



YOUTH @ FIRST

First United Methodist Church of Austin
1201 Lavaca St, Austin, TX 78701
www.fumcaustin.org | 512-478-5684 | @fumcaustin



Mission & Values

PAGE 03

Weekly Events

PAGE 04

Special Events

PAGE 05

Service Trips & Retreats

PAGE 06 & 07

Confirmation & Other Milestones

PAGE 08

Ways for Adults to Get Involved

PAGE 09

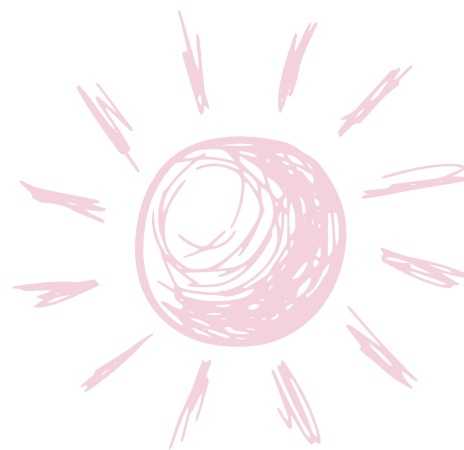
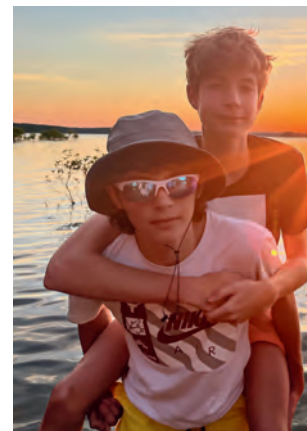
Communication & Policies

PAGE 10

 **WELCOME** 

First United Methodist Church of Austin

YOUTH MINISTRY



MISSION

FUMC Youth Ministry engages all middle and high school students in supportive and welcoming community that invites them to grow in a life-long relationship with Christ and each other through service, worship, and fun.

VALUES

- SERVICE
- SPIRITUAL GROWTH
- JOYFUL GATHERING
- RADICAL ACCEPTANCE
- LOVE



As children transition to youth, they become busier and more in control of their schedules. Family participation in their faith lives is still crucial, but youth begin to have more personal ownership of their response to God's love. The Youth Ministry begins—at whatever age your youth becomes a part of this faith community—by making sure that every youth is known by peers and adult volunteers, who will help them navigate their faith, support them through the challenges of teenage life, and guide them toward love.

Young people who are active in the Youth Ministry grow in their connection with God and in community through participation in worship, Sunday School, and Engage—our weekly Sunday evening gathering.

Youth understand the need to love and serve others. They learn to reflect God back into the world by using their time and talents through service trips—like Appalachia Service Project and Be The Neighbor—which also offer youth the opportunity to build lasting memories and bonds with one another.

Our hope is that by participating in FUMC's Youth Ministry, young people are equipped to build relationships with people from different walks of life, navigate challenging seasons in their own lives, and bring their full hearts, minds and service to communities they join beyond our walls.

WEEKLY EVENTS

WORSHIP



SUNDAYS | 9:00AM and 11:00AM | SANCTUARY

All throughout the Bible, we see the story of a God who is determined to be with us, to know and to be known, and we are made for that connection with God. Youth and their families are encouraged to make worship a part of their weekly routine as often as possible. At the 11:00AM service, youth often sit together in the balcony—and some kids see it as a right of passage to join other youth when they are old enough. Youth are invited to read scripture, run slides, serve communion, and usher.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

MIDDLE SCHOOL | SUNDAYS | 10:00AM | FLC 202

HIGH SCHOOL | SUNDAYS | 10:00AM | FLC 203

Sunday School is an opportunity for middle and high school students to have small group discussions about faith and scripture, as we look at God's story, Christian history, and Methodist beliefs and practices from many perspectives. Our goal is to make room for youth to ask the big questions while getting to know the story of God and the person of Jesus.

ENGAGE



fun and
fellowship
every
sunday
night!

SUNDAYS | 4:30-7:00PM | FAMILY LIFE CENTER

Middle and high school youth are invited to engage their whole selves in discussion, prayer, games, singing, dinner, and plenty of fun! Engage is our regular weekly fellowship opportunity for youth and it meets on Sunday evenings during the school year. Discussions cover a range of topics that matter to the kids or help them apply faith to life. Some examples are current events, racism, climate justice, hope, empathy, mental health, and inclusion. Each week, we share a hot meal that has been provided by youth families or other church members before concluding our evening with the Christ Candle, a chance to check in with each other and share the highs and lows of the previous week.

Note: We aim for one offsite experience every month—often on the last Sunday of the month. This might be bowling, skating, or a service opportunity. Start times and costs vary for these special Engage events.



CONNECT FOR TWEENS

SELECT FRIDAYS EACH SEMESTER

6:00-9:00PM | FAMILY LIFE CENTER

All 5th, 6th, and 7th graders are invited to Connect, a time just for tweens! Connect helps kids bridge the transition between child and youth by helping tweens connect with each other and God, all while having tons of fun. Together, we will eat dinner, play games, talk pre-teen life, and give kids and parents a Friday night break from each other! We ask participants to RSVP for Connect, though the event is free. We do appreciate donations to offset the cost of dinner.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL PARTY BARGE

A SUNDAY AFTERNOON ON LAKE TRAVIS NEAR THE START OF THE SCHOOL YEAR

We celebrate going back to school with one more summery adventure, a three hour tour on a Party Barge. We jump in the lake, cook burgers and hot dogs, swim, fish, laugh, and have a ton of fun! Registration is required and participation is capped at 50 for this popular event. Families provide the transportation to and from Volente Beach. Parents are invited to coordinate carpooling for max fun with minimum fuss. The fee for this event is approximately \$40/participant.

CITYWIDE YOUTH EVENTS

United Methodist youth groups from all over Austin occasionally come together for big fun and an extra elevated chance to build community and. Past events have included a scavenger hunt, tacky prom, and lock-out. Most of these events do require a fee to participate and some of them require transportation by the family to a specific location.

SUMMER GET-TOGETHERS

While, Engage, our regular Sunday evening gathering, takes a pause each summer, FUMC Youth Ministry plans regular opportunities for youth to spend time in fellowship and fun throughout the summer. Summer gatherings often include an afternoon at the movies, a pool party hosted by a youth family, outdoor concerts, and family meals. More information about the summer calendar will be available before the end of the school year. Most of these events do require a fee to participate and some of them require transportation by the family to a specific location.



SPECIAL EVENTS



SERVICE TRIPS

middle school



Be the Neighbor



We partner with Be The Neighbor (BTN) for our Middle School summer service trip, equipping participating youth to live lives of love, service, and justice. Middle school trips are Sunday-Friday. Our final destination is typically within the state of Texas, though occasionally we venture further. Service-learning opportunities may be focused on issues like poverty, racism, food insecurity, climate change, or asylum seekers and include working in places like community gardens, refugee welcome centers, and elder-care facilities. Youth also hear from experts who can help them understand the deeper issues and consider their role in service, advocacy, and justice. Registration for this phone-free trip opens in the fall. Fees of approximately \$400 can be paid in installments. Team fundraising is also required.

high school



Appalachia Service Project



For more than 40 years, FUMC has been taking high school students and adults to Eastern Kentucky to make homes warmer, safer, and drier with Appalachia Service Project (ASP). Teams of 4-5 youth and 2 adults spend the week building relationships with homeowners and doing construction work to make these homes more secure. The trip is 12 days long (leaving Friday morning and returning on a Tuesday) and includes overnight stops at local churches along the way and at DeGray Lake State Park for a time of reflection and rest on the way home. This phone-free trip also requires youth to participate in several pre-trip meetings, two construction workshops, and fundraising. Team registration opens in October. Trip fees of approximately \$400 can be paid in 3 installments.



Each year, we prioritize a chance for middle school and high school students to go on retreat separately. These weekends are phone free in order to maximize the chance for youth to get away from big stresses and distractions, focus on God and the friendships that they are building in this faith community, and exercise a little bit of freedom—all while immersed in nature. Retreats are also a chance to strengthen connections within the youth group as youth share thoughts about life and faith, stories (around the campfire and otherwise), laughter, adventure, and a whole lot of fun.

MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT

JANUARY 17-19, 2025

LOCATION & FINAL COST TBA

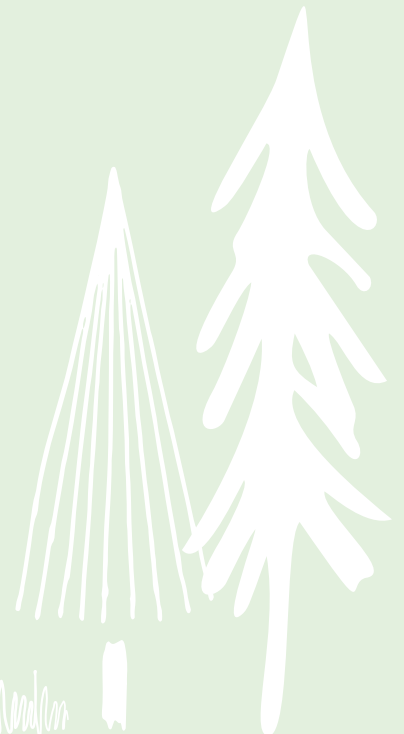
This year, we are shaking things up and middle schoolers will retreat with youth from other area United Methodist churches over MLK Day weekend. We will leave on Friday night and return on Sunday. Registration is required for participation and will be available in October. The cost of the retreat is approximately \$200.

HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT

FEBRUARY 14-16, 2025

LOCATION & FINAL COST TBA

Most high school students have packed schedules and it can be difficult to make time to unplug for a whole weekend. This is exactly why retreat time is especially important for high schoolers. Registration is required for participation and will be available this fall. The cost of the retreat is approximately \$200.



RETREATS

MILESTONES



6TH GRADE PARADE

On Back-to-School Sunday, all 6th graders are invited to parade with great fanfare from the steps of Murchison Chapel across Lavaca Street to the Family Life Center, where they are greeted by the FUMC youth group. The parade, led by the Children's Ministry Team, celebrates the transition that each 6th grader is making from child to youth. Once at the Family Life Center, older youth host a party with yummy food and a few getting-to-know-you games to officially welcome 6th graders to all the fun and adventure of the FUMC youth group.



CONFIRMATION

Confirmation offers young people a chance to explore faith in the United Methodist tradition, including our identity as Christians, history and heritage, practices, and beliefs. 8th graders at FUMC are invited to question, wonder, and learn together in a pressure-free environment. Young people practice sharing openly and honestly about their faith—or lack thereof. They meet and build relationships with mentors who provide accountability and guidance. At the conclusion of Confirmation classes, students have the opportunity to affirm their faith and take the vows of membership in the church. Students who cannot participate in 8th grade are invited to attend Confirmation classes in 9th or 10th grade.

Confirmation takes place weekly from October to April on a weekday evening. Participating families will have a chance to offer input about which day of the week works best. Families also take turns providing a meal and hosting the class in their homes as they are able. Occasional Sunday morning meetings offer the confirmands a chance to meet with mentors. Confirmation Sunday is celebrated on the Sunday after Easter.

If you have an 8th-10th grader who is interested in Confirmation, contact Devon Bailey, Director of Youth Ministry, at devon@fumcaustin.org.

SENIOR BRUNCH

We love to celebrate our high school seniors as they graduate. In May, we host a Senior Brunch for 12th graders and their families and friends. Entertainment includes a slideshow featuring photos from throughout each senior's life. Families are also invited to share a little bit about what makes them proud and what hopes they have for their seniors after graduation. It is a sweet time of offering our love to these young people as they take their next steps in life and, yes, we recommend bringing tissues!



SENIOR ROAST

If the Senior Brunch is a way for our families to celebrate their seniors, the Senior Roast is a chance for the whole youth group to share stories, wish them well, and send them off with plenty of laughs and appreciation for their time with us. The Senior Roast is our end-of-year party. It features good food, great company, and a slideshow featuring our seniors' lives with FUMC Austin. After the slideshow, each youth is invited into the hot-seat as their friends and leaders share embarrassing moments and favorite memories.

YOUTH SPONSORS

Youth Sponsors help teenagers grow spiritually by connecting to them personally, supporting them, and modeling the Christian life. FUMC has several programs for youth, including Sunday School, Engage, and Connect. Youth sponsors generally serve with the program that works best with their schedule. Youth Sponsors are responsible, flexible, outgoing, playful, accepting, and good at listening. They have a genuine interest in the lives of teenagers.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Sunday School Teachers help youth grow spiritually by exploring the concepts of Christian faith with them and by modeling the Christian life. Teachers prepare lessons before Sunday morning from curriculum and resources provided. They arrive 15 minutes before class begins to help set up and to welcome youth as they arrive. Teachers don't need to have all the answers. Instead, they need to love exploring faith questions with teenagers.

MEAL COORDINATOR

The Meal Coordinator is responsible for scheduling and notifying families for serving Engage meals and possibly other youth meals. The Meal Coordinator provides a kitchen orientation and guidelines to the meal providers, notifying them of any special dietary needs. They manage a calendar and a way for families to sign up to volunteer to provide a meal. It is a great way for an organized person to support FUMC Youth Ministry.

MEAL PROVIDER

A Meal Provider arranges dinner for youth during Engage. The meal provider either prepares a meal in the FLC kitchen, purchases a pre-made meal, or brings a meal made at home. Meal Providers set up dinner, serve it, and clean up after dinner is done. Please note that FUMC does not reimburse meal providers for the cost of meals. This is a wonderful way for great cooks (or great take-out orderers!) to give youth food and a sense of welcome and care.

SPECIAL EVENTS SUPPORT

When we go on retreats or service trips, we need adults to serve on these trips. Adults who participate are there to support youth on the trip—working and playing with them, helping to coordinate activities and groups as needed, and driving youth to the various destinations.

We also need adults to support Confirmation, assisting at the weekly meetings and/or serving as Confirmation mentors who meet with the class on Sunday mornings..

YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM

The Youth Ministry Team meets with the Director of Youth Ministry on a regular basis to evaluate past events and plan for future youth activities.

DRIVER

A Driver safely transports groups of youth to and from local youth events. Drivers must be at least 25 years old and are required to submit insurance coverage and driving record annually.

The safety of our youth is a top priority at FUMC Austin. To be in compliance with our safety policy, all volunteers working with our youth must be certified through Safe Gatherings and the Rio Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church every two years.

for adults

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED!

HOW WE COMMUNICATE



Hi! I'm Devon Bailey, Director of Youth Ministry at FUMC Austin. I know that families are busier than ever. On this page, you will find quick and easy ways we communicate throughout the year. Our primary method of sharing updates and events is an email sent to youth families each week. Find links to subscribe to that email list at fumcaustin.org/youth. We also have a GroupMe chat, which is a great space to follow up and have conversations with parents. Our Instagram account is set to private so that we can share photos of events with families and reach out directly to youth. Of course, you can always email me with any youth ministry questions, curiosities, brilliant new ideas, worries, hopes, or kangaroo sightings!



EMAIL DEVON
devon@fumcaustin.org



INSTAGRAM
[@fumc_austin_youth](https://www.instagram.com/fumc_austin_youth)



GROUPME
[group:fumc austin youth](https://www.groupme.com/join/group?id=fumc_austin_youth)



WEBSITE
fumcaustin.org/youth



FACEBOOK
facebook.com/groups/fumcparents

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships are available thanks to generosity of church members who are committed to making sure that all youth have a chance to participate in FUMC Youth ministry. If the cost of an event or trip is prohibitive, please contact Devon Bailey, Director of Youth Ministry, to request a scholarship. Full and partial scholarships are made on a case-by-case basis. We do ask that if a scholarship is requested, it is used.

PHONES

We care deeply about developing and providing opportunities for our youth to build up their socialization skills. Phones often prove to be a distraction to the students' participation in our programming. Youth also tend to engage less with their peers in person and choose instead to spend any social time on their devices. As such, we take up cell phones at all youth events. When youth arrive we ask them to place their phones in a basket, and phones are returned before they leave. Phones are not even allowed in their possession on trips and retreats and that we ask parents to help us enforce this policy. If phones are discovered, they will be collected and returned at the end of the trip. If you need to reach your young person during an event, trip, or retreat, please contact the Youth Director to communicate your need. We appreciate your family's cooperation as we experiment with ways to provide a healthy environment for your youth and to help them build deeper relationships and connections within our community. If you have any questions or special needs, please contact Devon Bailey, who would be happy to discuss this further with you.

SAFETY POLICY

It is our responsibility to provide a safe and secure environment for children, youth, and vulnerable adults entrusted to our care. Therefore, all adults who volunteer in the youth ministry are required to complete a 3-step background check and safety training process through Safe Gatherings every two years. In addition, volunteers are asked to review our campus safety policy annually and ministry drivers are required to submit their driving record annually. For more information about safety policies and training, visit www.fumcaustin.org/safety-training/.





First United Methodist Church of Austin
1201 Lavaca St, Austin, TX 78701
www.fumcaustin.org | 512-478-5684 | @fumcaustin