

Christmas Offering: **WE'RE GOING TO BUY AN RV!**

WHAT?!

We've been growing our partnership with Mobile Loaves & Fishes' innovative residential program called Community First! Village. This 27-acre master-planned community provides affordable, permanent housing and a supportive community for disabled, chronically homeless persons in Central Texas. The village provides a place for our homeless brothers and sisters to heal, to rediscover hope, renew their purpose, and restore their dignity. Most importantly, it's a place they can call home.



WHY AN RV?

For 17 years, Mobile Loaves & Fishes has been lifting up the chronically homeless into gently used RVs located in RV park communities throughout Austin. Today, these homes are now nestled in the Community First! Village, with plans to lift up 250 friends by the end of 2017. Housing at Community First! Village is provided through an innovative mix of affordable housing options in Tiny Houses and RVs.

When we asked our partners at Mobile Loaves & Fishes what they need most, they didn't hesitate: "We need RVs." Other housing options at the village do not include indoor plumbing, so no bathroom or running water. In contrast, RVs are fully refurbished and outfitted to provide an all-in-one home with a bathroom and kitchen, especially convenient for those with more serious disabilities, as well as those who are older and have greater health challenges as a result of living for years on the streets. While Community First! Village has fully funded all other types of housing, they still need many more RVs to provide homes for those in greatest need.

WHAT WILL IT TAKE?

The cost of an RV is \$25,000. While we know we're asking you to give beyond your regular offering, we know that your generosity toward those in need is unparalleled. This Christmas, you are invited to do what we do best—turn outward to our community, bind together, and do something that will change someone's life forever. Join us in this partnership with Community First! Village to house some of our most vulnerable neighbors.

Your gifts, marked "Christmas Offering," may be placed in the offering plate, brought by or sent to the church office, or made online at fumcaustin.org/rv. Funds received in excess of our goal will help support our Emergency Assistance Fund, which is necessary to serve our neighbors in 2017.

One of our members has challenged us to meet our \$25,000 RV goal by matching your gifts now through December 27, up to our goal. To date, \$14,954 has been raised toward our goal, with \$10,046 remaining. Help provide permanent housing for a disabled, chronically homeless person by going beyond your church offering to give a Christmas gift with a match!

Welcome

Welcome to First United Methodist Church of Austin. We are thankful you have chosen to worship with us on Christmas Eve and pray that we have been a blessing to you. FUMC provides many opportunities to get involved and participate in the life of the church.

SUNDAY WORSHIP . 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

Worship is at the heart of all we do. Sermons by our pastors are biblically centered, seeking to inspire, uplift, inform, and challenge us to be faithful disciples who make a difference in our world. Childcare is provided on Sunday mornings, but children are welcome to attend either service. Parents with infants and toddlers may use our Family Room located in the balcony.

Rev. Taylor Fuerst is the principal preacher for our services, in which the best of United Methodist tradition is in dialogue with contemporary issues. Music is an important element in each service – with newer hymns and songs sung at the early 9:00 a.m. service and classic hymns and a full choir at the 11:00 a.m. service. Holy Communion is celebrated every week at the 9:00 a.m. service and on the first Sunday of the month at the 11:00 a.m. service.

SUNDAY SCHOOL . 9:45 a.m.

Adult Sunday School is a time-honored tradition at FUMC. Sunday School is the place where people learn about Christian faith in a loving, supportive environment. Our classes a wide selection of age groups, study topics, and learning styles. Most are a mixture of single and married people. Calling all young couples! A new Sunday School class is forming, and we want you to join us for fellowship, friendship, and fun! Join us for our first meeting on February 5 in Room 109 of the Family Life Center. For more information, contact Kaycee Crisp at kayceecrisp@gmail.com.

Youth Sunday School begins at 9:45 a.m. to wake up with fellowship, study, and donuts! We gather for music and announcements in the Great Hall of the Family Life Center, then split into middle school and high school groups to awaken to God's word.

Children's Sunday School, led by volunteer church members, is offered to children beginning at age 3 years through 5th grade. Curriculum is selected to introduce age-appropriate Bible stories. A cornerstone of grades 3-5 is making and selling Manna Bags of nonperishable goods for distribution to our homeless neighbors.

ADULTS

As part of our shared journey, Adult Discipleship classes of varying lengths, schedules, and subject matters are offered throughout the year. Formats for these classes include Bible studies, book studies, group discussions, guest speakers, prayer circles, physical exercise and meditation, and other creative ways to learn about our faith, other faiths, historical perspectives, and current events.

fumcaustin.org/adults fumcaustin.org/sundayschool

YOUTH

Our youth program provides worship, programming, trips, retreats, fun nights, and Bible studies for youth grades 6-12. We seek to grow love toward God and toward each other by cultivating a community of faith and friendship.

fumcaustin.org/youth

CHILDREN

Children are a part of our church family and we share the responsibility for nurturing their spiritual needs. Making disciples who make a difference – we work to reach out to receive all children, to help them relate their lives to God through Jesus Christ, and to help them grow in Christian faith.

fumcaustin.org/children

WHAT WE BELIEVE

We believe every person is a beloved child of God, on a journey to God, with God.

We freely admit we do not have all the answers, but we believe that Jesus points the way.

When we practice genuine hospitality, engage in heartfelt acts of service, and embrace the gifts of people from different backgrounds, the church becomes the authentic expression of God's unconditional love for us all.

JANUARY 8, SUNDAY EPIPHANY PARTY



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 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).

10:00-10:45 A.M.
FAMILY LIFE CENTER