Looking Ahead to 2020

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. Individuals, children, and adults are all welcome! Children and youth will not have regular Sunday School class that day, so bring the whole family to the party!

January 11, Saturday
Becoming a Better LGBTQ+ Ally
9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. SAN Wesley Hall
All 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.

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 will be on the process for creating a colorful banner that blends visual meditation with group discussion and Bible study.

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 Lissa Pittman for this personal finance class with a faith perspective. The cost is $99 per family. Register at fumcaustin.org/university.

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.

January 20, Monday
MLK Day Community March
9:00 a.m. MLK Statue, UT Campus
By participating in its creation in the Murhison Chapel, stop by and add color to the banner with materials provided.

What Can or Can’t Wait?
As we move through this season of Advent, what CAN’T wait in our lives and in our world? What can wait, and be set aside for more urgent and important things? All are invited to answer these questions on the back wall of the Sanctuary or in the Family Life Center foyer.

December 8, 2019
First United Methodist Church
AUSTIN
Transformation Happens Here

Weekly

December 8, 2019

What Can’t Wait?
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.

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Financial Peace University
6:30-7:45 p.m. FLC 104

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In support of the upcoming 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. Childcare is available by emailing childcare@fumcaustin.org.

January 20
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**CALENDAR**

**DECEMBER**

**Cookie Collection for Feed My People Begins**
9:00 a.m. EDU Murchison Chapel

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**Sanctuary Services with FUUMC Choir Presentation**
9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary

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**Manna Bag Sale**
9:30-11:00 a.m. Sidewalk

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**Advent Visio Divina Study**
10:00 a.m. EDU Murchison Chapel

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**Children’s Choir Presentation**
10:15 a.m. Sanctuary

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**Civil Rights Pilgrimage Meeting**
12:15 p.m. Sanctuary

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**Christmas Eve Candlelight Services**
6:00, 8:00, and 11:00 p.m. Sanctuary

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**Collection Bins, Chapel, Sanctuary, and FLC**
December 15, 8, 15, and 22.

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**Teddy Bear Collection**
January 5.

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**Cookie Collection**

**DO NOT USE**

**DONATION OPPORTUNITIES**

**NOW-JANUARY 5**

**Children’s Christmas Giving**

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**In the spirit of Christmas giving, our Children’s Ministry Team invites children to bring toiletry items for the children and their families living in 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 for children are toothbrushes, toothpaste and toothpaste and for 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.**

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**Volunteer Opportunities**

**Audio/Visual (AV) Team**

We all enjoy the seamless use of media in our worship services—both visuals on the screens and sound we can hear. This team needs two volunteers at the media center in the balcony each week: one to run worship slides and one to adjust audio. No experience is necessary and training is provided. Commitment is one Sunday per month from 8:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. with a break from 10:00-10:45 a.m. All of the slides provided are your role is to operate the slideshow and/or audio. If you are interested, or know of someone who might be, contact Dave Ballbach at dave@fumcaustin.org.

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**Cold Weather Shelter for Women**

Family Life Center

**Volunteer Opportunities**

During the winter months, we provide shelter for women on Tuesday nights when the predicted overnight low is expected to be 35 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 fumcaustin.org/shelter.

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**Greeters and Ushers**

Want to be a greeter or usher? Join our team that continues to make FUMC one of the most welcoming congregations in Austin. Serving as a greeter or usher is an excellent 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. service from January-June. To sign up, contact Richard Bettis at richard.bettis44@gmail.com or 512-657-7641 and he will send you all the information.
PRAYER

WITHIN OUR CONGREGATION

Stephanie Benoid
Sandy Bowles
Kathy Morales
Sue Norris
Marti Perez
Dan Wood

Those struggling with grief during this holiday season
Congratulations to Randy and Ann Teich on the birth
of their grandson, Rory Carlisle Whitten.

BEYOND OUR CONGREGATION

Curt Ashmans’ friend,
Elisa Marek
Grady Basler’s sister,
Tonya Basler Stout
Marilyn Bettis’ friends,
Whitney and Brandon
Cheryl Biss’ niece,
Lauren Stafford
Bob Block’s friend,
Tim Sullivan
Debbie Block’s cousin-in-law,
David Schaeve
Fay Brown’s sister,
Jo Rene Allenburg
Sarah Crane’s grandmother,
Evelyn Roper
Melanie Dow’s nephew,
Jonas Elbaum
George Gaston’s friend,
Dr. Robert Wootton
Levon Jones’ friend,
Becky Stephenson
Melanie Miller’s and Jen Stuart’s
father, Doak Thomas
Kelly Mills’ mother,
Sandra Mills
Connie Payne’s sister and brother-in-law,
Gary and Nancy Tidwell
Audrey Pyle’s father
Terri Purdy’s friend’s daughter,
Claire June Stern
Dick and Camille Raycroft’s daughter,
Bede Garrison
Cindy Reiland’s friends,
Carly and Colton
Debbie Rippey’s cousin,
Tucker Wheat
Barbara Ruth’s mother and sister,
Jewel Ruth and Judy Davis
Kent Schuster’s siblings,
David, Stan, and Suzanne
Alan Stephens’ brother,
Millard Stephens
Danielle Thomas’s cousin,
Brighton Mansour
Jason and Jennifer Veltre Curiel
Dick Young’s nephew,
Jeff Young

Condolences to the family and friends of Belinda Ligon on her death.

CHURCH NEWS

FUMC ENDOWMENT FUND

- In memory of Sharon Cooper, given by Tom and Robbie Ausley and Merry Freeze Saegert.

GIFTS TO FUMC

- To our Mobile Loaves & Fishes Ministry in honor of Denise Foster, given by Mary Higgs.
- To our Mobile Loaves & Fishes Ministry in honor of Cindy Gunderson, given by Tom and Ray Brown.
- To our Ministry Plan in memory of Sharon Cooper, given by Joe Flores and Kelley Ausley-Flores.

END-OF-YEAR GIVING REMINDER

Our church office will be closed December 24-January 1, but we will be open 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. on December 30 and 31, to accept year-end gifts. Please note that IRS regulations require that contributions for 2019 must be mailed and postmarked no later than December 31, 2019. Contributions received after January 1 or in the mail and postmarked in 2020 will be considered 2020 gifts.

SIGN UP FOR 2020 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 $65. Contact Tami Kellberg at tami@fumcaustin.org or 512-478-5684 (ext. 226).

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 fumcaustin.org/churchlife.

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.

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 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
**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**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 adults, youth, and families will take us through Jackson, Selma, Montgomery, Birmingham, and Memphis. Those interested in participating should attend 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.*

**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/MLF.

**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 costs $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 conversation with a side of ham and mashed potatoes. Crazy holiday attire is encouraged! Registration is requested at fumcaustin.org/feast.*

**DECEMBER 16, WEDNESDAY**

**Breakfast.** This casual service is a great way to celebrate Christ’s birth through hymns, a short message with conversation, and Holy Communion.

**DECEMBER 17, THURSDAY**

**Noon 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 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 candle lighting to celebrate Christ’s birth. Childcare provided at the 6:00 and 8:00 p.m. services only.