



First United
Methodist Church
A U S T I N

FUMC Weekly

Making Disciples,
Making a Difference

DECEMBER 11, 2016

THIS SUNDAY

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

COOKIE AND SOCK COLLECTION

Place donations for our Christmas Eve Breakfast in the collection bins located in the foyer and Family Life Center. We are collecting cookies and 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.

BLOOD DONATION DRIVE

9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. **Murchison Chapel**

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? Walk-ins welcome.

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.

DECEMBER 18, SUNDAY Messiah for Young Voices

Come to worship and 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 18-25 Sign Up for 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 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.

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

COLD WEATHER SHELTER FOR WOMEN

FUMC provides shelter for women 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, provide/serve dinner, and serve as overnight hosts. To volunteer, sign up on our website.

TUESDAY NIGHTS
WHEN FREEZING

DECEMBER

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



WEEK THIS

11 Sun	Music Makers Rehearsal	9:00 a.m.	Room 108, Education Building
	#SingPraise Rehearsal	9:00 a.m.	Murchison Chapel
	Advent Sunday School Series	10:00 a.m.	Wesley Hall
	Sunday School Classes for All Ages	10:00 a.m.	Various Locations
12 Mon	English as a Second Language (ESL)	10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Family Life Center
	Prodigal Sons Men's Group	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Room 103, Family Life Center
13 Tue	Feed My People Breakfast	4:45-7:00 a.m.	Great Hall, Family Life Center
14 Wed	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
	Handbell Choir Rehearsal	6:00-7:00 p.m.	Sanctuary Balcony
15 Thur	FUMC Choir Rehearsal	7:00-8:30 p.m.	Choir Room, Sanctuary Building
	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
16 Fri	English as a Second Language (ESL)	10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Family Life Center
	Pickle Elementary Book Sale	8:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.	Pickle Elementary School

UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER 16, FRIDAY

Pickle Book Sale . 8:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. 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 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 by 5:45 a.m.; and clean-up begins by 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.

JANUARY 8, SUNDAY

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

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 more 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).

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

SHARING GOD'S LOVE

By Emily Buchanan



Growing up, my family always watched *A Charlie Brown Christmas* to usher in the holiday season. At the time, it felt like a sweet, little, dated cartoon—I mean, who had even heard of aluminum Christmas trees? But in time, I began to understand the show's message of calm amidst the chaos, light in the darkness. Christmas was not about all the hustle and bustle around us, but about the coming of the Christ child. Of course, the busyness of modern Christmas preparations didn't go away once the show was over. But the intention for celebrating the love and joy embodied in Christ always remained.

We shared the love of God in service to others. Some years, we served at the Christmas Eve Brunch for the Homeless (even before it was hosted by FUMC!). Other years, we bought presents for Angel Tree children. But always, we focused on sharing God's love.

We made joyful noise, singing Christmas carols in choirs, and getting a twinkle in our eyes as we sang "Hark the Herald" to each other like the Peanuts gang. We found joy in the mundane preparations—decorating the house, holiday baking, and building gingerbread houses. We spent family time in joyful anticipation.

I wonder what our church could accomplish if we each intentionally chose to share the love and joy of Christ in anticipation of His coming. My experience is that it will bring the Kingdom of God a little closer to home for the holidays.

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

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 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!"

11:00 A.M. SANCTUARY

December 25

Christmas Day

What Child is This?

John 1:1-14

Cathy Stone, Preaching

Come as you are to celebrate the birth of Christ! On this most joyous of days, we will sing familiar carols as we reflect on God incarnate, God with us, Emmanuel. Children are welcome to come just as they are when they tumble out of bed! Appropriate pajamas, bath robes, and slippers are welcome. After the hustle and bustle of the holidays, all are welcome to relax and come casual to church.

CHURCH BUSINESS

NEW MEMBER

December 4



Nancy Gillett

Nancy joined by transfer from another Methodist church.

2017 MINISTRY PLAN

We celebrated Commitment Sunday by prayerfully making our financial commitments. 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.

YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATE

Michelle Cato shared with the youth and their parents that she is making a career change and pursuing teacher certification to teach in the fall. Michelle has been a faithful shepherd of our youth for the last 18 months. We are sad to see her leave the youth ministry staff position, but we are excited to see her live out a new calling while also remaining a beloved member of First Church.

This means the spring will serve as a period of transition for the youth ministry. This transition is an opportunity for our church to take a step back and re-envision the direction of our Youth Ministry before we hire a new director. The pastors will look to the whole congregation to step in and fill the gap this spring while the position is vacant. This is the time when our youth need the congregation's support more than ever! Begin praying now about how you might answer the call to volunteer in youth ministry this spring.

Pastor Taylor will lead a special meeting for parents and volunteers during the youth Christmas Party on December 18 at 4:00 p.m. in Garrison Chapel.

PRAYER

WITHIN OUR CONGREGATION

Congratulations to Ann Young on her retirement.

Health: Betty Berkey; Cate George and family; Andrea Peck; and Virginia Wattinger.

Condolences to the family and friends of Doug Fraser on his death; to Marilyn Good on the death of her brother-in-law, Chuck; to Mary Heckman on the death of her aunt, Helen; to Tina Hester on the death of her brother, Melvin Lunaw; and to Chris and Jan Higgs on the death of Jimmy Hargraves.

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; Peggy Davis' friend, Mary Mood; Ann Fields' brother, Charlie Brown; Howard Hartman's mother, Annabel Hartman; Cassie Helton's mother, Betty Helton; Ken and Susan Hensley's friend, Davis Roberts; Amy Hurt's father; Lauren Jackson's brother, Brady Jackson, and friend, John Horton; Charlotte Lyerly's niece, Tonya Harris; Kelly Mills' mother, Sandra Mills; Riley Nix's grandmother; Delia Peters' mother, Ruby Ybarra; Miranda Reinhard's brother, Jacob; Donna Shands' son, Porter; Alan Stephens' mother, Genevieve Stephen; Jason Tremblay; Carol Walker's family, Nelle and Doyle Hickerson; and Dick Young's nephew, Jeff Young.

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