



*March 30, 2025
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 sent 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 or the QR code found on the front of the FUMC Weekly.

During Lent, you are also invited to write particular prayers for new life for yourself, for others, or for our world on the paper butterfly available in the pews. Both the butterflies and Connections Cards can be placed in the offering basket when it is passed.

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.
God cleanses our sin, renewing our lives.

Words: Sr. Pamela Storter, alt.

Music: Margaret Daly

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* CALL TO WORSHIP

New every morning is God’s love for us.
New every day is our opportunity
to practice gratitude for what we have,
to seek ways to heal the world,
to draw closer to our Creator.

So let us worship God.

Beth Merrill Neel, *Hold Fast to What is Good*

* HYMN

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heaven, to earth come down,
2. Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy life re - ceive;
3. Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less let us be;

fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy faith - ful mer - cies crown.
sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er - more thy tem - ples leave.
let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect - ly re - stored in thee:

Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion, pure, un - bound - ed love thou art;
Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, serve thee as thy hosts a - bove,
changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, till in heav'n we take our place,

vis - it us with thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ry trem - bling heart.
pray, and praise thee with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
till we cast our crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

Words: Charles Wesley

Music: *Hyfrydol*, Rowland Hugh Prichard

HEARING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Guide us, O God, by your Word and Holy Spirit,
that in your light we may see light,
in your truth find freedom,
and in your will discover peace;
through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

New Testament, page 171

HYMN 369

Blessed Assurance

Stanza 1 and Refrain sung seated as children come forward.

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

HYMN 369

Blessed Assurance

Stanza 2 and Refrain sung seated as children return to their seats.

SERMON

RESPONDING IN FAITH

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

God of living water,
we confess that our wells are empty.
Our reservoirs of hope have run dry.
We feel their absence in the careless words we have thought and spoken.
We feel their loss in wounded relationships and unjust circumstances.
Forgive what we have done and left undone, O Lord.
Then let the rain of your mercy replenish the parched places in ourselves
and in our world.

Amen.

A moment for silent confession

Friends,
believe the good news:
in Jesus Christ, we are all forgiven.
Take hold of the new life that is yours.

Thanks be to God.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

As we pray, please join in the response:

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER 895

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, May 4, 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.

FAITH MILESTONE: PRESENTATION OF BIBLES

Lucas Archey
Evelyn Batey
Emma Binford
Lainey Cook
Cash Crisco
Jev Ezekiel
Kian Ezekiel
Dahlia Harlow
Lawson Harper
Poppy Kaighin
Jovie Kovacs
Levi Kovacs
Mackenzie Leal Lego
Dean Liggett
Joaquin Ruiz
Lindy Wood

OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY

How Can I Keep from Singing?

My life flows on in endless song above earth's lamentation.
I hear the real though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.
Through all the tumult and the strife I hear the music ringing.
It sounds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing?
What though the tempest 'round me roars, I know the truth it liveth.
What though the darkness 'round me close, songs in the night it giveth.
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that rock I'm clinging.
Since love is lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing!
I lift my eyes, the cloud grows thin, I see the blue above it.
And day by day this pathway clears, since first I learned to love it.
The peace of God restores my soul, a fountain ever springing.
All things are mine since I am loved; how can I keep from singing.
The Mother God sustains my breath, the Father God my spirit.
Abundance all around me lies; receive, and strength come with it.
There is no moment but this one, I use it now for giving.
How can I forfeit love for fear? How can I keep from singing?

Words: Anne Warner (Stanzas 1, 2, and 3); Robert Wilks (Stanza 4)

Music: How Can I Keep from Singing, Robert Lowry; Arr. Robert Wilks

Words Stanza 4 and Arr.: Robert Wilks © Robert Wilks

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* PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all crea-tures here be - low; praise
God a - bove, ye heaven - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Words: Thomas Ken

Music: *Old 100th*, attr. to Louis Bourgeois

GOING OUT TO SERVE

* BENEDICTION

* HYMN 383

This Is a Day of New Beginnings

Stanzas 1, 2, 3, and 4

VOLUNTARY

+ + +

CHANCEL FLOWERS

The flowers are placed in honor of the staff and community at Black Mamas Village.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher

Reverend Taylor Fuerst

Liturgist

Reverend Cathy Stone

Music

Scott Davis

Soloist

Garrett Maddox

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.

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

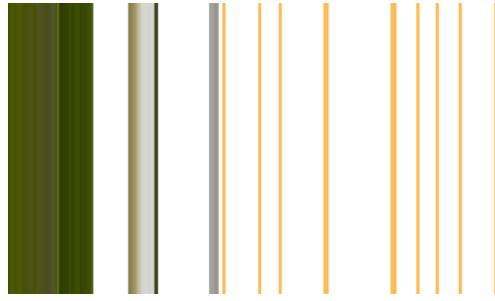
Sunday School for 6th through 12th grade begins in the Great Hall of the Family Life Center. We gather for announcements and then split into middle school and high school groups. Learn more at fumcaustin.org/youth.

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.

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.



ORDER DEADLINE: APRIL 14

A traditional symbol of Easter, the lily is a flower that seemingly dies away, then returns with new life each year.

You are invited to place lilies in the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday to the glory of God and in honor of or in memory of loved ones. Plants cost \$20 each and are florist quality and great for replanting so you can enjoy them long after Easter. You may order lilies by filling in the form below and placing it in basket during the offering or mailing it to the church office; by contacting Tami Kellberg at tami@fumcaustin.org or 512-478-5684 (ext. 226); or by using the QR code. If paying by check, please write "Easter Lily" on the memo line of your check.



Orders must be received by 10:00AM on Monday, April 14. Plants may be picked up after the 11:00AM worship service on Easter Sunday, April 20.

Name of donor

Phone number (in case of questions)

Amount enclosed (make check payable to FUMC)

The lily is in honor of _____

The lily is in memory of _____

