

The Newsletter

December 2017

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

Phone: 512. 452.5796

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December 2017



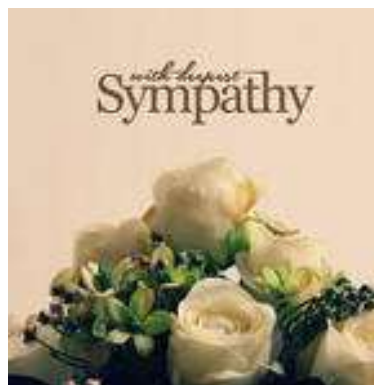
December 3rd



December 17th



December 24th at 7pm



in worship and witness for Christ together.


Love and Concern go to the following for the death within their family.

To Cynthia and Clayton in the death of her aunt Alice Kepler Chambers who passed on Oct. 6, 2017.

To the family of Brisha Moore who passed on Nov. 3, 2017 after a long bad battle of illness. She is survived by her daughter Amaya who was born Feb. 16, 2016. Brisha was one of the faithful ladies who came and supervised Rainbow girls. She was lovely and will be missed by many.

To Afton Pomerleau Cherry in the death of her sister, Eldean Scott, of Island Kauai (Hawaii) who passed away Wednesday Nov. 15th, 2017. She is survived by her husband, Don Phillips Scott and a son and daughter.

May God share your sorrow in the loss of one so dear and We at Memorial are sending deepest sympathy.



UMW Accepting \$ Donations for Brown Santa December 10th

United Methodist Women will be collecting monetary donations only for Brown Santa so they may purchase specific toys for specific ages. Please donate at the Pancake breakfast in December in lieu of a money donation for your breakfast. Money donations may also be given to Patty Marcum or Alberta Shelton.

Together We Make Children Smile

By Billie Nixon

Membership Coordinator



Poinsettia

Time!

Order Form on Back

Deadline to order is

Friday December 15th.

Please fill out the order form on back page or pick it up in the Narthex or bulletin . The cost is \$10 for each Christmas Poinsettia.

ORDER NOW! They will be placed in the Chancel on Dec. 22nd.



We are so happy to introduce to you, Catherine Lancaster, our newest member who joined Memorial Oct. 22, 2017. She came to us from another Methodist church in Mesquite, Texas.

Catherine and her husband, John Lancaster, have been married for 65 years and have lived in Austin for 48 years. They have 2 sons and their families, one in Dallas, TX and one near Dallas. They also have 3 grandsons, one in Oregon, one in Dallas and one in Austin. Then there are 2 great grandsons!

I regret to report that Catherine's husband, John, passed away July 8, 2017 after a long illness.

May God bless you richly and may we grow

GOODBYE



2017 Contributions

If you wish for any contributions to Memorial UMC to "count" for tax year 2017, they must be in to our office by December 30.

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!



We now have an option to give to Memorial UMC online through our website. This way of giving is not meant to replace normal giving paths (electronic funds transfer, checks or cash), but to offer people an additional way to support the ministry of the church. If you have friends or know of people who have wondered how they can give to the church for a memorial donation or to support a ministry outreach that they are particularly interested in, that's a great place to send them. We hope to get connected to more folks who value the ministry that we do and want to support it through giving. For more information, contact the church office at 512-452-5796. www.MemorialUMCAustin.com



Join Your Church
Every 2nd Sunday
of the month for
Pancake Breakfast in
the Gym
December 10th
8:30am



Come bake a holiday
treat as well as some
decorations for your
home or gifts!
Sunday
December 11th
After Service



Bring your own baking
projects, have
fellowship and bake
with friends!

We will have a snack lunch available.

SPECIAL WORSHIP IN DECEMBER

December 17--" I Hear the Prophet Callin"
by Pepper Choplin tells the Christmas
story from prophecy to fulfillment using
the harmonies that took root in
Appalachia. Come join us for this musical
celebration during our morning worship
service!

December 24--On Christmas Eve
morning, we will be having a hybrid
Advent and Christmas Eve service (for
those who can't get out for an evening
service). Our evening service will be the
traditional lessons and carols and
candlelight along with communion.



Choose TO SEE THE GOOD stuff.

Life is full of choices. Sometimes we may not realize that seeing the good is an everyday, even every moment choice. Do you see the good that the rainy day brings? Do you see the good in the angry driver while going to work? (This could be a challenge!) This December, make a conscious choice to See the Good every day.

Why does this matter? Dr Rick Hanson wrote an article entitled, *See the Good in Others*, and said, "Seeing the good in others is thus a simple but very powerful way to feel happier and more confident, and become more loving and more productive in the world." And how do you accomplish this sometimes difficult choice? Practice! Slow down, notice positive intentions, see abilities, and positive character traits.

Senior Access sees the good of you volunteers every day! But, do you see it? We see you volunteers who takes the last minute drive, you who pick up the sometimes-cranky clients, you who call the lonely ones that may complain about their families lack of interest in their lives, you who mow the out-of-control yards, you who lend a loving arm to lean on while walking into the doctor's office.

You volunteers are essential! Do you See the Good?



Senior Access sees the good of you donors who give so willingly. You provide a means for our doors to stay open, to provide a way for the clients to remain independent. You donors are essential! Do you See the Good?

Our clients come to us with varying needs, but with a common desire—to remain independent. Can you see the good that it does for our communities to help each other? As you volunteer or donate you will come to realize the truth in what Helen Keller has said, "The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched...they must be felt with the heart."

As you approach this very busy, hectic time of year, take a moment each day to slow down and See the Good. Do you need to find a place where you can volunteer or donate? Senior Access needs you. With a growing population of people who no longer drive, we need people like you who are willing to give what they need. To learn more about volunteering or donating to Senior Access, contact Sherrie at 512 310 1060 or vr@senioraccessstx.org. Follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/senioraccessstx/>

Please join us for our Christmas Choral Concert December 17th at 6:30 pm at First United Methodist Church-Round Rock, 1004 N Mays St!



Wesley School Annual Christmas Program Dec. 15th 6:00pm In the Sanctuary



After the wise men were gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up! Flee to Egypt with the child and his mother," the angel said. "Stay there until I tell you to return, because Herod is going to search for the child to kill him. Mt. 2:13

Thank you, God's People at Memorial UMC, for the many ways you follow Jesus and help those who are dispossessed, in danger and in need of a safe place. I am so grateful for the hospitality you have offered to me and Church World Service!

Kevin Murphy Community Engagement Specialist



The office will be closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day, light coverage from Dec. 26th-Dec. 29th resuming regular office hours on January 2, 2018.

Pastor Cynthia can be reached by phone all week at 512-921-3473



Pastor's Corner

¹⁵ *Can a woman forget her nursing child,
or show no compassion for the child of
her womb?*

*Even these may forget,
yet I will not forget you.*

¹⁶ *See, I have inscribed you on the palms of
my hands;*

your walls are continually before me.
Isaiah 49:15-16 (NRSV)

There is something wonder-filled about watching a baby discover his or her hands. Those appendages start off, in general, tightly balled up and held close. They grip onto your finger when they feel it. But then they start to open up...and baby discovers that there is a wonderful toy/tool attached to her very person. And she controls it!

Then she puts them in her mouth—because really, doesn't everything go in the mouth right about then?

I wonder when a child discovers her hands can be used to help. I wonder when a child discovers those same hands can be used to harm. I wonder when a child discovers that he has fingerprints that make him unique.

In these days, are your hands weak or strong? Do they bless or do they curse? Do you ever just wonder in the unique-ness of them?

Mary Lou Redding says in her book, *While We Wait*:

“Elizabeth asks Mary, ‘Why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me?’ Her question reflects the wonder of realizing that God comes to us individually. And that reality is remarkable. God could herd us all together like flocks of sheep and redeem us in groups. God could

zap whole congregations and speed up the process of saving the world. But God wants relationship with each of us and so chooses to come to us one by one... Because relationships are built one person at a time, God invests time and energy in each one of us, knowing each one of us is unique and infinitely valuable.”

You have unique, infinitely valuable hands, which on different days are weak and strong and blessing and cursing and working and resting and doing and praying. They are hands that you have discovered over a lifetime. And they are the extensions of your life with which God deeply desires relationship.

This Advent in worship we are contemplating different kinds of hands that do the work of God's Kingdom. On Christmas Eve, we will be thinking about all the different hands that God used to bring Jesus into this world.

But Jesus didn't just come to bless the world in general. Jesus came to reach out a hand to you—to grip your hand and guide you and have a relationship with YOU.

So whether your hands this season are full of dough or decorations or wrapping paper, grasp candles on Christmas Eve or take the hand of a family member in greeting, hold hymnals or the steering wheel of a car or a screwdriver to put together a toy—may those same hands also remind you that Jesus came for YOU. And may you, in your heart, reach out to touch God in the Baby's hand.



DECEMBER

CALENDAR

Friday December 1

Saturday December 2

9:00-11:00am FreeStore Shopping each Saturday

1:00pm-3:00pm Girl Scouts - Gym/Believer's

Sunday December 3 Hanging of the Greens

9:15am Sunday School for all ages

10:30am Worship Service

11:30am Leadership Team - Parlor

Monday December 4

6:30am Morning Prayer - Chapel

6:00pm Girl Scouts - Believer's Room & Gym

6:30pm Austin Harmony - Choir room

Tuesday December 5

8:00am-1:00pm English Class - Parlor

Wednesday December 6

Each Wednesday

11:00am-1pm FreeStore Shopping

6:00pm-9:00pm Christ Church - FHL/Gym

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday December 7

8:00am-1:00pm English Class - Parlor

10:00am-12:00pm Christ Church - FHL/Gym

Friday December 8

Saturday December 9

10am Windsor Park Neighborhood Assoc. - FHL

Sunday December 10 Pancake Breakfast

9:15am Sunday School for all ages

10:30am Worship Service

11:30am Bread Church - Gym Kitchen

11:30am Trustees - Pearce

12:30-2:30pm - Red Hat Society (Parlor)

Monday December 11

6:30am Morning Prayer - Chapel

6:00pm Girl Scouts - Believer's Room & Gym

6:30pm Austin Harmony - Choir room

6:30pm Finance Team - Pearce

Tuesday December 12

8:00am-1:00pm English Class - Parlor

6:00pm Wesley Board - Pearce

Wednesday December 13

6:00pm-9:00pm Christ Church - FHL/Gym

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday December 14

8:00am-1:00pm English Class - Parlor *Last Class

Friday December 15

(January Newsletter Content Deadline)

2:00-7:30pm - Wesley School Rehearsal - Sanct.

6:00pm - Wesley School Program - Sanctuary

Saturday December 16

Sunday December 17 Christmas Cantata

9:15am Sunday School for all ages

10:30am Worship Service

Monday December 18

6:30am Morning Prayer - Chapel

6:00pm Girl Scouts - Believer's Room & Gym

6:30pm Austin Harmony - Choir room

Tuesday December 19

Wednesday December 20

6:00pm-9:00pm Christ Church - FHL/Gym

6:30pm Caroling and Choir Rehearsal

Thursday December 21

Friday December 22

**Saturday December 23 Check FreeStore
Holiday Hours on Church Website**

Sunday December 24 Christmas Eve

9:15am Sunday School for all ages

10:30am Worship Service

7:00pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

Monday December 25 Christmas Day

Office Closed For the Holidays

Tuesday December 26

Wednesday December 27

Thursday December 28

Friday December 29

**Saturday December 30 Check FreeStore
Holiday Hours on Church Website**

Sunday December 31 Bell Ringing Sunday

Bring your Bells to Ring!

9:15am Sunday School for all ages

10:30am Worship Service



December Birthdays

- 2nd Sandra Bissett
Ron Frederick
Norma Hauser
Charlyne Schmidt
- 3rd Caitlyn Dennig
- 5th Drianna Gonzales
Sharon Owens
- 7th Don Mohler
Paula Garner
Harry Pomerleau
- 12th Evelyn Capps
- 13th Michael Moore
- 15th Susan Froebel
- 17th Michael Shelton, Jr.
- 19th Kel Pomerleau Bills
- 22nd Lilia Gail Mohler
James Rhoades
Jamie Alexander Carl Dahan
J.D. Dahan
- 26th Mark Corry
Laurie Dennig
- 27th Wanda Anderson
Thomas Bissett
- 28th George Berglund



CHRISTMAS LOVE GIFT FOR OUR CHURCH STAFF

It's that time of year when we get the opportunity to show appreciation to our wonderful church staff. As each of you know, we are truly blessed to have such a hard-working and loyal group of people making sure that our church follows its mission. As in the past, we will collect gifts from members and friends and then present our love gift to each staff member. All money collected will be evenly divided among our staff of five. If you wish to participate, please mail your check made out to the church **designating it "Staff Love Gift" or put your check or cash gift in the offering in an envelope marked "Staff Love Gift"**.

Please get your gift to the church by December 16, in order for us to present it in early January. Thank you for your participation in letting our staff know how much we appreciate what they do for our church all year long.

Kendall Smith SPRC Chairperson



Pew Crosses For Sale \$25

Last year, Pat Marcum fashioned crosses from the dismantled pews.

We now have these crosses for sale in either a free-standing form or a wall-hanging form. They are \$25 apiece, and all funds will go to updates to the sanctuary (like the carpeting). This is a beautiful opportunity to have a piece of Memorial in your home. Please contact the church office for more information on getting your own cross (512-452-5796).



Poinsettias Order Form

Poinsettias will be placed in the Chancel, December 22nd. Cut off date Dec. 15th

2017 POINSETTIA ORDER - \$10 each Deadline Dec. 15th Order Now!

| From Whom | How Many | In Honor of or In Memory of | Donate | Keep |
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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