

Extravagant GENEROSITY

Extravagant Generosity. You have heard the phrase before—we use these words often in the Church to express our call to mirror God’s generosity toward us. Perhaps you have witnessed ordinary saints whose lives reflect such generosity: they are rooted in gratitude and love for God and others, inspired by God’s vision for the future, and fully committed to see that vision come to pass. The coming season offers us an opportunity to cultivate such generosity in our own lives—to grow in our perspective and our practice of generosity. Our hope is that you will engage in this opportunity during our church-wide emphasis, Extravagant Generosity.

AN INVITATION TO RESPOND

Throughout our Fall Generosity Emphasis, “Heart Cards” will be made available to you through the mail or in worship. Each Sunday, you are invited to share your thoughts about what it is you love about our church, how a person has shaped your spiritual journey, and what your visions and hopes are for the church. We will be posing a new question each week throughout this season and asking you to respond in worship and online. These cards will be displayed at places throughout the church, so we can share and celebrate our church.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

October 23

Extravagant Generosity, “Inspired by Vision”

Matthew 14:13-21

Heart Card: Visions and Hopes for My Church

October 30

Extravagant Generosity, “Driven by Commitment”

Genesis 12:1-4

Commitment Sunday

SUNDAY SCHOOL SERIES

October 16 and 23

10:00 a.m. Wesley Hall

During the month of October, all are invited to participate in a study of *The Grace of Giving: The Practice of Extravagant Generosity*. Through the practice of generosity, we offer our material resources in a manner that supports the causes that transform life, relieve suffering, enlarge the soul and sustain the spirit. We give back. Join us as together we explore the personal side of extravagant generosity and ways we can grow in the grace of giving. This series will be led by Pastor Cathy Stone and Cindy Walter.



October 30

All are invited to celebrate our commitment and growth in generosity at our church-wide picnic on the Capitol lawn after the 11:00 service.

Bring a picnic blanket and come prepared to purchase lunch from Austin food vendors. Have a favorite outdoor game to share with others? Feel free to bring games—washers, kickball, or even a soccer ball—as we gather together for fellowship and fun!

To help us estimate a head count for food vendors, please register by October 20 at www.fumcaustin.org/picnic.

TOWARD THE BELOVED COMMUNITY

– Martin Luther King, Jr.

In the Beloved Community, poverty, hunger, and homelessness will not be tolerated because international standards of human decency will not allow it. Racism and all forms of discrimination, bigotry and prejudice will be replaced by an all-inclusive spirit of sisterhood and brotherhood.

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THINGS I LOVE ABOUT MY CHURCH

CHILDREN

Eleanor, age 6 (almost 7)

How the choir sings, how the organist plays, Manna Bags, and Vacation Bible School.

Max, age 12

The nice Sunday School teachers, Sunday School games, fun mission trips, and Camp Tejas.

Sean, age 8

I'm grateful for the pastors, the organist, the bell players, the teachers, the acolytes, the children's and adult choirs, and much much more!

YOUTH

Hart

I like that we can all feel accepted and loved.

Lucy

The fun games and the nice friends. I feel safe here.

Sean

I love Youth because it's so fun and friendly. We play games, sing songs, worship, and eat. It's super awesome and I love everything about it.

ADULT

Anonymous

Our music program. This is the first reason I joined FUMC. The supportive people through joys, illness, commitments, most of all friendships!

Anonymous

There are so many classes, programs, and events for every member of the church. I love that we embrace all. The people are awesome - clergy and parishioners. It is a safe place to cry when you need to.

Anonymous

I am grateful for the diversity of this congregation. For my children to be exposed to this diversity in backgrounds, economics, and beliefs.

Anonymous

I am grateful for the adults at FUMC who love, accept, and support my children. The Sunday School teachers, ASP leaders, youth leaders, and catechism leaders invest their time and surround my children (new adults) to ensure that they know God and others love them.

Brad

I love that this church is so welcoming of LGBT people like me. I feel like I have so much support here and outside of church from the people here. I love that this church is so supportive of the arts. It allows me a chance to share my gifts. I also love that this church is not just what happens on Sunday morning. It does outreach to the homeless and does the Appalachian project. I am impressed with everything that happens here.

Daviss

I love that my church challenges me! My church challenges me to grow! My church challenges me to be compassionate! My church challenges me to be involved! My church challenges me to be generous!

Michael

The message of God's grace - welcoming and liberating - and the ways we live it out in mercy, justice, discipleship, worship, and acceptance. We teach a faith that engages mind and heart. We explore questions instead of settling for shallow answers.