



First United
Methodist Church
A U S T I N

FUMC Weekly

Making Disciples,
Making a Difference

JANUARY 1, 2017

THIS SUNDAY

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

JANUARY MISSION EMPHASIS: CHRISTMAS EVE BREAKFAST



For the past 18 years, FUMC has sponsored a breakfast on Christmas Eve in the Family Life Center. This year's breakfast provided hundreds of guests a hot breakfast served restaurant style with hostesses and a smiling wait staff. After breakfast, guests received caps, gloves, socks, lip balm, a one-day bus pass, and homemade cookies.

Many thanks to the over 100 volunteers who helped make this breakfast an event that provides our neighbors who are homeless or the working poor with a vivid reminder that they are loved. Planning for this event takes place during the fall, and funds are needed to ensure that enough food, drink, caps, gloves, and other toiletry items can be purchased in advance. That is why we focus on the Christmas Eve Breakfast in January rather than waiting until December. You are encouraged to give what you can at the communion rail and any time during the month of January to help support and prepare for next year's breakfast. Please send or bring your donations, marked "Christmas Eve Breakfast," to the church office.

NEXT SUNDAY



Start the new year with joy by celebrating Christ's light in the world with your church family—all ages and stages! Children and youth will not have regular Sunday School classes that day, so bring the whole family to the party.

Want to get involved? Bring some breakfast food items to share or bake special Epiphany muffins. Sign up at fumcaustin.org/epiphany. For questions, contact Pastor Cathy Stone at cathy@fumcaustin.org or 512-478-5684 (ext. 215).

JANUARY 10, 17, AND 24 Mercy & Justice Book Study

6:30-7:30 p.m.

La Madeline, 5493 Brodie Lane

Join us as we read and discuss *Torn* by Justin Lee. More than just a memoir, *Torn* provides insightful, practical guidance for all committed Christians who wonder how to relate to gay friends or family members—or who struggle with their own sexuality. Convinced that "in a culture that sees gays and Christians as enemies, gay Christians are in a unique position to bring peace," Lee demonstrates that people of faith on both sides of the debate can respect, learn from, and love one another.

We have a Facebook group for online discussion as well as meeting in person. All are welcome to join us online and/or in person. Please register at fumcaustin.org/torn and read chapters 1-5 for January 10. *Torn* can be purchased on Amazon.com.

For more information, contact Pastor Cathy Stone at cathy@fumcaustin.org or 512-478-5684 (ext. 215).

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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

**JANUARY 15 & 22 AND
FEBRUARY 5 & 12**
Spirituality and Racial Justice

Join us for a video series with Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, as he discusses ways Christians can work toward racial justice. The Most Rev. Michael Curry focuses on the spiritual elements of the problem: spiritual failings that lead to racism and the ways spiritual tools are necessary to help build a more just world. He discusses racism as one of the many results of the pride that separates people from God and fighting racism as a first step toward reconciling all of humanity. Discussion will be led by Dr. Adama Brown and Pastor Cathy Stone. For more information or questions, contact Cathy at cathy@fumcaustin.org or 512-478-5684 (ext. 215).

10:00 A.M.
WESLEY HALL

JANUARY

8 Sunday
Epiphany Party
10:00-10:45 a.m.
Family Life Center

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

15 Sunday
Manna Bag Sale
9:00-11:00 a.m.
Sidewalk
Spirituality and Racial Justice
10:00 a.m.
Wesley Hall
Mobile Loaves & Fishes Third Sunday
4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.
Mobile Loaves & Fishes Kitchen

16 Monday
MLK Day Community March
9:30 a.m.
Family Life Center

20 Friday
Registration Deadline for
Created by God Workshop
lara@fumcaustin.org

22 Sunday
Spirituality and Racial Justice
10:00 a.m.
Wesley Hall
First Steps
12:15 p.m.
Room 104, Family Life Center

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

29 Sunday
Fifth Sunday Social Justice Presentation
10:00 a.m.
Wesley Hall

W E E K	2 Mon	Church Office Closed		
	3 Tue	Feed My People Fourth Tuesday Breakfast	4:45-7:00 a.m.	Great Hall, Family Life Center
	4 Wed	Deadline for FUMC Weekly and eNews	10:00 a.m.	fumcaustin.org/submissions
		Handbell Choir Rehearsal	6:00-7:00 p.m.	Sanctuary Balcony
		FUMC Choir Rehearsal	7:00-8:30 p.m.	Choir Room, Sanctuary Building
	5 Thur	Feed My People Breakfast	4:45-7:00 a.m.	Great Hall, Family Life Center
		English as a Second Language (ESL)	10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Family Life Center
		Greater Austin Emmaus Community	6:00-8:00 p.m.	Great Hall, Family Life Center

UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY 5, THURSDAY

Greater Austin Emmaus Community . 6:00-8:00 p.m. Family Life Center

This gathering gives those in our congregation who have been pilgrims on a Walk to Emmaus an opportunity to extend hospitality to our brothers and sisters in Christ. There will be a potluck from 6:00-7:10 p.m., followed by worship from 7:15-8:00 p.m. If you are available to help with this event, contact Chris or Judy Funke at emmaus-funke@austin.rr.com.

JANUARY 13, 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.

JANUARY 16, MONDAY

MLK Day Community March . 9:30 a.m. Family Life Center and Capitol

Grab a breakfast taco in the Family Life Center before we gather at the Capitol for the city's annual march and celebration honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We will join the march at 10:00 a.m. on the south steps of the Capitol for a short program and then march to Huston-Tillotson University for the Community Festival. We can arrange carpools or ride CapMetro back to the church. For more information or to participate in a carpool, contact Pastor Cathy Stone at cathy@fumcaustin.org or 512-478-5684 (ext. 215).

JANUARY 20, FRIDAY

Registration Deadline for *Created by God* Seminar

This two-day sexuality seminar for 5th and 6th graders on February 3 and 4 offers families an opportunity to learn, grow, and celebrate the fact that we have each been wonderfully created by God and are called to responsible living as sexual beings. Mail or bring completed registration and payment of \$50 to the church office. Scholarships available upon request.

JANUARY 22, SUNDAY

First Steps Class . 12:15 p.m. Room 104 . Family Life Center

Worship leads us to make commitments to God. If your response involves taking a first step to become a follower of Christ and/or a member of First Church, fill out the Communication Card in the bulletin and place it in the offering plate.

JANUARY 29, SUNDAY

Mercy & Justice Fifth Sunday Presentation . 10:00 a.m . Wesley Hall

Our journey of education and awareness in areas of social justice continues. Chuck Smith, Chief Executive Officer of Equality Texas, will share information about the work of Equality Texas and the upcoming 2017 Legislative Session. We will also have a representative from Out Youth sharing ways we can support them and the youth they serve. Out Youth serves the Central Texas LGBTQ+ youth and their allies with programs and services to ensure these promising young people develop into happy, healthy, successful adults. Come engage in compassionate conversation about ways we can make a difference through our church and community. For more information, contact Pastor Cathy Stone at cathy@fumcaustin.org or 512-478-5684 (ext. 215).

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).

FAITH IN ACTION

CHRISTMAS EVE BREAKFAST

By Tom Watkins

Every other year, my son, daughter-in-law and two grandchildren arrive in Austin for the Christmas holidays. Since the grandchildren were very young, they have participated in serving our guests at the Christmas Eve Breakfast. It has been a source of pride for me to see them, even as very young children, walk up to our guests, lead them to a table, sit them down, ask them what they want for breakfast, obtain the food for them, and interact with them. The boys have learned that they are serving others. That kind of conduct is a bubble-buster in two ways.

First, we have a bubble around our beliefs concerning the homeless. We separate the homeless from ourselves either by assigning responsibility to them for their condition or blaming other factors. It is a bubble. They are they, we are us, and dealing with them as a group removes any emotional involvement or resolution of any problems. But serving a guest, dealing with that person as an individual, seeing them eye-to-eye and person-to-person, is a tiny pin prick in a bubble of our assumptions about the homeless.

Second, whether we call it the secularization of the Christmas or the commercialization of Christmas, the bubble around Christmas is filled with buying, getting, shopping, cooking, eating ... The religious portion of the Christmas bubble, seems to be getting smaller and smaller. Over the years, serving our guests has become as anticipated as the receiving of gifts — a tiny pin prick in the bubble of secularization of Christmas. Serving others can become the true hope of Christmas.

What We Believe

We believe that every person is a beloved child of God.

We believe every person is on a journey to God, with God.

We freely admit that we do not have all the answers, but we believe that Jesus points the way.

WORSHIP

9:00 AND 11:00 A.M. SANCTUARY

January 8

Epiphany Sunday

Search Diligently

Matthew 2:1-12

Taylor Fuerst, Preaching

King Herod sees this newborn king as a threat. Meanwhile, the wise men approach him with curiosity. How do we approach Jesus? Do we bring gifts or demands, seek blessing or power?



January 15

Baptism of the Lord

Wade in the Water

Matthew 3:13-17

Taylor Fuerst, Preaching

In baptism, we find that water washes away every barrier we put between us and those we count as "other."

CHURCH BUSINESS

CHURCH LIFE:

YOUR ONLINE PORTAL TO FUMC

A secure cloud-based church management software system that allows members to access the church calendar review their contact information, schedule one-time or recurring giving, view giving history and pledge commitment, and access a church directory. *Church Life* is also available in a mobile app so you can have this information at your fingertips. For more information, contact Mary Heckmann at mary@fumcaustin.org.

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.

IT'S EASY TO LIKE



Social Media is a way to connect with friends and family, but it is also a tool for us as a congregation to evangelize on behalf of FUMC. By *Liking* our page you help others see what we believe and how we are living Christ's mission through our efforts. By *Sharing* our posts or *Commenting* on them you spread our page beyond our own members. You do not have to be a social media expert to join us at us at facebook.com/fumcaustin.

PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT



Registration in our FUMPreschool is underway for a handful of remaining placements. See fumcaustin.org/preschool or share with a friend who has preschool age children, 18 months to Pre-Kindergarten. Before and after school care is available. FUMPreschool is accredited by the Association for Early Learning Leaders and certified as a 5-Star School by Texas Rising Star.

PRAYER

WITHIN OUR CONGREGATION

Health: Clo Bains; Betty Berkey; Pat Freeman; Cate George and family; Lila Matthys; Andrea Peck; Gris and George Anne Rogers; D. Orval Strong; and Virginia Wattinger.

Other: Travis Bias' medical mission to Uganda.

BEYOND OUR CONGREGATION

Nancy Arnold's father, Allen Arnold; Laurie Barr's sister, Karen, and niece, Emma; Cheryl Bias' niece, Lauren; Fay Brown's sister, Jo Rene Altenburg; Reverend Tina Carter; Cheryl Etie's sister, Janice Hansen; Ann Fields' brother, Charlie Brown; Howard Hartman's mother, Annabel Hartman; Marijo Hartman's father, Joe Rector; Cassie Helton's mother, Betty Helton; Charlotte Lyerly's niece, Tonya Harris; Kelly Mills' mother, Sandra Mills; Riley Nix's grandmother; Andrea Peck for Charlie and Cindy Brown; Delia Peters' mother, Ruby Ybarra; Alan Stephens' mother, Genevieve Stephen; and Dick Young's nephew, Jeff Young.



Cast all your cares on God, because God cares for you. (1 Peter 5:7)