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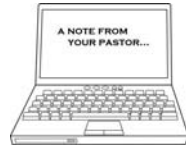
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Special Insert: Advent Schedule of Events



This time of year always reminds me of a song popular back in the 1990's. "What if God was one of us? Just a slob like one of us. Just a stranger on the bus; trying to make his way home. If God had a face what would He like look like? And would you want to see if seeing meant that you would have to believe in things like heaven and in Jesus and the saints and all the prophets."

What an interesting idea. What if God was one of us? Well, that would change everything. If God had to ride the bus and go through all the daily hassles we have then maybe God would understand our troubles and our lives better!

Knowing that God was one of us would help us to believe. We could believe because we could see God and point to God and relate to God. Believing would be easier with God on the bus because our faith would not have to travel to the celestial boundaries of heaven; God would be right there with us! We could share with God our troubles and our fears, and perhaps through this sharing we could receive the encouragement to better cope with the stresses of life. We could sit next to this person and vent our anger, cry our pain, laugh with joy, and even share our hopes.

What a daring idea: God one of us! Well dear friends, this idea is not as farfetched as you might think. This is the miracle of Christmas: God IS one of us. Christianity calls this the "incarnation" which literally means "in the flesh." To incarnate means to put something "in fleshy form." It could also mean to give form and substance to an insubstantial quality.

The Gospel of John helps us to understand the incarnation... "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen His glory..." (John 1: 1; 14)

The joy behind all our decorations, presents, lights, and songs is the miracle of knowing that God became one of us. God came to earth to experience our frailties and weaknesses. God came to ride the bus and to do all of the other things we human beings do.

But then, Christ was sent to the cross. He died and on the third day rose again. He ascended to heaven but promised His Holy Spirit would always be with us so that we could remember Him and love Him and be loved by Him and share His grace with others.

The miracle of Christmas is that we can run into God while riding the bus; we can also run into God while at work, during school, shopping at the mall, and especially in our homes. And hopefully if we believe God is riding on the bus with us, then other people will see God and come to believe in Emmanuel...God with us!

Have a blessed Christmas,

Andy

From Your 2018 Trustees...

The Trustees would like to keep the congregation updated on continuing projects around the church as we approach the end of 2018. In an attempt to be proactive and prevent some air-conditioning problems which we have experienced in recent years, we have established a maintenance agreement with a company to service our 26 AC units. This company has completed an inspection and inventory of all units and will do twice yearly system checks. Hopefully, this process will keep our AC systems working more efficiently, inform us ahead of time of potential problems, and will be more cost effective in the long run.

We are currently addressing lighting issues, specifically outside lighting, around the church and are working to have those problems corrected before the end of the year.

As we have reported earlier, we continue to have flooring issues in the main hospitality area and hallways. The original glue and a reapplication of an adhesive upgrade have both failed. A replacement of the flooring appears to be our only option. A decision has been made to include this flooring replacement in our Build, Serve, Grow renovations for 2019. More information will be forthcoming as more details are developed concerning this important 2019 BSG campaign.

New maintenance request forms are now available in the office for anyone who has a maintenance concern. We strive for better communication so our facility operates comfortably and efficiently for our church family to fulfill its mission in our community.

Daryl Voges, Rhonda Morris and Clint Wilson

WORSHIP AND FINE ARTS



Daily Scripture

Week of November 26

Monday	Luke 21:25-28
Tuesday	Jeremiah 33:14-16
Wednesday	Luke 21:25-36
Thursday	Psalms 25:1-7
Friday	Psalms 25:8-10
Saturday	1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

1st Sunday in Advent

Sunday	Jeremiah 33:14-16 Psalm 25:1-10 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 Luke 21:25-36
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Week of December 3

Monday	Malachi 3:1-4
Tuesday	Luke 1:68-75
Wednesday	Luke 1:76-79
Thursday	Philippians 1:3-8
Friday	Philippians 1:9-11
Saturday	Luke 3:1-6

2nd Sunday in Advent

Sunday	Malachi 3:1-4 Luke 1:68-79 Philippians 1:3-11 Luke 3:1-6
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Week of December 10

Monday	Isaiah 12:2-6
Tuesday	Zephaniah 3:14-18
Wednesday	Luke 3:7-18
Thursday	Isaiah 12:2-6
Friday	Zephaniah 3:19-20
Saturday	Philippians 4:4-7

3rd Sunday of Advent

Sunday	Zephaniah 3:14-20 Isaiah 12:2-6 Philippians 4:4-7 Luke 3:7-18
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Week of December 17

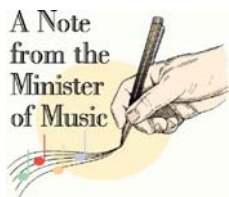
Monday	Luke 1:39-45
Tuesday	Micah 5:2-5a
Wednesday	Psalms 80:1-7
Thursday	Hebrews 10:5-10
Friday	Hebrews 10:5-10
Saturday	Micah 5:2-5a

4th Sunday of Advent

Sunday	Micah 5:2-5a Luke 1:47-55 Hebrews 10:5-10 Luke 1:39-45
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Week of December 24 - Christmas Eve

Monday	Isaiah 9:2-7
Tuesday	Hebrews 1:1-12
Wednesday	Psalms 148
Thursday	1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26
Friday	Luke 2:41-52
Saturday	Colossians 3:12-14
Sunday	1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 Psalm 148 Colossians 3:12-17 Luke 2:41-52



Know it's not even Thanksgiving, yet, but have you started thinking about what decorations you'll use for Christmas? It seems that every store now has a plethora of decorating ideas. There're penguins dressed as elves, reindeer dressed as carolers, lights that twinkle and lights that bubble. Of all the decorations with which you can adorn your house, I have to say that I'm always drawn to anything that lights up. Some people prefer white lights on tree while others prefer multicolored lights. I'm not that particular (as long as I don't have to string the lights on the tree). One of my favorite things to do once all the decorating is done is to turn on the tree lights, the lights on the mantel, light a fire in the fireplace and turn off all the other lights. It feels so peaceful sitting in the quiet with just the illuminated decorations. I'm reminded of how the shepherds must of felt "abiding their flocks by night" as the Bethlehem star lit up the sky followed by the chorus of angels announcing Jesus' birth. The light of the star and the angels' proclamation pierced the darkness to share with the shepherds the important news so they may tell others. One of the names given to Jesus is "Light of the World." As we prepare once again to celebrate Christmas, the image of Jesus being "the light" which pierces the darkness takes on a special meaning. While the world lay in darkness, one small child, which made the sky light up and angels sing, entered our existence to bring us the light of salvation. What a glorious gift we have been offered. As we begin to decorate our homes, workplaces, and places of worship, may we remember the significance of the light that breaks through the darkness of the night to light up our living rooms and neighborhoods. Jesus Christ is the light of the world and He offers to light up the darkness of our lives with His gift of salvation. One of my favorite Christmas songs is "Do You Hear What I Hear?" The news of Jesus' birth is passed from the wind to the little lamb, then to the shepherd boy, then to the King, and finally to the people. The song ends with the proclamation that "He [Jesus] will bring us goodness and light..." This season may we indeed find the goodness and light that Christ brings.

— *Mark Hixon, Director of Music and Fine Arts*

Come to the "Christmas Café" December 9

One quiet night, strangers visit a small café. One stranger speaks in riddles. Other strangers share their stories of a wondrous event. Another stranger tells of a family staying in their stable. What happened to make this night so extraordinary? It's "The Miracle at the Christmas Café". Waitress Polly Porkchop along with short-order cook Mac N. Cheese invite you join them at the Christmas Café on Sunday, December 9. No reservations are required and the café will be open for business at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Don't miss this special opportunity. You might even want Polly's recipe for Mount Carmel pie!

Order Your Poinsettias!

One of the Christmas traditions at MUMC is beautiful red poinsettias. The worship Committee invites you to purchase a poinsettia in memory or honor of a loved one. They will be placed in the sanctuary and FLC on December 16. Cost for poinsettias is \$10 each. Please fill out the form on the last page of this newsletter and place it in the offering plate or mail to the church office (Manchaca UMC, P.O. Box 460, Manchaca, TX 78652).



Worship Opportunities

8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Sunday
Traditional Services
Sanctuary
Rev. Andy Smith preaching

9:45 - 10:45 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School
for all ages
Various Classrooms

11:00 a.m. Sunday
Life on the Road
Family Life Center
Contemporary Worship



STEWARDSHIP

We Pray for...

Bill & Linda Andrews	Bobbye Meador
Sam Arhelger	Dick Meyer
Jennalee Attebury	Charlotte Morahan
Rick Barker	Maxine Monteith
Tina Carter	Mark Monteith
Betty Chase	Dorma Nickels
June Cook	Pat Nixon-Gunn
Arline Crippen	Alan Owens
Jim Crowson	Carl Quebedeaux
Jeff Douglas	Rev. Mimi Raper
Kristine Ehrlich	Aliya Rosegreen
Edna Esparza	Rich Roth
Evelyn	Mary Rush
David Fegan	Sissy Shugrue
Imogene Gray	Aaron Smyth
Robin Hansen	Adrienne Thel
Lee Herring	Dean Thompson
Susan Hillburn	Rita Thompson
Adrienne Howell	Robert Todd
Angel Jackson	Ellie Tucker & Family
Norma Jacobson	Ray Vaughn
Forest & M'Liss Jordan	Jerry Weaver
James Kennedy	B. A. Wilcoxson
Jackie Kerr	Bobbye Word
Laura McFall	Claudia Wright
Chris & Allen McKean	Chuck Zaloga
Deborah McMullen	

Names are removed from prayer list each month unless otherwise requested.



Sympathy to...

- Camilla Sloan**, on the loss of her mother, Mildred Smith Peel.
- Mary Nancarrow**, on the loss of her husband, David Nancarrow.
- Brad Piggott**, on the loss of his grandfather, William Wright.
- Debbie Dulski**, on the loss of her step-sister, Melissa Cloud.



We Celebrate the Baptism of...

Lucy Charlotte Barrett, daughter of Angela & Len Barrett.

Attendance

Sunday 10-21-18	287
Sunday School	162
Visitors	35
First time visitors 1	
Sunday 10-28-18	296
Sunday School	152
Visitors	36
First time visitors 1	
Sunday 11-4-18	301
Sunday School	143
Visitors	35
First time visitors 6	
Sunday 11-11-18	274
Sunday School	113
Visitors	37
First time visitors 0	

Financial Report



OCTOBER

Operating Income	\$ 72,494.06
Operating Expenses	\$ 61,537.10
Net Op. Income	\$ 10,956.96

YTD (October)

Operating Income	\$ 665,655.69
Operating Expenses	\$ 673,326.39
Net Op. Loss	\$ (7,670.70)

Sept Special Offering Rec'd

Food Pantry	\$ 390.00
Build-Serve-Grow	\$ 2,785.00
Debt Reduction	\$ 1,620.00
Missions	\$ 798.25
Alter Rail Offerings	\$ 157.00

The Church's financial reports are available for review, by any Church member, in the Church's office, during normal working hours. Please contact Dick for assistance and to make an appointment.

Coming Events

- CDC Breakfast With Santa Sat, Dec 1
- Christmas Pageant Meeting ~noon Sun, Dec 2
- Living Nativity & Advent Festival -5 pm ... Sun, Dec 2
- Coloring Café -10 am Mon, Dec 3
- Emmaus Gathering -6 pm Tues, Dec 4
- FISH Cookie baking -6:30 pm Wed, Dec 5
- Sunshine Cafe -11:15 am Thurs, Dec 6
- Church Council -7 pm Thurs, Dec 6
- Caring Kids at Marbridge -10 am Sat, Dec 8
- FISH Cookie Sale Sun, Dec 9
- Children's Choir Musical -8:30/11 am Sun, Dec 9
- Pastor's Coffee -9:45 am Sun, Dec 9
- Pageant Rehearsal -3 pm Sun, Dec 9
- Staff Christmas Lunch Mon, Dec 10
- Stitches from the Heart -6 pm Mon, Dec 10
- Travis County Run-off Election Tues, Dec 11
- NEWSLETTER DEADLINE -noon Tues, Dec 11
- Women's Cookie Exchange -9:30 am Wed, Dec 12
- FISH Holiday Party-6:30 pm Wed, Dec 12
- Daytime Bunko -1 pm Thurs, Dec 13
- Women of the Word -9:30 am Fri, Dec 14
- Family Pizza & Movie Night -6 pm Fri, Dec 14
- Angel Tree Gifts due in office Sun, Dec 16
- Sanctuary Choir Cantata -8:30/11 am ... Sun, Dec 16
- All Church Caroling -3 pm Sun, Dec 16
- Coloring Café -10 am Mon, Dec 17
- FLAMS -9 am Wed, Dec 19
- Santa's Workshop -9 am Sat, Dec 22
- Pageant Dress-Rehearsal -1 pm Sun, Dec 23
- Christmas Eve Family Service -5pm Mon, Dec 24
- Christmas Eve Service -7pm Mon, Dec 24
- Christmas Eve Service -9pm Mon, Dec 24
- Church Office Closed Mon-Wed, Dec 24-26
- Daytime Bunko -1 pm Thurs, Dec 27
- ONE WORSHIP SERVICE -10 am Sun, Dec 30

Current Adult Classes

- "The Journey" Study Group (starts 12/2) Daily
- "Experiencing Christmas" -9:45 am (thru 12/23). Sun
- GriefShare -1:30 pm (thru 12/16) Sun
- Stephen Ministry Training -5 pm (thru 12/16) Sun
- "Why This Jubilee?" -7 pm (thru 12/10) Mon
- "Fast Track Disciple 2" -7 pm Tues

Weekly Opportunities

- Worship - Sanctuary -8:30 am Sun
- Sunday School -9:45 am Sun
- Worship - Sanctuary -11 am Sun
- Worship - Family Life Center -11 am Sun
- Youth Choir -2 pm Sun
- UMYF -3 pm Sun
- Children's Choirs -4:30 pm Sun
- AA -7:30 pm Mon
- Boomer Exercise -9/10 am Tue/Thur
- Craft Group -7 pm Tue
- Craft Group -9 am Wed
- Men's Group -12 noon Wed
- Such as These Praise Band -6:30 pm Wed
- Sanctuary Choir -6:45 pm Wed
- Glory Bells -7 pm Thurs

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Christmas Eve Pageant "Casting Call"

Deadline to Sign Up is November 29

If your child (3rd – 5th grade) is interested in a speaking part in the Nativity pageant during the 5pm Family Christmas Eve Service this year, please sign up on the clipboards at church or online by Thursday, November 29. Plan to come to a brief 15 minute meeting after 11 am worship on December 2, where the kids will receive their roles and the script. Participants in the pageant must be able to attend the pageant rehearsal on Dec. 9 (3-5 pm) and full service dress rehearsal on Sunday, Dec. 23 (1-3 pm). Sign up online or on the clipboards at church.



Santa's Workshop!

Saturday, December 22, 9:00 – Noon

Drop your children off with our caring child-care workers so that you can finish your last minute Christmas shopping or errands. The kids will be making gifts and cards for their loved ones while you're out. Cost: \$20 for the first child, \$10 each additional child. Space is limited, so sign up early!



Advent Festival with Live Nativity

Sunday, December 2, 5:00 – 7:00 pm

We are kicking off the countdown to Christmas with a HUGE CELEBRATION! Join us for a lighted hayride, light-up games, crafts, cookie-decorating, petting zoo (with donkey!), music, great door prizes, and Santa! We'll end the event with Live Nativity performed by our children and youth! Invite your friend and neighbors to this free, community event!



Advent-in-a-Box

Don't forget to get your Advent box on December 2! With daily activities and weekly devotionals and ornaments for families with Pre-K and Elementary children.



Caring Kids

Caring Kids is a group of children and their parents that gather for mission and outreach projects. Caring Kids will meet at Marbridge on Saturday, Dec. 8 at 10:00 am to make crafts and sing songs with the residents. Sign up online or on the clipboards at church. Thank you, Caring Kids, for assembling 90 holiday bags for our Food Pantry!



FISH in December

The FISH tween youth group will be selling cookies on Sunday, Dec. 9 to raise money to be sponsors in our annual SoChac 5K that benefits area schools. All 4th and 5th graders are invited to help bake and decorate cookies on Wed. Dec. 5, 6:30 – 7:30 pm. The FISH holiday party will be Wednesday, Dec. 12. Check out our website for more information about FISH!



Christmas Eve Celebration for Families – 5:00 pm



Please join us in the Sanctuary for a multigenerational worship experience designed specifically for families with children to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child. As the Christmas story is shared through favorite carols, scripture and drama, all children present will be invited to participate in a nativity pageant as angels, stars,



shepherds and wise men. Music is provided by the Godspring Youth choir, the message will be delivered by Kim Carroll, and we'll end the night by lighting our glow sticks and singing Silent Night!

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Youth Service and Leadership Opportunities in Advent

We have lots of fun ways that youth can provide outreach and service to our community during the season of Advent. Consider any of these activities:

- Breakfast with Santa (Saturday, December 1st, 8-10 am). – Help us reach out to families from our Child Development Center by helping at the craft stations at the CDC's annual Breakfast with Santa Fundraiser.
- Advent Festival (Sunday, December 2, 5-7 pm) - Sign up to participate in the Live Nativity (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044aadad2fa13-live3>) and/or to run games or booths at the festival (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044aadad2fa13-advent!>)
- Christmas Eve Service for Families – Join us at the Christmas Eve service for families. Youth can sign up to help younger children from the congregation as they participate in the pageant. They can also sign up to be liturgists or ushers. If you'd like to sing in the pageant, you may join the Godsprings rehearsals at 2pm on Sunday afternoons.

Youth Tree Lot

Training dates:

Nov. 11, 18, 23 & 25

Tree Lot opens: Nov. 23rd

- Everyone who is working the tree lot must complete tree lot training.



⇒ *For Youth/Adults with previous Tree Lot experience*

2 training sessions will be available (November 11, & 18 - during Sunday School hour)

⇒ *For Youth/Adults with NO Tree Lot experience*

2 training session will be available (November 23 @ 8:30 AM & Nov. 25 @ 12:05 PM) (People who have experience can also sign-up for this training, but training session will be a bit longer.)

- Each youth should sign up for a minimum of 3 shifts.

Training: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044aadad2fa13-tree4>

Lot Shifts: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044aadad2fa13-20171>

Waterers: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044aadad2fa13-20172>

You do not have to be a youth or have a youth to support our youth in the tree lot! Sign up to work a shift! We especially need non-youth help during youth group times (Wednesday evenings, Sunday afternoons & evenings)! If a shift is not covered, the tree lot will be closed and we will lose sales! We will also close the lot if there are no adults present. sign-up now!!!

Looking Ahead...

- MANIA New Years 2019 - All Night New Years Party! For more info and to sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044aadad2fa13-mania>
- High School Mission Trip 2019 to Marvell, AR, June 30 - July 6. Sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044aadad2fa13-high2>
- Middle School Mission Trip 2019 to San Angelo, TX, July 14 - 18. Sign up coming soon!



awaken! Sunday Morning Youth

Join us on Sunday Mornings! Middle School meets in room 3 (West of Sanctuary). High school meets in the Youth Room (upstairs).

Children's and youth SS classes will be collecting items for the Food Pantry during the month of November! Help us provide food for people who need it this Holiday Season.

Why do we gather during the Sunday School hour?

- Friendships! Visit with your friends at church.
- Community Building! Be here to support one another, pray for each other, and have fun together!
- Growing your Faith! Awaken your faith with lessons that matter to you.



Confirmation Coming Soon!

Confirmation classes will begin in January. Do you have a middle school student who would like to participate?

Contact Ms. Kim at Kim@ManchacaUMC.org or click on the following Confirmation Registration Form link to register online:

<http://www.manchacaumc.org/confirmation-2019/>



ADULT MINISTRIES

Coloring Café

Mon. Dec. 3rd & 17th at 10:00 A.M. in the Parlor



Come join us in December for the Coloring Café! Coloring sheets, colored pencils, gel pens and markers will be available to share but feel free to bring your own supplies. Bring a friend! Everyone is welcome to join us and you can come and go as you please. You do not need to be a member of the MUMC family. You are welcome to bring a treat or refreshment for yourself or bring one to share! Coffee and water will be available.



Contact Kristine at 512-789-9285 (call or text) or email ehrllichkristine@gmail.com for more info.

Emmaus Gathering Buda/Kyle/Manchaca Area

Our local Emmaus community will gather at Manchaca UMC on December 4th. The Journey UMC will provide the worship service, music and 4th day speaker. The potluck will take place in the fellowship hall beginning at 6:30, worship to follow. Bring a dish to share, your worship book, lanyard and name tag. Please invite an Emmaus friend, the more the merrier.



Contact Wanda at wandajs@austin.rr.com for more info.

Learning and Growth Opportunities in 2019

- Healthy Habits for a New Year! A 6-week Daniel Plan Study begins Sunday afternoons Jan. 6
- A Woman Overwhelmed: A Women's Bible Study on Wednesday Mornings, Starting Jan. 23
- Wordspirations: An Experiential Study of God's Word, Women's Sunday Afternoon Bible Study, 4-6 p.m. Date TBA.
- Disciple Fast Track 2: Into the Word, Into the World: A Study on Luke and Acts, Tuesday Evenings, 7-8pm, Begins Jan.15
- Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi, a six week study led by Rev. Jeanne Devine (Day and time TBA)
- Multigenerational Harry Potter Party! – Feb. 10 after Church.

GriefShare

New Cycle Beginning Jan. 13, 2019



Grieving the loss of someone close to you? Find comfort and support at GriefShare - a 13 week video seminar/support group that you can join at any time, and is led by people who, like you, have lost someone they loved. We will meet Sundays, 1:30 - 3:30 pm, beginning Jan. 13th, 2019 at Manchaca United Methodist Church. Call Deanna at 512-917-1909 for more info.

Christmas at the Diner (Café)

Please join us for our Sunshine Café Christmas celebration on December 6th in the Parlor.



We will meet from 11:15 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. and will share dinner and fellowship along with singing of our favorite Christmas carols and songs. Come kick off your holidays at the Christmas Café!

"It's the most wonderful time of the year."

Grieving the death of a spouse?

Or do you know someone who is?

Please join us for this 2 hour seminar
Sunday, January 6, 2019 1:30-3:30 pm
Manchaca United Methodist Church

Email David at lunad079@gmail.com
for more information



Your life has changed forever. The daily emotions and challenges can seem too hard to bear.

Find help at a Loss of a Spouse seminar.

OPEN HEARTS

NO MEETING IN DECEMBER

Next meeting 1/8/2019 @ 7 pm - Rm. 8 Main Bldg.

[A laity support group for parents, friends, family, and allies of LGBTQ persons]

No official meeting in December. Christmas brings activities at church and school plus shopping and family coming and going. It should be a time of great joy. Sadly, it can be a time when those who are estranged are all alone. It could and should be a time of letting go of grudges and misunderstandings; a time to forgive and forget. Don't let another year or even a day go by. Get in touch with that "lost child" and let her/him know you want them back home for the holidays. Love and accept them for who they are even if you don't agree. LOVE – isn't that what Christ taught us?? In January we will meet on January 8 @ 7 PM since the first Tuesday is New Year's Day. If you need more information, call Loretta [mother of a gay son] 281-615-6149 [cell] or Kim 512-282-7274 [at the church]. We gather the first Tuesday of each month to share.



SEASON OF ADVENT

Why This Jubilee: Advent Reflections on the Songs of the Season

Mondays, Beginning November 26, 7 – 8 pm

In this musical advent study, you'll explore the birth of Christ with inspiration from well-known carols and Christmas songs. The daily devotional book by James Howell is optional (\$12). Led by Mark Hixon.



Experiencing Christmas: Find Yourself in the Stories of Christmas

4 Sundays, Beginning December 2, 9:45 – 10:45



In this unique Bible Study, you'll be fully immersed into the Advent and Christmas stories of the Bible through imaginative prayer and experiential learning. Be prepared for God to speak to you in

transforming ways! Led by Kim Carroll during the Sunday school hour. No cost and no homework. Each week's lesson is independent. All are welcome!

Church-wide Family Pizza and Movie Night

Friday, December 14



The whole MUMC family is invited to join us for a pizza dinner at 6pm followed by a Christmas movie at 6:30pm.

Choose from two movies: The Nativity Story and The Star – with popcorn and hot chocolate provided! Pajamas are optional. Please RSVP so we know how much pizza to purchase and how big the room needs to be! The event is free but donations toward costs are welcome.



Wednesday Women's Bible Study

Cookie Exchange *Wed., Dec. 12: 9:30 – 11:00 am*

All women are welcome to this time of fellowship and fun! Bring a dozen or so Christmas cookies to share and take a dozen cookies to enjoy at home. Coffee and hot chocolate will be provided!



Advent Festival with Live Nativity

Church, We Need Your Help to Bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to Our Community!

Please support the Advent Festival with Live Nativity (a new outreach event) in one or more of the following ways: Sign up to volunteer! We need food and drink servers, greeters at the registration desk and people to run the games and crafts booths.

1. Donate items! We need lots of lights (can be returned if well labeled), including battery operated lights.
2. We also need plain sugar and gingerbread cookies for the cookie decorating.
3. Tell your friends and neighbors and encourage them to come hear the good news!
4. Come & enjoy this wonderful kick-off to the Advent season!

Sunday Dec. 2, 5 – 7 PM

Petting Zoo with Donkey, Lighted Hayride, Crafts, Santa, Cookie-Decorating, Light-Up Games, Fabulous Door Prizes, Pizza, Popcorn, Hot Chocolate

6:45 Live Nativity performed by MUMC Children and Youth

“The Journey” Facebook Study Group

Daily Readings Begin Sunday, December 2

Too busy to join another weekly meeting during the hectic Advent season? Now you can join a study group and participate in your pajamas with a cup of hot chocolate from your own home!

Give yourself the gift of daily time to sit and ponder the wondrous story of Jesus' birth. We'll be using the daily devotionals from Adam Hamilton's "The Journey: A Season of Reflections" as our guide. On Saturday each week, I will post a summary of the week's readings in a private Facebook group, and then I'll post the daily readings and reflection questions for you to ponder about or journal. At anytime you can respond in the comments with your questions, comments, and wonderings. (Only those in the group will be able to see your posts and respond.) If you want to read the daily devotionals, I have books available for \$4 each, or you can purchase it on your own, but you are welcome to follow along without the book. Look for an invitation to join the group on the church's Facebook page, or sign up online or on the clipboards at church and I will send you an email with the link.



SERVICE AND OUTREACH

“No Room at the Inn” Christmas Eve Offering



Again this year, our Christmas Eve offering will be dedicated to our Habitat for Humanity Methodist Build. This is when we join with other Methodist Churches in the area and help to build a home for a deserving family. The families are vetted based on need and ability to repay the loan. They qualify by earning less than 60% of the median family income. Which for a family of four is less than \$43,920.

Each family puts \$1,000 cash down on their homes and works off the rest of the down payment in 300 sweat equity hours building other's homes before they start on their own. When finished, the homes aren't free. Each family buys the home with a zero-percent, 30-year mortgage payable to Austin Habitat. Austin Habitat then uses those payments to build more homes.

It is very important that families are prepared for home ownership. The homeowners undergo rigorous education to improve their financial literacy. They learn to budget, manage and improve their credit, and plan for the future. When they complete their 300 hours of sweat equity, make a down payment on their home, and pay their monthly mortgage, they are empowered to be more financially independent. Responsible home ownership is one of the only vehicles available to lower income families to increase wealth and family stability. Home equity is also the leading asset families can leverage to start businesses and finance higher education. Consider this:

- Children who grow up in a stable home are 116% more likely to go to college.
- Median home price in Austin is currently \$390,000 (that is over \$150,000 the state average.)
- Since 2010, home prices have gone up over 45.2% while income only increased 5.4%
- Homeowners report higher satisfaction, self-esteem, and control over their lives, and 74% of Habitat homeowners report improvements in health after becoming a Habitat homeowner.
- Owning a home not only enhances a family's financial independence but fosters a stronger community. Homeowners are 28% more likely to vote and 26% more likely to be involved in civic organizations. Ninety-three percent of Habitat homeowners take more pride in their neighborhood. One hundred percent of Habitat homeowners pay property taxes. AND 92% OF HABITAT HOMEOWNERS COULD NOT HAVE OWNED A HOME WITHOUT HELP FROM HABITAT.

Habitat gives families a hard-to-find opportunity and provides a chance for them to build something from the ground up that's theirs forever. They build it, earn it and pay for it! But not without you! Your generosity during the “No Room at the Inn” Christmas Eve offering will enable another deserving family to realize their dream of home ownership. If you cannot be at the Christmas Eve Service this year, please consider making a donation during a different service and marking your donation “No Room at the Inn” or “Habitat”.

Buy a Tree and Support Our Youth!

- * **Purchase a tree from the lot!** We have Nobles, Frasers, Nordmans, Douglas and Grand Firs in sizes ranging from 5' to 10+'
- * **Tell your neighbors, friends and family about our tree lot!**
- * **Sign up to sell trees!** We especially need help on Sunday afternoons/evenings when youth are in youth group activities.
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044aadad2fa13-20171>
- * **Sign up online for a weekly shift to water trees during the day while youth are at school.**
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044aadad2fa13-20172>
- * **Purchase a give-away tree at cost for a family in need.** At the end of the lot, we give left over trees to local families. You can make a donation to off-set the cost of these trees.



Thank you in advance for supporting MUMC Youth!

ANGEL TREE 2018

It's the Holiday Season and the Mission team is excited to sponsor our Angel Tree program again this year. Ways to participate:

- 1) Our First Angel Tree option is gifts for 41 children at Menchaca Elementary School. Each child will have TWO Angel cards on the trees: one card for things they want like toys and one card for things they need like clothing.
- 2) You can choose to purchase a \$25 HEB gift card that will be given to the children's families at Menchaca Elementary School. They will also receive a holiday food bag and invitations to join us as we celebrate Advent and the Holiday Season.
- 3) You can make a donation to Akins High School. This year there are over 50 students experiencing homelessness at Akins High School and our donations help with costs like SAT/ACT/AP testing, college application fees, prom tickets, graduation gowns AND our 3rd Annual College Trip coming up this February. Please write checks to MUMC with Akins HS in the memo line and place in offering basket.



We CAN make a difference! December 2 through December 16, look for the Christmas trees hung with angels in the Foyer and in the Family Life Center. Choose an angel card to make a child's Christmas a little brighter. Gifts are due back to the Angel trees or church office by Sunday, December 16. Contact Sandee Setterquist (512-750-8921, sa.setterquist@gmail.com) with any questions.

SERVICE AND OUTREACH

Harvest Food and FUND DRIVE

Please remember that the Food and fund drive runs through the end of November. When you are buying the "makings" for your Thanksgiving dinner, put a few items in your basket for the hungry in our community.

We encourage you to bring food from the shopping list below and place it in the Hospitality Area. Monetary donations may be made to MUMC and designated for the Food Pantry.

Contact Margaret Bowen at mabowen314@gmail.com for more info. Blessings to all!

Shopping List for Food Pantry:

- ___ cheerios—12oz. box
- ___ oatmeal – 18oz. box
- ___ saltine crackers – 1 lb. box
- ___ canned meat – tuna or chicken breast
- ___ dried pinto beans – 1 lb. bag
- ___ canned chili – 15oz.
- ___ Hunt's pasta sauce w/ meat—24oz. can
- ___ canned broth based soup – 10oz.
- ___ canned cream soup (chicken, mushroom, celery)-15oz. can
- ___ macaroni & cheese – 7.25 oz. box
- ___ peanut butter—18oz. jar
- ___ canned fruit – in own syrup – 15oz.
- ___ canned green beans – 15oz.
- ___ canned other vegetables – 15oz.
- ___ canned corn – 15 oz. can
- ___ rice – 1 lb. pkg.
- ___ tomato sauce – 8 oz. can
- ___ toilet paper
- ___ paper towels
- ___ liquid dish soap
- ___ bar bath soap



Any time you see cans with tabs please consider buying them.

Pumpkin Patch Kudos

The pumpkins are all gone and we are now ready for the Christmas trees to adorn the front lawn of the church. We had another very successful year in the patch as we sold \$31,590.49 worth of pumpkins. The church will retain \$12,636.20 of this money. The rest of the money will go to the Navajo reservation in Farmington New Mexico and the company that sets up the delivery of the pumpkins. I am very thankful to everyone who volunteered to help. We had volunteers that did everything from unloading, to selling, counting money and even bringing change to the patch when it ran out. McCoys Building Supply also helped by providing all of the pallets that the pumpkin patch and the Christmas tree lot used and delivered them this year which was very helpful. The pumpkin patch is not only a great fund raising activity but it makes MUMC a centerpiece for our community. We touch a great number of individuals and families during the fall with the pumpkin patch. We heard a lot of great ideas and input this year and plan on making next year's pumpkin patch even better.



Until next year...Josh Teague

College Care Packages

College is a fun, exciting and stressful time in the lives of young adults. We would like all of our college students to feel loved and supported by their church family in their college endeavors so we will be sending care packages to arrive before finals. *If you have a student that you know would appreciate a care package, I need your name, student's name & student's address. Please email this information to Melodee Konde: konde@swbell.net.*



We are also seeking food or small school supply donations which may be dropped off at the MUMC office anytime on or before November 25th. We typically send out 25 boxes.

Some suggested items (pre-packaged): Granola bars, Cracker packets, Jerky, Highlighters, Trail mix, Microwave Popcorn, Gum, Post It Notes, Protein bars, Candy, Cookies

Thanks so much for your help!!

SOCHAC 5K Run & Kids Dash

Our annual 5K Run and Kids Dash is fast approaching! Join us on our new route in your favorite 80's outfit! Our goal is to register 200 runners and pack 200 Manna Bags during the Kids Dash.

This event is our church's biggest fundraiser in support of three South Austin Schools – Menchaca Elementary, Paredes Middle School, and Akins High School. You can help serve these schools by signing up as a participant, being a financial sponsor (as an individual or through your own business), or volunteering along the way. We need everyone's help for the race to be a success!

Saturday, February 23, 2019

The 5K starts at 8:00 a.m.

The Kids Dash starts at 9:00 a.m.

Please visit our race website for more information and to sign up: tinyurl.com/2019sochac. Questions? Contact Jena Abel, SoChac5K@gmail.com.



Feeling so blessed to have such a warm and loving Church family.

I would like to thank you for all the cards, gifts, and hugs

I received with my most recent cancer diagnosis.

I am so grateful for all the prayers and good wishes.

Our Church family means a great deal to us.

Love and Blessings, Sandy Wolff

Christmas Poinsettias

One of the Christmas traditions at MUMC is beautiful red poinsettias. The worship Committee invites you to purchase a poinsettia in memory or honor of a loved one. They will be placed in the sanctuary and FLC on December 16. Cost for poinsettias is \$10 each. Please fill out the form below and place it in the offering plate or mail to the church office.



I'd/We'd like to give MUMC a Christmas Gift of (no.) _____ Poinsettias at \$10. each. Poinsettias may be given in memory/honor of someone. Please indicate your desire. Please print plainly.

Honor of: _____

Memory of: _____

By: _____

A Thank You Note from Pastor Rosie

*Dear Members and Friends of Manchaca UMC,
Thank you again for the beautiful reception and time together. My time with you was so short-lived, but God has great plans for our future. You never know what God is up to next!*



Be blessed in all that you do. Your light shines brightly in the community. Know that you are making a huge difference!

*Love & Hugs,
Rosie*

Christmas Eve Services, Monday 12/24:

- * 5:00 pm Family Service, Sanctuary, Kim Carroll preaching
- * 7:00 pm Music, Candlelight and Communion, Sanctuary, Pastor Andy preaching
- * 9:00 pm Music, Candlelight and Communion, Sanctuary, Pastor Andy preaching



*The Church Office will be closed
Mon., Dec. 24 through Wed., 26th.
Merry Christmas!*

COMBINED SERVICE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30 @ 10 AM

DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Tuesday, December 11, 2018 at **NOON**
Email submissions to:
deanna@manchacaumc.org or
office@manchacaumc.com

NEXT NEWSLETTER WILL BE MAILED
Wednesday, December 19, 2018

Sunday Worship and Sunday School Schedule:

- 8:30-9:30 a.m.- Traditional Worship w/Communion in the Sanctuary
- 9:45 - 10:45 a.m.- Sunday School for all ages
- 11 a.m. - 12 noon- Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary
- 11 a.m. - 12 noon- Praise Worship in the Family Life Center

Contact Information:

Rev. Andy Smith, Sr. Pastor
Office: 512-282-7274 FAX: 512-282-7508
email: office@ManchacaUMC.org
web address: <http://www.manchacaumc.org/>
Child Development Center: 512-280-2552



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2018

Advent Schedule of Events

Manchaca United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 460
1011 F.M. 1626
Manchaca, TX 78652
(512) 282-7274

Check out our website at www.manchacaumc.org for further details.

Childcare is available for **all worship services**
and by reservation for other events. Please email: childcare@manchacaumc.org

On December 2, a new Christian year begins with the season of Advent. Advent is a time of preparation for the gift of God's unconditional love celebrated at Christmas. We invite you to our regular services of worship each Sunday as well as the listed special events of the season.



Sunday Worship Services
Lighting of the Candles on the Advent Wreath



In the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season it's sometimes hard to find the time to focus on this precious time of year, when we most want to slow time down... to enjoy our time with family and friends... time to reflect on the Christ in Christmas.

This Advent Season we invite you to join us each Sunday and make worship a priority as we explore the Christmas story in each of the Gospels. We'll share familiar music and rituals, scriptures and messages that offer encouragement and hope as we truly seek to worship Christ.

First Sunday in Advent, December 2

8:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary & 11 a.m. in the FLC - Rev. Andy Smith preaching
11 a.m. in the Sanctuary - Rev. Jeanne Devine preaching
Luke 21: 25 - 36 ~ Christmas Song Classics: Santa Claus Is Coming to Town

Second Sunday in Advent, December 9

8:30 & 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary - Children's Musical - *"The Miracle at the Christmas Café"*
11 a.m. in the FLC - Scott Abel preaching

Third Sunday in Advent, December 16

8:30 & 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary - Choir Cantata - *"Treasury of Carols"*
11 a.m. in the FLC - Scott Abel preaching

Fourth Sunday in Advent, December 23

8:30 & 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary - Pastor Andy preaching
Isaiah 40: 1 - 11 ~ Christmas Song Classics: Blue Christmas
11 a.m. in the FLC - Rev. James Shackelford preaching

Christmas Eve Worship

Monday, December 24



5:00 p.m. ☆ Christmas Eve Service ☆ in the Sanctuary

Kim Carroll preaching - Celebration for Families
Children's Nativity Pageant, Christmas Carols, Godspring Youth Choir,
and Silent Night with Glow Sticks!

7:00 p.m. ☆ Christmas Eve Service ☆ in the Sanctuary

Rev. Andy Smith preaching -
Luke 2 ~ Christmas Song Classics: Joy to the World
A Service of Music (Sanctuary Choir & the Glory Bells), Communion & Candlelight

9:00 p.m. ☆ Christmas Eve Service ☆ in the Sanctuary

Rev. Andy Smith preaching
Luke 2 ~ Christmas Song Classics: Joy to the World
A Service of Music (blended traditional & contemporary), Communion & Candlelight

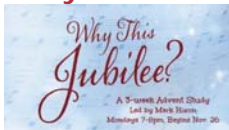
Special Events

Youth Tree Lot - Opens November 23

Stop by our Youth tree lot to purchase your Christmas tree! All proceeds benefit our Youth Ministries' mission trips and spiritual retreats.



Why This Jubilee: Advent Reflections on the Songs of the Season - Mondays, Beginning November 26, 7 – 8 p.m.



In this musical advent study, you'll explore the birth of Christ with inspiration from well-known carols and Christmas songs. The book by James Howell is optional (\$12). Led by Mark Hixon.

CDC Breakfast with Santa - Saturday, December 1, 8-10 a.m.

This event is an "all you can eat" breakfast fundraiser. Pancakes, sausage, milk, juice and coffee will be served. Santa will be available for pictures and the Children's Ministry Team will provide Christmas crafts for the children to make. Tickets may be purchased in advance through the CDC office: \$8 for adults and \$5 for children. Tickets purchased at the door: \$11 adults and \$6 children. Call 512-280-2552 for more info.



At-Home Advent Tools - Ready for pick up December 2



Families with Preschool and Elementary children can pick up an Advent-in-a-Box at church on December 2! With an Advent activity calendar, weekly devotionals and ornaments, the box provides all you need to keep your family focused on Christ this Advent season. Devotional booklets are available for youth and adults as well.

Experiencing Christmas: Find Yourself in Christmas - Sundays, Beginning December 2, 9:45 – 10:45 a.m.

In this unique Bible Study, you'll be fully immersed into the Advent and Christmas stories of the Bible through imaginative prayer and experiential learning. Be prepared for God to speak to you in transforming ways! Led by Kim Carroll during the Sunday school hour. All are welcome!



"The Journey" Facebook Study Group - Beginning December 2



Join a Bible study with daily reading and reflection and weekly discussions from the comfort of your own home! Adam Hamilton's daily devotional book (available for \$4) "The Journey: A Season of Reflections" will guide us through the season. Look for the sign up link on our website.

ANGEL TREE 2018 - Beginning December 2

Look for the Angel Trees in both worship spaces and help make Christmas a little brighter for kids in our South Austin schools.



Advent Festival - Sunday, December 2, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.



We are kicking off the countdown to Christmas with a HUGE CELEBRATION! Join us for a light-ed hayride, light-up games, crafts, cookie-decorating, petting zoo (with donkey!), music, great door prizes, and Santa! We'll end the event with Live Nativity performed by our children and youth! This is a free, community event!

Christmas at the Diner (Café) - Thursday, December 6, 11:15 a.m. - 2 p.m. , Parlor

Please join us for our Sunshine Café Christmas celebration! Join other adults as we share dinner and fellowship, play some games, and sing a few of our favorite Christmas carols and songs.



Caring Kids: Crafts and Caroling - Saturday, December 8, 10:00 a.m.

Families with children of all ages are invited to sing and make crafts with the residents at Marbridge.

CARING KIDS

Children's Choir Musical - Sunday, December 9, 8:30/11 a.m., Sanctuary
"The Miracle at the Chirstmas Café"

One quiet night, strangers visit a small café. One stranger speaks in riddles. Other strangers share their stories of a wondrous event. Another stranger tells of a family staying in their stable. What happened to make this night so extraordinary? It's "The Miracle at the Christmas Café". Waitress Polly Porkchop along with short-order cook Mac N. Cheese invite you join them at the Christmas Café on Sunday, December 9. Don't miss this special opportunity. You might even want Polly's recipe for Mount Carmel pie!



FISH Christmas Cookie Bake Sale - Sunday, December 9



The FISH tween youth group will be selling cookies on Sunday, Dec. 9 to raise money to be sponsors in our annual SoChac 5K that benefits area schools. All 4th and 5th graders are invited to help bake and decorate cookies on Wed. Dec. 5, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. The FISH holiday party will be Wednesday, Dec. 12.

Wed. Women's Bible Study Cookie Exchange! - Wednesday, Dec. 12: 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

All women are welcome to this time of fellowship and fun! Bring a couple dozen Christmas cookies and take a dozen home with you!



Church-wide Family Pizza and Movie Night - Friday, December 14, 6:00 p.m.



The whole MUMC family is invited to join us for a pizza dinner at 6pm followed by a Christmas movie at 6:30 p.m. Choose from two movies: The Nativity Story and The Star – with popcorn and hot chocolate provided!

Sanctuary Choir Cantata - Sunday, December 16 - 8:30/11 a.m., Sanctuary - "Treasury of Carols"

"Treasury of Carols" is a collection of familiar carols which describe through music the Nativity story. Members and friends of the Sanctuary Choir along with soloists and instrumentalists will help prepare the congregation for Christmas with this cantata which includes "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence," "Gesu Bambino," "Ding Dong! Merrily on High" and many familiar carols.



All-Church Caroling - December 16 - 3 p.m.



All members and friends of the congregation are invited to share the warmth of Christmas by caroling to some of our friends and neighbors in the area. We'll gather in the hospitality area at 2:45 p.m. to divide into groups and begin our trek about 3 p.m. There will be several stops at which to carol then we'll return to the church between 4:30 p.m. and 5 p.m. When we return to church, we'll share stories of our adventures while enjoying some snacks. If you would like more information or would be willing to drive a vehicle, contact Mark Hixon at Mark@ManchacaUMC.org or 512-282-7274.

Santa's Workshop! - Saturday, December 22, 9:00 – Noon

Drop your children off with our caring childcare workers so that you can finish your last minute Christmas shopping or errands. The kids will be making gifts and cards for their loved ones while you're out. Cost: \$20 for the first child, \$10 each additional child.




SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2018
COMBINED SERVICE AT 10 AM IN THE SANCTUARY
REV. JEANNE DEVINE PREACHING