



First United
Methodist Church
A U S T I N

FUMC Weekly

Making Disciples,
Making a Difference

NOVEMBER 13, 2016

THIS SUNDAY

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

CANDY COLLECTON FOR MOBILE LOAVES & FISHES

Collection Bins . Foyer and Family Life Center

Thank you for your candy donations.

FOOD COLLECTON FOR CARITAS

Collection Bins . Foyer and Family Life Center

Thank you for your food donations. If you did not bring food to church today, you may bring it any Sunday this month.

CHARGE CONFERENCE

12:15 p.m. Wesley Hall

Charge Conference is the church's yearly business meeting with the District Superintendent where lay leadership is elected, lay servant ministers are approved, and clergy salaries are approved for the coming year. We will also consider Adama Brown for recommendation as a candidate for ordained ministry. All are welcome to attend Charge Conference and participate in the discussion. The voting members of the Charge Conference are members of the Administrative Board and others as specified by *The Book of Discipline*.

RECEPTION FOR BISHOP SCHNASE

3:30 p.m. Oak Hill UMC

All are welcome to an Austin area welcome reception for Bishop Robert Schnase, and his wife, Esther. There will be a short meet-and-greet followed by an informal welcome ceremony where the bishop will share his vision for our work as a conference.

NOVEMBER MISSION EMPHASIS



The FUMC Emergency Assistance Fund enables our Care Coordinator and clergy to provide emergency assistance each week. This fund is able to provide assistance to individuals and families in crisis due to poverty, domestic violence, unemployment, and/or homelessness. We need your help replenishing this fund for 2017. Gifts may be left at the communion rail, dropped in the offering plate anytime during November, or mailed to or brought by the church office. For more information, see pages 4 and 5.

Extravagant GENEROSITY

We celebrated Commitment Sunday by prayerfully making our financial commitments and by picnicking together on the Capitol lawn. To date we have received 226 commitments totaling \$1,322,254. Commitments are still coming in, but we have already received 22 new commitments and 96 commitments increased over last year. Together, these new and increased commitments total \$112,345 in new funding to Do Justice, Love Kindness, and Walk Humbly with God in 2017!

You can add your commitment to generously support our ministries in several ways:

- Pick up a commitment card in the foyer and drop it in the offering plate;
- Email our Business Administrator, Tom Mays, at tom@fumcaustin.org;
- Fill out the commitment form at www.fumcaustin.org/pledge; or
- Go to ChurchLife at www.fumcaustin.org and schedule a recurring gift.

Let's continue growing in generosity so that we can embody the Beloved Community of God.

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

NOVEMBER 19, SATURDAY FAMILY HIKE DAY

Our Children's Ministries Team is hosting a Family Hike Day from 9:00-11:00 a.m. Come join us for this fellowship and fun! Wild Basin Preserve is great for little and big hikers, alike.

WILD BASIN PRESERVE
805 N CAPITAL OF TEXAS HWY

NOVEMBER

19 Saturday

Family Hike Day
9:00-11:00 a.m.
Wild Basin Preserve

20 Sunday

Advent Resources To Go
Advent Devotionals and Resources
Sanctuary Foyer

Manna Bag Sale

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

Vital Conversations on Race and Racism

10:00 a.m.
Wesley Hall

Mobile Loaves & Fishes Third Sunday

4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.
Mobile Loaves & Fishes Kitchen

21 Monday

Day of Service at Marbridge
9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.
www.fumcaustin.org/marbridge

22 Tuesday

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

27 Sunday

Intergenerational Advent Event
9:45-10:45 a.m.
Wesley Hall

DECEMBER

3 Saturday

Decorating and Holiday Stroll
4:00 p.m.
Wesley Hall

4 Sunday

Advent Sunday School Series
10:00 a.m.
Wesley Hall

10 Saturday

Youth Service Day
8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
University UMC
Kids Day Out
10:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Children's Wing

11 Sunday

Blood Drive
9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Murchison Chapel
Lessons and Carols Services
9:00 and 11:00 a.m.
Sanctuary
Advent Sunday School Series
10:00 a.m.
Wesley Hall

16 Friday

Pickle Elementary Book Sale
Shifts from 9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Pickle Elementary

18 Sunday

Messiah for Young Voices
9:00 and 11:00 a.m.
Sanctuary
Advent Sunday School Series
10:00 a.m.
Wesley Hall
Family Promise Week Begins
5:00 p.m.
Family Life Center

21 Wednesday

Blue Christmas Service
7:00 p.m.
Murchison Chapel

24 Saturday

Kids Day Out
4:00 p.m.
Wesley Hall

WEEK THIS

13 Sun	Music Makers Rehearsal	9:00 a.m.	Room 108, Education Building
	#SingPraise Rehearsal	9:00 a.m.	Choir Room
	Sunday School Classes for All Ages	10:00 a.m.	Back of Sign In Book and Website
	Charge Conference	12:15 p.m.	Wesley Hall
	Reception for Bishop Schnase	3:30 p.m.	Oak Hill UMC, 7815 Hwy 290 West
14 Mon	Mother/Son Bowling Night	5:00-7:00 p.m.	Westgate Lanes
	English as a Second Language (ESL)	10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Family Life Center
15 Tue	Stephen Ministry Continuing Education	6:00 p.m.	Room 104, Family Life Center
	Prodigal Sons Men's Group	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Room 103, Family Life Center
16 Wed	Feed My People Breakfast	4:45-7:00 a.m.	Great Hall, Family Life Center
	Mercy and Justice Book Study	6:30-7:30 p.m.	La Madeline, 5493 Brodie Lane
17 Thur	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
	Knit Wits Prayer Shawl Ministry	12:00-1:00 p.m.	Room 210, Sanctuary Building
	Handbell Choir Rehearsal	6:00-7:00 p.m.	Sanctuary Balcony
	FUMC Choir Rehearsal	7:00-8:30 p.m.	Choir Room, Sanctuary Building
17 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
	Weekday UMW Group	10:00 a.m.	Home of Elizabeth Lerner

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER 17, THURSDAY

Weekday UMW Group . 10:00 a.m. Home of Elizabeth Lerner

If you are interested in finding out about the United Methodist Women Joy Circle, which meets the third Thursday each month, come to the this meeting. RSVP with Elizabeth at earendlerner@yahoo.com or 512-328-0545.

NOVEMBER 20, SUNDAY

Vital Conversations on Race and Racism . 10:00 a.m. Wesley Hall

The General Commission on Race and Religion of The United Methodist Church created a series of *Vital Conversations on Realities of Race and Racism*, featuring contemporary theologians, sociologists, laity, clergy, and other thought-leaders dealing with challenges of race, culture, and oppression in the Church and world today. On November 20, we will continue these vital conversations with a video and discussion of "Church: Building the Beloved Community" with Rev. Dr. Miguel De la Torre, professor of Social Ethics and Latino Studies at the Iliff School of Theology in Denver, Colorado. Discussion will be led by Dr. Adama Brown and Pastor Cathy Stone.

NOVEMBER 21, MONDAY

Service Day at Marbridge . 9:00-11:00 a.m. 2310 Bliss Spillar Road

Come interact with residents by playing games, making crafts, and other activities planned by the staff of Marbridge, a non-profit residential community that offers transitional and lifetime care to adults with a wide range of cognitive abilities. Sign up is required at www.fumcaustin.org/marbridge.

DECEMBER 11, SUNDAY

Blood Donation Drive . 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Murchison Chapel



WE ARE BLOOD

FUMC is pleased to 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? The holiday season is a critical time 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 online at fumcaustin.org/blood-drive.

DECEMBER 16, FRIDAY

Pickle Elementary Book Drive and Sale . Pickle Elementary School

As you are cleaning or out holiday shopping, pick out an extra book or two to donate. Place gently-used or new books in the collection bin off the foyer. Volunteers are needed to help sort books on December 11 and 15 and/or work at the Book Sale. Sign up online at fumcaustin.org/pickle.

DECEMBER 18-25, SUNDAY-SUNDAY

Family Promise Week this Christmas . Family Life Center

Servant hearts are needed to help with Family Promise, a shelter program of Foundation for the Homeless that provides transitional shelter for families experiencing homelessness. FUMC provides a place for families to live in our Family Life Center. Volunteers of all ages provide meals, serve as overnight hosts, and host in other ways. This year we will host families the week before Christmas. We will have some special activities planned during the week and hope you and your family will give the gift of time this Christmas. Sign up at fumcaustin.org/familypromise.

DECEMBER 18, SUNDAY

Youth Engage Christmas Party . 4:00-6:00 p.m. Family Life Center

All youth are invited to come and celebrate together at our last Engage of the year. There will be food, games, and music. We will also have a white elephant exchange, so bring a gift that cost \$10 or less.

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

**THE MANY BLESSINGS OF
MOBILE LOAVES & FISHES**
By Trevor Harper



The first Thursday Mobile Loaves & Fishes run was one of my very first introductions to First Church's commitment to Mercy & Justice.

It seems like such a simple ministry, but it didn't take long for me to see just how profound this little road trip can be. We made sandwiches, we chatted, and we fed the foodless (to borrow a phrase from the sweet and wise six-year-old Jack).

I was hooked from my first run. While I'm proud to work with this incredible church at getting to the root of food insecurity and the systemic causes of poverty in our community, there is nothing quite like simply giving food to someone who is hungry. I have a heart-connection to feeding ministries and I knew right away that these Thursdays would feed my own spirituality in a new way.

What I didn't expect was the family I would come to recognize in the neighbors we feed and people we pile into the truck. I've watched some of our kids grow taller and smarter and I've picked up many a conversation with new friends right where we left off on the last run.

More than anything though, I know that someone we met went to sleep that night without feeling hunger pangs. A child didn't have to go without dinner. Someone lonely made a friend.

Mobile Loaves & Fishes is a blessing to so many and a shining example of what we can do beyond our sanctuary.

HUNGER AND HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS MONTH AT FUMC

NOVEMBER 20, SUNDAY

Manna Bag Sale

Our fourth and fifth graders show the love of Christ to those in need through the making and selling of Manna Bags.

These bags are filled with a nutritious meal, a new pair of socks, and a note asking for God's blessing on the recipient.

You can purchase a bag for \$5, with proceeds going to purchase more supplies.

Mobile Loaves & Fishes Third Sunday

Teams prepare sandwiches in our kitchen and take them to hungry people in Austin.

Each third Sunday, we have a team open to first-timers of all ages to give this ministry a try. Volunteers may serve on the Make-Ready Team (4:00 to 5:00 p.m.), the Truck Team (5:00 to 6:30 p.m.), or both! Sign up on our website.

NOVEMBER 22, TUESDAY

Feed My People Breakfast

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 at 6:00 a.m.; and clean-up begins at 7:00 a.m. You may arrive and leave to meet your schedule. On-the-job training is available.

WHEN NEEDED

Cold Weather Shelter for Women

During the winter months, First Church provides shelter for up to 25 women on Tuesday nights when the predicted overnight low is expected to be 35 degrees and wet or 32 degrees and dry. We have shifts to welcome and greet our guests, provide/serve dinner, and act as overnight hosts. Sign up on our website.

CARITAS FOOD DRIVE

FUMC is hosting a food drive benefiting Caritas, a non-profit organization that helps prevent homelessness, hunger, and poverty, in Central Texas. Caritas provides take-home groceries to its clients, this year providing enough groceries for 43,000 meals. When you are struggling to make ends meet and must choose between putting food on the table and paying the electric bill, weekly groceries from the Caritas Pantry bring great relief to families moving toward stability.

We are collecting some of their most needed items throughout November:

- Canned beets
- Canned chicken
- Canned fruit cocktail
- Canned garbanzo beans
- Canned mixed vegetables
- Canned pineapple
- Cereal
- Dried beans (northern and black)
- Small containers of cooking oil
- Soups (cream of chicken, cream of mushroom, cream of tomato, and beef stew)

Donations may be left in the collection bins located in the foyers of the chapel, sanctuary, and Family Life Center.

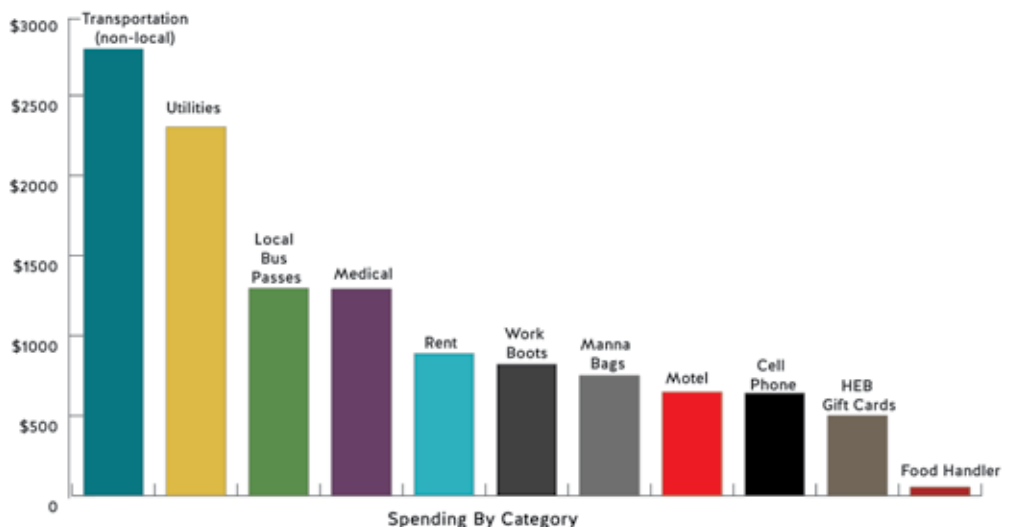
MISSION EMPHASIS: EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FUND

The FUMC Emergency Assistance Fund enables our Care Coordinator and clergy to provide emergency assistance each week. This fund is able to provide assistance to individuals and families in crisis due to poverty, domestic violence, unemployment, and/or homelessness.

Because of the generosity of this congregation, our Care Coordinator has been able to meet, talk, and walk with people in need. Your giving has enabled us to: provide a few nights of safe shelter to a woman and her children when SafePlace was full; provide the opportunity for multiple individuals to take the Texas Food Handler test and receive a certificate needed to start a job; provide work boots and/or work pants, which are required to begin many jobs; and assist with prescriptions, rent, utilities, and other needs that have made a true difference in the struggles of so many.

We need your help replenishing this fund for 2017. Gifts may be left at the communion rail, dropped in the offering plate any time during November, or mailed to or brought by the church office.

Here is how your donations to this fund were used January-October 2016:



HUNGER AND HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS WEEK IN AUSTIN

NOVEMBER 12-20

Diaper Drive for the Salvation Army Shelter for Women and Children

Homelessness is not always what you think. Seventy-three percent of those sheltered by The Salvation Army last year were women and children. Salvation Army is seeing an increase in the number of very young children and babies with their families in emergency shelter. Your donation of diapers helps ensure that each child and each family has the resources and care they need while in shelter. Sizes most needed are diaper sizes 3 and 4 and pull-ups of any size. Diapers may be delivered to the Downtown Shelter at 501 East 8th Street; Austin Shelter for Women and Children at 4523 Tannehill Lane; and The Salvation Army Austin Area Command at 10711 Burnet Road, Suite 231 (in the BBVA Compass Bank Building).

NOVEMBER 12, SATURDAY

Positive Sounds. 5:00-10:00 p.m. Independence Brewing

Come join Project Transitions for an evening of artists and musicians sharing life stories celebrating PT and those living with HIV/AIDS. A \$5 suggested donation at the door or an item from our wish list (www.projecttransitions.org/wish-list) is appreciated. For more information, contact Blythe Plunkett at bplunkett@projecttransitions.org or go to www.projecttransitions.org.

NOVEMBER 13, SUNDAY

24th Annual House the Homeless Memorial Sunrise Service . 6:57 a.m. Auditorium Shores at Butler Park

House the Homeless offers the 24th Homeless Memorial Sunrise Service as an opportunity for community members to honor the men, women, and children who died in Austin over the past year. First Baptist Church Pastor Griff Martin is this year's keynote speaker. The service begins at sunrise and takes place 75 yards east of the Stevie Ray Vaughn statue and 75 yards west of the Fannie Davis Gazebo. A breakfast reception will follow at the Fannie Davis Gazebo. For more information, contact Blythe Plunkett at blytheplunkett@aol.com or go to <http://www.housethehomeless.org/>.

Red, White, and Blues 512 . 4:00-8:00 p.m. Stubbs Waller Creek Ampitheater

Join us for House Our Heroes, a blues music festival presented by Red, White, and Blues 512 to raise awareness and funds for Austin's homeless Veterans. The men and women who have served our country and fought for our freedom should never find themselves homeless. Under the leadership of Mayor Adler and Ending Community Homelessness Organization, and through the unified teamwork of the public, nonprofit, and private sectors of our community who are dedicated to working together, Austin has been able to achieve great progress in helping our homeless veterans find their way off of the streets and into a place they can call home. This collaboration of community partners has built the infrastructures that can ensure any identified homeless veterans in Austin will be placed in permanent housing quickly and efficiently, and then given the support services needed to allow our veterans to live sustainable lives. For tickets and more information, go to www.redwhiteandblues512.com.

NOVEMBER 15, TUESDAY

A Community Approach to Tackling Homelessness . 7:30-10:00 a.m. Crail Hall, St. David's Episcopal Church

We invite you to participate in a special interactive community forum at the fall meeting of Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO) Fall meeting. Join elected officials and key community leaders to provide your input to how we can better address homelessness. Presenters and facilitators include representatives from Downtown Austin Alliance, ECHO, the City of Austin Innovation Office, and Upstream, a local social innovation consultancy. 7:30-8:00 a.m. Breakfast and 8:00-10:00 a.m. Interactive Forum. This event is free and open to the public. If you plan to attend, RSVP to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-community-approach-to-tackling-homelessness-tickets-29029864105?aff=efbreg>.

NOVEMBER 17, THURSDAY

Humanize Me . 5:30-8:00 p.m. The Mohawk, 912 Red River Street

HumanizeMe.Org returns for the 2016 National Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week to bring you Youth Street Photography. Instead of interviews and photos by the partners of Humanize Me, we have joined forces with youth experiencing homelessness in a street-led photography project to shed a spotlight on this creative and resilient community. Join us for a night of art, music, and volunteer registration. RSVP at <https://www.facebook.com/events/1095586307225616/>.

NOVEMBER 19 AND 20, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

Art From the Streets: 24th Annual Show and Sale . 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Austin Convention Center

Art From the Streets is a free and open studio in Austin that serves the homeless community. It was founded in 1991 to provide a safe and encouraging space for the positive spirit of artistic expression of those who need it most. For the past 23 years AFTS has been a place for creating amazing works while providing insight into the human beings who brought them to life. Original pieces are sold online and at their annual Show and Sale, with proceeds going to the artists. To learn about the artists and to get more information, go to www.artfromthestreets.org.

Advent WONDER

*Advent is a season of possibility...
a season of wonder in which we are awake
and aware of the darkness in which we live,
but on the lookout for a glimpse of hope.*

NOVEMBER 27, SUNDAY
Intergenerational Advent Event
9:45-10:45 a.m., Wesley Hall

DECEMBER 3, SATURDAY
Decorating and Holiday Stroll
4:00 p.m., Wesley Hall

DECEMBER 4, 11, AND 18, SUNDAYS
Advent Sunday School Series
10:00 a.m., Wesley Hall

DECEMBER 10, SATURDAY
Kids Day Out
10:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., FUMC

Youth Service Day
8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m., University UMC

DECEMBER 11, SUNDAY
Lessons and Carols
9:00 and 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary

DECEMBER 18, SUNDAY
Children and Youth Choirs Present
"Messiah for Young Voices"
9:00 and 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary

DECEMBER 25, SUNDAY
Christmas Day Service
11:00 a.m., Sanctuary
No Sunday School

DECEMBER 21, WEDNESDAY
Blue Christmas Service
7:00 p.m., Murchison Chapel

DECEMBER 24, SATURDAY
Christmas Eve Breakfast
6:30 a.m., Great Hall

Christmas Eve Breakfast Service
8:00 a.m., Garrison Chapel

Christmas Eve Noon Service
12:15 p.m., Murchison Chapel

Christmas Eve Family Service
4:00 p.m., Sanctuary

Christmas Eve Services
8:00 and 11:00 p.m., Sanctuary

Experience the Wonder of Christmas with Us

ADVENT WONDER OPPORTUNITIES

NOVEMBER 20, SUNDAY

Advent Resources To Go

Advent devotionals and “Advent To-Go” boxes designed for families with children and youth will be available in the sanctuary foyer.

NOVEMBER 27, SUNDAY

Intergenerational Advent Event . 9:45-10:45 a.m. Wesley Hall

Come share and explore the meaning of Advent with your church family. We will begin with food and conversations and then we will respond at stations providing take-and-make crafts, advent ideas, prayer and reflection. This is a great opportunity to bridge generational lines and connect with people of all ages in new and fun ways. Pre-registration requested online at fumcaustin.org/adventworkshop.

DECEMBER 3, SATURDAY

Decorating and Holiday Stroll . 4:00 p.m. Wesley Hall

Kick off your holiday by decorating the chapel, sanctuary, and Family Life Center. The fun begins at 4:00 p.m. in Wesley Hall. After the decorating, volunteers will share a meal and then have the opportunity to help Austin discover FUMC and to make us home for the holidays at the annual Holiday Stroll. Austin rings in the Christmas season with a sing-along and Christmas Tree lighting at the Capitol, followed by a stroll down Congress Avenue for booth visiting, music, and general holiday cheer. FUMC greets event attendees with music on the front steps, hot chocolate and cookies, and a family-friendly restroom stop. Be part of this hospitality team that chats with visitors, serves drinks, bakes cookies, sets up, and tears down. Shifts run between 5:00 and 8:00 p.m. Sign up on our website.

DECEMBER 4, 11, & 18, SUNDAYS

Advent Sunday School Series . 10:00 a.m. Wesley Hall

We will look for the wonder of God in the world around us as we prepare our hearts for the birth of the Christ child. Pastor Cathy Stone and Fancy Mills will lead this study using Mike Slaughter’s book, *Down to Earth*. Come explore ways to be on the lookout for God’s Christmas surprise to us and how it changed everything.

DECEMBER 10, SATURDAY

Kids Day Out . 10:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Children’s Wing

While parents enjoy a morning out, children play, eat pizza, make holiday crafts and decorate gingerbread houses, and watch a movie with our trained childcare staff. We accept infants through fourth graders on a first-come basis. The cost is \$25 for the first child and \$8 for siblings. Make reservations at childcarefumc@yahoo.com no later than December 7.

Youth Service Day . 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. University UMC

Our youth will team up with Saint John’s UMC and University UMC to serve breakfast to the community at Open Door and then share lunch together and have some fellowship time which will end at 12:00 p.m. All youth are invited to come and serve.

DECEMBER 11, SUNDAY

Lessons and Carols Services . 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary

As we await the great festival of Christmas, this Sunday morning service helps us to prepare to receive its true meaning. With the rhythm of alternating scripture readings, music, and prayers, we are guided to see the light that is coming into the world—and into our hearts. Music will include a mix of Advent hymns and anthems offered by our musicians. Musical leadership is provided by an ensemble of singers and instruments at 9:00 a.m. and the FUMC Choir at 11:00 a.m.

DECEMBER 18, SUNDAY

Messiah for Young Voices . 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary

Come be blessed by our children and youth choirs singing this wonderful classic piece. All children are welcome to join in this telling of the advent story.

DECEMBER 21, WEDNESDAY

Blue Christmas Service . 7:00 p.m. Murchison Chapel

How come I don’t feel it? In the midst of the wonder and expectation of Advent, many of us might feel out of step with the joy and excitement of Christmas. Some of us have lost loved ones or face the “happy” holidays feeling blue with grief or depression. Come to this special worship service on the “longest night” to acknowledge our grief and longing for hope.

DECEMBER 24, SATURDAY

Christmas Eve

Breakfast

6:30 a.m., Great Hall

Breakfast will be held from 6:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. Our guests will enjoy coffee and Christmas music beginning at 6:30 a.m., breakfast will be served at 7:00 a.m., and a worship service will begin at 8:00 a.m. in the Garrison Chapel. Many in congregation have made this a significant part of their Christmas season. Sign up on our website.

Christmas Eve

Breakfast Service

8:00 a.m., Garrison Chapel

A service that is interactive and reflective on the Christmas message. It is a time of fellowship, music, and prayer with our guests and each other.

Christmas Eve

Noon Service

12:15 p.m., Murchison Chapel

We will sing and pray our thanksgiving to God for the birth of Jesus. This service is for those who do not want to drive at night and for those whose plans make it impossible to participate in our later services.

Christmas Eve

Family Service

4:00 p.m., Sanctuary

For the young and young at heart, this 45-minute service is a wonderful way for families with young children to worship together and enjoy the holiness and excitement of the Christ child’s arrival. *Childcare provided.*

Christmas Eve

Candlelight Services

8:00 and 11:00 p.m., Sanctuary

These traditional services will feature carols, choral offerings, scripture, Holy Communion, and candle lighting to celebrate Christ’s birth. *Childcare provided at 8:00 p.m. service only.*

DECEMBER 25, SUNDAY

Christmas Day Service

11:00 a.m., Sanctuary

Come celebrate the birth of Christ on Christmas morning with your First Church family. Kids are welcome in their pajamas and we will have a casual, come-as-you-are service, complete with all the carols you can muster! With one service, it’s a great way to begin the twelve days of Christmas. *Childcare not provided as families are invited to worship together.*

What We Believe

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

We believe every person is on a journey toward 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.

November 20

Christ the King Sunday

Christ, the King We Need

Psalms 46 and Luke 23:33-43

Taylor Fuerst, Preaching

The annual day to celebrate Christ as King and Lord of our lives falls close on the heels of our nation's election, as a providential reminder that we are all ultimately in God's hands. On this Sunday, we'll give thanks for Christ's reign over all, and Pastor Taylor will share some reflections on what she heard in the "Who We Are" Project this fall.



November 27

First Sunday of Advent

I Wonder If the World Can Be Healed?

Matthew 24:36-44

Taylor Fuerst, Preaching

Sometimes the darkness of the world seems so thick that we wonder if it can be healed at all. We get discouraged in our own work toward justice and providing for those who don't have enough, and yet the problems seem to multiply. It leaves us to wonder, "Is it really possible?" Come this Sunday, ready to enter the darkness and seek the persistent, unwavering light of Christ.

PRAYER

WITHIN OUR CONGREGATION

Health: Betty Berkey; Adama Brown; Arnold and Ruth Buss; Cate George and family; Ivan and Glenna Marks; Andrea Peck and Wilton Stone.

Condolences to the family and friends of Gazelle Sump on her death. A service will be held on November 19 at 7 p.m. at Weed-Corley-Fish on Lamar.

Other: Travis Bias' medical mission to Uganda.

BEYOND OUR CONGREGATION

Laurie Barr's sister, Karen, and niece, Emma; Cheryl Bias' niece, Lauren; Richard and Marilyn Bettis' friend, Ronney Reynolds; Fay Brown's sister, Jo Rene Altenburg; Reverend Tina Carter; Ann Fields' brother, Charlie Brown; Herb Canada; Howard Hartman's mother, Annabel Hartman; Cassie Helton's mother, Betty Helton; Chris and Jan Higgs' friend, Jimmy Hargrave; Judy Kostura's friend, Joanne Crawford; Charlotte Lyerly's niece, Tonya Harris; Kelly Mills' mother, Sandra Mills; Delia Peters' mother, Ruby Ybarra; Mary Faye Randolph's friend, Beth Pituch; Alan Stephens' mother, Genevieve Stephen; Virginia Wattinger's friend, Nathan Smith and Dick Young's nephew, Jeff Young.

CHURCH BUSINESS

REMINDER

We are not accepting donations for the FreeStore at this time.

FUMC ENDOWMENT FUND

• In memory of Gazelle Sump, given by Tami Kellberg.

GIFTS TO FUMC

• To our Reconciling Ministries in memory of Dick Francis, given by Alice Parrish.

CONSTRUCTION OF NEW WELCOME CENTER

Please pardon our mess now through early December as we continue construction of a new Welcome Center on the south wall of our sanctuary foyer. The Welcome Center will include custom-built cabinets, brochure holders, three fabric-covered bulletin boards with lighting, and relocation of our TV used for digital signage. We are excited to transform this space to help educate our visitors and to keep our congregation informed.

SUKKAH THANK YOU



Our 4th and 5th graders would like to thank those who visited their Sukkah last Sunday. Everyone had a wonderful time! If you were not able to come, look for pictures and a video posted on the FUMC Facebook page. The children also thank those who brought food donations for Caritas. Generosity is an important part of the Sukkot celebration.

MINISTRY OF SPACE

Our sanctuary hosted a variety of authors who then signed books in Murchison Chapel during the Texas Book Festival. Around 3,000 people passed through our space including Book Festival founder Laura Bush and her daughter, Jenna, promoting their children's book and actor/author Ethan Hawke. KXAN TV described our participation in their news story: "The description of the boiled brain of a Native American man, during a discussion about Ethan Hawke and Greg Ruth's graphic novel, *Indeh*, is probably not something you normally hear at FUMC. But for the two days of the Texas Book Festival, churches open their doors even wider, welcoming book-lovers and authors that run the gamut." The festival's executive director, Lois Kim, says the churches who host book events place no restrictions on what can and can't be said. "They are such gracious hosts. They have been really amazing." The United Methodist Church has a long tradition of dedication to literacy and FUMC was able to witness to that tradition through the generosity and hospitality of FUMC on Book Festival weekend.