



LOVE LOOKS LIKE

**February 15, 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

We Have Come at Christ’s Own Bidding

We have come at Christ’s own bidding to this high and holy place,
where we wait with hope and longing for some token of God’s grace.
Here we pray for new assurance that our faith is not in vain,
searching like those first disciples for a sign both clear and plain.

Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr. © 1988 Hope Publishing Co.

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Music: *Hyfrydol*, Rowland H. Prichard

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Welcome! Welcome to the baggage we carry,
the joys we share,
the griefs we bear,
and the worries we hold.

Come! Let us worship!

The voice of God is calling us
to come with all that we are
and all that we carry to worship.

Come! Let us worship!

God calls us to gather,
to receive grace in our gathering
and to reorient us again to the ways of God.

Come! Let us worship!

So, come, members of the family of God!
Bring all that you are to be molded by grace,
refocused toward Love,
and woven together as community in Christ.

Come! Let us worship!

Thanks be to God.

Dr. Lisa Hancock

* HYMN 188

Christ Is the World’s Light

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

INTRODUCTION

In baptism,

God names us as God's own beloved children;

God promises to be our God and welcomes us into the family of Christ;

God makes Christ's death and resurrection for us present to us and at work in us.

The baptism of believers' children

especially makes visible the prevenient nature of grace—

that God reaches out to, and accepts, us

before we reach out to, and accept, God.

At the same time, in baptism,

we acknowledge for ourselves and our children

the gift and claim of God's grace,

and we commit ourselves and our children

to live out of God's grace as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

Thus, baptism marks the birth, at any age,

of a disciple of Jesus Christ.

PRESENTATION

Who is presented for baptism?

Evelyn Batey

Child of Ted Batey and Breann Bruton

Evelyn, do you wish to be Baptized?

I do.

Do you wish to be brought into God's saving work
and incorporated into the church?

I do.

PARENT'S RE-AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Because the role of parents and the church

is crucial to a child's experience of grace,

we ask you to re-commit yourself

to the vows of the baptismal covenant:

Do you re-affirm your renunciation of sin

and your confession of faith in Jesus Christ as your Savior,

putting your whole trust in his grace,

and promising to serve him as your Lord,

by loving others as Christ loved you

and resisting evil, injustice, and oppression?

We do.

Do you commit yourselves to work for God's reign on earth
through the church, which Christ has opened to all people,
participating actively in its ministries

with your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness?

We do.

Will you nurture your child in Christ's Church,

that by your teaching and example,

she may grow to know the grace of God,

profess her faith in Christ openly,

and live as a faithful disciple of Christ's church?

We will.

CONGREGATION'S RESPONSE

Do you as Christ's church reaffirm both your rejection of sin
and your commitment to Christ?

We do.

Will you nurture this child in the Christian faith and life,
praying for her, teaching her, and leading her
in acts of service and mission?

**With God's help we will proclaim the good news
and live according to the example of Christ.**

**We will surround Evelyn with a community of love and forgiveness,
that she may grow in her trust of God,
and be found faithful in her service to others.**

**We will pray for her,
that she may be a true disciple
who walks in the way that leads to life.**

BAPTISM WITH THE LAYING ON OF HANDS

ANOINTING WITH OIL

*Following the biblical custom of anointing prophets (I Kings 19:36), priests (Exodus 29:7)
and kings (I Kings 1:39), candidates are anointed at their baptism as a reminder that
all Christians share in the royal, prophetic, priestly ministry of Jesus Christ.*

PRESENTATION OF THE BAPTISMAL CANDLE

*A candle, lighted from the Paschal Candle, is presented to the newly baptized to signify that the
light of the One who overcame the darkness of sin and death now shines in their life.*

WELCOME OF THE NEWLY BAPTIZED

Evelyn,
we give thanks that God has claimed you
with an everlasting love that will never, ever let you go;
and we will never let you forget that!

We rejoice to welcome you as our sibling in the family of Christ.

**Our story is now your story:
you have ridden in the ark with Noah;
you have passed through the sea with Moses;
Christ's death and resurrection for you are at work in you,
transforming you into the image of God.**

**Grow with us in grace,
confess Christ crucified,
proclaim his resurrection,
and share with us in his royal priesthood.**

VOWS OF MEMBERSHIP

As a member of Christ's universal church,
will you be loyal to The United Methodist Church,
and do all in your power to strengthen its ministries?

I will.

As a member of this congregation,
will you faithfully participate in its ministries
by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness?

I will.

CONGREGATION'S RESPONSE

**We give thanks for all that God has already given you
and we welcome you in Christian love.**

Together with you, we will form a community of love and forgiveness.

**We will proclaim God's good news
and live according to the example of Christ.**

**With you, we renew our covenant to participate faithfully in the ministries of the church
by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness,
that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.**

HEARING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God, source of all light,
by your Word you give light to the soul.
Pour out on us the spirit of wisdom and understanding
that our hearts and minds may be opened.
Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 19:16-24

HYMN

This Little Light of Mine
Stanza 1 sung seated as children come forward

1. This lit-tle light of mine I'm gon-na let it shine, this lit-tle light of mine
I'm gon-na let it shine; this lit-tle light of mine
I'm gon-na let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

2. Hide it un-der a bush-el? No! I'm gon-na let it shine. Hide it un-der a
bush-el? No! I'm gon-na let it shine. Hide it un-der a bush-el? No!
I'm gon-na let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

3. Ev-'ry-where I go, I'm gon-na let it shine. Ev-'ry-where I go,
I'm gon-na let it shine. Ev-'ry-where I go, I'm gon-na let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Words and Music: Traditional Spiritual

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

HYMN

This Little Light of Mine

Stanzas 2 and 3 sung seated as children return to their seats

SERMON

* UNITED METHODIST SOCIAL CREED

God in the Spirit revealed in Jesus Christ,
calls us by grace
**to be renewed in the image of our Creator,
that we may be one in divine love for the world.**

Today is the day
God cares for the integrity of creation,
wills the healing and wholeness of all life,
weeps at the plunder of earth's goodness.

And so shall we.

Today is the day
God embraces all hues of humanity,
delights in diversity and difference,
favors solidarity transforming strangers into friends.

And so shall we.

Today is the day
God cries with the masses of starving people,
despises growing disparity between rich and poor,
demands justice for workers in the marketplace.

And so shall we.

Today is the day
God deplores violence in our homes and streets,
rebukes the world's warring madness,
humbles the powerful and lifts up the lowly.

And so shall we.

Today is the day
God calls for nations and peoples to live in peace,
celebrates where justice and mercy embrace,
exults when the wolf grazes with the lamb.

And so shall we.

Today is the day
God brings good news to the poor,
proclaims release to the captives,
gives sight to the blind, and
sets the oppressed free.

And so shall we.

RESPONDING IN FAITH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

As we pray, please join in the response:

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our 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, February 22, 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.

OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY

O God Beyond All Praising

O God beyond all praising, we worship you today,
and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;
for we can only wonder at every gift you send,
at blessings without number and mercies without end.
We lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word,
we honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.
The flower of earthly splendor in time must surely die,
its fragile bloom surrender to you, the Lord most high;
but hidden from all nature the eternal seed is sown
though small in mortal stature, to heaven's garden grown:
for Christ, your gift from heaven from death has set us free,
and we through him given the final victory!
Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring,
that we who know your favor may serve you as our king;
and whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,
we'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still:
to marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,
and make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.

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Music: *Thaxted*, Gustav Holst; Arr. Mack Wilberg © 2024 Oxford University Press

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* PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below:
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

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

GOING OUT TO SERVE

* BENEDICTION

* HYMN 206

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

VOLUNTARY

+ + +

CHANCEL FLOWERS

The flowers are placed on the chancel by Jan Higgs in memory of Mary Higgs' birthday and Curtis and Mary Higgs' anniversary.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher: Reverend Taylor Fuerst

Liturgist: Reverend John Hathaway

Music: Scott Davis

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.