Owens

6th Ann Brady

7th Don Mohler

Paula Garner

Harry Pomerleau

12th Evelyn Capps

13th Michael Moore

15th 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

2016 Calendar for Altar Flowers Posted

Altar flowers may be given in memory or honor of loved ones or for special mission projects .

Fill out a form designating your wish and leave at the office or drop it off in the offering plate on Sunday. Bouquets are \$20.00 each - two maximum per Sunday. Stop and signup today.

Order Your Poinsettias!

Poinsettias - \$10 each

Poinsettias will be placed in the Chancel, Sunday, December 20. Deadline for purchasing poinsettias is Sunday, December 13. Sign up early! Any questions, please call the church office at 452-5796 or secretary@memorialumcaustin.com

2015 POINTSETTIA ORDER - \$10 each DEADLINE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2015



| From Whom | How Many | In Honor of or In Memory of | Donate | Keep |
|-----------|----------|-----------------------------|--------|------|
| | | | | |
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“Toon In to Christmas”

Sermon Series featuring Pixar Shorts

Nov. 8– Dec. 27 @10:30 AM



December 6

“Difficult Children”

December 13

“Using YOUR Gifts”

December 20

“Loving and Waiting”

December 27

“I Didn’t Get What I Wanted”



2015 Contributions

If you wish for any contributions to Memorial UMC to "count" for tax year 2015, they must be in to our office by December 31.

If the office is not open, they may be placed in the mail slot under the portico at the office entrance. Mail and messages will be collected daily during the last week of the year. Thank you!

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December Long**

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Making at 11:45 AM

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Special Music at 10:30 AM
Lunch followed by Movie and Cookie
Decorating at 11:45 AM

Sunday, December 20th

Lunch followed by Movie and Christmas
Caroling at 11:45 AM

Thursday, December 24th

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
at 7:00 PM



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Austin, Texas 78723

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED