

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 9:15-10:00 a.m.

Worship - 10:30 a.m.

Find all our Newsletters on our
Web site: www.memorialumcaustin.com

Find us on Facebook at

Memorial United Methodist Church-Austin

Email:

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August 2021

AUGUST IN WORSHIP

“Sharing Bread”

Join us for worship, recipes and more as we ponder together what Jesus means when he says to the disciples and the people gathered, “I am the bread of life.” What does



bread mean for our lives and for our life together?

Remember—we are meeting in the sanctuary at 11:00am for in-person worship, streaming our recorded service on facebook at 11:00am and sending out a liturgy, links to song recordings and transcript of the sermon via email on Sunday mornings. If you would like more information on how to participate in worship, please let us know in the office (512-452-5796 or secretary@memorialumcaustin.com).

- August 1: John 6:1-21
- August 8: John 6:24-35
- August 15: John 6: 35, 41-51
- August 22: John 6: 51-58
- August 29: John 6: 56-59

COVID Update

As of this newsletter, cases and hospitalizations have risen dramatically for a couple of weeks as more contagious variants appear, triggering Stage 3 recommendations. Please consult our weekly emails, website or facebook page as well as our COVID protocols page for the most up-to-date information on both events and regular services <http://memorialumcaustin.com/COVIDInfo>.

If cases trigger Stage 4 recommendations, our Re-Engagement Committee may examine our protocols surrounding worship and events such as the Ice Cream Social and Y’all Come luncheon. Please stay safe and if possible and advised, receive your vaccination!



News From Pews

By Billie Nixon

Membership Coordinator



Weddings

We are very happy to say that after quite sometime we found out about the marriage of Joseph Lous Bass to Ryann Rupp on April 10,

2021. They were married at Moody United Methodist Church in Galveston, Texas.

Joseph is the son of Jon Mical & K. Richelle Bass and grandson to Afton Cherry. Ryann is the daughter of Richard Earl & Margaret Rupp. Joe's sister is Katherine Elizabeth Meadow. Ryann's sisters are Rori Rupp and Rae Rupp.

Both Joseph & Ryann have their PHD's and have moved to Idaho to live where they will both work as engineers at Idaho Native Labs.

We congratulate this couple wishing them to the best. We appreciate this celebration of our church friends and their families. May God Bless their new lives together!

Congratulations to another graduate!



Stephanie Lara, age 22, graduated May 2021 from college at Sam Houston State in Huntsville, Texas in Criminal Justice.

She is the daughter of Jaime Hernandez & Norma Lara, sister to Alex (12yrs) who went to the Texas coast area with UM Army last month and Even (5yrs).

Stephanie is now searching for a position utilizing her degree.

May God Bless her and her family on all their journeys.



Births



We recently learned that Connie Tatom has been blessed again!

Eliza Yvonne Martinez was born at 1:41 on June 19th. Born to Jonathan & Sarah Martinez, sister to Carter (7 yrs.), Isabella (4yrs.) and Jaxson (2 1/2yrs.) She weighed 6 lbs. 6 oz. They live in Brownsville, Texas, both mom and baby are doing well and healthy.

This makes 11 great grandchildren, 13 grandchildren and 3 children for Connie. Congratulations on this newest gift to your family!



Sympathy



Donald C. Morrison was born May 26, 1926 in Stoughton, Wisconsin to parents Donald A Morrison

and Florence Robinson Morrison. He passed away July 2, 2021.

Donald graduated from in 1944 and was drafted into the Army. He went to Camp Wheeler in Georgia for training. While enlisted he sailed from Camp Miles Standish. The trip took 11 days in rough seas. He landed in Scotland and traveled via train to Southampton, England, crossed English Channel to Le Havre, France. From there they traveled via truck (feet became frostbitten on trip) to Northeastern Belgium near the Rhine River. Donald was assigned to 2nd Infantry Division in heavy weapons platoon. On the German side of the Rhine River, he was hit by shrapnel in the face and left breast pocket. A New Testament bible in that pocket stopped the shrapnel. He was left for dead because of the blood on his face and the hole in his left breast pocket of his field jacket. When he came to, he remembered the route they were to have taken, and he made his way to the camp. He was awarded the Purple Heart on March 23, 1945. Upon landing he was sent to Camp Swift in Bastrop, TX. While on leave he got married to Betty Jean White on Wednesday, August 8, 1945 in Sharon, WI. Betty

joined him in December 1945. He received orders to Camp McCoy in Wisconsin in April 1946. Donald was Honorably Discharged in 1946

Donald and Betty lived in Sharon, WI and Belvidere, IL before moving to Austin, Texas in June of 1970, where he retired from Travis County Appraisal District after 17+ years. They joined the Memorial United Methodist Church in Austin, TX on August 9, 1970. He has served in numerous positions over 50 years. He enjoyed dancing all his life. He and Betty danced together for more than 45 years until her death in 1991. He also enjoyed dancing with his best friend and companion, Lora Janda. He loved to travel and especially enjoyed the trip to Czechoslovakia in 2005 with Lora. Donald also loved to swim at the downtown Austin YMCA. (He learned to swim there after the age of 67 and has many friends there.)

He moved into the Buckner Greenridge Independent Living community and spent four wonderful years there. Donald was a lifetime fan of the Chicago Cubs and the Green Bay Packers. He drove his own car until 3 weeks before his passing.

We want to thank the staff at Baylor Scott & White Hospital – Round Rock for taking care of him. He was discharged to the Family Tree Assisted Living with Hospice. The care team there was absolutely wonderful in his last few days.

Donald was preceded in death by his wife Betty White Morrison, father Donald A Morrison, mother Florence Robinson Morrison, sister Rosella Morrison Christenson, brother Gaylord Lee Morrison, great-granddaughter Payton Noelle Sturges, friend & companion Lora Jean Janda. He is survived by his daughters Karan Ackerman (late Frank Hinds) of Horseshoe Bay, TX, Linda (Pete) Sturges of Rockford, IL, Bonita Reininger (late Mike Reininger) of Waxahachie, TX; Son Jeffrey (Dana) Morrison of Georgetown, TX; 8 grandchildren, 12 great-great-grandchildren, brothers Allen (Dorothy) Morrison of Sharon, WI and Harold (Sandy) Morrison of Darlington, WI; Sister-in-law Alma (late Gaylord) Morrison of South Beloit, IL. He was PeePaw Don to 16 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren of late companion Lora Janda; a very close family friend, Christine Jones of Bend, OR; numerous cousins, nieces, nephews and many other family members, extended family members and friends who loved him dearly.

The Funeral Service was held at 1:00 PM on Thursday, July 8, 2021; both at Cook-Walden North Lamar Funeral Home. He is buried at Cook-Walden Capital Parks Memorial Park in Pflugerville, Texas. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Compassus Hospice, Military Order of Purple Heart, or a charity of your choice.

We pray God's peace and comfort for the Morrison Family during this difficult time.

SAVE THE DATE

Aug. 22nd Parlor

2:30pm - 4:30pm

Watch your Email for Details!

To Honor All
Members

90+ Years
Young

Come
celebrate
with us!



Bread Church

Find us on FaceBook at [breadchurch@memorialumc](https://www.facebook.com/breadchurch@memorialumc)

Do you enjoy making bread from scratch? Have you always wanted to learn how to make your own, but are just a little intimidated by the process? Want to hang out, learn some new recipes and think about the way that God works on your spirit?



Bread Church
Thursday 7pm
August 19th Gym
Kitchen



August Birthdays

- 4 Melanie Baccus
- 5 Doris Owens
- 6 Christian Ramos
- 14 Taryn Stewart
- 15 Lonan Zia Gray
- 16 Kathleen Beuttenmueller
- 21 Lynda Rychlik
- 25 Karin Crumbling
- 26 Felicity Rodriguez
- 27 Patricia Ericson
Wallace Fowler
- 28 Kerry Schmidt McFarland
- 29 Vidette (Kiki) Corry
Michele Reinhart Rehm
- 30 Scooter Cheatham
- 31 Richard Friedrich
Julie Gonzales



UMW Book Study Group Lunch

The UMW bible study group enjoyed table fellowship after the July 13 meeting at The Little Deli.



Austin is filled with generous people. The 2021 ATX CROP Hunger Walk raised over \$81,000 because of caring participants and donors. Church World Service, national sponsor of CROP Hunger Walks, returns up to 25% of funds raised to local communities in their own hunger-fighting efforts. In 2021, the Austin Walk generated \$20,389 to assist these local groups: Central Texas Food Bank, Micah 6, Urban Roots, Casa Marianella, iACT for Refugees, Hope Food Pantry, Mt. Olive Baptist Church food pantry. CWS works with local partners in the U.S and across the globe.

Kevin Murphy, Community Engagement Manager



The Pastor's Corner

“Thus says the LORD of hosts: Old men and old women shall again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each with staff in hand because of their great age. And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets. Thus says the LORD of hosts: Even though it seems impossible to the remnant of this people in these days, should it also seem impossible to me, says the LORD of hosts?” (Zechariah 8:4-6)

Most of my experience with reading the minor prophets has given me the overall sense that they were a cautious bunch, warning Judah and Israel about their sins and about the ways in which they were not taking care of one another. And they are (just try reading Amos!).

But every once in awhile, the prophets come out with glorious visions of how it will be in some indefinite future when the people are once again choosing to live in communion with God and with the earth and with one another.

This vision of boys and girls playing causes me to wonder what kinds of games and pastimes kids in those days had. We're in the middle of baseball and soccer as far as professional leagues are concerned, which brought to mind my new favorite baseball team: the Savannah Bananas.

Things were not going well for the Savannah baseball team in 2015. They had abysmal attendance, they were out of money, and their historic baseball stadium was in disrepair. Along came a new owner, who began to reimagine how baseball could involve the community.



The community submitted new names for the team, and the imagination of the owner took hold. He proposed all sorts of ways for the community to get involved, from a senior citizen dance team called The Banana Nanas to a “Dad-Bod Cheerleading Squad” called the Man-Nanas. And the fun extended to the players, who sometimes wear kilts and learn choreographed dances for between-innings entertainment. But it didn't stop with the players and the fans: the coaching staff includes a luchador, a nine-year-old and a grandma.

It wasn't just the activities surrounding the game either. They have changed up some of the rules of the game itself, including making each inning a game in itself where one team will “win” the inning and score a point (first team to 5 points wins the whole game). They have a 2-hour limit on games. If you step out of the batter box, it's a strike, batters can steal 1st base and if a fan catches a foul ball, the player is out! (you can read more at thesavannahbananas.com)

Questions swirl in my mind: Is this really baseball and who makes that determination? How does this sense of playfulness help? Where can we all gain a sense of playfulness in our lives again?

I feel that as we begin to imagine what life looks like in this stage of the pandemic, we deal with questions about how many vaccines administered will make it safe enough for us and how we can begin to see other people not as potential disease carriers but as human beings, friends, neighbors and children of God as well as the questions of how we navigate these waters for people who depend on us, like older people or vulnerable people or kids. And there are the questions about what that means for our life together—our worship, our work and our ministries.

I wonder if a sense of playfulness can help us. I wonder if a sense of watching God at work in different ways might awaken us to God's own playfulness. I wonder if we can reimagine what it means to be a community of grace, even if that looks a little different than “before”. I have a hope that our playfulness in the coming months and years might allow us to be the people God has always been creating us to be...and to be those who know what it means to allow our elders to greet us and our children to play among us in the sight of God and in ways which care for all.

Synthia Kepler-Harer

Back to School and Moving

Up!!!



John William Nixon	Alex Garcia
Little Billie Nixon	Hunter Bills
Kamika Streets	Hale Bills
Holly Wright	Jack Dahan
Lucas Benavides	Julian Dahan
Zachary Benavides	Jaime Dahan
Evan Hernandez	"El" Petersen

This year, we'd like you to add at least one of these kids to your list. In covenanting to pray for one of our kids and youth, we'd like you to commit to sending at least one note of encouragement to them through the church (you can mail it or drop it off to us and we'll get it to them). And if you know of kids we've missed, please let us know so that we can add them to our records and prayer list!



Last year, Pastor Cynthia asked us to find a time every single day to pray for our schools, especially our partners at Harris Elementary!

Many of us set our alarms for 5:11pm every day (the address of the school is 1711 and 17:11 in military time equates to 5:11pm).



Sabbatical

— refresh | rest | refocus —

This fall in September and October, Pastor Cynthia will be taking a renewal leave. This is something that pastors are encouraged to do every 7 years and since she made it to 21 years in ministry this past June, it was definitely time!

What that means is that she will not be with us nor will she be available from Sept. 1-October 31. Pastor Allison Angell will be on call for hospital visits (if needed), and there will be ordained clergy on call to handle funerals and other extraordinary circumstances. If you experience a pastoral need, please make the church your first phone call so that we can forward your request to the appropriate person! Kayce will be the hub for making sure that happens.

Pastor Cynthia is also in the process of making sure that every Sunday is covered with excellent preaching, including from our District Superintendent, Rev. Laura Merrill and some of our lay speakers. She is in need of liturgists who are willing to be filmed by people who are trained to put together our online service each Sunday.

It will also be a time when members of the congregation continue their great habits of stepping up to care for each other. During August, Pastor Cynthia will be asking several people to serve as Care Leaders, who can be resources and help congregation members do this vital task.

Please pray that Pastor Cynthia, during her time away, is renewed for the tasks of ministry and comes back spiritually and emotionally refreshed to discern alongside us where Memorial UMC is being led by God.



Five youth from Memorial UMC traveled to Portland, Texas in June to participate in one of six UMARMY youth mission trips hosted by our conference this year. Lucas and Zach Benavides, Holly Wright, Kami Streets and Alex Garcia all spent five days doing several service projects for Portland UMC and the surrounding community, while also participating in morning, lunchtime and evening worship services with lots of fun activities mixed in between, including a trip to the beach! All represented themselves, their families and our church well and all can't wait to do it again!



They Gave! Now In Gratitude - We Can Give Back.

We live in wonderful communities because of the hard work of those that came before us! In gratitude, we have an opportunity to give back. Volunteer to drive for a senior who can no longer drive for themselves. Learn how you can serve by visiting senioracesstx.org or contacting Sherrie at 512-310-1060 or sherrie@senioracesstx.org.



Calling all volunteers! We're in need of drivers at our Central Kitchen, St. Marks, Memorial United Methodist, Round Rock Grace and Pflugerville sites. If you, or someone you know in these area neighborhoods, would be interested in volunteering one hour of their time, we have plenty of opportunity to help!

Please call 737-218-4260 or email volunteer@mealsonwheelscentraltexas.org for any questions.

Y'ALL COME

SUNDAY



**SAVE THE
DATE**

**September 12, 2021
11:45 a.m.**

We are working on how this will change and where it will be held, while still respecting Covid guidelines. Look for details in your email box!

Watch Your Email for Details!

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