BIRTHDAY BLESSING
Let us pray:
God, our gracious Creator,
we give you thanks for the gift of life
to these who celebrate their birthdays in February.
Grant that they may make this new year in their lives
an offering that will enrich your world
and give you glory.
Cause them to grow in wisdom and grace
and strengthen their trust in your goodness
all the days of their lives; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.
The Book of Common Prayer, 1979, alt.

GOING OUT TO SERVE

* BENEDICTION

* HYMN 111   How Can We Name a Love

CLOSING MUSIC  +  +  +

CHANCEL FLOWERS
The flowers are placed by Bob and Nancy Leeper in honor
of their son, Andrew, on his 43rd birthday.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher
Rev. Taylor Fuerst

Liturgists
Rev. Michael Mumme
Rev. Cathy Stone

Music Director/Organist
Scott Davis

Handbell Director
Shirley Derryberry

WORSHIP MUSIC
Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow
Words: Thomas Ken, adapt. by Gilbert H. Viera
Adapt. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House
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SUNDAY PARKING
The church parking lot is reserved for mobility-impaired
individuals. All able-bodied members are asked to use the
free parking available on Sundays in the Texas Trial Lawyer’s
Association garage at the southwest corner of 13th and Lavaca
Streets and at open meters around the church.

SUNDAY SCHOOL
10:00-10:45 A.M.

ADULTS
Sunday School is the place where people learn about
Christian faith in a loving, supportive environment.
Our classes offer adults a wide selection of age groups,
study topics, and learning styles. Learn more at
fumcaustin.org/sundayschool.

YOUTH
Youth from 6th through 12th grades are invited to wake
up with fellowship, study, and donuts! We gather in
the Great Hall of the Family Life Center for music and
announcements, then split into middle school and high
school groups to awaken to God’s word. Learn more at
fumcaustin.org/youth.

CHILDREN
For children ages 3 through 5th grade, we offer weekly
guided Christian education, led by volunteer church
members. Children are grouped by age and grade.
Children’s classes are located on the first floor of the
Education Building. Learn more at fumcaustin.org/children.

ONLINE GIVING
We offer two convenient ways to give online: (1) make an
online donation at fumcaustin.org/giving and/or (2) text
FUMCAUSTIN (all caps) to 73256 on your smartphone and
follow the prompts. Once your number is registered, future
gifts are easier to make.

OUR INVITATION
Because we believe that every person is a beloved child of
God, on a journey to God, with God, we welcome ALL people,
without exception, to participate fully in the life of this church.

OUR MISSION
First United Methodist Church exists to build a community
where all people are invited to know God’s love and sent
to join God in transforming the world.

OUR VALUES
Justice. Working to eradicate injustice for the excluded and
marginalized. Bridge-Building. Nurturing multigenerational
friendships and community partnerships. Storytelling. Sharing
our stories of faith and of growth. Active Learning. Pursuing
knowledge and understanding of God. Service. Seeking mutually
empowering service opportunities. Constructive Disruption.
Disrupting systems of power to create positive change.

OUR FAMILIES
We love children in worship. Activity clipboards for children
are available in the Sanctuary Foyer. Our Family Room in the
balcony offers rockers, books, toys, and a diaper change station
for parents with infants and toddlers. Childcare is also available
for children through age 5 in EDU Rooms 102-104.
GATHERING AS THE CHURCH
Asterisks (*) indicate an invitation to stand as you are able.

OPENING MUSIC

GREETING
All are invited to greet those around them and to fill out the Connections Card.

Response: I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord!”
Psalm 122:1

ENTERING THE HOLY

INTROIT  Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown  Trad. Scottish Melody

Come, O thou Traveler unknown, whom still I hold, but cannot see! My company before is gone, and I am left alone with thee. With thee all night I mean to stay, and wrestle till the break of day. ‘Tis Love! ‘tis Love! Thou diest for me, I hear thy whisper in my heart. The morning breaks, the shadows flee, pure, Universal Love thou art, to me, to all, thy mercies move; thy nature and thy name is Love.
Charles Wesley

CALL TO WORSHIP
Beloved Ones, the God who is love welcomes you here. Each of us is received with joy in this place. This community is held in the embrace of God. We are celebrated by our Creator, delighted in by God and one another. Because God has practiced love on our behalf, so we seek to practice love of one another. Through our actions, we will testify each and everyone one of us is beloved.

HYMN
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

OPENING PRAYER

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM  See Insert
Conley and McCall Green

ANTHEM  God So Loved the World  John Stainer
God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that who so believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God sent not his son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.
John 3:16,17

HEARING GOD’S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION
O Lord, your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Give us grace to receive your truth in faith and love, and strength to follow on the path you set before us; Through Jesus Christ.
Amen.

SCRIPTURE
1 John 4:7-12  New Testament, page 223

HYMN 560 Help Us Accept Each Other
Stanzas 1 and 2 sung seated as the children come forward.

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

HYMN 560 Help Us Accept Each Other
Stanzas 3 and 4 sung seated as the children return to their seats.

SERMON
Life in the Family Circus

RESPONDING IN FAITH

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

THE LORD’S PRAYER
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE FAITH JOURNEY
Are you interested in joining FUMC? Prior to joining, we ask all to participate in a First Steps Class to learn about United Methodist beliefs and the ministry of FUMC, meet the pastors and other members, and ask questions. The next class is today at 12:15 p.m. in FLC Garrison Chapel. To sign up, fill out the Connections Card and bring it with you to class.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

OFFERTORY  Canticle of Hope  Cynthia Dobrinski

*PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING
As we sing the following, those with birthdays in February are invited to come forward for a prayer of blessing.

*HYMN
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling  See Insert