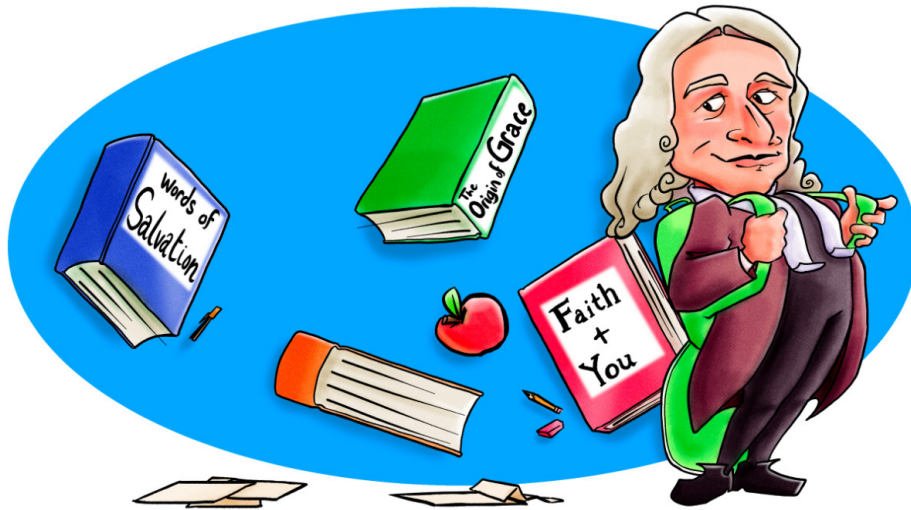




Packed with Grace

Wesleyan Theology
for Your Everyday Life

August 16, 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

Come, O Come, In Celebration

Come, O come, in celebration, household of the one true God,
in commitment and rejoicing let us go where Christ has trod.
As we act in faith and reverence, let us, Lord, the future see;
fit us for the work of building, dedicate us to the task.

Words: Mary Jackson Cathey © 1990 Hope Publishing Co.

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Music: Scott Davis © 2015 Scott Davis

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* CALL TO WORSHIP

Sing a new song!
Make a joyful noise!

Let the sea roar,
and let the sky shimmer.

Let the earth be glad,
and let the children run and play.

Let the old laugh with deep wisdom.
Let the young listen, wide-eyed and wondering.

And let us worship God.

Inspired by Psalm 98; Written by Beth Merrill Neel, alt.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of love,
as we hear your Word today,
quiet the many voices
that compete for our attention.
Open our hearts,
renew our minds,
and shape us more fully into the likeness of Christ.
May your Spirit speak through the scriptures,
and may we have the courage to respond.
Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 15:1-10

HYMN

God of All Learning
Stanza 1 sung as children come forward



1. God of all learn - ing, God of all know - ing, bless all the
2. Bless all who learn and bless those who guide them, bless those who

stu - dents, young and old. May they re - mem - ber that you go
teach and coun - sel and care. May they re - mem - ber you walk be -

with them and that they all are pre - cious to us.
side them. Through all their school days, you, Lord, are there.

Words: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette © 2015 Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

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Music: *Bunessan*, Traditional Gaelic Melody

BACK-TO-SCHOOL BLESSING

For a new beginning,
we give you thanks, O Lord.

For books that give us information and wisdom,
we give you thanks, O Lord.

For teachers and other helpers who help us discover the wonder of your world,
we give you thanks, O Lord.

For eyes with which to see and read, hearts to hear, and tongues to speak,
we give you thanks, O Lord.

For a place where we may learn,
we give you thanks, O Lord.

And for these backpacks with which we will carry our books and our belongings,
we give you thanks, O Lord.

The pastor continues the prayer.

HYMN

God of All Learning
Stanza 2 sung as children return to their seats

SERMON

Someone Packed Your Lunch for You

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, 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.

OFFERING OUR TITHES AND GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY

In My Imagination (Nella Fantasia)

In my imagination I see a world of justice,
where all people live in peace and honesty.
I dream of a world where people will be always free;
they will be ever free like floating clouds full of kindness inside my soul.
In my imagination I see a world of radiance,
where darkest nights are ever brighter.
In my imagination I feel the caress of the warm wind
that breathes over the city like a friend.

Words: Chiara Ferrau

Music: Ennio Morricone; Arr. Audrey Snyder © 2006 EMI Virgin Music LTD, admin. Hal Leonard Music, Inc.

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* PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in treble clef, key of D major (two sharps), and 3/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a mix of quarter and eighth notes. There are some rests and a fermata over the second staff. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings 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

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

GOING OUT TO SERVE

* BENEDICTION

* HYMN

The Servant Song

1., 6. Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as
 2. We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are trav - 'lers
 3. I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night - time
 4. I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you laugh I'll
 5. When we sing to God in heav - en we shall find such

Christ to you; pray that I may have the grace to
 on the road; we are here to help each oth - er
 of your fear; I will hold my hand out to you,
 laugh with you. I will share your joy and sor - row
 har - mo - ny, born of all we've known to - geth - er

let you be my and ser - vant too.
 walk the mile you and bear the load.
 speak the peace you long to hear.
 'til we've seen this jour - ney through.
 of Christ's love and ag - o - ny.

Words and Music: Richard Gillard; Harm. Betty Pulkingham © 1977 Scripture in Song

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VOLUNTARY

+ + +

CHANCEL FLOWERS

The flowers are placed on the chancel by Steve Maple
in loving memory of his wife, Sue.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher: Reverend Taylor Fuerst

Liturgist: Reverend Cathy Stone

Music: Scott Davis

WORSHIP BULLETIN GRAPHIC

Colin Day, *First Church member*
and recent UT graduate

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.