LOOKING AHEAD TO 2020

JANUARY 5, SUNDAY
Epiphany Party
10:00 a.m. FLC Great Hall
Start your year with joy by celebrating Christ’s light in the world with your church family. Families, individuals, children, and adults all are welcome! Children and youth will not have regular Sunday School class that day, so bring the whole family to the party!

JANUARY 7, 14, 21, AND 28, TUESDAYS
Book Study: Shameless
6:30-7:45 p.m. FLC 104
Join Pastor Cathy Stone as we read and discuss this book by Nadia Bolz-Weber. Raw and intimate, Shameless offers a full-blown overhaul of our harmful and antiquated ideas about sex, gender, and our bodies. If you have been marginalized, confused, angered, and/or wounded by the shame-ful sexual messages so prevalent in religion, this class is for you. Register at fumcaustin.org/shameless.

JANUARY 11, SATURDAY
Becoming a Better LGBTQ+ Ally
9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. SAN Wesley Hall
All training provides a basic framework of understanding lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning (LGBTQ+) persons and the unique challenges they often face. This training is designed to create dialogue regarding what it means to be an effective ally. Participants are encouraged to explore their own biases, build their knowledge and understanding, and develop empathy. Whether you already consider yourself an ally, or you want to become one, this training can help us learn how to be a better neighbor within the FUMC community and beyond. A $15 donation at registration is requested. Register at fumcaustin.org/ally.

JANUARY 12, SUNDAY
Baby Brunch
10:00-11:00 a.m. SAN Wesley Hall
Have a newborn or child under 18 months old? Our Children’s Ministry invites you to come enjoy this fun event filled with fellowship and food. We are excited to partner with you as you begin this incredible journey with your child. Please RSVP to children@fumcaustin.org.

Coffee with the Pastors
10:00-10:45 a.m. SAN Parlor
Want to connect deeper in our FUMC community? Come visit with the pastors and lay leaders in this periodic series of coffee and conversation. The emphasis of this gathering will be our spring discipleship offerings. New and longtime members are welcome to come meet the teachers and hear about their upcoming classes. Register online at fumcaustin.org/coffee.

Coffee with the Pastors
5:00-8:00 p.m. SAN Wesley Hall
Up and get faith-based answers. The cost is $50. Spaces are limited, so register early at fumcaustin.org/coffee.

JANUARY 19, SUNDAY
Movie Night: Loving
5:00-8:00 p.m. Sanctuary
Our Mercy & Justice Team and youth invite you to watch Loving, the story of Richard and Mildred Loving, a couple whose arrest for interracial marriage in 1960s Virginia began a legal battle that would end with the Supreme Court’s historic 1967 decision. A short discussion will follow the movie. In support of the upcoming MLK Community March the following day, we will collect can goods and/or non-perishable food items to be donated to the Central Texas Food Bank. Childcare is available by emailing childcare@fumcaustin.org.

JANUARY 20, MONDAY
MLK Day Community March
9:00 a.m. MLK Statue, UT Campus
This annual March celebrates Dr. Martin Luther King’s legacy while uplifting diversity and multi-culturalism in our city. Following a short program at the MLK Statue, we will march to the historic Huston-Tillotson University, where exciting activities are planned. We can arrange carpools. Contact Pastor Cathy Stone at cathy@fumcaustin.org.

JANUARY 31, FEBRUARY 1, FRIDAY AND SATURDAY
Pre-Teen Sexuality Workshop: Wonderfully Made. FLC Great Hall
Pre-teen years are tough. Changes are happening to bodies, minds, and emotions which make it hard to know exactly what is going on. Wonderfully Made provides kids ages 10/12 the opportunity to ask questions about growing up and get faith-based answers. The cost is $50. Spaces are limited, so register early at fumcaustin.org/preteenworkshop.

FEBRUARY 4-18, TUESDAYS
Book Study: Where Do We Go From Here

FEBRUARY 8, SATURDAY
Learning Your Number: Enneagram 101

FEBRUARY 22, SATURDAY
One Human Race
Sweetheart Dance

FEBRUARY 26, WEDNESDAY
A short discussion will follow the movie. In support of the upcoming MLK Community March the following day, we will collect can goods and/or non-perishable food items to be donated to the Central Texas Food Bank. Childcare is available by emailing childcare@fumcaustin.org.

MARCH 1, SUNDAY
CROP Hunger Walk

MARCH 15-21
Civil Rights Pilgrimage

APRIL 11, SATURDAY
Easter Egg Festival

APRIL 12, SUNDAY
Easter Sunday

APRIL 16-19
Pretteen Retreat: Love In Action

MAY 1-2, FRIDAY & SATURDAY
Preteen Retreat: Love In Action

MAY 2, SUNDAY
School Teacher Appreciation Day

JUNE 19-30
Appalachia Service Project

JULY 20-23
Vacation Bible School: Knights of North Castle

This SUNDAY
A complete schedule of today’s events is in “This Week” section on Calendar page.

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL
Beginning today, this daily devotional invites you to read, reflect, pray, and color your way through the end of 2019. Each Christmas, we have an opportunity to provide transformation through our Christmas Offering, a gift to which we contribute, beyond our regular church giving. This year, the transformation we hope for is right at the corner of 15th and Lavaca Street: our Family Life Center Kitchen. For more information, see article inside.

NOW-DECEMBER 22
Sock Drive for Feed My People
Collection Bins, Foyers of Chapel, FLC, and Sanctuary
Place sock donations for our Christmas Eve Breakfast in the collection bins. If you did not bring socks today, you may bring them next Sunday.

ADVENT VISIO DIVINA STUDY
10:00 a.m. EUD Murchison Chapel
Visio Divina, Latin for “divine seeing,” is a method of meditation, reflection, and prayer through a process of intentional seeing. Visio Divina extends the 6th century Benedictine practice of Lectio Divina by the use of visual imagery. Traditionally, Visio Divina was accompanied by Benedictine iconography and illuminations, however, different faith traditions have adapted the process over time, utilizing both secular and nonsecular images. This class, blends visual meditation with group discussion and Bible study.

CONVERSATIONS ON RACIAL JUSTICE
4:30-6:00 p.m. FLC Room 104
Join us as we work to be anti-racists, seeking to undo racism in ourselves and to recognize and understand our participation in systemic racism. This group meets on first Sundays to discuss and learn more about racial oppression, issues of whiteness and racism, and other topics. We are currently listening to and discussing podcasts and articles from “The 1619 Project” from The New York Times.

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.

December 8
Peace: Repentance Can’t Wait
December 15
Joy: Delight Can’t Wait
December 22
Love: Courage Can’t Wait

For more information, see article inside.

First United Methodist Church
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**

- **Deadline to Order Christmas Poinsettias**
  - tami@fumcaustin.org
  - Sanctuary Services
  - 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary
  - Advent Visio Divina Study
  - 1:00 a.m. EDU Murchison Chapel
  - United Methodist Women: Calling All Women
  - 12:15 p.m. FLC Garrison Chapel

**WEEK 1**

- 24
  - **Feed My People Christmas Eve Breakfast**
  - 6:30 a.m. FLC
  - **Feed My People Christmas Eve Service**
  - 8:00 a.m. FLC Garrison Chapel
  - **Christmas Eve Noon Service**
  - 12:00 p.m. EDU Murchison Chapel
  - **Church Office Closes for Christmas Holiday**
  - 1:00 p.m.
  - **Christmas Eve Family Service**
  - 4:00 p.m. Sanctuary
  - **Christmas Eve Candlelight Services**
  - 6:00, 8:00, and 11:00 p.m. Sanctuary

**WEEK 2**

- 25
  - **Church Office Closed**
  - Merry Christmas!

- 26
  - **Church Office Closed**
  - Christmas Holiday

**WEEK 3**

- 29
  - **Sanctuary Services**
  - 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary

**SERVICE PROJECT SUNDAY**

- 16:00 a.m. SAN Wesley Hall

**DECEMBER 3-17, TUESDAYS**

- **Book Study: Just Mercy**
  - EDU Murchison Chapel
  - Mobile Location(s) (MLF) Third Sunday
  - Mobile Location(s) (MLF) Third Sunday
  - 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. SAN MLP Kitchen
  - **Youth Christmas Party**
  - 4:30-7:00 p.m. FLC
  - **FEAST**
  - 7:00-8:00 p.m. FLC Garrison Chapel

**WEEK 4**

- 19
  - **Blue Christmas Service**
  - 7:00 p.m. EDU Murchison Chapel

- 22
  - **Contemplative Service**
  - 9:00 a.m. EDU Murchison Chapel
  - **Sanctuary Services**
  - 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary

**WEEK 5**

- 1 Sun
  - **Advent Visio Divina Study**
  - 10:00 a.m. EDU Murchison Chapel
  - **Sunday School Classes for All Ages Conversations on Racial Justice**
  - 10:00 a.m. Various Locations
  - **EDU Murchison Chapel**
  - 4:30-6:00 p.m. FLC Garrison Chapel

- 2 Mon
  - **Curtis Higgs Prodigals Study Group**
  - 6:30-8:00 p.m. FLC Room 103

- 3 Tues
  - **Feed My People Breakfast Book Study: Just Mercy Begins**
  - 4:45-7:00 a.m. FLC Great Hall
  - 6:30-7:45 p.m. FLC Room 103

- 4 Wed
  - **Deadline for FUMC Weekly and eNews Wednesday Morning Bible Study**
  - 9:00 a.m. funcaustin.org/submissions
  - 10:00 a.m. SAN Room 213
  - **Handbell Choir Rehearsal Christmas Choir Rehearsal**
  - 9:00 a.m. SAN Room 213
  - 6:00-7:15 p.m. SAN Balcony
  - 7:00-8:30 p.m. SAN Choir Room

- 5 Thur
  - **Feed My People Breakfast Feed My People Breakfast Worship**
  - 4:45-7:00 a.m. FLC Great Hall
  - 6:30 a.m. FLC Garrison Chapel
  - 7:00-11:00 a.m. FLC

- 7 Sat
  - **Decorating and Holiday Stroll**
  - 4:00-9:00 p.m. SAN Wesley Hall

**DONATION OPPORTUNITIES**

**DECEMBER 8-1 JANUARY 5 Children’s Christmas Giving**

In the spirit of Christmas giving, our Children’s Ministry Team invites children to bring toiletry items for the children and their families living at Casa Marianella.

This is the only homeless shelter in Austin dedicated solely to immigrants. 65% of shelter residents, including children, are asylum seekers, many coming from immigration detention. Full size items needed: children—toothpaste and tearless shampoo and adults—shampoo; conditioner; razors; and soap. Donations can be placed at the Christmas Tree in the Sanctuary Foyer through January 5. For more information, contact Erin Scarth at erin.scarth@gmail.com.

**DECEMBER 8, 15, AND 22 SUNDAYS**

**Sock Collection**

We are collecting new, white, adult-sized tube socks to give to our homeless neighbors at our annual Christmas Eve Breakfast.

As you are out and about shopping, consider picking up a bag or two of socks. You may place donations in the collection bins located in the foyers of the Chapel, Sanctuary, and Family Life Center on December 1, 8, 15, and 22. You may also bring your donations to the church office Monday-Wednesday from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. or Thursday from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

**DECEMBER 15 AND 22 SUNDAYS Cookie Collection**

Cookie bakers are needed to provide guests at the Christmas Eve Breakfast with a treat. Our goal is 300 zipped bags with six cookies each!

Make your chocolate chip (NO NUTS) cookies and package six per bag in a treat. Our goal is 300 zipped bags with six cookies each!

Bring cookies to the church on Sundays, December 15 and 22. For more information, contact Pastor Cathy Stone at cathy@funcaustin.org or 512-478-5684 (ext. 215).

**SIGN UP FOR ALTAR FLOWERS**

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. The cost is $55. Sign up now for those important dates in 2020. Contact Tami Kellberg at tami@funcaustin.org or 512-478-5684 (ext. 226).

**COLD WEATHER SHELTER FOR WOMEN**

During the winter months, we provide shelter for women on Tuesday nights when the predicted overnight low is expected to be 30 degrees and wet or 32 degrees and dry. We have shifts to welcome and greet guests, provide/serve dinner, and act as overnight hosts. Sign up at funcaustin.org/shelter.

**DOWNLOAD CHURCH LIFE**

Church Life allows members to review their contact information, access a church directory, schedule one-time or recurring giving, view giving history and pledge commitment, and access the church calendar. Plus, the Church Life mobile app—conveniently at your fingertips—provides similar access to church information using your same Church Life login. Visit funcaustin.org/churchlife.

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Our mission is to build a community where all people are invited to know the love of God and sent to join God in transforming the world. Each Christmas, we have an opportunity to provide transformation through our Christmas Offering, a gift to which we contribute, beyond our regular church giving. This year, the transformation we hope for is right at the corner of 13th and Lavaca Street: our Family Life Center Kitchen.

Our kitchen is a workhorse. For nearly 20 years, every Tuesday and Thursday, volunteers have used this kitchen to prepare a hot breakfast for 250-300 people who are hungry in Austin. They crack eggs, bake biscuits, and wash dishes to do our part to ensure that no one is left hungry in this city. Many of you volunteer regularly at the Feed My People (FMP) Breakfast, and you know what a difference it makes. In partnership with Foundation for the Homeless (FFH), this breakfast is one of our anchor ministries—a point through which many people connect to FUMC, and a starting point for many other ministries of our church, including our Thursday morning worship service and At The Well, our new ministry for women experiencing homelessness.

Beyond the Feed My People Breakfast, our kitchen is used for youth ministry, First Steps, a variety of leadership meetings, and by other groups renting our facility. The kitchen is a crucial part of our ministry.

In order for these ministries to continue, our kitchen needs a full renovation. The air conditioning no longer works, causing volunteers to become overheated while serving. Several critical components of the kitchen are non-functioning or out of code. Our large freezer is beyond repair and needs to be replaced. Our dishwasher is unreliable, requiring frequent maintenance. Beyond appliances, the flooring is separating in several places, causing a tripping hazard.

Working with architects and designers, we estimate the cost of renovation to be $315,000. While this is a major project, it is not insurmountable. With participation from other congregations who care about the FMP Breakfast, as well as grant funding, we will have help, but the congregation of FUMC will be responsible for the greatest portion of the project funding—after all, it is OUR kitchen!

With that in mind, we have set an ambitious goal to raise the first $100,000 for the kitchen through our Christmas Offering. We need these funds urgently to get work started on air conditioning repair and other immediate needs. I am delighted to report that we have already received a $25,000 lead gift for the project—we are already 25% of the way to our goal! We need everyone’s help to make this new kitchen a reality. I pray that you will join this generous donor in this effort of transformation this Christmas.

You can make your gift anytime between now and the end of the year by returning the enclosed envelope to the church office, or by simply marking your check “Christmas Offering” and dropping it in the offering plate. You can also give online at fumcaustin.org/christmasoffering.

With great love,

Pastor Taylor
UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER 8, SUNDAY
United Methodist Women: Calling All Women
12:15 p.m. FLC Garrison Chapel
Join the United Methodist Women of FUMC for a Holiday Round-Up Meeting. Not an “official” United Methodist Woman? No worries! We will introduce ourselves and share an overview of who we are and what we do, so you can find a circle that fits—or maybe even create your own. The UMW has been advocating for women and children for 150 years and you can help make the next 150 even better. We will have a light lunch. Children (and men) welcome! Register at fumcaustin.org/umwevent.

DECEMBER 14, SATURDAY
Kids’ Day Out
10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. EDU Room 102
While parents enjoy a morning out, children play, eat pizza, make holiday crafts, decorate gingerbread houses, and watch a movie with our trained childcare staff. We accept infants through fourth graders on a first-come basis. Cost is $25 for the first child and $10 for siblings. Make reservations at fumcaustin.org/kids-day-out no later than December 11.

DECEMBER 15, SUNDAY
FUMC Choir Presentation
9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary
Come sing praise to God and celebrate through the gifts of others with a special musical offering by our FUMC choir during worship.

Manna Bag Sale
9:30–11:00 a.m. Sidewalk
Our 4th and 5th graders show the love of Christ to those in need through the making and selling of Manna Bags for a $5 donation, with proceeds going towards the purchase of more supplies. Bags contain nutritious snacks, a pair of socks, and a note with God’s blessing. You can buy a bag to hand out to those you see on your path or donate toward additional bags that are heavily needed at the front office during the week. Your generosity helps fund this weekday part of our Manna Bag Ministry here at FUMC!

Children’s Choir Presentation: Carriers of the Light
10:15 a.m. Sanctuary
This creative musical is inspired by scriptural passages focusing on Jesus as the Light of Salvation. Through traditional carols and original music, it celebrates the passing of God’s light from Mary to Joseph to the animals in the manger; from the shepherds in the countryside to the Wise Men in the East.

Civil Rights Pilgrimage Meeting
12:15 p.m. EDU Murchison Chapel
Our Civil Rights Pilgrimage is set for March 15-21, 2020. This seven-day trip for our Civil Rights Pilgrimage Meeting sets the stage for a deeper understanding of the Civil Rights Movement in America. Please join us for this meeting to hear final details and participate in logistics. Register for the trip at fumcaustin.org/pilgrimage. A $250 deposit per person is due January 1. For more information, Pastor Cathy Stone at cathy@fumcaustin.org.

Mobile Loaves & Fishes (MLF) 3rd Sunday
4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. SAN MLF Kitchen
MLF serves daily, but this day is for those who want to try face-to-face service working with experienced volunteers. Join the Make-Ready Team from 4:00-5:00 p.m. (preparing food and loading truck) and/or the Truck Team from 5:00-6:30 p.m. (delivering food). Sign up at fumcaustin.org/encmlf.

DECEMBER 15, SUNDAY (CONTINUED)
Youth Christmas Party
4:30-7:00 p.m. Family Life Center
All youth are invited to celebrate our last Engage of the year. There will be food, games, music, and a white elephant exchange. Bring a gift that cost $10 or less.

Holiday FEAST
7:00–8:30 p.m. FLC Garrison Chapel
FEAST is a monthly dinner gathering for young adults (roughly ages 20–45) to build community and dig into the more difficult side of faith together. Come join us for a special holiday FEAST and dive into a discussion of your favorite Christmas myths and traditions. We will have some great conversations with a side of ham and mashed potatoes. Crazy holiday attire is encouraged! Registration is requested at fumcaustin.org/least.

DECEMBER 19, THURSDAY
Blue Christmas Service
7:00 p.m. EDU Murchison Chapel
How come I don’t feel it? In the midst of the wonder and expectation of Advent, many of us might feel out of step with the joy and excitement of Christmas. Some of us have lost loved ones or face the “happy” holidays feeling blue with grief or depression. Pastor Taylor Fuerst leads this special service on the longest night to acknowledge our grief and longing for hope.

DECEMBER 22, SUNDAY
Wait! That’s Not the Christmas Story!
10:00 a.m. EDU Murchison Chapel
Join Dr. Brad King for a deep dive into the Christmas story that we all know and love. While the popular versions of this story are, in Brad’s words, “a mess of information,” he insists that a more accurate version of the story is just as beautiful and even more relevant to Christian life and love. In addition to riveting conversation, we will have plenty of hot cocoa and cookies to keep everyone’s spirits high! Register at fumcaustin.org/christmasstory.

DECEMBER 24, TUESDAY
Feast My People Christmas Eve Breakfast
6:30 a.m. FLC Great Hall
Breakfast will be held from 6:30-8:30 a.m. Our guests enjoy coffee and Christmas music beginning at 6:30 a.m., breakfast will be served at 7:00 a.m. Many in our congregation have made this volunteer opportunity a significant part of their Christmas season. Spaces fill fast, so sign up now at fumcaustin.org/christmasbreakfast.

Feast My People Christmas Eve Service
8:00 a.m. FLC Garrison Chapel
All are welcome to gather for an early morning worship service immediately following the Breakfast. This casual service is a great way to celebrate Christ’s birth through hymns, a short message with conversation, and Holy Communion.

DECEMBER 29, SUNDAY
Service Project Sunday
10:00 a.m. SAN Wesley Hall
Let’s 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. All Sunday School classes are invited to participate. There will be no regular Sunday School for children or youth.

Family 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 especially designed for families with young children. Includes an invitation at the end for children to enjoy a special treat in Wesley Hall while parents experience time for quiet reflection. Childcare provided.

Candlelight Services
6:00, 8:00, and 11:00 p.m. Sanctuary
These traditional services feature carols, choral offerings, Scripture, Holy Communion, and candlelight. FEAST is held in Murchison Hall while parents experience time for quiet reflection. Childcare provided at the 6:00 and 8:00 p.m. services only.

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