United Methodists believe each of us is called to participate in the outreaching ministry of Jesus Christ. John Wesley described this work in simple, practical terms: “Do all the good you can, in all the places you can, to all the people you can.” Here are ways you can do good, in a variety of places, with many different people this summer. All are family friendly, except when otherwise noted. Sign up is required for all events at fumcaustin.org/summer.

**JULY**

**JULY 19**
9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.  
**Vacation Bible School (VBS) Workday**  
Help us transform our Sanctuary and hallways for VBS: Mars and Beyond! We gather to paint, cut, and assemble decorations. Whether or not you consider yourself creative, we have a job for you! Childcare available.

**JULY 20**
10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.  
**Vacation Bible School (VBS) Workday**  
Help us transform our Sanctuary and hallways for VBS: Mars and Beyond! We gather to paint, cut, and assemble decorations. Whether or not you consider yourself creative, we have a job for you! Childcare available.

**JULY 21**
4:00–6:30 p.m.  
**Mobile Loaves & Fishes (MLF) 3rd Sunday**  
MLF serves daily, but this monthly third Sunday is for first-time families and individuals who want to try face-to-face service with experienced volunteers.

**JULY 23**
4:45–7:00 a.m.  
**Feed My People 4th Tuesday Breakfast (Adults, College, Youth)**  
FUMC serves at this twice weekly breakfast on the 4th Tuesday. Prepare and serve breakfast to 300 of our homeless neighbors working in shifts starting at 4:45 a.m. and ending by 7:00 a.m. Without our regular supply of UT student volunteers, we need extra help during the summer. Training provided.

**JULY 26**
10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.  
**Vacation Bible School (VBS) Workday**  
Help take down decorations from VBS. Childcare provided and we will go to lunch at Central Market on Lamar and 38th Street afterwards.

**AUGUST**

**AUGUST 7**
8:45 a.m.–1:30 p.m.  
**Caritas Community Kitchen**  
FUMC adults and youth (12+) are invited to serve in the Community Kitchen at Caritas.

**AUGUST 18**
4:00–6:30 p.m.  
**Mobile Loaves & Fishes (MLF) 3rd Sunday**  
MLF serves daily, but this monthly third Sunday is for first-time families and individuals who want to try face-to-face service with experienced volunteers.

**AUGUST 27**
4:45–7:00 a.m.  
**Feed My People 4th Tuesday Breakfast (Adults, College, Youth)**  
FUMC serves at this twice weekly breakfast on the 4th Tuesday. Prepare and serve breakfast to 300 of our homeless neighbors working in shifts starting at 4:45 a.m. and ending by 7:00 a.m. Without our regular supply of UT student volunteers, we need extra help during the summer. Training provided.
Help by purchasing items from our Amazon wish list at fumcaustin.org/vbsupplies.

Help by donating the following supplies so our campers can have the experience of a lifetime as they create styrofoam planets, a Galaxy in a jar, Solar System necklaces, and Constellation jar lamps: 130 cds or dvds (used is fine) 150 4" styrofoam balls 300 thin paper plates black pony beads cotton balls food coloring (all colors) paint brushes paper clips silver glitter toothpicks wood beads (at Michaels)

Thank you for helping make VBS a huge success. All projects and donation items can be left outside EDU Room 108.

During VBS, children participate in hands on activities showing love to neighbors. They learn about and contribute to our main ministries with the hungry and homeless in the Austin community assembling Manna Bags for the congregation to distribute and Hygiene Kits for distribution at the Feed My People Breakfast. By the end of the week, the children will have a deeper appreciation of these ministries, the people we serve, and why these ministries are so important.

How can you help? Monetary donations may be left at the communion rail, made online, or sent to or brought by the church office. Please indicate “VBS Mission Projects” on your gifts. In addition to monetary donations, we are collecting items for the Hygiene Kits. We need 300 of each of the following items:

**Full Size**
- Chapstick
- Combs
- Disposable Razors
- Feminine Hygiene Items
- Stick Deodorant
- Toothbrushes

**Travel Size**
- Bar Soap
- Conditioner
- Hand Sanitizer
- Lotion
- Shampoo
- Toothpaste

**Bring donations to the church by Sunday, July 14.** Donation bins are located in the foyer and Family Life Center. We are thankful to have such generous members and the opportunity to serve our children and our community.
CHURCH NEWS

JOURNEY WITH GOD

At First Church, we believe every person is a beloved child of God, on a journey to God, with God. This summer, as we journey to places near and far, we want to invite you and your family to capture what God is doing beyond our walls and beyond our city. Mail us your travel postcards or jot a note on the mock postcard found in a pew and we will display them in the Sanctuary Foyer for all to see the ways you have seen God while on your journey. Read question prompts at fumcaustin.org/journeywithgod.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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.-12:00 p.m. or 1:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m. If you are interested, contact Marcia Houston at marcia@fumcaustin.org or 512-478-5684 (ext. 200).

Greeters and Ushers

Join our team that continues to make FUMC one of the most welcoming congregations in Austin. Serving as an usher or greeter is an opportunity to meet other members, make new friends, and welcome visitors to FUMC. Your commitment would only be one Sunday a month at either the 9:00 or 11:00 a.m. worship service from July-December, 2019. If you are interested, contact Richard Bettis by calling 512-343-2561, emailing richard.bettis44@gmail.com, or texting 512-657-7641. He will send you all of the information.

Sunday School Teachers

Prayerfully consider how you can support our children and youth. We give our regular teachers the summer off, which gives parents and other members a wonderful opportunity to teach and build relationships with these young disciples. Curriculum is provided and classrooms are prepared. Caution: the more you serve, the more fun you’ll have! Sign up at fumcaustin.org/teachers.

Vacation Bible School

For a safe and fun VBS, we need over 30 adult and youth volunteers! To sign up, you will first need to fill out a one-time profile form in our volunteer-management platform at fumcaustin.org/vbs. Once submitted, you will receive a login and then you can view available job already created your profile, you can access it at fumcaustin.org/vbsvolunteers.

SEPTEMBER 8, SUNDAY

First Steps Class

12:15 p.m. FLC Garrison Chapel

Are you interested in joining FUMC? Prior to joining, we ask all to come to this class to learn about United Methodist beliefs and the ministry of FUMC, meet the pastors and other members, and ask questions. To sign up, fill out the Connections Card and place it in the offering plate, go online at fumcaustin.org/signup, or email Trevor Harper at trevor@fumcaustin.org.

SIGN UP FOR ALTAR FLOWERS

Honor someone you love and appreciate, remember adeparted loved one, or celebrate special days or events in your life or the life of the church. The cost is $65 and the available dates for the rest of the year are July 28; August 11; September 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29; October 6, 20; and 27; November 10, 17, and 24; and December 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29. To sign up, contact Tami Kellberg at tami@fumcaustin.org or 512-478-5684 (ext. 226).

STATEMENT FROM THE PASTORS

Over the last two months, the “Moving Forward” Task Force has developed a resolution to welcome all couples for marriage at FUMC. On Sunday, May 19, the Administrative Board unanimously recommended the resolution to the congregation for a churchwide vote.

When FUMC took on a marriage discernment process in 2017, we were hopeful that a policy change would come through the work of the Commission on the Way Forward and the called session of General Conference in February 2019. We thought it was only a matter of time, and so we supported a policy that would treat all couples equally without violating The Book of Discipline. We remained hopeful for change in the denomination; while the One Church Plan did not match our full hopes for an inclusive church, it was a significant step in the right direction that would have allowed us to proceed with the ministry of weddings for all couples.

Unfortunately, the One Church Plan failed, and the Traditional Plan passed at General Conference in February. The Traditional Plan is meant to use draconian enforcement to discourage clergy from violating church rules against same-sex marriage. Instead, it has served to clarify our call to stand up for what we believe is right, even—even—in the face of that enforcement. For the clergy at FUMC, this moment in our denominational life has helped us identify our privilege: we serve a congregation that supports full inclusion, where we can proclaim loud and clear that God calls us to celebrate the marriages and ministries of LGBTQ people. It is incumbent on us to use our privilege to create change, even though it comes with risk. The risk to us pales in comparison to the harm that the church has inflicted upon generations of LGBTQ persons.

As we move forward, a few points of clarity: First, the passage of a resolution is not the work of the church, but our pastors. This resolution marks the commitment of FUMC to provide space and support for all weddings; it does not bind the Pastors to perform all weddings. Because of this, the resolution itself does not violate The Book of Discipline. If the pastors choose to allow or perform a same-sex wedding, we could face a complaint that could lead to charges. Those charges will be a result of our decision to allow/perform the wedding, not a result of FUMC’s resolution. We understand this risk and its potential consequences and we believe it is time to face those head-on. Finally, our greatest hope is to minister faithfully to all we serve. Any wedding we perform should be about the couple, not about the clergy. We simply intend and hope to go about our work faithfully and serve God by serving those with whom we are in ministry.

We will spend the next few weeks preparing and discerning as we make this decision together. We invite you to be a part of this process during Town Hall Meetings provided in June and at the churchwide vote on July 14.

With great love,
Pastor Taylor and Pastor Cathy

FUMCAUSTIN.ORG
UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY 11, THURSDAY
Cheers Ministry Movie Night: The Sting
6:30 p.m. Reception and 7:30 p.m. Movie
Mark your calendars! Our Cheers Ministry, a community for those young-at-heart who are recently retired, semi-retired, or thinking about setting a date to retire, is planning a movie night at the Stateside Theater at the Paramount. Hollywood movies of the 1970s have a very distinct style, but George Roy Hill went for something a bit more old-fashioned in this cunning caper, using ragtime music and other artistic flourishes to take us back to the Great Depression. Newman and Redford are at it again, this time plotting a big con against a wealthy mob boss. Will they pull it off? Join us to find out! Register by July 7 at fumcaustin.org/cheers.

JULY 14, SUNDAY
Retiree Recognition Sunday
9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary
Retirement is a relatively recent phenomenon in human history. Life expectancy used to be so short that most workers didn’t quit work until they died. And without a reliable pension system, retirement was a luxury reserved for the wealthy until almost the 20th Century. Things are much different now, and retirement is widely accepted as the norm. On this Sunday, we will recognize members and visitors who have retired or plan retirement in 2019. If you would like to recognize someone, email Dick Young at rtyoung@ustin.tcc.org with their name, retirement date, and organization name by Sunday, July 7.

JULY 21, SUNDAY
Vacation Bible School Launch Party
12:15-2:00 p.m. SAN Wesley Hall
Lunch and launch! Start the Mars and Beyond adventure early with our VBS party. Come enjoy lunch and activities to get ready to GO BEYOND during a fun week of exploring God’s power. Free registration at fumcaustin.org/vbs helps us plan for food and games.

JULY 28, SUNDAY
Appalachia Service Project (ASP) Slideshow
12:15 p.m., FLC Garrison Chapel
All are invited to a slide show of this year’s Appalachia Service Project trip. Come hear stories from our high school youth about the trip, the people they met, and the experiences shared in Harlan County. Register at fumcaustin.org/asp-slideshow.

AUGUST 11, SUNDAY
Civil Rights Pilgrimage Information Session
12:15 p.m. EDU Murchison Chapel
Mark your calendars for March 13-20, 2020. This eight-day trip for adults, youth, and families will include visits to Birmingham, Jackson, Little Rock, Montgomery, Memphis, and Selma. As we begin planning this summer, it will be helpful to have an idea of interest. If you are interested in this trip, register for the Information Session at fumcaustin.org/civilrightspilgrimage. For more information, contact Devon Bailey at devon@fumcaustin.org or Pastor Cathy Stone at cathy@fumcaustin.org.

Table for 8
A Fun Way to Connect with People from First Church!

Our first season of Table for 8 went really well. It is time to shake things up and sign up for new groups! Table for 8 is a fun way to connect in a casual and relaxed atmosphere. Singles, couples, and families of all ages are welcome.

Sign up in July in the foyer or online. This time, you may select whether you want to be grouped by geography or schedule availability. Then you will be placed with others in a dining group. From this group, an initial “lead host” will contact all the other members to decide the date and time of your first gathering. Tables are encouraged to meet three times in the fall and three in the spring. The group can meet at a home, restaurant, park...it is up to you!

Questions? Read our FAQ at fumcaustin.org/tablefor8 or email Emily Buchanan at emily@fumcaustin.org.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THESE EVENTS AND ALL CHURCH NEWS, PLEASE VISIT WWW.FUMCAUSTIN.ORG.