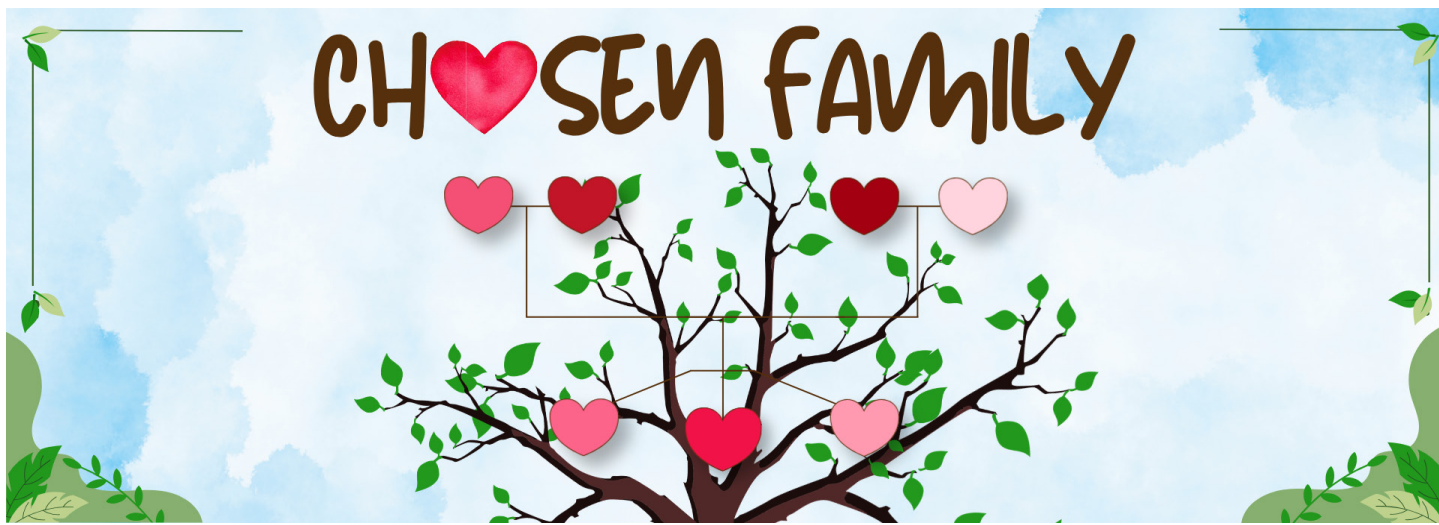




*July 26, 2026
11:00AM*

OUR INVITATION

Because we believe that every person is a beloved child of God, on a journey to God, with God, we welcome ALL people, *without exception*, to participate fully in the life of this church.

OUR MISSION

First United Methodist Church exists to build a community where all people are invited to know God's love and to join God in transforming the world.

OUR VALUES

Justice. Working to eradicate injustice for the excluded and marginalized. *Bridge-Building.* Nurturing multigenerational friendships and community partnerships. *Storytelling.* Sharing our stories of faith and of growth. *Active Learning.* Pursuing knowledge and understanding of God. *Service.* Seeking mutually empowering service opportunities. *Constructive Disruption.* Disrupting systems of power to create positive change.

OUR FAMILIES

We love children in worship. Activity clipboards and other materials for children are available at the back of the Sanctuary. Our Family Room in the balcony offers rockers, books, toys, and a diaper change station for parents with infants and toddlers. Childcare is available from 8:45AM-12:15PM for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers in EDU Room 102.



LEARN MORE AT
www.fumcaustin.org

GATHERING AS THE CHURCH

Asterisks () indicate an invitation to stand as you are able.*

GATHERING VOLUNTARY

GREETING

As you prepare for worship, please greet your neighbors and fill out a Connections Card. You can find the printed version in the pew in front of you or you can use the QR code on the front page of the FUMC Weekly. To let our pastors know about a prayer request for you or someone you love, you can use the printed Connections Card that will be placed in the offering basket when it is passed or you can use the QR code found on the front of the FUMC Weekly.

Response: I was glad when they said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the Lord!”

Psalm 122:1

ENTERING THE HOLY

INTROIT

Church of God

Church of God, chosen people,
sing your praise to God.
God has called you out of darkness
into marvelous light!
Come people of God, with joyful song,
praise God, Creator of all.
God calls us now to follow Christ,
let hearts be filled with joy!

Words: Sr. Pamela Stotter, alt.

Music: Margaret Daly

© 1980 International Commission on English in the Liturgy, Inc.

(All rights reserved. Used by permission OneLicense.net A705700.)

CELEBRATION OF CLERGY

Siblings in Christ,
as a people committed to participate in the ministries of the Church
by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness,
will you who celebrate our shared calling
support and uphold Taylor, Cathy, and John in these ministries?
We will!

* CALL TO WORSHIP

A creativity that designed the universe,
a love that never ceases,
a pursuit of reconciliation no matter the cost,
a hope that cannot be quenched:
these are the things that are of God,
so let us worship God.

* HYMN 529

How Firm a Foundation

HEARING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Loving God,
as we hear the scriptures read and proclaimed,
help us recognize your voice calling us
into the family you are creating—
a community bound by grace, love, and discipleship.
Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Romans 8:35-39

HYMN

God Will Take Care of You
Stanza 1 sung as children come forward

1. Be not dis - mayed what - e'er be - tide, God will take care of you;
2. All you may need God will pro-vide, God will take care of you;

be - neath God's wings of love a - bide, God will take care of you.
noth - ing you ask will be de-nied, God will take care of you.

God will take care of you, through ev - ery day, o'er all the way;

God will take care of you, yes God will take care of you.

Words: Civilla D. Martin

Music: *Martin*, W. Stillman Martin

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

HYMN

God Will Take Care of You
Stanza 2 sung as children return to their seats

SERMON

Not My Choice

RESPONDING IN FAITH

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our God in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
Forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom,
the power,
and the glory, forever.
Amen.

INVITATION TO THE FAITH JOURNEY

Are you interested in what it means to be a member of First Church? First Steps is an informal gathering where you can meet the pastors and staff, learn about United Methodist beliefs, hear more about our many ministry opportunities, ask questions about this community of faith, and explore whether membership at First Church is your next step in faith. The next First Steps Class is Sunday, September 13, at 12:15PM in the FLC Garrison Chapel. Lunch is provided and childcare is available in EDU Room 102. To sign up, fill out a Connections Card and place it in the offering basket or go online at fumcaustin.org/first-steps.

MISSION EMPHASIS MOMENT

Mobile Loaves & Fishes

OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY

O Love

O love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
that in thy ocean depths
its flow may richer, fuller be.
O joy that seeks me through the pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
and feel the promise is not vain
that morn shall tearless be.

Words: George Matheson

Music: Elaine Hagenberg © 2016 Beckenhorst Press, Inc.

(All rights reserved. Used by permission OneLicense.net A705700.)

* PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING

Praise God, from whom all bles-sings flow; praise God, all crea-tures here be-low:

Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Je-sus Christ, whose power up-lifts! Praise the Spir-it, Ho-ly

Spir-it! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

Words: Thomas Ken; Adapt. Gilbert H. Vieira © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

(All rights reserved. Used by permission OneLicense.net A705700.)

Music: *Lasst Uns Erfreuen*, Geistliche Kirchengesänge; Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams

GOING OUT TO SERVE

BIRTHDAY BLESSING

Let us pray:

God, our gracious Creator,

we give you thanks for the gift of life

to these who celebrate their birthdays in July.

Grant that they may make this new year in their lives

an offering that will enrich your world and give you glory.

Cause them to grow in wisdom and grace

and strengthen their trust in your goodness

all the days of their lives;

through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Book of Common Prayer, 1979, alt.

* BENEDICTION

* HYMN 369

Blessed Assurance

VOLUNTARY

+ + +

CHANCEL FLOWERS

The flowers are placed on the chancel by Ann Howie and Jan Howie in honor of their mother, Ruth Howie, who will celebrate her 104th birthday on July 30.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher

Reverend Taylor Fuerst

Liturgist

Reverend Cathy Stone

Music

Scott Davis

Gathering Voluntary

Tim Wilborn

GIFTS MAKE TRANSFORMATION POSSIBLE

Cash or checks will be received during the offertory. We also have three convenient ways to give online: (1) use your smartphone to scan the QR code provided on the front page of the FUMC Weekly and follow the prompts; (2) use the FUMC App on your smart phone; and/or (3) make an online donation at fumcaustin.org/giving.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:00-10:45AM

ADULTS

Our classes offer adults a wide selection of age groups, study topics, and learning styles. Many classes are meeting in person and online. To find class contact information, visit fumcaustin.org/sundayschool.

YOUTH

Sunday School for 6th through 12th grade begins in the Great Hall of the Family Life Center. We gather for announcements and then split into middle school and high school groups. Learn more at fumcaustin.org/youth.

CHILDREN

Sunday School for preschool through 5th grade is located on the first floor of the Sanctuary Building. Check in at one of our welcome stations for a name tag and guardian sticker before dropping children off in their classrooms. Childcare is also available for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers from 8:45AM-12:15PM. Learn more at fumcaustin.org/children.

SUNDAY PARKING

The church parking lot is reserved for mobility-impaired individuals. All able-bodied members are asked to use the free parking available on Sundays in the Peak Parking Garage (owned by the Texas Trial Lawyers Association) at the southwest corner of 13th and Lavaca Streets or at open meters around the church. The garage is open from 7:00AM-2:30PM.

