



April 14, 2024
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 by scanning this QR code with your smartphone or use the printed version found in the pew in front of you. To let our pastors know about a prayer request for you or someone you love, use the QR code found on page 7 of this bulletin or place your card 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

Christ Is Alive

Psalmodia Evangelica

Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and every age,
till earth and all creation ring with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

Words: Brian Wren

Music: *Truro*, Psalmodia Evangelica

* CALL TO WORSHIP

In Jesus Christ,
there is a new creation.
Everything old has passed away.
Everything has become new.
This newness is from God,
who has reconciled us through Jesus Christ.
Rejoice and be glad!
Everything has become new.

Rebecca Gaudino

* HYMN 539

O Spirit of the Living God

HEARING GOD’S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Almighty God,
through your only Son you overcame death
and opened to us the light of eternity.
Enlighten our minds and kindle our hearts
with the presence of your Spirit,
that we may hear your words of comfort and challenge
in the reading of the scriptures,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

SCRIPTURE

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

New Testament, page 171

HYMN 192

There's a Spirit in the Air
*Stanza 1 sung seated
as the children come forward.*

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

HYMN 192

There's a Spirit in the Air
*Stanza 6 sung seated
as the children return to their seats.*

SERMON

RESPONDING IN FAITH

INVITATION TO THE FAITH JOURNEY

Are you interested in joining First Church? Prior to joining, we ask all to participate in a First Steps Class to learn about United Methodist beliefs and the ministry of FUMC, meet the pastors and other members, and ask questions. The next class is today at 12:15PM in the FLC Garrison Chapel. To sign up, fill out the Connections Card and bring it with you to class.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Farbod Farzian

RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

Farbod, on this day of your Baptism,
we invite you to publicly profess your faith in Jesus Christ:

Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness,
reject the evil powers of this world,
and repent of your sin?

I do.

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you
to resist evil, injustice, and oppression
in whatever forms they present themselves?

I do.

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior,
put your whole trust in his grace,
and promise to serve him as your Lord,
in union with the Church which Christ has opened
to people of all ages, nations, and races?

I do.

According to the grace given to you,
will you remain a faithful member of Christ's holy Church
and serve as Christ's representative in the world?

I 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 Farbod in the Christian faith and life,
praying for him, teaching him, and leading him
in acts of service and mission?

We will.

Let us join together
in professing the Christian faith
as contained in the Scriptures
of the Old and New Testaments.

Do you believe in God the Father?
**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?
**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

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 his or her life.

WELCOME OF THE NEWLY BAPTIZED

Farbod, 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 brother

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 is 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.

RECEPTION INTO THE CHURCH

Farbod, having affirmed your faith

and received the Sacrament of Baptism,

I ask you to make these 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 First United Methodist Church,

will you faithfully participate in its ministries

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

I will.

Members of the household of God,

I commend Farbod to your love and care.

Do all in your power

to increase his faith,

confirm his hope,

and perfect him in love.

We give thanks for all that God has already given you

and we welcome you in Christian love.

As members together with you in the body of Christ

and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church,

we renew our covenant faithfully to participate 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.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

OFFERING

How Can I Keep from Singing?

Robert Lowry / Arr. Robert Wilks

My life goes 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 heav'n 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 1-3; Robert Wilks Stanza 4

Music: Robert Lowry; Arr. Robert Wilks

Arr. © Robert Wilks

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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! Christ is ris - en! 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! Christ is ris - en! Al - le - lu - ia!

Words: Thomas Ken; adapt. by Gilbert H. Vieira

Adapt. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

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

GOING OUT TO SERVE

BIRTHDAY BLESSING

Let us pray:

**God, our gracious Creator,
we give you thanks for the gift of life
to these who celebrate their birthdays in April.
Grant that they may make this new year in their lives
an offering that will enrich your world and give you glory.
Cause them to grow in wisdom and grace
and strengthen their trust in your goodness
all the days of their lives;
through Christ our Lord.**

Amen.

The Book of Common Prayer, 1979, alt.

* BENEDICTION

* HYMN 159

Lift High the Cross

VOLUNTARY

+ + +

CHANCEL FLOWERS

The chancel flowers are placed by Joe and Donna Shands in celebration of their 37th wedding anniversary.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher: Reverend Taylor Fuerst

Liturgists: Reverend Cathy Stone and Reverend David Meeker-Williams

Music: Scott Davis

Soloist: Matthew McDaniel

PRAYER REQUEST



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 Texas Trial Lawyers Association garage at the southwest corner of 13th and Lavaca Streets or at open meters around the church.

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 begins at 10:00AM and parents may take their children directly to their classrooms after getting a guardian sticker and their child's name tag from one of our check in stations. Learn more at fumcaustin.org/children.

GIVING

Cash or checks will be received during the offertory. We offer three convenient ways to give online: (1) through the FUMC App on your smart phone; (2) make an online donation at fumcaustin.org/giving; and/or (3) text FUMCAUSTIN (all caps) to 73256 on your smartphone and follow the prompts. Once your number is registered, future gifts are easier to make.