



LOVE LOOKS LIKE

January 18, 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 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 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

O God of Every Nation

O God of every nation, of every race and land,
redeem your whole creation with your almighty hand;
where hate and fear divide us, and bitter threats are hurled,
in love and mercy guide us, and heal our strife-torn world.

Words: William Watkins Reid, Jr. © 1958 renewed 1986 the Hymn Society of America, admin. Hope Publishing Co.

Music: *Llangloffan*, Welsh Hymn Melody; Harm. David Evans © 1927 Oxford University Press

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*CALL TO WORSHIP

Give thanks to the Holy One, for goodness abounds.

Divine love endures forever!

Let the winds and the waters say,

Divine love endures forever!

Let the woodlands and wildflowers say,

Divine love endures forever!

Let all that lives and longs for justice, peace, and beauty say,

Divine love endures forever!

This is the day—this is the moment—that the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

* HYMN

God of Wonder, Love Unending

1. God of won - der, love un - end - ing, shap - ing plan - ets, seas and skies.
 2. Love be - yond our lim - i - ted per - ceiv - ing, grace that will not let us go.
 3. Your great love's a chal - leng - ing ex - am - ple, lov - ing those we'd rath - er not.
 4. Let us not be swayed by pow - ers, lulled in - to com - plac - en - cy.
 5. You who formed our won - drous cre - a - tion, make us stew - ards strong and true.

Ev - 'ry at - om, gen - tly swirl - ing, deep with - in its beau - ty lies.
 In our joy and in our griev - ing, still your stead - fast mer - cies flow.
 Walls so quick - ly rise be - tween us, ways of liv - ing ways of thought.
 Love the least and fight for jus - tice, work to make all peo - ple free.
 Let our cour - age and de - vo - tion show our thank - ful - ness to You.

From the small - est to the great - est, all cre - a - tion sings your
 Not by mer - it, not by meas - ure, we are held with - in your
 Let us heed your gra - cious call - ing, make my ta - ble wid - er
 Let us share our loaves and fish - es, trust - ing you to bless our
 In Your peace we find our cen - ter, in Your love we find our

praise, (sings your praise) all cre - a - tion sings your praise.
 hand, (in your hand) we are held with - in your hand.
 still, (wid - er still) make my ta - ble wid - er still.
 feast, (bless our feast) trust - ing you to bless our feast.
 call, (find our call) in Your love we find our call.

Words: Chip Norris © 2026 Chip Norris
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 Music: *Cwm rhondda*, John Hughes

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?

Truitt Windham Mills

Child of Thomas and Kaitlyn Mills

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,

he may grow to know the grace of God,

profess his 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 him, teaching him, and leading him
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 Truitt
with a community of love and forgiveness,
that he may grow in his trust of God,
and be found faithful in his service to others.**

**We will pray for him,
that he 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

**Truitt,
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.**

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

Genesis 1:26-31

HYMN 432

Jesu, Jesu
*Refrain, Stanza 2, and Refrain sung seated
as children come forward.*

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

HYMN

Ayudanos, O Dios
*Sung seated
as children return to their seats.*

*A - yu - da-nos, O Dios, con - cé - de-nos tu paz. A - yu - da-nos, O
Dios, con - cé - de-nos tu paz. A - paz. O help us, save us,
grant us peace, O God! A - yu - da-nos, help us grant us peace, O
God! A - yu - da-nos, O Dios, con - cé - de nos tu paz.

*Help us, O God, grant us your peace.

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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

Christ Has No Hands But Ours

Christ has no hands but ours to reach, to touch, to heal,
to welcome in community, to fashion family.
As servants of our God we carry out the call
to walk the road where saints have trod and bring good news to all.
We see with eyes of faith that still would follow stars.
As points of light, we point the way and chase away the dark.
God waters from above the good seed that we sow,
and brings to harvest all our work so that the Church will grow.
Marked with the cross of Christ, we, as a witness,
are sent forth to be the Gospel, for Christ has no hands but ours.

Words and Music: Tom Porter © 2018 Choristers Guild

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* 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

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

GOING OUT TO SERVE

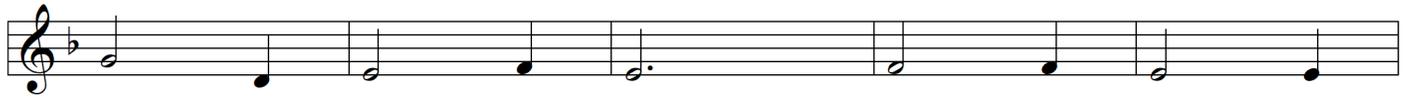
* BENEDICTION

* HYMN

God of Freedom, God of Justice



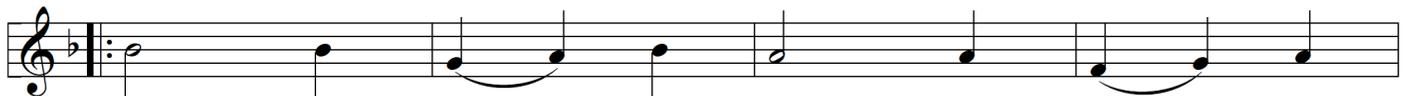
1. God of free - dom, God of jus - tice, you whose
2. Rid the earth of tor - ture's ter - ror, you whose
3. Make in us a cap - tive con - science quick to



love is strong as death, you who saw the
hands were nailed to wood; hear the cries of
hear, to act, to plead; make us tru - ly



dark of pri - son, you who knew the price of faith:
pain and pro - test, you who shed the tears and blood:
sis - ters, bro - thers of what - ev - er race or creed:



touch our world of sad op - pres - sion
move in us the power of pit - ty
teach us to be ful - ly hu - man,



with your Spir - it's heal - ing breath.
rest - less for the com - mon good.
o - pen to each oth - er's need.

Words: Shirley Erena Murray © 1992 Hope Publishing Co.

Music: *Fu de wen-nuan*, Lim Swee Hong © 2014 Hope Publishing Co.

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VOLUNTARY

+ + +

CHANCEL FLOWERS

The flowers are placed on the chancel
by the Downtowners Sunday School Class
in honor of Sally Watkins on her 85th birthday and
in appreciation of her leadership, dedication, and volunteerism
to First Church and the Downtowners for well over 50 years.

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.

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.