

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.*

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

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 our congregation have made this a significant part of their Christmas season. Sign up at fumcaustin.org/christmasbreakfast

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 the 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.*

WAYS TO SERVE

BAKE COOKIES

Cookie bakers are needed to provide guests at the Christmas Eve Breakfast with a treat to take with them. Our goal is 350 zipped bags with six cookies each! Make your chocolate chip (NO NUTS) cookies and package six per bag in zipped plastic baggies. We will take a dozen or six dozen! Happy baking! Bring your cookies to the church on Sundays, December 11 and 18. For more information, contact Doise Miers at doisemiers@gmail.com.

SHOP FOR SOCKS

We are collecting new, white, adult-sized tube socks to give to our homeless neighbors at our Christmas Eve Breakfast. As you are shopping, consider picking up a bag or two of socks to donate. Place your donations in the collection bins located in the foyers of the Chapel, Sanctuary, and Family Life Center on December 4, 11, and 18. You may also bring donations to the church office Monday - Wednesday from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. or Thursday from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

FAMILY PROMISE

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.