

DECEMBER 24, THURSDAY

Christmas Eve Breakfast for the Homeless

This year's breakfast will be held from 6:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. Our guests will enjoy coffee upstairs with 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 church family have made this a significant part of their Christmas season. Come join the celebration! Volunteers are needed to:

- Help decorate, prepare food, and set up between 5:00 and 8:00 p.m. on December 23.
- Help prepare food, serve guests (breakfast is served restaurant style), and clean-up on December 24, with shifts between 5:00 and 11:00 a.m.
- Volunteer on a prayer team and/or a Christmas card team.

Volunteer information is found on the sign-up page at fumcaustin.org. There are limited serving spots available, so sign-up today! For more information, contact Doise Miers at doisemiers@gmail.com or Pastor Cathy Stone at cathy@fumcaustin.org or 512-478-5684 (ext. 215).

COLD WEATHER SHELTER FOR WOMEN

During the winter months, FUMC participates in this program through Front Steps at the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless (ARCH). Our church provides shelter for up to 25 women on Tuesday nights 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 our guests, provide/serve dinner, and serve as overnight hosts. To volunteer, sign up on our website.

COOKIE BAKERS

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) 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 13 and 20. For more information, contact Doise Miers at doisemiers@gmail.com.

SOCK COLLECTION

We are collecting new, white, adult-sized tube socks to give to our homeless neighbors at our Christmas Eve Breakfast for the Homeless. As you are out shopping, consider picking up a bag or two of white, adult-sized tube socks. Place your donations in the collection bins located in the foyers of the Chapel, Sanctuary, and Family Life Center on December 6, 13, and 20. Donations may also be brought to the church office Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.



www.fumcaustin.org

My Heart, His Manger



*Christmas—a Holy Birth
in Bethlehem,
and in us!*

Prepare Your Heart

SUNDAYS OF ADVENT

On the four Sundays of Advent we will prepare our hearts for a Holy Birth not only in the past, but also in the present and the future.

November 29: First Sunday of Advent

Scripture: Luke 21:25-28

Sermon: "The Ultimate Birth"

December 6: Second Sunday of Advent

Scripture: James 5:7-8

Sermon: "Waiting for the Birth"

December 13: Third Sunday of Advent

Scripture: Luke 3:1-18

Sermon: "Midwives of the Birth"

December 20: Fourth Sunday of Advent

Scripture Luke 2:1-5

Sermon: "Late to Bethlehem; On Time for the Birth"

DECEMBER 13, SUNDAY

Advent Lessons & Carols . 6:00 P.M.

This year's annual hour-long service of Lessons & Carols will return to an evening setting with candlelight ambience. Seven scripture lessons will be interspersed with traditional and contemporary Christmas carols sung by the congregation, with anthems presented by our chapel ensemble, children's choir, sanctuary choir, and sanctuary handbells. Families will be invited to come to the communion rail for prayer, and each household will be given a Christmas tree ornament that expresses our Advent theme, "My Heart, His Manger."

DECEMBER 24, THURSDAY

Scripture Luke 2:1-20

Sermon: "My Heart, His Manger"

• 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.

• 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.

• Children's 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.

• Candles & Communion

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.

Fill Your Heart

DECEMBER 5, SATURDAY

Holiday Stroll Outreach

Help Austin discover FUMC and make us home for the holidays. 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 music, booth visiting, and general holiday cheer. FUMC welcomes event attendees with music on the front steps, hot chocolate and cookies, and a welcome family-friendly restroom stop. Be part of this hospitality team that chats with visitors, serves coffee, bakes cookies, sets up, and tears down. Shifts between 5:00 and 8:00 p.m. Childcare will be available for children under five years. Crafts, holiday movies, service activities, and story-reading, will be provided for children while a parent serves on the outside team. To learn more or to sign up, contact Marilyn Good at marilyn@fumcaustin.org or 512-478-5684 (ext. 204).

DECEMBER 12, SATURDAY

Kids Day Out . 10:00 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.

We will have a "Kids' Day" for a small fee. While parents enjoy a morning out, children play, eat pizza, make holiday crafts, 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 childcarefumc@yahoo.com no later than the Wednesday prior to the event.

DECEMBER 13, SUNDAY

Children's Nativity . 10:00 A.M.

Join our Children's Choir in the Murchison Chapel as they retell the story of the birth of Jesus through singing, reading, and acting. All children are invited to participate in the retelling of the nativity story. For more information or for any questions, contact Wendi Olinger at wolinger@gmail.com or 512-769-3421.

Open Your Heart

DECEMBER 5, SATURDAY

FreeStore . 9:00 - 11:00 A.M. / 11:30 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

FUMC will be serving at the FreeStore on Saturday, December 5 (rather than our usual 4th Saturday). The FreeStore connects people who need and people who need to give, through weekly opportunities to shop for free clothing and household items while creating opportunities for all people to live in community with one another. To volunteer, sign up on our website.

DECEMBER 13 - 19, SUNDAY - SATURDAY

Family Promise

Family Promise is a shelter program of Foundation for the Homeless that provides transitional shelter for families experiencing homelessness. The goal of this program is to assist families, through case management, in finding housing and employment. FUMC provides a place four to five times each year for families experiencing homelessness. To volunteer, sign up on our website.