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Getting Ready

Lent is a beautiful season of getting ready for the Mystery of Easter. There is SO MUCH POWER in the Resurrection, but we need to prepare so we don't miss the gift of knowing that even out of death, robust aliveness is possible. We must embrace the idea that some things need to die so that there is room for new things. It is the season of letting go, but also of coming closer together.

Lent, beginning with the confessions of Ash Wednesday, is a time where we create intentional space for the Spirit to move among us in new ways. It is a time for spiritual practices that open our hearts to God wider than before...even if they have to be broken open.

Our community needs the support of every single member – financial, personal and spiritual. We all need to dig deep and offer the most robust financial support possible during this challenging period of transition. We need you in worship - bring friends along and encourage others to do the same. We need prayers for this church and your leadership. Finally, we all need to share hope and encouragement with others everywhere we go...as Paul says in his letter to the Philippians, “may your love abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best...” (Philippians 1:9-10)

This Lenten season, all are invited to embrace a spiritual discipline such as daily scripture study, meditation, fasting, simplicity/frugality or service. A more complete list is provided in this newsletter, with scripture readings. My prayer is that each of us find this season a time for renewed commitment, of opening space in our lives for God's grace and for the healing of old wounds so that something new can come alive among us.



Save the Date!

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, May 3

Worship Service at 9:00 AM

Confirmation Celebration

Congregational Meeting at 10:00 AM

2020 Officers

Chair:	Andrea Larson
Vice Chair:	Milena Thompson
Secretary:	Katherine Griffin-Erickson
Financial Secretary:	Brian Richter
Treasurer:	Rebecca Molis
Clerk/Historian:	Carol Barrett

2020 Committee Chairs

Christian Education:	David Heckler
Communications:	Lynette Alcorn
Deacons:	Logan & Kelley DeCleene
Elders:	Kimberlee Flores
Fellowship:	John Schwartz
Personnel	Milena Thompson
Property:	Tim Collins
Social Justice:	Leslie Guerrero Collins
Stewardship & Finance:	Mark Simoneau
Worship:	Jan Austin-Scott

Council Meeting Highlights & Other News

- An ad hoc Structural Review Committee has been formed which also includes Council Chair Andrea Larson, Rev. Elsa Cook and Emily Riordan to look at other similar churches and how they are structured.
- Reviewed additional highlights from A Sure Foundation handbook. This month highlighted how to have healthy committee member relationships, communication and expectations.
- A \$6,000 net loss posted in January. Note: current budget projects a \$65,000 deficit.
- Pledged giving \$3,000 below expectations in January.
- Council requested steps to be taken to increase promotion of the building's rental space options. **Share with friends, family, and groups that we have rental space available.**
- An ad hoc committee being create to look for additional revenue streams.

Council meetings are open. Next Council Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 10 at 7 pm. *Note moved up one week due to Spring Break.

Leadership and Committee Meetings

Staff	Tuesdays at 9:45 AM
Personnel	1st Tuesdays at 7 PM
Elders	2nd Tuesdays at 7:15 PM (not meeting in March)
Worship	3rd Tuesdays at 6:15 PM (except March; 3/10 @ 6:15 PM)
Church Council	3rd Tuesdays at 7:00 PM (except March; 3/10 @ 7:00 PM)
Christian Education	1st Wednesdays at 7:00 PM
Finance	2nd Wednesdays at 6:15 PM (except March 3/8 @ 5:30 PM)

Governing Body Contact Information

Council chair.....councilchair@uccaustin.org
 Vice chair/personnel.....personnel@uccaustin.org
 Secretary.....secretary@uccaustin.org
 Financial secretary.....financialsec@uccaustin.org
 Treasurer.....treasurer@uccaustin.org
 Clerk/historian.....clerk@uccaustin.org
 Social justice.....justice@uccaustin.org
 Stewardship/Finance.....finance@uccaustin.org

Worship.....worship@uccaustin.org
 Deacons.....deacons@uccaustin.org
 Christian Education.....christianed@uccaustin.org
 Elders.....elders@uccaustin.org
 Fellowship.....fellowship@uccaustin.org
 Communications.....communications@uccaustin.org
 Property.....property@uccaustin.org

If you get no response, email nikki@uccaustin.org

Guide to Spiritual Disciplines

Attention/Listening Listening to others with the intention of honoring them, and not just trying to get them to listen to you. Paying attention to everyone in your life with an open heart. Exodus 3:3-5; Isaiah 30:21; Matt 13:43

Celebration Total delight and joy in ourselves, our life and our world as a result of our faith and confidence in God's greatness, beauty and goodness. Exodus 5:1; Ps 45:1-17; Luke 15:23-32

Confession Speaking your truth from the heart - Sharing our deepest weaknesses and failures with God and a trusted friend, so that we may enter into God's grace and mercy and experience God's ready forgiveness and healing. Genesis 45:25-28; Ps 38:18; Mark 1:5

Fasting The voluntary abstention from eating - for the sake of intense spiritual activity. Every time you have a hunger pang, offer a prayer and pause to be present in that moment. Deuteronomy 8:3; Ps 35:13; Matthew 4:2

Fellowship Spending time with other disciples in the common activities of worship/fellowship, study, prayer, celebration, and service, which help build our life together and deepen our connection to God through community. 1 Kings 19:10; Ps 133:1-3; Romans 12:4-17

Guidance Experiencing an interactive friendship with God that gives direction and purpose to daily life. Asking God for help before taking action, for example. Numbers 12:8; Ps 31:3; John 14:1-31

Meditation Involves sitting still for awhile and thinking about your relationship with God, the Bible and Creation... and listening for God's direction for your life. Joshua 1:8; Ps 19:14; Colossians 3:2

Prayer Talking with God each day and being open to guidance. Study of prayers such as the Prayer of St Francis as well as creating our own prayers. 1 Samuel 1:9-20; Ps 72:15; Matthew 6:5-9; Acts 1:14

Sacrifice Giving something up that means something to us. Every time we miss it, pause, pray and give thanks to God for all that we have been given. (Like a cell phone, Facebook, streaming, video games, gossip...) Leviticus 9:7; Ps 50:23; Mark 12:33

Secrecy/Anonymity Doing secret good deeds and not seeking praise or recognition for them. Random acts of kindness. Ps 51:6; Isaiah 45:3; Luke 8:10

Service Choosing a project at church where you can help others with your active participation. Numbers 8:11; Ruth 2:11-16; John 12:26

Silence Closing off our souls from "sounds," whether noise, music, or words, so that we may better still the inner chatter and clatter of our noisy minds and be increasingly attentive to God. Genesis 24:21; Job 13:5; Ps 4:4; James 1:19

Simplicity/Frugality Make Lent a single-hearted focus upon God, and aim toward a lifestyle of modesty, openness, and ease. Move away from our hunger for things, things and more things.. Deuteronomy 17:16-17; Ecclesiastes 5:10; Hebrews 12:1-3

Solitude The creation of an open, empty space in our lives by purposefully abstaining from interaction with other human beings, so that, freed from competing loyalties, we can be found by God. Genesis 32:24; Ps 62:5; Jeremiah 15:16-18; John 8:29

Study The intentional process of engaging the mind with the written and spoken Word of God and the world God has created in such a way that the mind begins to absorb what the Bible is saying (or whatever spiritual material you choose to study). Deuteronomy 31:10-13; Ps 19:1-14; Romans 2:21

Worship Coming to worship each week and then expressing in words, music, rituals and silent adoration the greatness, beauty and goodness of God. Genesis 24:48; Ps 96:9; Matthew 4:10; Acts 16:14

(Ps = Psalms)

Willard, Dallas. "Spiritual Disciplines Index". *The Renovare Spiritual Formation Bible*, New Revised Standard Translation. Richard J. Foster, Gayle Beebe, Lynda L. Graybeal, Thomas C. Oden, Dallas Willard, Walter Brueggemann and Eugene H. Peterson, editors. Harper of San Francisco. 2005. p. 2291-2318.

Sermons in March

Jesus's Seven Last Words

March 1	Rev. Dr. Laura Barnes	"In Search of Paradise"	Luke 23:43
March 8	Rev. Dr. Laura Barnes	"Behold Your Mother"	John 19:26-27
March 15	Rev. Dr. Laura Barnes	"Where is God Anyway?"	Matthew 27:46 & Mark 15:34
March 22	Arlene Turner (Member in Care)	"TBD"	John 19:28
March 29	Rev. Jimmy Cobb	"TBD"	John 19:30; Ezekiel 37

Faith Formation
FOR ALL AGES
 Sundays 10 am

CHILDREN AND YOUTH — ROOMS 1- 4 AND 6

Age-appropriate classes for children and youth
 offered by loving and trained staff and volunteers.

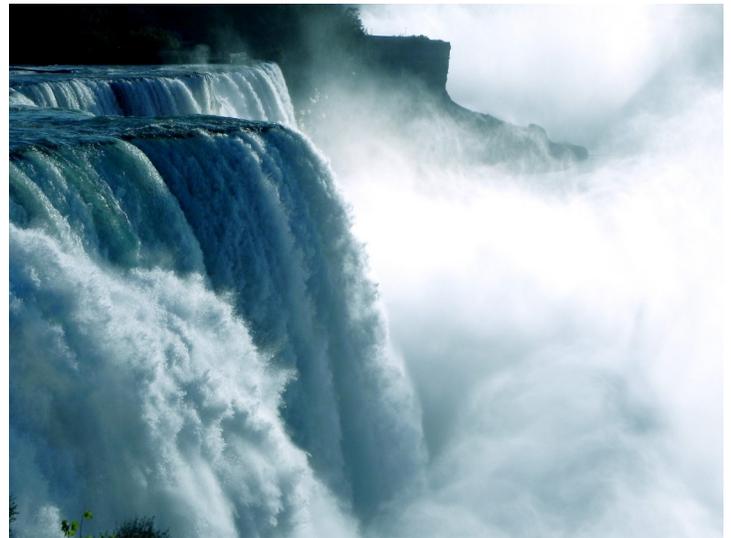
ADULT CLASS — ROOM 10

Adult Faith Formation Roll Down, Justice!

The Lenten Biblical Reflection, Roll Down, Justice!, written by Faye Wilson and featuring the music and reflections of Mark A. Miller, poses the following questions to believers:

- What are you prepared to give in order to have a closer walk with God?
- What can you give in order to embrace anew the work of justice?

Mark Miller has written a collection of songs, lyrics and music, which remind us of the work we have to do to "seek justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God." Most of these songs will be familiar as our own choir often sings them as their anthem. No signing required to join the class!



March Children's Collection

In March, our Children's Collection is will birthday party supplies for Round Rock Area Serving Center. Examples: streamers, candles, cake mix, frosting, party bags, invitations.
 Contact: [David Heckler, Christian Education](#).

We are pleased to welcome The Rev. Dr. Jimmy Cobb as our guest preacher in March. Dr. Cobb served as the Senior Minister at First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of San Marcos for many years as well as other local congregations. He had the honor of working with our very own Emily Jamison Guerrero and mentoring Rev. Nikki Stahl early in their ministry careers.

Former chair of the Bluebonnet Area Committee on Ministry, Dr. Cobb has served the Christian Church (DOC) in many other leadership roles throughout our association/region as well. He also serves on the Board of Directors for Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries, a refugee outreach program that has offered support and aid to thousands of refugees in Texas.

Dr. Cobb has been married to his wife, Sue, for over 57 years and has three grown children, four grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Dr. Cobb received his M.Div. from Southwestern Seminary and his Ph.D. from Baylor University.

Dr. Cobb is no stranger to many at United Christian Church having preached for us on several occasions. Additionally, his daughter and her family are former members and three of his grandchildren were raised in this church. We look forward to receiving his message to us all on the fifth Sunday of Lent, March 29th.



A SPECIAL INVITATION FOR GUESTS

*Have you been attending worship with us at United Christian Church for a while now and been wondering what we're all about?
What it means to be a member of a church, particularly of this church?
And how does someone become a member anyway?*

To answer these and any other questions about the church, join us on Sunday, March 8 @ 12:15 pm. Rev. Nikki will be leading one of our regular UCC 101 Informational Classes.

This is simply a way for you to get to know more about the church and for us to get to know you better. We will serve light lunch and childcare available upon request. RSVP at Nikki@UCCAustin.org. Welcome Sunday is scheduled for Sunday, April 19th for anyone who wants to join! Class not required to join.



SUNDAY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Before Church Set Up Open up the church and help set Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall & Kitchen for the morning.

After Church Clean Up Clean kitchen and tidy Fellowship Hall after Sunday services.

Flowers Furnish flowers for one Sunday.

Greeters Greet people as they enter and orient guest.

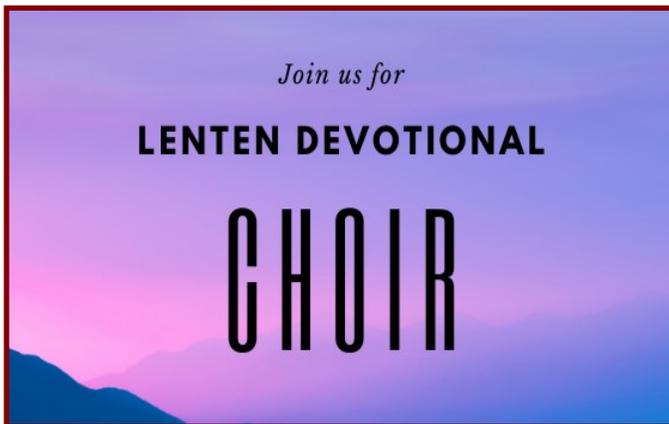
Liturgist Read liturgy and scripture during service.

Sound Room Operate sound room during service (training offered).

See [Worship Participant Spreadsheet](#) to sign up.

Acolyte Schedule

Date	Service	Acolyte
03/01/2020	9:00 AM	Sam Flores
	11:00 AM	Parker Gregg
02/08/2020	9:00 AM	Mikaela Fuller
	11:00 AM	Clementine Tomlinson
03/15/2020	9:00 AM	Jude Humble
	11:00 AM	Rachael Simoneau
03/22/2020	9:00 AM	Norah Heckler
	11:00 AM	Clementine Tomlinson
03/29/2020	9:00 AM	Sam Flores
	11:00 AM	Parker Gregg



Lenten Devotional Choir: Singers of all generations and levels of experience are invited to join now until Easter Sunday, April 12th. We will rehearse during Lent from 7:00 to 8:30 PM (NB the 15 minute earlier time for Lent) on Wednesdays and 10:15 – 10:45 AM on Sundays. Childcare is always provided, and those with small children may be dismissed before at 8:15! Contact Rev. Anna, music@uccaustin.org.



Easter Sunday Choir: Would you like to sing with us on Easter Sunday? You don't have to be a member of our Lenten Choir or come out weeknights to be a part of what will be a dazzling Sunday of music this year! We'll be learning all the music for Easter on the 4 Sundays leading up to it this year (3/15, 3/22, 3/29 & 4/5). Easter Choir will rehearse from 10:30-10:45 AM.



Save the Date!

Palm Sunday Processional - April 5th

Easter Egg Hunt - April 5th (12 pm)

Easter Sunday - April 12th

Easter lilies will be sold by Worship Committee to fund seasonal sanctuary needs. Be on the lookout for sign up sheet to submit with \$ 20 per plant.

Embracing Jesus – Lent 2020

During these six Sundays of Lent, we will be a bit uncomfortable. The image of Jesus on the cross can be frightening, mysterious and tender. It may even feel as if we are lingering too long on the suffering of Jesus. Those 40 days of Lent will bring us closer to the beaten, bruised, and betrayed Christ on the cross. I believe that is an appropriate experience in the Lenten season. Just because there was intense pain and sacrifice, we don't get to turn our heads. As we always do, however, we will move through the seven last words of Jesus and arrive at Easter Sunday together. There will be a bright and bold word, a word of new beginnings and of new hope. By the time we reach the glory of the resurrection, it is my prayer that these precious words from a crucified Christ will be written on our hearts – so we never forget the abandonment, the thirst, the fear, the fatigue, and the loneliness that our Savior experienced. From that place, it will be possible for us to embrace resurrected hope that can grow and flourish. So, on Ash Wednesday, we began our journey together into the seven last words of Jesus from the cross. May those seven sayings of our savior change our hearts this Lenten season, and help carry us through the upcoming time of transition, exploring possibilities and hope that are ahead for us all.



Holy Saturday Prayer Vigil

April 11, 2020 7:00 am – 8:00 pm

Every hour there will be a prayer lifted up for a specific need or concern of our church.

You can participate by preparing a prayer on one of these topics and submitting to Rev. Nikki Stahl before April 1st.

Prayers will be posted on Facebook every hour so you can pray along wherever you are.

Or you can come to church at any time during daylight on Holy Saturday for personal prayers or to join us in the hourly prayer, meditation, or hymn.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 7 am Our Church's Future & New Pastor | 2 pm Trip to Border & Immigration Issues |
| 8 am Government Leaders Current & Election | 3 pm Violence in Schools |
| 9 am Children of Our Church & VBS | 4 pm The Impoverished around the World |
| 10 am Homeless, Hungry, and Hurt | 5 pm Members & Friends of Our Church |
| 11 am Our Youth, Mission Trip, and Youth Conference | 6 pm Global Warming |
| 12 pm Our Church Leaders and Volunteers | 7 pm Servants of our Communities: Teachers, Nurses, Police, Fire Fighters, Paramedics, Judges, etc. |
| 1 pm Injustices against & Solidarity with LGBTQIA+ | 8 pm Christian Revival of Love and Peace |

ELECTION BAKE SALE!

Youth will be holding a bake sale during the primaries on March 3rd. If you vote in Travis County, come vote at the church and purchase some yummy treats! All items \$2 and proceeds help fund youth mission trip and National Youth Event



Ever wondered what goes on in the sound room? If you have ever seen a sound room control panel, it can be a bit intimidating. There are about 237 knobs and levers. You only have to know how to use about 4 of them to help with the sound and sermon recordings at UCC. This is the perfect mission opportunity for someone who would like to provide services for the church and not miss the service. You get to sit with your coffee and breakfast snack while working and can always step out for communion at the 9:00 am service or have communion delivered to you at the 11:00 am service. While this sounds so simple (and usually is), it is so important. This is how we get your sermons to post to our website for others to see who can't make it into UCC on Sundays. Just as importantly, our sound assistive devices go through this board, so it helps some people hear better. Ideally, we need enough people to serve once or twice each month at one service. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Carl in the fellowship Hall or at carl@uccaustin.org. Training is very easy.

Bethany Christian Church Fundraiser

Our sister church Hyde Park Christian Church are putting on a fundraiser for another sister church in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Bethany Christian Church, who serves countless Austinites through its food pantry. Many of our members volunteer at this food pantry and it now really needs our help. Hyde Park CC is asking singers from other DOC churches to participate in a fundraiser concert of Robert Ray's Gospel Mass. Rehearsals are Tuesdays at 7pm at Hyde Park CC and the concert is on April 4th.

Even if you can't join the choir, please mark the April 4th concert on your calendar so we can all go and support Bethany CC.



Bethany Food Pantry Sign Up Information

Four volunteers are needed each time to help distribute food at Bethany Faith Food Pantry on

2nd Wednesday of the Month

4th Tuesday of the Month

10:00 am - 12:00 pm (noon)

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

The sign up sheet is in the Mission Corner of the Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions, please contact our Food Pantry Coordinator Sula Howell (sula.driftwood@gmail.com or 512-369-3841).

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Zachary Crum
- 4 Debbie Dayton-Chapman
- 4 Connie Tiffany
- 5 Mason Woodland
- 6 Steve Molis
- 7 Amy Ashton
- 7 Brenda Balch
- 7 Sherralyn St. Clair
- 9 Jackson Thornhill
- 10 Jolisa Johnson
- 11 Jennifer Meuse
- 12 Chessa Williams
- 13 Carol Kolsti
- 14 Claire Heckler
- 15 Marian Stahl
- 16 Samuel Vercauteren
- 17 Patricia Fowler
- 17 Rebecca Molis
- 18 Kelley DeCleene
- 20 Hayden Larson
- 21 David Brown
- 23 Jane Perrine
- 24 Chris Griffin-Erickson
- 24 Chase Larson
- 27 Katherine Griffin-Erickson
- 29 Dean Jones
- 30 Tess Peterson
- 31 Elsa Cook

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Kathy & Ed Pinkelman
- 9 Jane & Charlie Jamison
- 12 Laurie & Bryan Thornhill
- 14 Milena & Clark Thompson
- 15 Stacy & Tom Hackenberg
- 18 Teri Lanford & Steve Lindberg

If you have a February birthday or anniversary and don't see it listed, contact Rev. Nikki at uccadmin@uccaustin.org. Let us know what the date is so we can put it in our database.

Ongoing Weekly Activities**Tuesday Breakfast Fellowship**

Tuesdays, 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM
 Location: Jim's (Spicewood Springs Rd. & 183)
 Contact: [Kenneth Dalley](#)

Spearheads Alcoholics Anonymous

A men's small group
 Tuesdays, 7:00 PM in Room 6

Saturday Evening FED

Saturdays, 6:00 PM at Stahls'
 Contact: [Rev. Nikki Stahl](#)

Youth(ful) Parent Group

Parents of youth group members
 Sundays, 5:30 PM when youth meet
 Contact: [Andrea Larson](#)

Monthly Activities**Not So Ready for Prime Time Book Club**

Friday, March 13 at 9:30 AM in Fellowship Hall
 Book: [The Museum of Extraordinary Things](#) by Alice Hoffman
 Contact: [Tammy Isenberg](#)

Monthly Lunch Bunch

Friday, March 13th at 11:15 AM @ Cheddar's (13301 US 183 North)
 Everyone is invited. RSVP: [Kenneth Dalley](#)

Evening Book Club

Wednesday, March 25th at 6:30 PM in Room 6
 Book: [Cutting for Stone](#) by Abraham Verghese
 Contact: [Cherie Hinch](#)

Adult Game Night

Friday, March 27th at 6:30 PM in Fellowship Hall
 Contact: [Evelyn Case](#)



First response: a behind-the-scenes look at response and resource distribution

There are many phases of disaster response – from the immediate needs of water, food, and shelter, to long-term needs like livelihood programs and psycho-social support – and everything in between. While you often hear stories about the initial responses, and see updates on the progress of rebuilding through Week of Compassion, you don't often see the behind-the-scenes process of communication involving our global network of partners.

In the initial phases of any response, there are critical, intentional conversations between Week of Compassion, ecumenical partners, and people on the ground, in order to assess the most efficient and most empowering ways to move forward, and to determine what kind of help is most needed.

One recent example of such a response is the Coronavirus outbreak in China and its ongoing impact. As the news reflected a quickly escalating spread of the virus in late January, Week of Compassion reached out to local partners to find out what they were hearing in real time and to learn of immediate plans they might have to respond. We let them know that our wider Disciples community was with them in prayer, and that Week of Compassion was prepared to support their local efforts.

Then Week of Compassion Executive Director Rev. Vy Nguyen received a response from our [Global Ministries](#) partner in China. They said that what was most needed at that moment was emergency medical supplies. We coordinated with other ecumenical partners and health organizations, providing funds to help in this effort and get the needed supplies delivered in the most efficient and cost-effective way possible. In cooperation with others, Week of Compassion helped provide much needed items like medical masks, goggles and gowns that would help first responders prevent the further spread of disease.

Even as this initial response was unfolding quickly, Rev. Nguyen remained in contact with partners, discussing the need for eventual long-term response, one that will require cooperation with local and national governments as well. That conversation is ongoing.

All of these active partners remain in contact about the potential for a wider spread of this disease to other countries in Asia, and around the globe. They are making plans for the chain of communication that will need to be in place in order to coordinate with different offices in the area, should that need arise.

In responding to needs like this – whether from natural disasters that happen overnight, or major health crises that emerge almost as quickly – the key is communication, cooperation, and most importantly, the ability to build on existing relationships. This is why Week of Compassion is committed to long-term relationships with a wide network of partners. Your gifts help us stay committed and strengthen the relationships with partners. With your help, we are ready to respond together to the most urgent needs when a need arises quickly, and we also have infrastructure in place to enact the comprehensive, ongoing work of meeting needs around the world, around the year.

Denominational Contact Information

Bluebonnet Area (BBA): <http://www.bluebonnetarea.org/> Click for The Chalice Newsletter
 Christian Church of the Southwest (CCSW): <http://ccsw.org/> Click to sign up for Email News
 Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) National Church (the DOC): <https://disciples.org/>
 Disciple Oaks Camp & Retreat: <http://www.discipleoaksretreat.net/>



Save the Dates	CYF Spring Rally	March 6-8, 2020 @ Disciple Oaks Retreat Center
	Bluebonnet Area Assembly	May 2, 2020 @ FCC in Kerrville
	Summer Camp Dates Already Posted on Disciple Oaks website	



Heart of Texas Association News

Our Spring Meeting will be on Saturday, April 4th, at Weimar UCC. Registration starts at 10:30 am with meeting beginning at 11. We will start with worship in the sanctuary and then move to lunch and our meeting in the Weimar church's fellowship hall. Our offering will go to donate to provide supplies to those living outdoors at the border in Matamoros awaiting asylum. We will be accepting money and supplies to be sent down on a trip that United Christian is making later this spring. All paperwork (agendas, reports, and other paperwork we have handed out in the past) will be posted on our [website](#) the week before the meeting.

At our meeting, we anticipate discussion and a vote on whether to support the formation of a conference-wide fitness review committee. A fitness review, in the United Church of Christ, is a serious and demanding process that takes place when the fitness of a minister for ministry is brought into question, usually due to a serious accusation. At this time, fitness reviews are held at the Association level by our Committee on Ministry, which has the general task of oversight of ministers in the UCC. When a fitness review occurs, Committee on Ministry members have to be trained in the process, members must recuse themselves if they are close to the person who is the subject of the review, a trained team must be sent to interview people close to the situation, and there are other demanding aspects of the process. During the time of the fitness review, the other tasks of the Committee on Ministry need to continue and, as in any situation where there is a problem of this sort, it is difficult to get work done. Some other Conferences have moved fitness reviews to a Conference level committee, which allows a group to be "on call" with ongoing training and without other ministry oversight tasks to handle. At our Association Meeting, we will be deciding whether to support this initiative, and our meeting is scheduled in time to give our answer to the Conference Board at its April meeting as they prepare for a possible decision at the South Central Conference Annual Meeting in June. In addition, we anticipate discussion on a few proposed changes to the Conference bylaws.

We also anticipate having at least one, but maybe two, Ecclesiastical Councils. I will be sending out the information on Ecclesiastical Councils as soon we can on March 31st, and posting the relevant ordination papers on our website as soon as possible.

Finally, on Sunday, Feb 16th, the Friends Congregational Church Choir sang the Requiem by John Rutter in Carnegie Hall in New York City as part of the Distinguished Concerts Orchestra and Singers Series. I had the privilege of hearing this inspiring and beautiful concert. Congratulations, Friends choir!
Blessings in Christ, Liz Nash, Association Minister

Denominational Contact Information

Heart of Texas Association (HoT): <http://hotaucc.org/>

South Central Conference (SCC): <https://sccucc.org/> *can sign up for e-newsletter

United Church of Christ (UCC): <http://www.ucc.org/>

Slumber Falls Camp: <https://slumberfalls.org/>



**Save
the
Dates**

HoT Spring Meeting

April 4, 2020 @ Weimar UCC

SCC Board Meeting

April 17-18, 2020 @ Slumber Falls

Summer Camp Dates Already Posted on [Slumber Falls website](#).

National Youth Event

July 22-25, 2020 @ Purdue University



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The GoodNewsLetter

A monthly publication of the United Christian Church of Austin

If you are buying from



Buy through us and help raise funds for the youth mission trip.

Start your shopping trip on UCC's website, www.uccaustin.org. Click on the Amazon link on the Support the Work page.

Amazon Tip: Groceries are now available through Amazon.com. If you shop through the link on our website www.uccaustin.org, it will benefit the Youth. A portion of your purchase will go towards the UCC Youth Mission Trip fund.

Open & Affirming Statement

(adopted June 10, 2007, amended February 12, 2012)

We, the congregation of The United Christian Church, declare ourselves to be an open and affirming congregation, embracing diversity and affirming the dignity and worth of every person created in God's image. We welcome into full membership and participation in the Body of Christ persons of every race, ethnic background, age, gender, gender expression/identity, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, social-economic background, marital status and faith background. We welcome all to share in the life, leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities and blessings of participation in our congregation.