CHRISTMAS OFFERING

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. For more information, see article inside.

SUNDAY WORSHIP .
9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary
Sermons are biblically centered, seeking to uplift, inform, and challenge us to be faithful disciples who make a difference in our world. Reverend Taylor Fuerst is the principal preacher, where United Methodist tradition is in dialogue with contemporary issues. Holy Communion is celebrated every week at the 9:00 a.m. worship service and on the first Sunday of the month at the 11:00 a.m. worship service. Childcare is provided for children five and under and a Family Room is available for parents to attend to their infant or toddler needs while still participating in worship.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES .
10:00 a.m.
Our classes offer adults a wide selection of age groups, study topics, and learning styles. Most are a mixture of single and married people.

YOUTH
Our program provides worship, trips, retreats, fun nights, and Bible studies for youth grades 6th-12th. During Sunday School, our students participate in discussions about the Bible and current events. On Sunday evenings from 4:30-7:00 p.m., we gather for Engage, a night of activities, games, songs, and conversation, followed by a meal.

CHILDREN
Our program nurtures and guides children in community with God, their families, and their peers by providing a safe environment for them to learn God’s love and share it with others to make the world a better place. Our key activities next year include: Kids’ Night Out (Fridays, 6:00-9:00 p.m., January 17, February 7, April 17, and May 8); Children’s Choir (Sundays, 12:15-1:00 p.m., beginning January 12; Easter Egg Festival (April 11, 9:30-11:00 a.m.); and Vacation Bible School (July 20-23, 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.).

We are thankful you have chosen to worship with us on Christmas Eve and pray that you experience the presence of Emmanuel, God with us! Below are opportunities to get involved.

We believe that Church is the place where we are meant to talk about the most important things in the world.

So, we are beginning 2020 with just that: The Most Important Things you need to hear from the Bible. These are the essentials. If you do not remember anything else all year, hold on to these messages as you enter what is sure to be a momentous year.

Erin Scarth
In memory of Cathryne George
In memory of James and Virginia Nickel
In memory of Phillip and Veronica Pohlman

George and Karen Smith
In honor of Barbara Smith
In honor of James Smith
In honor of Jeremy Smith
In honor of Joane Smith
In honor of Molly Smith

Mark and Pam Steves
In honor of their children, Daniel and Janelle Steves, John and Danielle Steves, and Matt Steves
In honor of their grandchildren, Kaitlyn and Luke Steves and Scarlett and Brandon Steves
In honor of Paul and Jo Rider
In memory of Allen and Carolyn Steves and Laura Steves

Tom and Becky Strandwitz
In honor of their sons, Tom, Will, and Henry Strandwitz
In memory of Susan Russell Martin
In memory of Tom Strandwitz, Sr.

Steve and Pam Tackett
In honor of their daughter, Cara C. Tackett
In honor of their son, Ross J. Tackett, and his family: Melissa, William, Austin, and Ellie
In memory of their parents, Woodrow W. and Christine C. Branch
In memory of his mother, Christene C. Tackett, and his brother, Richard L. Tackett

Randy and Ann Teich
In honor of the FUMC pastors and staff
In honor of the immigrants to the U. S.

Brenda Tharp
In honor of David and Lillian Tharp

Tucker, Whitney, Haddie, and Charlie Thurman
In memory of Dom and Gloria Monge
In memory of Mel and Jean Thurman
In memory of Tim and Susan Thurman

George and Jackie Vanderhule
In memory of their parents, Jack and Evelyn Miller and George and Juanita Vanderhule

Laura Velez
In honor of her mother, Billye Jean Townes
In memory of her father, Vernon Townes

The Waggoner Family
In honor of Roger and Jane Olson
In honor of David and Alicia Waggoner

Andy and Becky Weary
In honor of their children, Brett and Kathie Weary and family and Dan and Celeste McCarron and family

In memory of Cathryne George
In memory of James and Virginia Nickel
In memory of Phillip and Veronica Pohlman

George and Karen Smith
In honor of Barbara Smith
In honor of James Smith
In honor of Jeremy Smith
In honor of Joane Smith
In honor of Molly Smith

Mark and Pam Steves
In honor of their children, Daniel and Janelle Steves, John and Danielle Steves, and Matt Steves
In honor of their grandchildren, Kaitlyn and Luke Steves and Scarlett and Brandon Steves
In honor of Paul and Jo Rider
In memory of Allen and Carolyn Steves and Laura Steves

Tom and Becky Strandwitz
In honor of their sons, Tom, Will, and Henry Strandwitz
In memory of Susan Russell Martin
In memory of Tom Strandwitz, Sr.

Steve and Pam Tackett
In honor of their daughter, Cara C. Tackett
In honor of their son, Ross J. Tackett, and his family: Melissa, William, Austin, and Ellie
In memory of their parents, Woodrow W. and Christine C. Branch
In memory of his mother, Christene C. Tackett, and his brother, Richard L. Tackett

Randy and Ann Teich
In honor of the FUMC pastors and staff
In honor of the immigrants to the U. S.

Brenda Tharp
In honor of David and Lillian Tharp

Tucker, Whitney, Haddie, and Charlie Thurman
In memory of Dom and Gloria Monge
In memory of Mel and Jean Thurman
In memory of Tim and Susan Thurman

George and Jackie Vanderhule
In memory of their parents, Jack and Evelyn Miller and George and Juanita Vanderhule

Laura Velez
In honor of her mother, Billye Jean Townes
In memory of her father, Vernon Townes

The Waggoner Family
In honor of Roger and Jane Olson
In honor of David and Alicia Waggoner

Andy and Becky Weary
In honor of their children, Brett and Kathie Weary and family and Dan and Celeste McCarron and family
JANUARY 5, SUNDAY
Epiphany Party
10:00 a.m.
FLC Great Hall

Start your new 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! Sign up to bring cupcakes and other food items at fumcaustin.org/epiphany.

Financial Peace University
Information Session
12:15 p.m.
FLC Garrison Chapel
Come learn about Dave Ramsey’s Financial Peace University, watch an introductory video, and pick up your materials for class beginning on Tuesday, January 14. Register at fumcaustin.org/university.

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 will conclude listening to The New York Times podcast, “The 1619 Project.” No prep or prior listening required. Register at fumcaustin.org/conversations.

JANUARY 7, 14, 21, AND 28, TUESDAYS
Book Study: Shameless
6:30-7:45 p.m. FLC Room 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 mistreated, confused, angered, and/or wounded by the shaming sexual messages so prevalent in religion, this one is for you. Register at fumcaustin.org/shameless.

JANUARY 8-FEBRUARY 19, WEDNESDAYS
Invitation to Genesis
6:30-8:00 p.m. FLC 103
What does it mean that God began the world by creating? What does it mean that we originate in goodness? How did we lose sight of this world and what can we do to reconcile ourselves and others to God’s creative vision? What do we really know about the stories we think we remember? Come explore these questions and more in a 7-week study of Genesis with Amy Wink. This study is designed to engage participants with the Living Word and to help us understand the challenges we face in creating the world God imagines. Cost is $15. Register at fumcaustin.org/genesis.

JANUARY 11, SATURDAY
Becoming a Better LGBTQ+ Ally
9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., SAN Wesley Hall
Ally 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 want to become one, this training can help you 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.

JANUARY 14-MARCH 10, TUESDAYS
Financial Peace University
6:30-8:00 p.m. FLC Garrison Chapel
What if you had an emergency fund, were debt-free, investing, and making wise spending decisions for your family’s future? With Dave Ramsey’s Financial Peace University, you CAN take control of your money. Freedom from debt is part of being free to follow Christ. Join members Ellis and Lisa Pittman for this personal finance class with a faith perspective. The cost is $99 per family. Register at fumcaustin.org/university.

The Kaighin Family
In memory of Cate George

Tami Kellberg
In honor of Mary Heckmann
In honor of Olivia Weldon

Kathleen Malaspina
In honor of the Krell Family
In honor of the Malaspina Family
In honor of the Peña Family

Lydia Shook McMahan
In honor of George and Jackie Vanderhule

Pete and Jerri Meeker
In honor of Austin and Alexandra Meeker
In honor of Garrett, Courtney, Rebecca, and John Meeker
In honor of Tanita Snyder
In memory of Bob and Barbara Meeker
In memory of Peggy Meeker Boltz
In memory of Gerald Snyder

Amy Monkman
In honor of Rodney Land and Nancy Haines

Open Door Sunday School Class
In memory of Roselyn Bustin
In memory of Andrea Peck
In memory of Hellen Sullivan

Ellis and Lisa Pittman
In memory of Joel Heppington
In memory of Beatrice Oros
In memory of Lawrence Pittman
In memory of Bill Schaller

Tom Polk and Judy Kostura
In honor of Scott Davis, in thanks for his gifts of music
In honor of Shirley Derryberry, in thanks for her gifts of music

Arthur and Chloe Potts
In honor of Adeline Day Potts
In memory of Arthur Neale and Dorothy Jane Potts
In memory of David and Sheila Potts
In memory of Georgia Sue Turner

Mary Faye Randolph
In memory of Arthur Neale and Dorothy Jane Potts

In memory of Andrea Peck
In honor of David and Sheila Potts
In memory of Georgia Sue Turner

Mary Faye Randolph
In memory of the parents of all members of the Whole Susannah United Methodist Women Circle
In honor of the Peña Family

Mary Rogerson
In memory of the Whole Susannah United Methodist Women Circle

Mary Rogerson
In memory of David Rogerson
Jeff and Carol Fegan
In memory of James and Margaret Sunderland and memory of Harold and Eva Lou Fegan

Joe, Kelly, Jenae, and Hunter Flores
In honor of Tom and Robbie Ausley
In memory of Mary Lee Ausley

Bob Garrett and Tina Hester
In honor of Dr. James Leo Garrett
In memory of David Hester

George and Merianne Gaston
In honor of Katherine Blanton
In honor of Linda Gotha
In honor of Robyn Ropas
In memory of Ellis ‘Bubba’ Gaston
In memory of Louise Reaves

Jon, Emily, Jake, and Sally George
In memory of Cathryne Grace George

Ross and Ann Hemphill
In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Ross Hemphill
In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Tillery

Mack Hicks and Julie Nelson
In memory of their parents, R. R. and Maurine Hicks and Glen and Mary Nelson

Mary Higgs
In memory of Curtis Higgs

Steve and Dixie Houston
In honor of their children: Chris, Emily, and Kate

Maitland and Pepper Huffman
In honor of their grandchildren, Hannah, Emily, Georgia, and Maitland Huffman and Erin, Seth, Nick, and Avery Murchison

and great-grandchildren, Kate, Cole, and Matt Cernosek

Kyle Johnston, Beth Rider, and Doug Hageman
In honor of Rosalie Broussard

Kathleen Jones
In honor of Tom and Robbie Ausley
In honor of Sharon Doss
In honor of Dixie Fulp
In honor of Sue Hatch
In honor of Pepper Huffman
In honor of Nancy McCoy
In honor of Donna Poole
In honor of Kay Sterling

Terry and Maggie Kahn
In memory of Max and Floy Kahn, Bowman and Beverly Snider, and Patty Snider Hyden

JANUARY 15-APRIL 1, WEDNESDAYS
Disciple I Fast Track: New Testament
6:30-8:00 p.m. FLC Room 104
This 12-week study, led by Dr. Brad King, is the New Testament portion of the class begun last fall. Spots are available for anyone who is ready to commit and delve deeper. New participants will be asked for $15 to cover the cost. Register at fumcaustin.org/disciple.

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 MLK Community March the following day, we will collect canned goods and/or non-perishable food items to be donated to the Central Texas Food Bank. Register at fumcaustin.org/movienight.

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 26, SUNDAY
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. New and longtime members are welcome. Register at fumcaustin.org/coffee.

FEAST
7:00-8:30 p.m. FLC Garrison Chapel
FEAST is a dinner church program that aims to build bridges among young adults from different churches and even different denominations. FEAST is based on the most ancient form of Christian communal worship: the love feast. Meetings will focus on creating meaningful and personal interactions among individuals seeking more connection and engagement in a faith-interested atmosphere. Join us to FEAST on the Spirit, on Scripture, on good food, and on great conversation. Registration is encouraged at fumcaustin.org/feast.

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. This workshop provides 5th and 6th graders the opportunity to ask questions about growing up and get faith-based answers. Curriculum covers physical development and spiritual connection while helping pre-teens improve communication with their parents. Cost is $50. To register, contact Lara Greene at lara@fumcaustin.org or 512-478-5684 (ext. 211).

FEBRUARY 2-23, SUNDAYS
Not Safe for Church: Sexuality and the Bible
12:15-1:45 p.m.
SAN Wesley Hall
The Bible plays an important role in shaping how we think and feel about intimacy and human sexuality, but the nature of its role depends on how we read and interpret Scripture. Join Dr. Brad King to learn how the Bible has been used to understand human sexuality and to discuss how we can best integrate the Bible’s teachings into our most intimate lives. Register at fumcaustin.org/sexuality.

FEBRUARY 4-18, TUESDAYS
Mercy & Justice Book Study:
Strength to Love
6:30-7:45 p.m.
FLC Room 104
Join Pastor Cathy Stone as we read and discuss this book by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. In these short meditative and sermonic pieces, some of them composed in jail and all of them crafted during the tumultuous years of the Civil Rights struggle, Dr. King articulated his commitment to justice and to the intellectual, moral, and spiritual conversion that makes his work as much a blueprint today for Christian discipleship as it was then. Register at fumcaustin.org/bookstudy.

FEBRUARY 8, SATURDAY
Lunch and Discussion:
Enneagram 101
104 a.m.
FLC Garrison Chapel
This one-day class provides a primer to introduce this ancient tool for understanding individual differences and spiritual growth, and for promoting compassion. It will include an evaluation of the types, as well as the interpersonal challenges of each number. The workshop is led by the Reverend Georjean Blanton, a retired elder of the North Texas Conference. Cost for FUMC members and guests is $40 and cost for community members is $60. Lunch provided. Register at fumcaustin.org/enneagram.
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 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 raised over $105,000! What incredible generosity!! Even though we have met our initial goal, we still need your help to meet the full need of $315,000 to make this new kitchen a reality. I pray that you will join the many who have donated to this effort of transformation this Christmas.

You can make your gift anytime between now and the end of the year by returning a giving envelope in the pew 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

FUMCAUSTIN.ORG

THE POINSETTIAS ARE PLACED BY...

Tom and Robbie Ausley
In honor of Joe, Kelly, Jenae, and Hunter Flores
In memory of Mary Lee Ausley
In memory of Fay and Ruth Holt

Dave and Becky Ballbach
In honor of Earline Stone
In memory of Wayne Stone

Tom and Fay Brown
In honor of the FUMC staff

Cooley, Looce and Richardson Families
In memory of Charles Edward Cooley and Mary Louise Allen Cooley

Grady Basler and Terry Cornwall
In honor of their nephews, Ryan and Jack, and their families
In memory of their parents, Frank and Maxine Basler
In memory of their parents, Jack and Iona Cornwall

Betty Bird
In honor of Ruth Howie

James and Melissa Jackson Burns
In memory of their daughter and son, Pat and David Jackson

Stan, Bergan, and Peyton Casey
In memory of their grandparents, the Andersons and Pickles

Judy Chambers
In memory of Victoria Johnson Arthur
In memory of Stan and Laura Chambers
In memory of Robert Johnson

Barrett and Carly Criscoe
In memory of Glades Beer
In memory of Sable Burge
In memory of Jarrod Criscoe
In memory of James and Sylvia Criscoe
In memory of Marianne Flanders
In memory of Conner Redfearn
In memory of Web and Blanch Six
In memory of Charlotte Weber
In memory of Glenn Williams

Peggy Davis
In memory of Ollie and Margaret Davis

George and Molly Drazic
In honor of their parents
In honor of their three young men: Alexander, Evan, and Miles