



First United
Methodist Church
A U S T I N

FUMC Weekly

Making Disciples,
Making a Difference

DECEMBER 4, 2016

THIS SUNDAY

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

ADVENT RESOURCES TO GO

Devotional materials and home worship resources are available in the foyer.

SOCK COLLECTION

Place sock donations for our Christmas Eve Breakfast in the collection bins located in the foyer and Family Life Center. We are collecting socks through December 18.

FUMC CHOIR CHRISTMAS CD FOR SALE

"Sing We Now of Christmas," a CD recorded by our FUMC Choir in 2009, is available for purchase in the foyer. Cost is \$15 or two for \$25, with proceeds benefiting our music ministry. Cash and checks accepted.

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 MISSION EMPHASIS

Mobile Loaves & Fishes

The Mobile Loaves & Fishes' downtown Austin truck, based at FUMC, goes out nearly every day of the year to provide meals, clothing and hygiene products to the homeless and working poor in our community. Last year, our Downtown truck provided over 26,000 hearty meals with the help of more than 350 dedicated volunteers. It will cost over \$67,000 to fund this ministry for the next 365 days. Please give generously as we try to make a difference for our friends living on the streets during 2017! You may leave gifts (marked "Mobile Loaves & Fishes") at the communion rail or you may send them to or bring them by the church office. For more information, contact Scott Wilder at swilder21@gmail.com or (512) 971-1525.

SIGN UP FOR



WE ARE BLOOD

DONATION DRIVE

DECEMBER 11, SUNDAY

9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Murchison Chapel

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?

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, visit fumcaustin.org/blood-drive or call Craig at 512-206-1316.

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

DECEMBER

11 Sunday

Blood Donation 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 8:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
fumcaustin.org/pickle

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

22 Thursday

Church Office Closes for Christmas Holiday
12:00 noon, Merry Christmas!

24 Saturday

Christmas Eve Breakfast
6:30 a.m.
Great Hall, Family Life Center

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

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

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

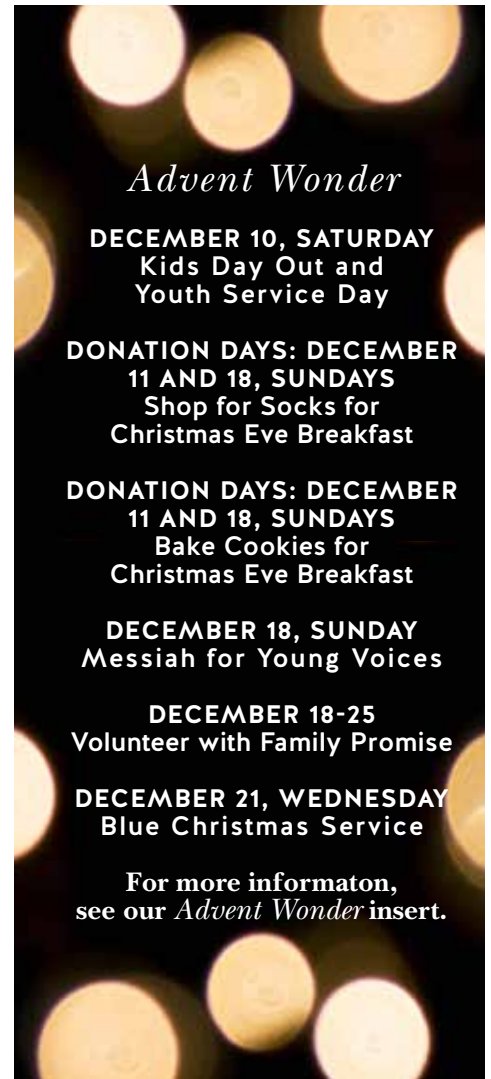
Christmas Eve Candlelight Services
8:00 and 11:00 p.m.
Sanctuary

25 Sunday

Christmas Day Service
11:00 a.m.
Sanctuary

26-29 Monday-Thursday

Church Office Closed for Christmas Holiday
Reopen on January 3



W E E K	4 Sun	Music Makers Rehearsal #SingPraise Rehearsal Advent Sunday School Series Sunday School Classes for All Ages	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Room 108, Education Building Murchison Chapel Wesley Hall Various Locations
	5 Mon	English as a Second Language (ESL) Prodigal Sons Men's Group	10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. 6:30-8:30 p.m.	Family Life Center Room 103, Family Life Center
	6 Tue	Feed My People Breakfast	4:45-7:00 a.m.	Great Hall, Family Life Center
	7 Wed	Deadline for FUMC Weekly and eNews Wednesday Morning Bible Study Handbell Choir Rehearsal FUMC Choir Rehearsal	10:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 6:00-7:00 p.m. 7:00-8:30 p.m.	fumcaustin.org/submissions Room 213, Sanctuary Building Sanctuary Balcony Choir Room, Sanctuary Building
T H I S	8 Thur	Feed My People Breakfast Feed My People Breakfast Worship English as a Second Language (ESL)	4:45-7:00 a.m. 6:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Great Hall, Family Life Center Garrison Chapel, Family Life Center Family Life Center
	10 Sat	Youth Service Day Kids Day Out	8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. 10:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.	University UMC Children's Wing

UPCOMING EVENTS

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, 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 join Saint John's UMC and University UMC to serve breakfast to the community at Open Door and then share lunch together and have fellowship time. All youth are invited to come and serve.

DECEMBER 16, FRIDAY

Pickle Elementary Book Drive and Sale . Pickle Elementary School

As you are clearing space for gifts or out holiday shopping, pick out a 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/or work at the Book Sale. Sign up online at fumcaustin.org/pickle.

DECEMBER 18, SUNDAY

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 Third Sunday . MLF Kitchen . Wesley Hall

This is 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 on our website.

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.

DECEMBER 27, TUESDAY

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

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.

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.

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](http://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

A HOLY HABIT

By Lara Greene



A colleague of mine described ritual as a “holy habit.” I can blame one such habit on my mom. I have vivid memories of my family having an Advent wreath in our home every year before Christmas. Often, it was beautifully set in our dining room with glass ornaments. I recall with great pride when our family stood before the church to light the Advent candle and my parents read the accompanying prayer. Observing Lent and Advent were newer traditions for my lifer-Methodist parents, and I’m not sure we always lit the pink one on the proper week, but I always associated the season with those candles, and knew that Christmas was about something more than my stocking’s surprises. The first year I lived alone, I went from store to store to find a candle wreath, some greenery, and candles for my apartment kitchen table. As a family of one, I found comfort in the ritual of the light and taking time to be with God and reflect for a moment on Christ’s presence. Now, with my family of four, I make sure to bring out our wreath first, and place it in the heart of our home (the crowded, sticky kitchen table) where we can be reminded to stop at least once a week to breathe and pray and connect. I hope to instill in our children an appreciation of stillness, and I hope my mother can look down and be pleased to see the good habit she passed on to her grandchildren.

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.

December 11

Third Sunday of Advent

I Wonder How We Will Know...

Matthew 11:2-11

Taylor Fuerst, Preaching

In Advent, we turn our eyes toward the coming of Christ. What does it look like for Christ to be in our midst? How will we know He is with us? We will ask these questions alongside John the Baptist on this special Sunday as we worship through the service of Advent Lessons and Carols.

December 18

Fourth Sunday of Advent

I Wonder What God Could Do...

Matthew 1:18-25

Taylor Fuerst, Preaching

When the angel appeared to Joseph, he was asked to consider that what God was about to do went far beyond what he could imagine. As we, too, await the coming of Christ, what are the limits God invites us to let go of? On this day, our children's choirs will lead our worship time with a special presentation of Handel's Messiah for young voices, a piece that points us forward to the future culmination of all that God is doing, when all the world will stand and sing, "Hallelujah!"

CHURCH BUSINESS

FUMC ENDOWMENT FUND

- To our Eurasia Mission Team in honor of Bill and Shirley Derryberry for all they do for this ministry, given by Daviss King.
- To our Memorial Gifts Fund in memory of Gazelle Sump, given by Susan Gee.
- To our Mobile Loaves & Fishes Ministry in memory of Gazelle Sump, given by Tom and Robbie Ausley and Laurie Barr.
- To our Music Ministry in memory of Jinks Rector, given by Betsy Armour; Laurie Barr; Enterprise Title; George Electrical Contracting, Inc; E. Christopher Iverson; and Rosemary Johnson.
- To our Reconciling Ministries in memory of Dick Francis, given by Stan and Bergan Casey and Laurie Barr.

Extravagant

GENEROSITY

We celebrated Commitment Sunday by prayerfully making our financial commitments.

To date, we have received 238 commitments totaling \$1,362,242. Commitments are still coming in, but we have already received 26 new commitments and 98 commitments increased over last year. Together, these new and increased commitments total \$158,709 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:

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

PRAYER

WITHIN OUR CONGREGATION

Congratulations to Bennett and Meisa Ezekiel on the birth of their twins. Health: Betty Berkey; Cate George and family; Doug Fraser; Ivan Marks; Andrea Peck; Steven Spears and Rebecca Leonard; and Olivia Weldon. Condolences to Tina Hester on the death of her uncle, Carl Hester. Other: Travis Bias' medical mission to Uganda.

BEYOND OUR CONGREGATION

Nancy Arnold's father, Allen Arnold; Laurie Barr's sister, Karen; Cheryl Bias' niece, Lauren; Richard and Marilyn Bettis' friend, Ronney Reynolds; Fay Brown's sister, Jo Rene Altenburg; Reverend Tina Carter; Doug Chambers' sister, Carol Tomlinson; Earl Crane family for Elise and John Roper; Peggy Davis' friend, Mary Mood; Ann Fields' brother, Charlie Brown; Caroline Greene's friends, the Ancipinks; Cindy Gunderson's friends, Ray and Chris; Howard Hartman's mother, Annabel Hartman; Cassie Helton's mother, Betty Helton; Chris and Jan Higgs' friend, Jimmy Hargraves; Sammy Huffaker's friend, Bill Shults; Amy Hurt's father; Charlotte Lyerly's niece, Tonya Harris; Kelly Mills' mother, Sandra Mills; Julie Nelson's friend, Casey Masters; Riley Nix's grandmother; Delia Peters' mother, Ruby Ybarra; Larry Peters' son, Ryan Peters, and friends, Chuck Roper and Sylvia Smith; Arthur Potts' grandfather, Marvin Henager, and uncle, Eddie Watts; Mary Elizabeth Ramberg for Mother Emmanuel AME Church; Alan Stephens' mother, Genevieve Stephen; Danielle Thoma for the Grafton family; Jason Tremblay; Catherine Waggoner's mother, Jane Olson; Cindy Walter's friend, Ashley; Virginia Wattinger's friend, Nathan Smith; and Dick Young's nephew, Jeff Young. Condolences to Meredith Hucocle on the death of her father.

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