

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., Children's Wing

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 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 at fumcaustin.org/stroll.

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 childcare@fumcaustin.org 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, these services help 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 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, accompanied by a string quartet, singing this timeless recounting of Christ's life. 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.*