



First United
Methodist Church
A U S T I N

FUMC Weekly

Making Disciples,
Making a Difference

DECEMBER 10, 2017

THIS SUNDAY

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

COOKIE AND SOCK COLLECTIONS

Foyer and Family Life Center

Place cookie and sock donations for our Christmas Breakfast for the Homeless in the collection bins. We are collecting through December 17.

"WE ARE BLOOD" DONATION DRIVE

9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Bloodmobile, Family Life Center



Blood donations have long been considered one of the easiest volunteer actions a person could make. Where else can you lay back for a few minutes and make a huge difference for others and receive juice and cookies for your efforts? The holiday season is a critical time for blood donations. Walk-ins welcome.

ADVENT STUDY: LISTENING WITH HOPE

10:00 a.m. Wesley Hall

Moving toward the longest night of the year, the light diminishes and we enter the season of waiting. We must listen in the darkness as we hope for a sign of the returning light and joy. Join Pastor Cathy Stone and Amy Wink in exploring the season of Advent through song and conversation as we listen with hope for the sounds of God with us.

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER STUDY

12:15-2:00 p.m. Room 212, Sanctuary Building

Does the holiday season leave you frazzled and longing for some quiet space to connect with God's Spirit? Come learn about and "practice" contemplative prayer and explore Richard Rohr's *Everything Belongs: The Gift of Contemplative Prayer*. This study is led by Reverend Mimi Raper, retired clergy and former associate pastor at FUMC.

AUDIO/VISUAL TEAM

Rescheduled to December 17. 12:15 p.m. Balcony, Sanctuary



Each year we remember that Advent is a season of anticipation. We anticipate the coming celebration of Christ's birth, and we anticipate Christ's return—the time when God will restore all things through God's own loving presence. In Christmas, we remember that God chooses to be with us, and that God's presence truly changes lives. We get to join God in changing lives each year through our Christmas Offering.

This year, led by Bishop Robert Schnase and joining with the Rio Texas Conference, we have chosen to change the lives of young people in one of the poorest regions of our state by giving to the Lydia Patterson Institute. Your gifts, marked "Christmas Offering," may be left at the communion rail, dropped in the offering plate, mailed to or brought by the church office, made online at fumcaustin.org/christmasoffering, or text FUMCAUSTIN to 73256.

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

17 Sunday

Chapel Service

9:00 a.m.

Murchison Chapel

Carols and Lullabies of the Southwest

9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

Sanctuary

Advent Study: Listening with Hope

10:00 a.m.

Wesley Hall

Children's Choir Presentation

10:00 a.m.

Sanctuary

Audio/Visual Team

12:15 p.m.

Sanctuary Balcony

Contemplative Prayer Study

12:15-2:00 p.m.

Room 212, Sanctuary Building

21 Thursday

Church Office Closes for Christmas Holiday

1:00 p.m.

Blue Christmas Service

7:00 p.m.

Murchison Chapel

24 Sunday

Christmas Eve Morning Service

11:00 a.m.

Sanctuary

Christmas Eve Family Service

4:00 p.m.

Sanctuary

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

8:00 and 11:00 p.m.

Sanctuary

25-1 Monday-Monday

Church Office Closed for Christmas Holiday

Reopen on January 2

26 Tuesday

Christmas Breakfast for the Homeless

6:30 a.m.

Great Hall, Family Life Center

End of Year Giving Hours

10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Ring bell at North Entrance

27 Wednesday

End of Year Giving Hours

10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Ring bell at North Entrance

28 Thursday

End of Year Giving Hours

10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Ring bell at North Entrance

29 Friday

End of Year Giving Hours

10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Ring bell at North Entrance

31 Sunday

Weekly Worship Services

9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

Sanctuary

Service Projects Sunday

10:00 a.m.

Wesley Hall

ADVENT OPPORTUNITIES

DECEMBER 16, SATURDAY Christmas Caroling at Brookdale

1:00 p.m. Brookdale Senior Living

DECEMBER 17, SUNDAY Carols and Lullabies of the Southwest

9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary

Children's Choir Presents: Come to the Manger

10:00 a.m. Sanctuary

Cookie and Sock Collections for Christmas Breakfast

Collection Bins

Youth Engage: Christmas Party

4:30-7:00 p.m. Family Life Center

For more about these and other Advent opportunities, see the insert.

WEEK THIRDS

10 Sun	"We Are Blood" Donation Drive	9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	Family Life Center
	Advent Study: Listening with Hope	10:00 a.m.	Wesley Hall
	Sunday School Classes for All Ages	10:00 a.m.	Various Locations
	Children's Choir Rehearsal	12:15 p.m.	Choir Room, Sanctuary Building
	Contemplative Prayer Study	12:15-2:00 p.m.	Room 212, Sanctuary Building
	Engage for Youth	4:30-7:00 p.m.	Family Life Center
11 Mon	English as a Second Language (ESL)	10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Family Life Center
13 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	6:15-7:15 p.m.	Sanctuary Balcony
	FUMC Choir Rehearsal	7:00-8:30 p.m.	Choir Room, Sanctuary Building
14 Thur	Feed My People Breakfast Worship	6:30 a.m.	Garrison Chapel, Family Life Center
	English as a Second Language (ESL)	10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Family Life Center
16 Sat	Christmas Caroling at Brookdale	1:00 p.m.	4401 Spicewood Springs
	Lynching Remembrance Project	1:00-3:00 p.m.	Wesley UMC, 1164 San Bernard Street

UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER 16, SATURDAY

Lynching Remembrance Project . 1:00-3:00 p.m. Wesley UMC

Lynching Remembrance Project for Travis County will hold an unveiling of a historical marker and a ceremony as a part of a larger Remembrance Project sponsored by the Equal Justice Initiative. This marker honors the unnamed victims of racial terror lynchings here in Travis County and acknowledges the horrors of racial injustice, the awareness of their legacy, and begins the necessary conversation to confront the ongoing challenges of racial inequality. The ceremony includes music, speakers, and a presentation of the winners of a high school essay contest. A reception will follow.

DECEMBER 31, SUNDAY

Service Projects Sunday . 10:00 a.m. Wesley Hall

Let us end the year caring for our neighbors! All ages and stages are invited to gather for conversation and projects that will make a difference in the world.

JANUARY 7, 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 involved? Bring some breakfast food items to share or bake special Epiphany muffins. Sign up at fumcaustin.org/epiphany.

JANUARY 22, MONDAY

Registration and Payment Deadline for Pre-teen Sexuality Workshop



All children ages 10, 11, and 12 and their parents are invited to our Pre-teen Sexuality Workshop: *Wonderfully Made* on February 2 and 3. The preteen years are tough. Changes are happening to bodies, minds, and emotions which make it hard to know exactly what is going on. This workshop, led by Reverend Tanya Campen, co-author of the book *Wonderfully Made*, provides the opportunity to ask questions about growing up and get faith-based answers. The curriculum covers physical development and spiritual connection while helping pre-teens establish a foundation for their life in Christ. The cost is \$50. Register online at www.fumcaustin.org/preteenworkshop.

JANUARY 26, FRIDAY AND JANUARY 27, SATURDAY

Women's Slumber Party . 7:00 p.m. Family Life Center



All women (ages 18 and older and out of high school) are invited to spend a fun evening chatting, eating, playing games, and watching chick-flicks! We will spend the night and then share a simple breakfast on Saturday morning, followed by a short worship service and Communion. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet all the great women you see on Sundays singing in the choir, sitting near you at worship, and teaching Sunday School.

Register online at www.fumcaustin.org/slumberparty. If you are interested in helping organize this event in development, contact Ann Young at annyoung73@gmail.com or 512-517-2212.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THESE EVENTS AND ALL CHURCH NEWS,
PLEASE VISIT www.fumcaustin.org.

Reserve meeting space and AV equipment by contacting Marilyn Good
at marilyn@fumcaustin.org or 512-478-5684 (ext. 204).

Submit content for FUMC Weekly / eNews
using submission form at fumcaustin.org/submissions.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED...

AUDIO/VISUAL TEAM

Help lead worship by serving on this team. Learn how to run the slide presentation and sound for worship. Familiarity with PowerPoint and experience with sound systems or setting up microphones is helpful. We will teach you. Come for training next Sunday, December 17, at 12:15 p.m. in the Sanctuary Balcony. To RSVP or for more information, contact Kim Block at kpblock@austin.rr.com.

CHURCH OFFICE

Data Entry

Duties for this position require coming in once a week either on Tuesdays or Wednesdays for 1 to 1 ½ hours.

Front Desk Receptionist

Duties for this position include answering the phone, greeting members and clients to make them feel welcome, providing information, and some light office work. We are looking for someone who is friendly and approachable. Shifts are Monday-Wednesday from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. or 1:00-5:00 p.m. and Thursday 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

If you are interested in volunteering in the church office, contact Marcia Houston at marcia@fumcaustin.org or 512-478-5684 (ext. 200) or Laurie Barr at laurie@fumcaustin.org or 512-478-5684 (ext. 202).

CIVILIAN AV TEAM

Calling all tech savvy adults, youth, and children - or those who want to learn - to join this team. We want to capture more fun, short videos and vines of the people and happenings of our church. We can train you to use iMovie and then set you free to document FUMC. Flexible time requirement. Interested? Contact Mary Heckmann at mary@fumcaustin.org.

CHURCH NEWS

FUMC ENDOWMENT FUND

■ In memory of Gwen Becker, given by Noble and Sharon Doss.

■ In memory of Jerry Berger, given by Tami Kellberg and Sally Watkins.

GIFT TO FUMC

■ To our Manna Bag Ministry in honor of Tamara Golden, given by an anonymous donor.

SIGN UP FOR 2018 ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar flower dates for 2018 are being filled, so now is the time to sign up. Honor someone you love and appreciate, remember a departed loved one, or celebrate special days or events in your life or the life of the church. Arrangement cost is \$65. Contact Tami Kellberg at tami@fumcaustin.org or 512-478-5684 (ext. 226).

PRAYER

WITHIN OUR CONGREGATION

Health: Bill Berger; Laura Carpenter; Bob Folk; Tom and Pam Jackson; Andrea Peck; Ruth Randolph; Gris and George Anne Rogers; Anna Sneed; Irma Dean Soward; and Bill Thurman.

Condolences: to the families and friends of Jerry Berger on her death.

Other: Pastors and Deacons.

BEYOND OUR CONGREGATION

Arthur Asika's son, Steve Asika; Cheryl Bias' niece, Lauren; Fay Brown's sister, Jo Rene Altenburg; Reverend Tina Carter; Molly Drazic's cousin, Dorothy H. Butler; Bennett and Meisa Ezekiel's friend, Dev Reddy; George and Marianne Gaston's daughter, Robyn Riojas; the Wayne Greene family for son and brother, Michael Greene; Cindy Gunderson's friends, Kelly and Gretchen; Cassie Helton's friend, Emeline Hood; Jan Morris' parents, Lane and Marian Moore; Colleen Payne's sister, Kelli; Dianne Render's sister-in-law, Penny Burns; Justin and Erin Scarth's friend, Lisa Whatley; Alan Stephens' father, Carl Stephens; and Dick Young's nephew, Jeff Young.

STEPHEN MINISTRY



Stephen Ministers care for people dealing with convalescence, divorce, financial struggles, grief, hospitalization, job loss, loneliness, terminal illness, and other life difficulties. If you are dealing with some type of crisis or difficulty in life, email stephenministry@fumcaustin.org and ask about speaking with a Stephen Minister. All contacts are completely confidential.

END OF YEAR GIVING REMINDER

Our church office will be closed December 22-January 1, but Tom Mays and Laurie Barr are available to accept year-end gifts on December 26, 27, and 28 from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. and on December 29 from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Ring the bell at the preschool entrance to let them know you are in the parking lot.

Please note that IRS regulations require that contributions for 2017 must be mailed and postmarked no later than December 31, 2017. Contributions received on January 1 or in the mail and postmarked in 2018 will be considered 2018 gifts regardless.

FAITH IN ACTION THROUGH THE YEARS

By Peggy Davis



As a lifelong member of FUMC, I grew up watching my dad as he faithfully ushered every Sunday. I realized at a young age what an important role this was in the church. He went on to become the head usher here for more than 30 years and took his role very seriously. He recruited many young men (it was only men at that time!) as they became teenagers, several of them being my classmates in Sunday School. On Christmas Eve I was at church with my dad and watched admiringly as he greeted, welcomed, and seated churchgoers for the service.

During my teenage years, I realized it was a part of me to serve in some way so my mother and I became communion stewards. We did this for several years. Then some 20+ years ago, still feeling the need to serve, I told the head usher to let me know if they needed help ushering and collecting the offering. He did and, as they say, "the rest is history." What a gift he gave me by letting me participate in this very special and important part of my Sunday mornings at church. I love being in the foyer to meet and greet regulars as well as the newcomers.

I have watched families as their infants grow up and have children of their own. Greeting and ushering on Sunday has truly been a ministry for me. I try to put myself in the place of a newcomer walking in the door and how important it is to have a friendly face smiling back and saying "good morning, welcome!"