



First United
Methodist Church
A U S T I N

FUMC Weekly

Making Disciples,
Making a Difference

MARCH 19, 2017

THIS SUNDAY

A complete schedule of today's events is in "This Week" section on Calendar page.

MANNA BAG SALE

9:00-11:00 a.m. Sidewalk

Our fourth and fifth grade children show the love of Christ to those in need through the making and selling of Manna Bags. You can purchase a bag for \$5, with proceeds going to purchase more supplies.

MOBILE LOAVES & FISHES (MLF) THIRD SUNDAY

4:00 and 5:00 p.m. MLF Kitchen, Wesley Hall

An opportunity for first timers of all ages to give this ministry a try. Join the Make-Ready Team from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. (preparing the food and loading the truck) or the Truck Team from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. (delivering the food to our hungry neighbors around Austin). Sign up at fumcaustin.org/mlf.

SIGN UP TODAY FOR FIRST STEPS CLASS

Are you interested in joining FUMC? Prior to joining the church, we ask all to participate in a First Steps Class to learn about Methodist beliefs and the ministry of FUMC, meet the pastors and other members, and ask questions. To sign up, fill out the Communication Card during worship and place it in the offering plate or contact Trevor Harper at trevor@fumcaustin.org or 512-478-5684 (ext. 217). The next First Steps Class is Sunday, March 26, at 12:15 p.m. in Garrison Chapel of the Family Life Center.

MARCH MISSION EMPHASIS: UMCOR



The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is present in times of crisis and disaster around the world, acting as the hands of Christ in the most difficult or tragic times. This organization is able to provide fast and meaningful relief in the aftermath of disasters thanks in large part to the UMCOR Sunday Offering collected by local congregations every year. When our congregation contributes to this offering, we help pay for the general operating costs of UMCOR. Because of this offering, UMCOR is able to direct 100% of other donations directly to specific disaster relief. Your donations, marked "UMCOR," may be left at the communion rail or placed in the offering plate today or any Sunday in March. You may also send them to or bring them by the church office.

MARCH 26, SUNDAY BLOOD DONATION DRIVE



WE ARE BLOOD

We need donors!

FUMC will host a blood drive for the Central Texas Blood Center, recently rebranded as "We Are Blood."

Blood donations have long been considered one of the easiest volunteer actions a person can take. Where else can you lay back for a few minutes and make a huge difference for others within the community and receive juice and cookies for your efforts?

There is always a need for blood donations and it would be great to get a big response from our church family.

To schedule an appointment, call Craig at 512-206-1316 or at fumcaustin.org/blood-drive.

1201 Lavaca Street | Austin, Texas, 78701 | 512-478-5684 | www.fumcaustin.org

OFFICE HOURS: Monday-Wednesday, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; Thursday, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.; and Sundays, 9:00-11:00 a.m.
Pastors are on call after office hours and during holidays. Call 512-478-5684, press 213, and leave message for return call.

CALENDAR

MARCH

26 Sunday
Blood Donation Drive
 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
 Mobile Truck, Family Life Center
First Steps Class
 12:15 p.m.
 Garrison Chapel, Family Life Center

28 Tuesday
Feed My People Fourth Tuesday
 4:45-7:00 a.m.
 Family Life Center

29 Wednesday
Easter Choir Rehearsal
 7:00-7:45 p.m.
 Choir Rehearsal Hall

APRIL

2 Sunday
Youth Ministry Listening Group
 12:30 p.m.
 Room 213, Sanctuary Building

5 Wednesday
Easter Choir Rehearsal
 7:00-7:45 p.m.
 Choir Rehearsal Hall

7 Friday
Kids' Night Out
 5:30-9:00 p.m.
 Education Building
Connect for Tweens
 6:00-9:00 p.m.
 Family Life Center

9 Sunday
Palm/Passion Service
 9:00 a.m.
 Murchison Chapel
Palm/Passion Services
 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.
 Sanctuary

12 Wednesday
Easter Choir Rehearsal
 7:00-7:45 p.m.
 Choir Rehearsal Hall

13 Thursday
Maundy Thursday Services
 12:10 and 7:30 p.m.
 Sanctuary

14 Friday
Good Friday Family Service
 10:30 a.m.
 Wesley Hall
Good Friday Services
 12:10 and 7:30 p.m.
 Sanctuary

15 Saturday
Easter Egg Festival
 9:30-11:00 a.m.
 Capitol Grounds

16 Sunday
Easter Sunday Services
 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.
 Sanctuary
Manna Bag Sale
 9:00-11:00 a.m.
 Sidewalk

Butterfly Release
 10:00 a.m.
 Capitol Lawn
Mobile Loaves & Fishes Third Sunday
 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.
 Mobile Loaves & Fishes Kitchen

17 Monday
Church Office Closed for Easter Holiday
 Have a safe and blessed holiday

23 Sunday
Confirmation Sunday
 11:00 a.m.
 Sanctuary
ASP Stock Sales Begin
 9:00-11:00 a.m.
 Sidewalk

25 Tuesday
Feed My People Fourth Tuesday
 4:45-7:00 a.m.
 Family Life Center

30 Sunday
Social Justice Fifth Sunday Presentation
 10:00 a.m.
 Wesley Hall
Administrative Board Meeting
 12:15 p.m.
 Wesley Hall
Children and Youth Choirs Talent Show
 3:00 p.m.
 Sanctuary

W E E K	19 Sun	Manna Bag Sale	9:00-11:00 a.m.	Sidewalk
		Sunday School Classes for All Ages	9:45 a.m.	Various Locations
		Engage for Youth	4:00-6:00 p.m.	Family Life Center
		Mobile Loaves & Fishes Third Sunday	4:00 p.m. / 5:00 p.m.	Mobile Loaves & Fishes Kitchen
	20 Mon	English as a Second Language (ESL)	10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Family Life Center
		Prodigal Sons Men's Group	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Room 103, Family Life Center
	21 Tue	Feed My People Fourth Tuesday Breakfast	4:45-7:00 a.m.	Great Hall, Family Life Center
		Lenten Book Study	6:30-7:30 p.m.	La Madeline, 5493 Brodie Lane
	22 Wed	Deadline for FUMC Weekly and eNews	10:00 a.m.	fumcaustin.org/submissions
		Wednesday Morning Bible Study	10:00 a.m.	Room 213, Sanctuary Building
T H I S		Handbell Choir Rehearsal	6:00-7:00 p.m.	Sanctuary Balcony
		FUMC Choir Rehearsal	7:00-8:30 p.m.	Choir Room, Sanctuary Building
	23 Thur	Feed My People Breakfast	4:45-7:00 a.m.	Great Hall, Family Life Center
		Feed My People Breakfast Worship	6:30 a.m.	Garrison Chapel, Family Life Center
		English as a Second Language (ESL)	10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Family Life Center
25 Sat	One Human Race Conversation	12:30-3:30 p.m.	Garrison Chapel	

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH 28, TUESDAY

Feed My People Fourth Tuesday . 4:45-7:00 a.m. Great Hall

Come experience this ministry that serves breakfast to 300 of our homeless guests. To volunteer, preparing, cooking, and setting up begins at 4:45 a.m.; serving begins by 5:45 a.m.; and clean-up begins by 7:00 a.m. You may arrive and leave to meet your schedule. On-the-job training is available.

MARCH 29 AND APRIL 5 AND 12, WEDNESDAYS

Join the Easter Choir . 7:00-7:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal Hall

Calling all interested singers who wish to participate in our festive Easter services by singing in the choir. All three rehearsals are required. We would be delighted to have you join us. To sign up, contact Scott Davis at scott@fumcaustin.org or 512-478-5684 (ext. 209).

APRIL 7, FRIDAY

Kids' Night Out . 5:30-9:00 p.m. Education Building

While parents enjoy a grown-up evening out, children play, eat pizza, and watch a movie with our trained childcare staff. We accept infants through fourth graders on a first-come basis. Cost is \$25 for the first child and \$8 for siblings. Make reservations with Pam Coronado, our childcare coordinator, at childcare@fumcaustin.org no later than the Wednesday prior to the event.

Connect for Tweens . 6:00-9:00 p.m. Family Life Center

All 5th, 6th, and 7th graders are invited to a night of fellowship and fun! Connect for Tweens bridges children and youth ministries through building relationships, serving, and helping youth connect with one another and with God during the transitional pre-teen years.

EASTER DIRECT MAIL POSTCARD TO NEARBY NEIGHBORS



FUMC is launching its first direct mail postcard to attract newcomers. We are promoting multiple worship services and the Easter Egg Festival to families (with and without children) who have moved within one to six miles of the church in the last two years. We are measuring the mail piece with a website url, QR code, and through the efforts of our greeters and ushers who will be on the lookout for new families. In the next month, please make an extra effort to welcome visitors and ask them if they have questions. We will have extra postcards in the foyer at the end of March so you too can pass them to family, friends, and/or neighbors looking for a new church home. Let's show the world how friendly and inclusive we really are.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THESE EVENTS AND ALL CHURCH NEWS,
PLEASE VISIT www.fumcaustin.org.

Submit content for FUMC Weekly / eNews
using submission form at fumcaustin.org/submissions.

Reserve meeting space and AV equipment by contacting Marilyn Good
at marilyn@fumcaustin.org or 512-478-5684 (ext. 204).

HOLY WEEK

APRIL 9, SUNDAY

Palm/Passion Services

9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

Sanctuary

All are given a palm to wave as we sing of how the people welcomed Jesus and then, we somberly walk with Jesus to the cross.

APRIL 13, THURSDAY

Maundy Thursday Services

12:10 and 7:30 p.m.

Sanctuary

We celebrate the Holy Meal which Jesus began in the Upper Room on the night before his crucifixion.

APRIL 14, FRIDAY

Good Friday Family Service

10:30 a.m. Wesley Hall

Parents will help their children learn and experience the passion stories leading up to Easter in age appropriate prayer stations, stories and activities. Afterwards, families may lunch together (b.y.o.) on the Capitol grounds.

Good Friday Services

12:10 and 7:30 p.m.

Sanctuary

On this day we go to the foot of the cross. Through scripture, prayer, passion hymns, we experience anew Christ's crucifixion.

APRIL 15, SATURDAY

Easter Egg Festival

9:30-11:00 a.m. Capitol

Join the Easter Bunny for an egg hunt/roll on the Capitol grounds. Barbeque and hot dogs will be available for sale.

EASTER



APRIL 16, SUNDAY

Easter Services

9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

Sanctuary

Today we celebrate God's victory over the powers of sin, oppression, and death. We find new life and shout "Alleluia!"

Butterfly Release

10:00 a.m. Capitol Lawn

Enjoy the beauty of resurrection and new life as we release butterflies on the Capitol lawn.

CHURCH BUSINESS

FUMC ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of Evelyn Miller, given by George and Jackie Vanderhule.

GIFTS TO FUMC

To our Emergency Assistance Fund in honor of Kelly Flores, given by Jerrold Mohn.

To our Memorial Gift Fund in memory of Orval Strong, given by Philip Wharton and Mary Ann Wharton.

To our Music Memorial in memory of Orval Strong, given by Clear Lake United Methodist Church.

FREESTORE AUSTIN

FreeStore is open for shopping on Wednesdays from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Memorial UMC, 6100 Berkman Drive. Come volunteer or bring donations. ALL donations should be taken to the FreeStore on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. To volunteer or for more information, visit freestoreaustin.org.

PRAYER

WITHIN OUR CONGREGATION

Health: Bill and Jerry Berger; Tom Calnan; Ann Fields; Pat Freeman; Ruth Nicks; Andrea Peck; and Robbie Youngblood.

Other: Travis Bias' medical mission to Uganda completed and is returning to U. S. and Pastor Cathy Stone's trip to Africa to learn about ZOE and Africa University.

BEYOND OUR CONGREGATION

Pastor Vera Agapova, sister church in Vologda, Russia; Cheryl Bias' niece, Lauren; Richard and Marilyn Bettis' brother-in-law, A. P. Patschke; Fay Brown's sister, Jo Rene Altenburg; Reverend Tina Carter; Ann Fields' brother, Charlie Brown; Dixie Fulps' friend, Betty; Howard Hartman's friend, Rathin Roy; Jan Higgs's friend, Betty Kuno; Mary Ann Nations' friends, Sharron Bailey, Sharon Douner, Lorraine Gile, and Maureen Guerke; Larry Peters' friend, Tony Johnson; Dianne Render's sister-in-law, Penny Burns; Pat Rives' friends, Marilyn Parks, Susan Tyler, and Marianne Webb; Erin Scarth's friend, Lisa Whatley; Alan Stephens' mother, Genevieve Stephen; and Dick Young's nephew, Jeff Young.

Condolences to the families and friends of Ken and Peggy Huffman and Ralph Smith on their deaths.

STEPHEN MINISTRY



Stephen Ministers care for people dealing with convalescence, divorce, financial struggles, grief, hospitalization, job loss, loneliness, terminal illness, and other life difficulties. If you are dealing with some type of crisis or difficulty in life, email stephenministry@fumcaustin.org and ask about speaking with a Stephen Minister. All contacts are completely confidential.

HOP UP AND HELP OUT

We need at least 6,000 eggs and lots of volunteers for the 400+ community children we expect at this year's Easter Egg Festival.

How to help:

- Donate individually wrapped candy (Lifesavers, small Nerds boxes, Starbursts, and small wrapped bubble gum) and plastic eggs in the bunny barrels around the church.
- Donate money in the offering plate or on our website and note "Egg Festival Supplies" on your donation.
- Stuff eggs at home or in your Sunday School class or small group. Contact Cassie Gresham at cwillif@hotmail.com.
- Sign up for an Egg Festival shift (or more). From greeters to egg organizers, we have a job for you. Visit fumcaustin.org/eggfestival.

FAITH IN ACTION

JUST AS GOOD

By Davis Covin



Throughout our engagement, family and friends would ask if we were planning to have our ceremony at church. Countless times, we had to explain that this was not a possibility in the United Methodist Church because the *Book of Discipline* prohibits ceremonies that celebrate gay unions.

Alternatively, many suggested we have our ceremony at another church with a pastor from another denomination but that wouldn't have been meaningful for us. I hadn't realized how many fellow Methodists believed that Marriage Equality had been resolved by the Supreme Court and were unaware of the UMC enforced inequality.

A family friend mentioned that our ceremony and blessing were "just as good" as the full weddings provided to her children. I must admit I was hurt to hear that she feels content with the current discrimination because we still had a ceremony which was "just as good."

As we continue to wait for guidance from our bishops, I ask you to put yourself in the shoes of another and prayerfully consider how you would react if you or a loved one were considered "incompatible" and offered an alternative which is "just as good" as an authentic Methodist wedding.

This article is one of a series of periodic information items about FUMC's discernment on marriage equality. Additional resources are available at fumcaustin.org/discernment. For comments or questions, email discernment@fumcaustin.org.