



Poinsettias on the communion rails, around the trees, in the foyers... a great way to celebrate someone you love or who is now in God's hands.

The cost is \$11 for each plant that is florist quality and great for replanting. You may order poinsettias by turning in the form below, by contacting Tami Kellberg at [tami@fumcaustin.org](mailto:tami@fumcaustin.org) or 512-478-5684 (ext. 226), or online at [fumcaustin.org/poinsettia](http://fumcaustin.org/poinsettia).

Orders must be turned in by 12:00 noon today. Plants can be picked up after worship on Sunday, December 23, and Christmas Eve, December 24.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of donor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone number (in case of questions)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Amount enclosed (make check payable to FUMC)

The poinsettia is in memory of \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The poinsettia is in honor of \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



We all know the main characters—Jesus, Mary, Joseph, a donkey—but what about the lesser-known characters of the Christmas story? You know, the ones standing outside the stable—who are they and how does their journey of waiting, struggling, and proclaiming speak to us as we, too, await the birth of hope in a dark time? Join us in worship this Advent as we sidle up with the supporting cast and watch what God is about to do.

**December 16**

The Angels



**December 23**

The Innkeeper

Guest Preacher:

Reverend John McMullen



**December 24**

The Shepherds



**December 30**

Simeon

## CHRISTMAS OFFERING

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, a gift to which we contribute beyond our regular giving for the year. This year, our offering will go toward two efforts—one local and the other global.

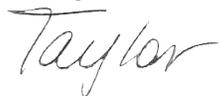
First, we will contribute locally toward the work of Austin Region Justice for Our Neighbors (ARJFON), a hospitality ministry of the United Methodist Church that welcomes immigrants by providing free or low-cost, expert immigration legal services to low-income immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers. We recently learned of ARJFON's need for additional funds to hire expert witnesses to testify in cases of asylum seekers. These expert witnesses make a tangible difference. Last year, every case that included an expert witness ended favorably for the client. In cases without an expert witness, the client only won one case out of three. Our help can literally change someone's life by directly supporting their legal case.

Second, we will devote a portion of our Christmas offering to support our apportionments, the gift we make to support the wider ministry of the United Methodist Church. We make this gift with the belief that it is more important than ever to support the good that is possible through our worldwide connection. Our apportionments fund ministry for the whole denomination, across the world. For example, the General Board of Church and Society provides a witness as the only non-governmental building on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. Through our ministry in that space, staff members organize and advocate for policies that align with the United Methodist Social Principles. They organize and host coalitions that have developed policies such as the Americans with Disabilities Act; they advocate directly with legislators to prevent war and to provide affordable health care for all Americans. Right now, they are educating and advocating on our behalf for holistic immigration reform that addresses the root causes of the immigration crisis. These are only a few examples of the many ways our apportionments reach around the world to make a difference.

Our mission is both local and global; God works through individual churches and entire denominations; God's love transforms individual lives and complex systems. I pray that you will join me in this effort of joining God's transformation this Christmas.

You can make your gift anytime between now and the end of the year by marking your gift "Christmas Offering" and dropping it in the offering plate, or going online at [fumcaustin.org/christmasoffering](http://fumcaustin.org/christmasoffering).

With great love,



Pastor Taylor



### Noon Worship Service 12:00 p.m.

#### EDU Murchison Chapel

For those who are ready to celebrate the birth of Christ early in the day, this traditional service features carols, scripture reading, and Holy Communion. 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.

### Family Worship Service 4:00 p.m.

#### Sanctuary

Experience the traditions of Christmas carols, the Nativity story, Holy Communion, and a candlelit *Silent Night* in this 45-minute worship service designed especially for families with young children. Toward the end of the service, children are invited to enjoy a special treat in Wesley Hall while parents experience time for quiet reflection in the Sanctuary. *Childcare provided.*

### Candlelight Worship Services 6:00, 8:00, and 11:00 p.m.

#### Sanctuary

These traditional services feature carols, choral offerings, scripture, Holy Communion, and candle lighting to celebrate Christ's birth. *Childcare provided at the 6:00 and 8:00 p.m. services only.*