Volunteer Opportunities

Children and Youth Ministries

As we swing back into the school year this January, our children and youth ministries have many opportunities to teach and lead with our programs! We are specifically in need of volunteers to help teach our seven weekly Sunday School classes (each of which requires 2-3 Safe Gatherings certified volunteers). It is not too late to complete your Safe Gatherings certification before the price goes up in January. Visit fumcaustin.org/ministries/conference-safety-training for more information and complete Step 1 at safegatherings.com by the end of the year to help the church save costs. Then, contact Director of Children’s Ministries Lara Greene (lara@fumcaustin.org) or Director of Youth Ministries Devon Bailey (devon@fumcaustin.org) to sign up to teach or find other ways to get involved.

Cold Weather Shelter for Women

When Needed
Family Life Center

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.

January 5, Sunday
Epiphany Sunday Cleanup
12:00 p.m. SAN Main Floor

After worship, we will return our beautiful Christmas decorations to their resting places until Advent 2020. To help us make the task efficient, you can register at fumcaustin.org/EpiphanyCleanup to be assigned to a team or just show up and you will be welcomed. All ages welcome. Many hands make light work.

January 19, Sunday
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 around Austin). Sign up at fumcaustin.org/MLF

January 25, Saturday
Point in Time Count
Across Austin/Travis County

Each year, the Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO) plans and leads the Point in Time Count, an annual census of people experiencing homelessness. Early in the morning, hundreds of volunteers will head out to count every person experiencing unsheltered homelessness. Volunteers will count people sleeping in cars, tents, parks, under bridges, and on the streets. The information from this count is used to guide public policy and is vital for securing resources to help end homelessness in our community. ECHO is a coalition of stakeholders that plans, develops, prioritizes, and implements systemic, community-wide strategies to end homelessness in Austin and Travis County. Let’s join ECHO in this critical activity for understanding and planning homeless services in Austin and Travis County. Together, we can end homelessness in our community! Learn more and register at auarters.com/pti. For more information, contact Pastor Cathy Stone at cathy@fumcaustin.org or 512-478-5684 (ext. 215).

January 28, Tuesday
Feed My People 4th Tuesday Breakfast
4:45-7:00 a.m. FLC Great Hall

We need more volunteers to help serve breakfast to 300 of our homeless neighbors. Preparing, cooking, and setting up begins at 4:45 a.m.; serving begins by 6:30 a.m.; and clean-up is finished by 7:00 a.m. You may arrive and leave to meet your schedule. On-the-job training is available.

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 2020. To sign up, contact Richard Bettis at richard.bettis44@gmail.com or 512-637-7641 and he will send you all the information.

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 are provided and 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.

Manna Bag Ministry

If you like the idea of helping our children and church members care for our neighbors, but do not see yourself as a teacher, we have a job for you! Twice a month we need adults to help set up and put away the materials for the assembly and selling of Manna Bags. This can be done before or after your preferred worship service time. If you would like to attend your Sunday School class. Manna Bag assembly days are on 2nd Sundays and Manna Bag sales days are on 3rd Sundays. Set-up shifts are 9:15-9:45 a.m. and clean-up shifts are 10:15-11:15 a.m. To volunteer or for more information, contact Lara Greene at lara@fumcaustin.org.

December Mission Emphasis: 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 15th and Lavaca Streets: our Family Life Center Kitchen.

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. Arrangement cost is $65 and available dates for the first part of the year are January 5 and 12; February 2, 9, and 16; and March 1, 8, and 29. To sign up, contact Tami Kellberg at tami@fumcaustin.org or 512-478-5684 (ext. 226).

This Sunday

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

Now-January 5
Children’s Christmas Giving
Christmas Tree, Sanctuary Foyer

Place toiletry donations for Casa Marianella under the tree. If you did not bring toiletries today, you may bring them next Sunday.

Service Project Sunday
10:00 a.m. SAN Wesley Hall

Let’s end the year caring for our neighbors! All are invited to gather for conversation and projects that will make a difference in the world. All church members and friends are invited to participate. There will be no regular Sunday School for children or youth.

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Worship Series

Your life is filled with messages—messages advertising a product or service you (supposedly) need, messages convincing you to vote for a politician, messages all demanding your attention.

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.

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.
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. Ring the bell at the preschool entrance to let us know you are here. 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.

BEFORE END OF 2019
Safe Gatherings Certification
Do you still need to be safety certified? If you are not already, but you want to work in ministry with children, youth, or vulnerable adults, then the answer is YES! This includes Sunday School, mission trips, care ministries, and chaperoning/driving. Parents of children and youth are HIGHLY encouraged to get certified. The church covers the cost, but our cost is going up 50% in January, so now is the time to get started. Only step 1 must be completed in December to qualify for the lower rate. To find out how to get certified, visit fumcaustin.org/ministries/conference-safety-training or contact Emily Buchanan, Safety Policy Administrator, at emily@fumcaustin.org.

NOW-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. Full size items needed for children: toothbrushes, toothpaste and tearless shampoo and for adults: shampoo, conditioner; razors; and soap. Donations can be placed at the Christmas Tree in the Sanctuary Foyer.

FEBRUARY 2, 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 First Church, 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/firststeps, or email Trevor Harper at trevor@fumcaustin.org.

FEBRUARY 23, SUNDAY
Baptism Class
12:15 p.m. EDU 108
Are you ready to have your child Baptized? Pastor Taylor Fuerst and Lara Greene host this class to learn about our beliefs about Baptist, logistical information about scheduling and service preparation, and ways to help your child live the Baptized life. This class is required for those preparing for a child’s Baptism. To register, indicate your interest on the Connections Card and place it in the offering plate, go online at fumcaustin.org/baptismclass.

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.