

The Newsletter

November 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

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November 2017

November 5th

All Saints' Sunday



2017 Charge Conference



November 9th
@7pm in the
Parlor



News
From
Pews



By Billie Nixon

Membership Coordinator



Come, Share, Rejoice!
**Thanksgiving Lunch
and Stewardship Celebration**
November 19th

Immediately following the Worship Service,
come to the Celebration Thanksgiving Lunch.
Turkey, dressing and drinks will be provided.

Please bring 2 side dishes to share.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

If you would like to donate or cook a turkey,
dressing and gravy

please contact Billie Nixon 512-923-4400



Memorial United Methodist
All Saint's Sunday

November 5th

Mildred McCullough

William Tremaine Head, Sr.

Lester Boyd Bryant

Kathy Gray

Dorothy Burnup

Alma Lee Madison

Dorothy Johnson

Norma Jones

Jane Shive

Ann Bryant

Order Your Poinsettias

\$10 per Christmas Poinsettias. Deadline to order is Friday December 15th. Forms will be available on December 1st.



Love and Concern go to the following friends in the death of their family.

To Daniel Swayze, our pianist/organist, in the death of his grandmother, from

Portland, Oregon, who died on Sept. 29, 2017.

To the family of a past member, Jesse Gregg of Round Rock, who died on Oct. 4, 2017.



Jesse J Gregg, Jr passed away on October 4, 2017 at the age of 94. Jesse was born on November 3, 1922 in Birmingham, Alabama. Jesse served in the 980th Signal Service Company of the United States Army during World War II. His service included establishing radio

communications from the Eiffel Tower and during the D-Day Normandy invasion. Following his discharge in 1946, Jesse returned to Birmingham and soon met the love of his life, Mary Louise Hayes, at a Sunday School class meeting. They married on July 24, 1949 and remained constant companions for over 68 years. Jesse began working for the US Government in 1951. In 1959, while employed by the US Treasury Department, he was selected as part of the inaugural training class in preparation for the installation of computers within this branch of the government. The following years saw the family living in Washington, DC and Chicago areas and Jesse traveling as he then trained other personnel and supervised installation of computer systems across the United States. Jesse retired as Deputy Director of the Austin Disbursing Center in 1981. After retirement, Jesse and Louise moved to Bastrop, TX where they built their forever home. Working for 18 months, they physically built their home from the ground up. Jesse was a kind, soft spoken man who always had the right words of wisdom! Above all, Jesse loved his family. He is survived by his wife, Louise Hayes Gregg; his daughter, Sheila Gregg Kothmann; his grandson, William Wade Kothmann and granddaughter-in-law, Vani Pariyadath; his granddaughter, Kara Loren Kothmann; and great granddaughter, Leia William Kothmann. Jesse was preceded in death by his parents; his brother, Edward (Eddie) Gregg; his sister, Lucille Yeager Sheffield; and his son-in-law, Don William Kothmann. Services were held on Monday, October 9th at 3:00 pm at Beck Funeral Home, Round Rock. Visitation was immediately prior to the service. A private burial followed.



Join Your Church
Every 2nd Sunday
of the month for
Pancake Breakfast in
the Gym
November 12th
8:30am

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
November 16th
7pm in the Gym**




**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).



Thank you. Merci.
 Gracias. Grazie.
 Danke. Arigato.
 November is a month
 of Thankfulness.

Senior Access is so grateful for you volunteers and donors who selflessly give time and time again.

This November, we are focusing on An Attitude of Gratitude. According to Merriam-Webster dictionary, the definition of **gratitude is a "state of being grateful."** It is sometimes easy to



lose sight of the many things in which we can and should be grateful. Our lists may be different but we can still have a list. As you make a daily choice to be grateful, you can change lives.

How can you develop an Attitude of Gratitude? There are many ways, but one way is to give service to someone, to volunteer. As you give that service, you are more aware of **another person's needs rather than your own.** Perspectives can change and the more that perspective changes, the more gratitude can grow. John F. Kennedy said, "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words but to live by them."

Our clients come to us with varying needs. Some clients have poor health, some have never learned to drive, some lack funds for a vehicle, some have just aged out of driving, yet one thing they have in common is being grateful for you. You are the ones who drive them to needed doctor appointments. You are the ones who talk to them on the phone or visit them in their home. You are the ones who offer a hug or a hand to hold. You are the ones who help with those handy-man jobs. You make a difference in their lives and help them to feel gratitude in return. The leaves in the picture are just a sample of notes written by our clients to you volunteers. They are so appreciative of all you do for them.

As you approach this very busy, hectic time of year, take a moment each day to show and grow your gratitude. Do you need to find a place where you can volunteer? 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@senioraccesstx.org.



New Rain Barrels:

One of the Boy Scouts in Troop 88 is working on his Eagle project— new rain barrels in the beds in the back of the gym! These will help us with conserving water so that we can continue to plant crops and flowers at the back of the church. We will be dedicating them when they are completely installed.



Memorial UMC is a Travis County Polling Place on Election Day

Nov. 7th in the gym 7am-7pm

Come Out and VOTE!



Thank you so much for helping Church World Service with our response to the suffering caused by Hurricane Harvey. During September, Memorial served as a temporary depot for CWS Cleanup Buckets and Hygiene Kits. This enabled several congregations throughout the Austin area to deliver donations of buckets and kits. I am, personally, so grateful for your generous spirit, sharing this facility with the community – and with the world!

Kevin Murphy, Community Engagement Specialist
 Church World Service

Trustee News



Boiler Replacement: We have received commitments for around half the cost of the new HVAC unit for our sanctuary, so with cooler temperatures right around the corner, installation of the new unit will begin the first week in November. If you are still interested in contributing to this or wish to do so in 2018, please talk to Chuck Garner. If you would like to know more about our boiler replacement need, please see the October newsletter or call the office.

that has been created because of the way our entrance drive doesn't line up with Wheless Dr. One of the potential solutions is that the City of Austin would pay to have our drive relocated and aligned with Wheless in addition to adding a left-hand turn lane at that intersection. If you would like more information or would like to see drawings of the proposed realignment, please contact Chuck Garner, who has been working with the city on this.



New Lights:

Thanks to a program through the City of Austin, which pays 80% of the upfront cost, we have completed the change out of all our lights to LED bulbs, which are just as bright but use less energy than either incandescents or CFLs. They should also need less changing. The Trustees estimate that the "payback" on this program (the time when we begin saving more money than what it initially cost us) should begin early next year.



Gym Work: If you haven't seen the work we've been doing in the gym, you're in for a treat! Tarrytown UMC, in service to the space that the FreeStore is using, has removed the carpet panels and freshly painted all of the bare walls in the gym. There are still plans for adding back some durable sound absorbing panels and painting the paneling as well as doing some work on the floor, but we are thankful for the commitment to the FreeStore as well as the help to us and all of the programs that take place in our gym!



New Chairs: The Austin Ukulele Society has purchased 100 new chairs for use in the gym. They are still traditional folding

chairs, but these are padded! Come and try them out at our Potluck luncheon on November 19.

Shifting the

Driveway: The City of Austin has been working with the Trustees and the neighborhood to come up with a solution for the traffic jam





2017 Charge Conference

November 9th 7pm Parlor

Each year in the fall, Memorial UMC has a charge conference. The purpose of this yearly meeting is to gather the leadership in the congregation to celebrate accomplishments over the past year and make plans for the next. It is one of those “Methodist” things, and occasionally, it’s good for us to publish more information for those who are not as familiar with the UMC.

Who is involved in a charge conference?

The stated leadership (in our system, the Church Council and some other named committee positions) has voice and vote at a charge conference. ANY professing member or constituent of a church can come to a charge conference and observe, but only the leadership has voice and vote. Sometimes a charge conference is turned into a church conference, the difference being that the eligibility to vote moves from just the leadership of the church to the entirety of the membership. In a church conference, any professing member also has voice and vote. Our meeting this year will be a charge conference.

The meeting is usually overseen by a District Superintendent or another elder. Sometimes several charge conferences are held together in a cluster. Often, this is to allow churches to learn what each other are doing, to encourage one another and to foster collaboration and connection. Our charge conference last year was

held in a cluster of Eastside United Methodist churches from Austin. Our charge conference this year will be a single conference held on November 7 at 7:00pm in the parlor.

What happens at a charge conference?

Sometimes significant votes are taken about major projects in the church. For example, when the church decided to put in screens and allocate the money for our upgraded audio-visual systems, a vote was held at a charge conference.

In addition, we accept reports from the Membership Secretary, Trustees, Finance, Staff-Parish Relations Committee and the Pastor. Any other committee, working group, or task force may also have a report entered into the charge conference packet. We vote on candidates for ministry and authorize people to be lay speakers as well.

We also often get a chance to hear about new initiatives that are being worked on at the district or conference level. This is a great time to find out more about how United Methodists are working together across a wide region of South Texas. It also gives us a chance to think about how we will work as a congregation either on the issues in our mission field or with other congregations on a wider set of issues across several mission fields.

Finally, we always have an opportunity to pray and sometimes have a time of worship. Gathering together to pray, not just on Sunday morning, but in the context of making decisions for our future, is powerful. God reminds us that we are not just another business, but we are the Body of Christ, the church. Our meetings may be run with something like Robert’s Rules of Order, but we are brought together and stay together and work together and worship together because of Jesus Christ.

We hope you will consider attending our charge conference this year!



Pastor's Corner

¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷ So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.
James 2:14-17

After seventeen years of ministry, you would think that I would have everything figured out. But after speaking with folks who have been doing it twice as long as me, there is no point where you get it right every time.

I am afraid of wrong answers, so much so that I sometimes get paralyzed by over-analyzing a problem, trying to figure out the optimal answer that takes everything that I know or can guess into account. But sometimes things are unknowable. I don't know what the story is of the guy on the corner, looking for change. I don't know the story of the person that walks in brand new to the church. I don't even know all the stories of every single member of this church (though I know quite a few) or all the stories of this 144-year-old congregation (though I learn more just about every day)! To carry perfect knowledge about all of that would be impossible.

And so sometimes I have internal conversations which go back and forth, trying to figure out what the next right step is, and I get stuck on what that should be. More decisions come up, and I get behind.

This verse from James' letter reminds me that sometimes it's better just to make the best move I know how instead of trying to wait for the perfect knowledge to come. Which means sometimes I mess up...and sometimes I find that I had too high a bar for what the perfect response was. Some of the moments of ministry where I've felt God most present lately have been when I've risked doing something and getting it wrong rather than waiting to see if I can get to a perfect response.

I have been trying to do this more and more, and though there have been times I have had to apologize for mistakes I made, I am discovering that the greater mistake would have been to sit and

wait for some other sign or some other knowledge. The best thing to do right now is to show someone that I care, or to speak out against injustice or things that are wrong. To be present and to remind others of God's presence...and to understand that even in the midst of being a minister, God is ministering to me as well.

There is a reason that our bulletin lists everyone in the congregation as a minister of the Gospel. It is because this is actually the task of each of us. And yes—EVERY one of us will make mistakes at it. The pastor is no exception! But if we fear being wrong so much that it hinders us from doing anything, then where is our faith leading us? I continue to pray that my own faith and the faith of everyone at Memorial UMC will give them boldness to speak up for the Good News—and to be kind and healing in a broken world.

Advent Worship Series: Hands in the Middle

Join us beginning November 12 for our Advent worship series, focusing on hands. Have you looked at your hands? What has God done with them? What kinds of hands has God used over the years? What hands did God use to bring Christ into our midst? As we move through our Extended Advent, we will look at our hands as well as rejoice in all of the ways God has used us and others to bring the Good News of Christ to all people!

In addition to our worship time, we will also have a Bible study on how God uses our hands on Wednesday mornings at 10:00am (November 8, 15, 29 and December 6 and 13) and Tuesday nights at 6:30pm (November 21, 28 and December 5, 12, and 19). You do not need to do any pre-reading for the first session of these studies, but Pastor Cynthia will give materials at the first session of each.





NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Wednesday November 1

11:00am-1pm FreeStore Shopping each Wednesday

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

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday November 2

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

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

Friday November 3

Saturday November 4

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

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

Sunday November 5 All Saints Sunday

9:15am Sunday School for all ages

10:30am Worship Service

11:30am Leadership Team - Parlor

5:00-9:00pm Austin Shakespeare - Gym

Monday November 6

6:30am Morning Prayer - Chapel

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

6:30pm Austin Harmony - Choir room

Tuesday November 7

6:00am-8:00pm Travis County Election - Gym

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

Wednesday November 8

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

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday November 9

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

7:00pm Charge Conference - Parlor

7:00-9:00pm Austin Ukulele Society - Gym

Friday November 10

Saturday November 11

10am Windsor Park Neighborhood Assoc. - FHL

Sunday November 12 Pancake Breakfast

9:15am Sunday School for all ages

10:30am Worship Service

11:30am Trustees - Pearce

(December Newsletter Content Deadline)

Monday November 13

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 November 14

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

6:00pm Wesley Board - Pearce

Wednesday November 15

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

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday November 16

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

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

7:00pm Bread Church - Gym

Friday November 17

Saturday November 18

Sunday November 19 Thanksgiving Luncheon

9:15am Sunday School for all ages

10:30am Worship Service

Monday November 20

6:30am Morning Prayer - Chapel

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

6:30pm Austin Harmony - Choir room

Tuesday November 21

8:00am-1:00pm Wesley Lunch - Gym/Kitchen

Wednesday November 22

FreeStore Closed for Thanksgiving

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

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday November 23 Office Closed

Friday November 24 Office Closed

Saturday November 25

FreeStore Closed for Thanksgiving

Sunday November 26

9:15am Sunday School for all ages

10:30am Worship Service

Monday November 27

6:30am Morning Prayer - Chapel

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

6:30pm Austin Harmony - Choir room

Tuesday November 28

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

6:00pm Crop Hunger Walk - NEW Room

Wednesday November 29

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

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday November 30

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

November is Stewardship Emphasis Month!

Beginning November 5, we will be hearing from members of Memorial UMC who will be speaking in worship about why they give. We hope and pray that it will be an inspiring time and draw you closer to God as well as to our community. We will celebrate all that God has provided for us over this last year as well as the return of our Estimate of Giving cards for 2018 at our potluck luncheon on November 19.

As we talk about our giving and what it helps this congregation to accomplish, here are the answers to a couple of frequently asked questions people have about giving in a church (adapted from resources for *Enough*, a stewardship program developed by the UMC Church of the Resurrection):

Why is giving important? The Bible has much to say about wisdom and finances, with 2,300 verses that tell us to be generous and good stewards of our resources. Jesus taught generosity and sacrifice. He demanded that his followers serve not wealth but God, and in the parable of the talents he taught that God will hold us each accountable for what we do with all our earthly possessions.

What does God expect of me?

The Bible teaches us to give a tithe, or the first 10% of what we earn, to God and the church's work. For some, giving one tenth is a very difficult goal. For others, it is the starting point, and their giving far exceeds 10%. The important thing is that you start somewhere, that your giving reflects an appropriate offering to God given your means, and that your offerings express both your desire to serve the Lord and your investment in God's work. Our prayer is that everyone will grow in his or her faith through giving financially to the ministries of the church. as God gives us the ability.

What if financial hardship won't let me make a commitment this year?

Don't let your inability to give at this time keep you from worship. **Remember that God honors your faithfulness and that your acceptance at Memorial UMC is not based upon your capacity to give.** We ask that everyone return an estimate of giving card even if it is a small amount or even nothing. You can always increase or decrease your commitment by calling the church if your situation changes. Also, be sure to let our pastoral staff know of your situation so that they can pray for and support you during any difficulty.



November Birthdays

- 4th Karl Amundson
- 7th Holly (Shelton) Wright
Harry Harrison Pomerleau
- 10th Wanda Stout Adams
- 11th Mary Beth O'Hanlon
- 15th Afton Pomerleau Cherry
Richard Macon
Gerry Almquist
- 16th Jonathan Ader
- 17th Jessica Christine McFarland
- 18th Stefani Stephens
- 21st Peter Osgood
- 24th Bob Hauser
- 25th Pat Gibson
Barbara Metzger
Michael Stratton
Cesar Benavides
- 27th David Elliott
Billie Nixon
- 28th Ronald Dee Gray

The Newsletter

What are YOU Thankful For?



I am thankful for Sunday School

Here's what's happening in

November

UNIT The Wise King

BV: God gave Solomon wisdom and very great understanding. 1 Kings 4:29

AP: We can ask God for what we need.

Nov 5—Solomon Becomes King

1Kings 2: 1-4, 3: 1-15

Nov 12—Solomon's Wisdom

Proverbs 6:6-8, 10:1, 17:17

Nov 19—Solomon Builds the Temple
1Kings 6

Nov 26—Solomon Dedicates the Temple
1Kings 8

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