



**Inside This Issue**

**The Front Page** ..... p. 1  
- Meet Chansin...

**Worship and Fine Arts** ..... p. 2  
- Daily Scripture...  
- Note from the Minister of Music...  
- Season's Greetings Exhibit...  
- Children's Choir Presents...  
- Sanctuary Choir Presents...  
- Worship Opportunities...

**Stewardship** ..... p. 3  
- Prayers, Sympathy  
- Attendance...  
- Financial Report...  
- Altar Rail Offerings...  
- Events and Classes...

**Children's Ministries** ..... pp. 4, 5  
- Lunch with Littles...  
- FISH Pre-Teen Group...  
- Christmas Movie Night...  
- Caring Kids...  
- Advent Festival & Live Nativity...  
- Christmas Eve Worship...  
- Pastries and PJ's...

**Youth Ministries** ..... pp. 5-6  
- Youth Tree Lot...  
- Youth Service & Leadership...  
- Youth Potluck & Movie Night...  
- Confirmation Classes...  
- Parents of Tweens and Teens...  
- Awaken Sunday Morning Youth...

**Adult Ministries** ..... pp. 6-8  
- Coloring Café...  
- Emmaus...  
- Sunshine "Christmas" Café...  
- Facebook Advent Group...  
- Birth of the Messiah...  
- Healthy New Year FB Group...  
- How the Bible Came to Be...  
- How Happiness Happens...  
- Embraced by God...  
- Financial Peace...  
- Jesus: The God Who Knows...

**Renovation Update** ..... p. 8

**Service and Outreach** ..... pp. 9-11  
- Fall Festival & Pumpkin Patch...  
- Harvest Food Drive...  
- Craft Group News...  
- Angel Tree 2019...  
- The Year Without Santa Claus...  
- Chili Cook Off...  
- No Room at the Inn...  
- Kairos Prison Ministry...  
- Memorials...

**The Back Page** ..... p. 12  
- A Note From Pastor David...  
- Newsletter Deadline...  
- Sunday Worship/Sunday School...  
- Church Contact Info...

*Meet Chansin, our newly appointed Associate Pastor!*

Every Sunday for the past five years I have driven past Manchaca United Methodist Church on the way to my church. And as I looked at it, I often thought, It sure would be nice if that were my church, just three minutes from my house! It's not that I don't like driving very much (which I don't). It's more about a conviction that I've had since I was in seminary: that a pastor does her best missional work when she actually lives near the people she serves. It's about knowing each other, doing life together, and understanding the particularities and needs of the people we're seeking to reach.



When Jason and I first moved into our home in the Rancho Alto neighborhood we were so happy to own a nice house with space in which to grow our family. I figured we were close enough to our worshipping community which resided in a neighborhood that was a bit out of our price range. But I still thought about Manchaca UMC. In fact, I even enrolled our children in the Child Development Center.

I didn't actually think serving with you would be in my future. But then the Spirit of God moved. And I'm thrilled. I've served in a variety of church settings - small rural to megachurch, longstanding pillar of the community to a brand new church-start. From what I can tell, MUMC has a lot of similarities with the church that I grew up in. I was nurtured in my faith in that church in Granbury, Texas. I had lots of mentors who loved me and showed me what Jesus was like. My heart is full that my own children will get to experience a community like I had.

Speaking of children, you'll quickly notice when you see me that we're expecting our third child, due in April. I am grateful to serve in the Methodist church where I have found people embrace mothers in ministry. I look forward to many things, like being involved in the Life on the Road service, serving families and teenagers, and doing missional work beside everyone. All of this ... plus, I get to serve with such a generous, empowering, and distinguished pastor as David. This is a rare opportunity.

I'll be coming to MUMC with my husband, Jason, who is also a pastor. We both got our Masters of Divinity from Truett Seminary, and he has been serving bi-vocationally with me these past years. We have been married for ten years, and our gifts for ministry seem to compliment each other well. He is full of enthusiasm and passion, and he is a natural teacher. He spends his work days as the Associate VP of Programs for ProAssurance, an insurance company. But he spends his free time writing sermons and serving wherever needed, training for triathlons, playing golf, (oh yeah, and getting his MBA at Texas State) and being just plain fun. I know you'll love him.

I look forward to the start of 2020 when I get to meet you. I believe God has incredible things ahead for us all.

*Love, Chansin Esparza*



**Christmas Eve Services:**

- 5 p.m.** - Christmas Eve Service for Families
- 7 p.m.** - Carols, Communion & Candlelight
- 9 p.m.** - Carols, Communion & Candlelight

# WORSHIP AND FINE ARTS



## Daily Scripture

- December 1**  
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
 Sunday Matthew 24:36-44
- Week of December 2**  
 Monday Isaiah 11:1-10  
 Tuesday Isaiah 11:1-5  
 Wednesday Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19  
 Thursday Romans 15:4-13  
 Friday Romans 15:4-13  
 Saturday Matthew 3:7-12
- December 3**  
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
 Sunday Matthew 3:1-6
- Week of December 9**  
 Monday Isaiah 35:1-10  
 Tuesday Isaiah 35:1-10  
 Wednesday James 5:7-10  
 Thursday James 5:7-10  
 Friday Luke 1:47-55  
 Saturday Matthew 11:2-11
- December 10**  
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
 Sunday Luke 1:47-55
- Week of December 16**  
 Monday Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
 Tuesday Isaiah 7:10-16  
 Wednesday Romans 1:1-7  
 Thursday Isaiah 7:10-16  
 Friday Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
 Saturday Romans 1:1-7
- December 17**  
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
 Sunday Matthew 1:18-25
- Week of December 23**  
 Monday Psalm 148:1-6  
 Tuesday CHRISTMAS EVE Luke 2:1-20  
 Wednesday CHRISTMAS DAY Matthew 2:1-12  
 Thursday Matthew 2:13-23  
 Friday Hebrews 2:10-18  
 Saturday Isaiah 63:7-9  
 Sunday Psalm 148:7-14
- Week of December 30**  
 Monday Ephesians 1:3-14  
 Tuesday NEW YEAR'S EVE Jeremiah 31:7-14  
 Wednesday NEW YEAR'S DAY Jeremiah 31:11-14  
 Thursday Psalm 147:12-20  
 Friday John 1:1-9  
 Saturday John 1:10-18  
 Sunday EPIPHANY SUNDAY Ephesians 1:11-14
- Week of January 6**  
 Monday Matthew 2:1-12  
 Tuesday Isaiah 42:1-9  
 Wednesday Act 10:34-43  
 Thursday Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14  
 Friday Isaiah 60:1-7  
 Saturday Ephesians 3:1-12  
 Sunday BAPTISM OF THE LORD Matthew 3:13-17
- Week of January 13**  
 Monday Isaiah 49:1-7  
 Tuesday Isaiah 49:1-7  
 Wednesday 1 Corinthians 1:1-9  
 Thursday John 1:29-42  
 Friday John 1:29-42  
 Saturday Psalm 40:1-11  
 Sunday 1 Corinthians 1:1-9
- Week of January 20**  
 Monday Isaiah 9:1-2  
 Tuesday Psalm 27:1-3, 7-9  
 Wednesday Isaiah 9:3-4  
 Thursday Matthew 4:12-17  
 Friday Matthew 4:18-23  
 Saturday Psalm 27:4-6  
 Sunday 1 Corinthians 1:10-18
- Week of January 27**  
 Monday Micah 6:1-3  
 Tuesday Micah 6:4-8  
 Wednesday Psalm 15  
 Thursday 1 Corinthians 1:18-25  
 Friday 1 Corinthians 1:26-31  
 Saturday Matthew 5:1-12  
 Sunday Matthew 5:1-3



Do you remember the Christmas gift Ralphie received from his Aunt Clara in “A Christmas Story”? Who can forget those pink-footed bunny pajamas including ears and a fluffy white tail?! As Ralphie descended the stairs, his whole body showed his disappointment in receiving the pajamas. I think it’s safe to say that Ralphie didn’t expect Aunt Clara to send him these pajamas as a gift. There have been a few times when I received a gift I really wasn’t expecting. Those unexpected gifts often produced excitement but, in all honesty, some just baffled me. It’s not that I didn’t appreciate the thought behind the gift, but I may have questioned the usefulness of the gift. Then, after some time had passed, I realized a perfect use for the gift (and, no, not as a re-gift or a doorstop). Sometimes we fail to appreciate a gift until we discover we actually have a use for it. When I was a child, I knew that Christmas was about Jesus coming as a child to save us, but it wasn’t until I was older that I understood, and appreciated, what that really meant. Christmas is only the beginning of the story. We get the next few chapters throughout Lent and Easter. The story isn’t done, yet. God is still writing the Christian story. Advent is a time to celebrate the coming of Christ as a baby, but it’s also a time to look forward to when Christ comes again. I’m not sure what the shepherds or Magi were expecting when they greeted the infant Jesus, but I’m sure they weren’t exactly expecting the Messiah which he grew up to be. I don’t know about you, but I’m not exactly sure what to expect from Jesus when he comes back; I’m sure it will be awesome! “Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus...”

– Mark Hixon, Director of Fine Arts

## “Season’s Greetings!” Exhibit

Legend has it that the tradition of sending Christmas cards began in the United Kingdom in 1843 when Sir Henry Cole and his friend, John Horsley, designed and sold the first Christmas card in an effort to encourage people to use the postal service. By the early 1900’s the custom had spread throughout Europe. While it seems few people send Christmas cards nowadays, cards are still a staple in the holiday section of stores. The Worship and Fine Arts Team would like to encourage you to share some holiday cheer by bringing a Christmas card to share with our congregation. Just bring a card signed by you and/or your family and leave it in the basket in the hospitality area. We’ll take the card and display it in the main hallway. It will be fun to see the various cards on display. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Mark Hixon.

## Upcoming Performances:

<p><b>Children’s Choir</b> presents “Fear Not Factor” Sunday, December 8 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. services Sanctuary</p>		<p><b>Sanctuary Choir</b> presents “Rise Up! A New Light A-Comin’” Sunday, December 15 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. services Sanctuary</p>
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## Sunday Worship and Sunday School Opportunities

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <p><b>8:30 &amp; 11:00 a.m. Sunday</b><br/>Traditional Service<br/>Sanctuary</p> | <p><b>9:45 - 10:45 a.m. Sunday</b><br/>Sunday School (all ages)<br/>Various Classrooms</p> | <p><b>11:00 a.m. Sunday</b><br/>Praise Worship (Life on the Road)<br/>Temporarily in Fellowship Hall</p> |
|--|--|--|



# STEWARDSHIP

## PRAYERS

## PRESENCE

## GIFTS

## SERVICE

## WITNESS

### We Pray for...

Jimmy Ballew	Lauren
Peter Bourell	Daniel Lefave
Carey Brady	Ethan McBride
Carol Brewer	Keri McClure
Bettie Campbell	Chris & Allen McKean
Donna Carlson	Bobbie Meador
Rev. Tina Carter	Zee Meredith
Betty Chase	Dick Meyer
Ned Coleman	Charlotte Morahan
Dearl Croft	Melissa Munoz
Kristine Ehrlich	Dorma Nickels
Paige Everman	Sally Nunn
Denise Gentry	Karola Paul
James & Richard Guthrie	Carl Quebedeaux
Bill H.	Rev. Mimi Raper
Tena Hammond	Don Richardson
Robin Hansen	Katrina Roberts
Sophie Harrigan	The Rocha Family
Lee Herring	Donna Rone
Janson Higgins Family	Deborah Sanders
Susan Hilburn	Christi Sontag
Bill Holeyfield	Leah Squyres
Gary & Shirley Howe	John Stone
Angel Jackson	Wanda Summers
Norma Jacobson	Adrienne Thel
Jolly James	Brandon Thompson
Chuck & Eleanor Jett	Dean & Rita Thompson
Forest & M'Liss Jordan	Gloria Turner
Glen Jordan	Ray Vaughn
Rob Julian	Kat Vice
Al Keith	Jerry Weaver
Joyce Klotz	B. A. Wilcoxson
	Bobbie Word
	Molly Wright
	Chr is Yuhas



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

### Sympathy to...



**Spencer Rinehart & Family**, on the loss of Spencer's grandmother, **Frances Rinehart**.

**Michael Douglass & Family**, on the loss of Michael's mother, **Deborah Douglass**.

**Mary Bentley & Family**, on the loss of Mary's husband, **Alvis Bentley**.

**Barbara Thomas & Family**, on the loss of Barbara's grandson, **Janson Higgins**.

**Carrie Prestwood & Family**, on the loss of Carries's father, **David Fegan**.

**Leslie Jones & Family**, on the loss of Leslie's mother, **Ruby Luce**.

### Attendance

<b>Sunday 10-20-19</b> .....	263
Sunday School	139
Visitors	33
First time visitors	3
<b>Sunday 10-27-19</b> .....	287
Sunday School	140
Visitors	40
First time visitors	3
<b>Sunday 11-3-19</b> .....	302
Sunday School	136
Visitors	40
First time visitors	0
<b>Sunday 11-10-19</b> .....	279
Sunday School	156
Visitors	48
First time visitors	0
<b>Sunday 11-17-19</b> .....	279
Sunday School	155
Visitors	44
First time visitors	0

### Financial Report



#### AUGUST

Operating Income.....	\$ 58,125.36
Operating Expenses....	\$ <u>61,438.25</u>
Net Op. <b>Loss</b> .....	\$ (3,312.89)

#### YTD (Aug)

Operating Income.....	\$ 482,055.32
Operating Expenses....	\$ <u>501,225.84</u>
Net Op. <b>Loss</b> .....	\$ (19,170.52)

#### Aug Special Offering Rec'd

Altar Rail Offerings ...	\$ 112.00
BSG/Building Gifts ....	\$ 21,175.00
Food Pantry .....	\$ 210.00
Missions.....	\$ 998.51
Memorials .....	\$ 11,011.00
Children's Ministries..	\$ 685.00

#### SEPTEMBER

Operating Income.....	\$ 58,580.25
Operating Expenses....	\$ <u>63,033.09</u>
Net Op. <b>Loss</b> .....	\$ (4,452.84)

#### YTD (Sept)

Operating Income.....	\$ 540,635.57
Operating Expenses....	\$ <u>567,474.87</u>
Net Op. <b>Loss</b> .....	\$ (26,839.30)

#### Sept Special Offering Rec'd

Altar Rail Offerings ...	\$ 235.33
BSG/Building Gifts ....	\$ 10,390.00
Food Pantry .....	\$ 240.00
Missions.....	\$ 266.00
Memorials .....	\$ 870.00
GriefShare Ministries. \$	60.00
Noisy Offering .....	\$ 493.00

The church's financial reports are available for review, by any church member. Please contact Dick Christ for assistance or to make an appointment: (512)282-7274 ext. 328 or [busadmin@manchacaumc.org](mailto:busadmin@manchacaumc.org). Dick works Monday and Wednesdays, 8-5 p.m.

### Calendar of Events

First Sunday of Advent .....	Su, Dec 1
Staff Meeting -1 pm .....	M, Dec 2
Emmaus Gathering -6:30 pm .....	T, Dec 3
Sunshine Cafe -11:15 am .....	Th, Dec 5
Children's Choir Practice-5 pm ...	Th, Dec 5
Council Meeting -7 pm .....	Th, Dec 5
Family Holiday Movie -7 pm .....	F, Dec 6
Second Sunday of Advent .....	Su, Dec 8
Children's Musical -8:30 & 11 am ..	S, Dec 8
Lunch With Littles -around noon ...	S, Dec 8
Staff Meeting (Off-site)-11:30 am .	M, Jan 6
Tween Ministry (FISH) -6:30 pm .	W, Dec 11
Sanct. Choir Rehearsal -8:30 am Sa,	Dec 14
Caring Kids @ Marbridge - 10 am Sa,	Dec 14
Third Sunday of Advent .....	Su, Dec 15
Sanct. Choir Cantata -8:30 & 11.Su,	Dec 15
Advent Festival -4:30 pm .....	Su, Dec 15
Staff Meeting -1 pm .....	M, Dec 16
CDC Staff Meeting -6:30 pm .....	M, Dec 16
Fourth Sunday of Advent .....	Su, Dec 22
Christmas Eve Family Svc -5 pm ..	T, Dec 24
Christmas Eve Svc -7 pm .....	T, Dec 24
Christmas Eve Worship -9 pm .....	T, Dec 24
<b>OFFICE CLOSED .....</b>	<b>W-F, Dec 24-26</b>
Pastries & PJ's -9:45 am .....	Su, Dec 29
One Combined Service -11 am ...	Su, Dec 29
<b>OFFICE CLOSED .....</b>	<b>W, Jan 1</b>
CDC Teacher/Staff Workday -8 am	M, Jan 6
Staff Meeting -1 pm .....	M, Jan 6
Tween Ministry (FISH) -6:30 pm ...	W, Jan 8
<b>OFFICE CLOSED .....</b>	<b>M, Jan 20</b>
<b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE -noon. Tu,</b>	<b>Jan 21</b>
Staff Meeting -1 pm .....	M, Jan 27
CDC Staff Meeting -6:30 pm .....	M, Jan 27
FLAMS -9 am .....	W, Jan 29

### Adult Studies

Luke Facebook Study -(starts 12/1) .....	S
Healthy New Year FB Support -(starts 12/1) .	S
GriefShare -1:30 pm (ends 12/8) .....	S
Financial Peace -3 pm (starts 1/19) .....	S
How Happiness Happens -4 pm (starts 1/12) .	S
Birth of the Messiah -9:30 am (ends 12/17) Tu	
How the Bible.. -9:30 am/7 pm (starts 1/7)Tu	
Light of the World -9:30 am (ends 12/11) ...	W
Embraced by God -9:30 am (starts 1/15)....	W
Looking at Luke -10 am (offsite).....	W
Jesus-The God.. -7 pm (more info to come) ..	W

### Recurring Events

Worship - Sanctuary -8:30 am .....	S
Sunday School -9:45 am .....	S
Worship - Sanctuary -11 am .....	S
Worship - Family Life Center -11 am .....	S
Stephen Min. Sprvsn. -1:30 pm .....	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> S
GodSpring Youth Choir -2:30 pm .....	S
Middle School Youth-3:30 pm .....	S
Children's Choir -4:30 pm .....	S
Youth Snack/Supper -5 pm .....	S
High School Youth -5:30 pm .....	S
Coloring Café -10 am .....	1 <sup>st</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , (5 <sup>th</sup> ) M
<b>Bulletin Deadline -noon .....</b>	<b>M</b>
Prayer Shawl Ministry -6 pm .....	2 <sup>nd</sup> M
Prayer Shawl Ministry -10 am .....	4 <sup>th</sup> M
Missions Commission -7 pm .....	4 <sup>th</sup> M
AA -7:30 pm .....	M
Boomer Exercise -9/10 am .....	T/Th
Craft Group -6 pm (T)/9 am (W) .....	T/W
Men's Group -noon .....	W
Such as These Praise Band -6:30 pm .....	W
Sanctuary Choir -6:45 pm .....	W
Stephen Ministry Leaders -11 am .....	2 <sup>nd</sup> Th
Glory Bells -7 pm .....	Th
Women of the Word -9:30 am .....	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> F

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

## Lunch with Littles:

**A new ministry for families with young children.**

Lunch with Littles will meet a week late this month due to the Thanksgiving holiday. Please join us on Sunday, December 8, after worship. We'll meet at the fire station on 1626 and old San Antonio road to deliver our thank you letters to the fire fighters. Please RSVP and sign up to bring some simple food for lunch (on the website or clipboards at church)! Our January meeting will be on Jan. 5 at the church. All families with young children are invited to join us!



## Christmas Movie Night: the Star Friday, December 6

Wear your Ugly Christmas Sweaters or Christmas Jammies, pack up some Christmas cookies to share if you'd like, and bring the whole family (and some friends!) to a special viewing of the beloved family movie, The Star.

We'll have a cocoa bar and Christmas cookies for refreshments and lots of fun surprises for the kids. You are welcome to bring some cookies, too, if you'd like to share your family's favorite recipe! Don't forget to take pictures at our photo booth!


Doors will open at 6:30 pm, and the movie will start at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.




## FISH Youth Group for Tweens in December and January

F.I.S.H. is a place where fourth and fifth grade students gather to form a community of support, play lots of fun games and learn about how the Bible applies to their lives. They meet on the 2nd Wednesday each month from 6:30 -7:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall, and also periodically for mission projects.



 FISH will have their annual Christmas party at 6:30 pm at Pinballz on December 11. All are welcome to join us. If you haven't been in FISH, this could be a great introduction!

 In January, we'll meet on January 8 to talk about Kindness.

## Caring Kids – Events in December and January



**Crafts and Carols at Marbridge:** Caring Kids will meet at Marbridge on Saturday, Dec. 14 at 10:00 am to make crafts and sing songs with the residents.



**Making Valentines:** Caring Kids will meet in the parlor on Saturday, Jan. 25 at 10:00 am, to make Valentines to share God's love to those who most need to hear this good news! In the past we've given Valentines to kids in the hospital, the military serving overseas, to our Stephen Ministry care receivers, and to our own home-bound church members. We need to make LOTS of cards, so please plan to come!

## Advent Festival with Live Nativity

**Sunday, December 15, 4:30 – 6:30 pm**

We are sharing the story of Christmas with our community with a HUGE festival filled with lots of fun! The Festival will feature lots of fun activities like a petting zoo, photos with Santa, faux snow pools with snow ball fights, carols, pizza, hot chocolate and more! But the main event will be learning all about the Christmas story, as families are invited to earn pieces of their own nativity scene by going to different booths, completing the fun activities and learning about the birth of Jesus. We'll end the night with a Live Nativity performance by our children and youth (at 6:15 pm).

We can use youth and adult volunteers help to share this event with our community! Children and youth are also invited to sign up to perform in the Live Nativity. Both of these sign ups can be found on the volunteer page of our website and on the clipboards at church.

Sign up to be a **Festival Volunteer** [here](#).

Sign up to perform in the **Live Nativity** [here](#).



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

## Christmas Eve Worship Celebration for Families 5:00 PM, Christmas Eve, Sanctuary

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 the nativity story as angels, stars, shepherds and wise men. Music is led by the GodSpring Youth choir, a Christmas message will be delivered by Kim Carroll, and we'll end the night by lighting our glow stick candles and singing Silent Night! It's a fun and meaningful experience that the whole family can participate in together.



Children in 5th grade and under must be accompanied by an adult!

## Pastries and PJs – Sunday, Dec. 29 Sunday School Hour

Children's and youth classes will be canceled on Sunday, December 29, as everyone will be invited to join us in the Fellowship Hall for Pastries and PJs. Children, youth (and adults!) are invited to wear their Christmas jammies (or perhaps a Christmas sweater!) as we gather to celebrate Christmas through food, a Christmas carol sing-a-long and more fun surprises! Everyone is invited to come.



Children in 5th grade and under must be accompanied by an adult!

# YOUTH MINISTRIES

## Youth Tree Lot

→ Everyone who is working the tree lot must complete tree lot training. There are 2 training dates available:

- November 29th at 8:30 a.m.
- December 1st at 9:45 a.m.

→ 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!!!

## Youth Service & 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:

- **Advent Festival (Sunday, December 15, 4:30-6:30 p.m.)** - Sign up to participate in the Live Nativity and/or to run games or booths at the festival!
- **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.



## Youth & Young Adult Christmas Potluck & Movie Night

Are you a youth or college student who will be in town over the winter break? All youth (grades 6-12) and young adult college students are invited to come to a special holiday meal. We'll fry a turkey and y'all can bring your favorite side dishes. We'll do a fun elephant gift exchange (bring something from your house that you no longer want but think someone else might) and watch a movie! It will be a fun way for former youth to reconnect with each other and to our younger youth! Please RSVP so we know if we have enough interest to make this happen over the holiday break and to vote on the movie!





# YOUTH MINISTRIES

## Confirmation Classes Begin in January!



Do you have a middle school student who would like to participate? Most classes will be on Sunday evenings from 5-7 p.m. with pizza provided.

There is an orientation lunch on January 12 for both students and parents, and a Friday evening in January to get started! Please contact Ms. Kim at [Kim@ManchacauMC.org](mailto:Kim@ManchacauMC.org)

## Parents of Tweens and Teens

Calling all parents of tweens and teens! Mark your calendars for Sunday, January



12th from 4:30-6 p.m. (during Youth Group) as we brainstorm and discuss topics for future get-togethers, how we can support youth ministry, and get to know one another and our children. Moms, Dads, and guardians with child(ren) 10 years old and older are all welcome. A baked potato bar is planned. We'll provide the potatoes, you provide the toppings! This is a great opportunity to support one another as we continue to meet the physical, emotional, spiritual, and cognitive needs of our soon to be young adults. If you have any questions or would like more information, contact Diane Ewing, 512-923-2188, or Leslie Piggott, 512-434-9468. We hope to see you there!

## Awaken Youth Sunday Morning Fellowship

AWAKEN is THE PLACE for youth to be during the Sunday school hour. YOUTH - don't miss this time of fun, catching up with friends, and growing your faith! PARENTS - adolescence is the time when your kid needs to be surrounded by a caring Christian community and claiming their own faith. Join us 9:45-10:45 AM every Sunday morning!



# ADULT MINISTRIES

## Coloring Café - 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Mondays

*Mondays, 12/2, 12/16, 12/30, 1/6 & 1/20, 10 am, Parlor*

Come and join us at the Coloring Cafe! Coloring sheets, colored pencils, gel pens and markers will be available to share or bring your own supplies. Feel free to bring a friend!

All are welcome — 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 to share! We will provide coffee & water.

Questions? Call/text Kristine at 512-789-9285 or email her at [kehrlich01@gmail.com](mailto:kehrlich01@gmail.com).

*"I found I could say things with colors that I couldn't say in any other way - things that I had no words for." -Georgia O'Keeffe*

## Emmaus Gathering

*Buda/Kyle/Manchaca Community Gathering*

Stay connected to your local Emmaus community by attending our December meeting:

- => December 3, 2019
- => Manchaca UMC (Parlor)
- => 6:30 p.m. Potluck
- => 7:00 p.m. Worship



Please bring a potluck dish and an Emmaus friend. Remember your worship book, lanyard and name tag. Childcare provided.

## Christmas at the Café

*December 5th, 11:15 a.m. - 2 p.m., Parlor*

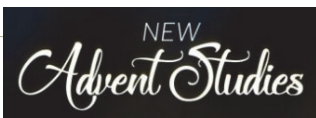
Come celebrate the Christmas season at the Sunshine "Christmas" Café. Santa & Mrs. Claus will be visiting, so bring your phone or camera and we will snap your picture. We will sing carols and also be entertained by the Child Development Center kiddos. Join us for food, fellowship and fun! Open to all adults!



Menu:  
Assorted Homemade Soups  
Bread & Beverages  
Desserts



# ADULT MINISTRIES



## Advent Daily Reading Challenge and Online Discussion Group

*Begins December 1<sup>st</sup>*

Want a no-stress way to do Bible study this Advent season? Join our Facebook Advent Discussion Group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/MUMCAdventGroup/>

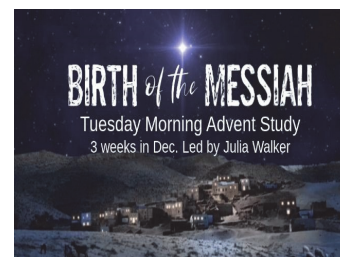
There are just 24 chapters in the gospel of Luke. If you read just one chapter a day through the Advent season, you will have read the whole gospel by Christmas Eve. Of course, you can read one chapter a day or perhaps 7 chapters once a week - whatever works best for you. There will be daily posts with thoughts and discussion prompts about what you are reading, but you can decide how much or how little you want to participate! And the best part is - you never have to leave the comfort of your own home!



## Birth of the Messiah 3-week Advent Study

*Begins December 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m.*

Enhance your Advent season with a Bible study of the Gospel accounts of the Birth of Jesus led by Julia Walker. Tuesday mornings 9:30 - 11:30 am. No cost or homework!



### Upcoming Studies in 2020!

**Free childcare is always available for classes. Sign up on our website or on the clipboards at church!**

## Healthy New Year - Online Facebook Support Group

*Begins Jan 1<sup>st</sup>*

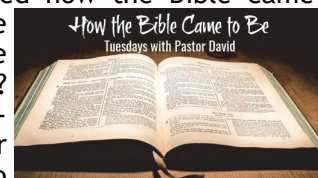
Have you made new year's resolutions to improve your health and fitness and/or lose weight? No matter what plan you are on, join our MUMC Healthy New You Facebook group to help you reach your goals! We'll offer weekly insights from the Daniel Plan to help you develop healthy habits in 5 essential areas: faith, food, fitness, focus and friends. You set your own goals and pick your own day to update the group with your progress. In this private, closed group, you'll find helpful information and inspiration, encouragement, accountability and support. Because this is a closed group, you must email Kim at [Kim@ManchacauUMC.org](mailto:Kim@ManchacauUMC.org) or call her at 512-282-7274 to join. All posts will be private (only seen by others in the group).



## How the Bible Came to Be

*Tuesdays, Begins January 7, 9:30 a.m or 7 p.m.  
Led by Pastor David McNitzky*

Have you ever wondered how the Bible came together? What was the process for choosing the books that were included? Can we trust that it's authority in our lives? Pastor David will continue to lead classes on Tuesday mornings (9:30 - 10:45 am) and evenings (7 - 8:15 pm), starting with a four-week study on how the Bible came to be. (You pick the time that works best for your schedule.) In February, he'll begin a class on the parables of Jesus. Sign up for one or both classes on the website or on clipboards at church.

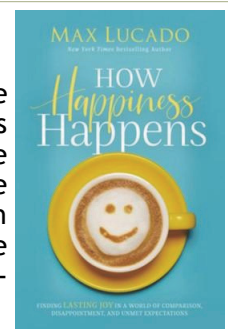


No cost. No homework.

## How Happiness Happens - Women's Bible Study on Sunday Afternoons

*Sundays, Jan. 12 - April 5, 4-6 pm, Cost: \$26, payable at first class*

Do you feel happy? How long has it been since you felt a level of contagious, unstoppable happiness? If your answer is, "Well...it's been a while. I used to be happy, but then life took its toll" - then this class is for you! The world tells us happiness happens when you lose the weight, find the mate, or discover your fate. But that happiness is like a rollercoaster - up one minute, down the next, as circumstances hit. But what if there is a different, unexpected path to happiness? In this study, New York Times bestselling author Max Lucado leads us through the Bible and God's promises for lasting joy. You are invited. Please join us. Led by licensed counselor Ellen Carpenter and team (Debi Jones, Julie Chandler, Sharon Mize).



# ADULT MINISTRIES

## Embraced by God: Seven Promises for Every Woman

Wednesdays, 8 weeks, Begins January 15, 9:30 - 11:00 a.m., Cost: \$10

This study invites women of all ages to explore the transformational power of God’s love and acceptance. Every woman longs to know that she is loved, accepted, and valued, yet many women struggle to understand just how much God really loves them. Contemporary gospel singer, Babbie Mason, draws on her own personal experience to help women discover how to claim God’s unfailing love and discover how to live out seven Biblical promises that will deepen and enrich our personal relationships with God and with others. *(from book description on Cokesbury)*



Wednesday Morning  
Women's Bible Study  
8 weeks starts on Jan. 15  
9:30 - 11 AM  
Cost: \$10 - Led by Kim Carroll



## Financial Peace University

Sundays, 9 weeks, Begins January 19, 3 - 4:30 p.m.  
Facilitated by Pastor Chansin Esparza

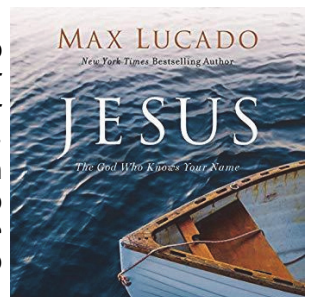
Financial Peace University (FPU) can be the most important step to changing your financial future. It is your Total Money Makeover Program. It takes the knowledge from God and turns it into real action in our lives through a step-by-step process taught by best-selling author and financial counselor Dave Ramsey. This 9-week, life-changing program empowers and teaches you how to make the right money decisions to achieve your financial goals and God’s plan for your life. The course includes practical lessons on eliminating debt, creating a budget, building wealth, giving like never before, and much, much more! The kit costs \$130 from the FPU website, but you can get a \$30 discount by purchasing it from the church! The kit comes with class materials as well as an online membership with access to more videos and tools.



## Jesus: The God Who Knows Your Name

Thursdays, 6 weeks, Begins February 20, 7 - 8:30 p.m.  
Cost: \$14 for study guide, Led by Debbie & John Dulski

In this six-session video Bible study, bestselling author Max Lucado explores the life and character of Jesus, helping participants become more familiar with the man at the center of the greatest story ever told. By Jesus becoming human, God made it possible for us to see him and hear his voice. If we want to know what matters to God, all we need to do is look in the Bible to see what matters to Jesus. If we want to know what God is doing in our world, we need only ponder the words of Jesus. By learning more about the person Jesus was and is, we come to understand more clearly the people we were created to be.



*(from book description on Cokesbury)*

# FLC RENOVATION UPDATE

## From the Trustees:

Renovations of the Family Life Center continue to go well and are proceeding on schedule. Demolition in the FLC main room and restrooms is completed. In the main room, new LED lighting and all AV infrastructure has been installed in the ceiling. New 2x2 ceiling tiles have been installed and painted. Projectors, screen, stage lighting, and sound system speakers have been installed. Construction of the new storage rooms has been completed, and construction of the stage and sound booth will begin soon. Painting of walls and doors is beginning, as well.

In the restrooms, new LED lighting and ceiling tiles have been installed. Tiling has been completed, and wall painting is finished. Partitions and new sinks and countertops will soon be installed.

In the main building, layout plans and décor decisions are being finalized for the parlor and west side restrooms, main hallway, and hospitality area. Main hallway LED lighting and new 2x2 ceiling tiles will be installed around November 23rd. Completion of main building renovations is still scheduled for some time in January. Trustees will continue to keep the congregation updated as these renovations continue. Questions are always welcomed as we share in this exciting project together.



# SERVICE AND OUTREACH

## Fall Festival Thanks!

It was another successful year for the pumpkin patch and Fall Festival! Thank you to everyone who volunteered, donated baked goods, donated candy and hosted a trunk or treat! The community loved it, and it was so nice coming together as a church to make these events happen. A special thanks to Kyle Landry who joined our team this year! His support and hard work was very appreciated!! The pumpkin patch sold just over \$27K in pumpkins which netted almost \$10K for MUMC!  
 ~ Jenn & Josh



## Harvest Food Drive Update

November was a very busy month for the Food Pantry! The cold snap mid-month saw many more people requesting help. The month started with the Tweens sacking ALL the Holiday Bags we give out during November and December. Every person who comes to the office asking for food receives a Holiday Bag in addition to their monthly bag. Plus, ten Holiday Bags are given to Menchaca Elementary both at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Each Holiday Bag has a gift card for HEB enabling them to buy a turkey. In addition to all the food, members opened up their wallets. This is such a generous church! Thank you from all the hungry people and school children we feed all year long.  
 ~ Margaret Bowen

## A Village & A Ream of Paper

### The Village:

The Crafters - members and non-members who made and donated craft goods; bakers; the staff; all who helped set up and take down and sell; loaned us a room; AND SHOPPED!

### The Ream of Paper:

What it would take to thank each one individually.

Thank You All!

Judy & Susan



## SUNDAY CRAFT SHOW SHOPPERS!

We had some problems with our Square Credit Card Terminal on Sunday. If you were not charged, or were charged incorrectly for your Sunday purchases, please contact us for corrections!

Contact either Judy or Susan at the numbers below:

Judy: 512-971-5293  
 Susan: 512-203-2626



Thank You!

## ANGEL TREE 2019

Tis the Season!

Here are ways you can participate with our Angel Tree:

- \* You can purchase a gift for the children and families at Menchaca Elementary School. The school is just across the street and fits our church mission of reaching out to our neighbors. 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.
- \* You can chose to purchase a \$25 HEB gift card that will be given to the families participating at Menchaca Elementary School. We will also include invitations to join our church community as we celebrate with our Advent Festival and Live Nativity.
- \* You can make a donation to Akins High School as we continue our support of the students experiencing homelessness at Akins High School. There are close to 75 homeless students and our donations help with school costs like SAT/ACT/AP testing, college application fees, prom tickets, graduation gowns and support the 2020 college tour. Please write checks to MUMC with Akins HS in the memo line and place in offering basket or give to Sandee or Ann.



### We CAN make a difference.

November 24 through December 8, look for the Christmas trees hung with angels in the Narthex and in the Family Life Center. Choose an angel card to make Christmas a little brighter. **Gifts are due back to the church office by Sunday, December 8.** If you have questions, please contact Sandee Setterquist (512-750-8921, [sa.setterquist@gmail.com](mailto:sa.setterquist@gmail.com)) or Ann Stirling ([afstirling@hotmail.com](mailto:afstirling@hotmail.com)).

# SERVICE AND OUTREACH

## The Year Without a Santa Claus...

### Why is Santa so sad?

The Child Development Center's annual Breakfast with Santa event has been cancelled for this year. With the renovations in the Family Life Center, there is no place for Santa to visit. We hope for another family event in the spring. Watch for more details.



~ Leigh Anne Moore  
CDC Director

## Save the Date!

Sunday, January 26, 5-7 pm

**Great Bowls of Fire  
Chili Cook-Off and Ministry Fair**

**Chili competition!**

**Family-friendly games!**

**Learn about ministry opportunities at the church!**

## “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.

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 homeownership. 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 homeownership is one of the only vehicles available to lower income families to increase wealth and family stability.

### Consider this:

- 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 like parent-teacher 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.
- Austin Habitat is committed to providing affordable homeownership opportunities and it is the largest builder of homes affordable to own for hardworking, low-income families in Central Texas.
- Homeownership contributes to improved physical and psychological health including high satisfaction, self-esteem and control over their lives.
- Owning a home is a significant source of personal wealth and is the leading asset households can leverage to start businesses or finance college.
- Children who grow up in a stable home are 116% more likely to go to college.
- Housing costs continue to rise in Austin. The average rent increased 9% from \$1,235 to \$1,349 from 2018 to 2019. The median home price in Austin increased 10% from \$367,000 to \$404,298 from 2018 to 2019.
- Austin Habitat serves families with 30-80% of Median family income (\$37,850-\$75,500 for a family of 4)
- Over 34 years, Austin Habitat has built more than 470 affordable homes and repaired more than 340 homes.

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.”*





*A word from Pastor David...*

**What's the Pastor Up To?**



When I was in seminary, I checked a book out of the Duke library by a famous theologian named Reinhold Niebuhr. Actually, I read the book because it was taken from the diaries he kept as a pastor in Detroit from 1916-1928. Basically, I was a beginning seminarian, but I had no clue what a pastor did with his/her time. So I was looking for clues even if they were from 60 years earlier!

Have you ever wondered what a pastor does? Here is an overview of my weekly schedule.

Monday- Do Hospital visits, hold staff meetings, and do research on the following week's sermon.

Tuesday- Teach Bible Study in the morning and the evening. Do research for the studies. Go to Akins at 3 to help with the tennis team.

Wednesday- Meet with community pastors for breakfast. Teach Bible Study at Village on the Park at Onion Creek. Mentor at Menchaca Elementary. Do Homebound visitation. More research.

Thursday- Write this week's sermon and work on next week's. Visit the hospital. Meet pastors whom I mentor/encourage for lunch. Go to Akins at 3 to help the tennis team.

Friday- Spend time with family. Celebrate a Sabbath from late afternoon until late afternoon Saturday.

Saturday- Go over the sermon for Sunday.

In summary, pastoring our church, teaching to develop disciples, volunteering with schools, and encouraging other pastors are the priorities of my life in addition to my family.

By the way, if this wasn't helpful, I can give you the name of a great book from 1930!

*-David*

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**

**5 PM - CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE FOR FAMILIES | 7 PM - CAROLS, COMMUNION & CANDLELIGHT | 9 PM - CAROLS, COMMUNION & CANDLELIGHT**

**Newsletter Article Submittal:**

**NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:**  
Tuesday, January 21, 2019 NOON

**EMAIL SUBMISSIONS TO:**  
[deanna@manchacaumc.org](mailto:deanna@manchacaumc.org) or  
[office@manchacaumc.org](mailto:office@manchacaumc.org)

**NEXT NEWSLETTER WILL BE MAILED:**  
Wednesday, January 29, 2019

**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. - noon — Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary

11 a.m. - noon — Praise Worship in the Fellowship Hall

**Wednesday:**  
6 a.m. — Morning Prayer in the Prayer Room

**Contact Information:**

Rev. David McNitzky - Sr. Pastor  
Office: 512-282-7274 FAX: 512-282-7508  
email: [office@ManchacaUMC.org](mailto:office@ManchacaUMC.org)  
web address: <http://www.manchacaumc.org/>  
mailing address: PO Box 460, Manchaca, 78652  
physical address: 1011 FM 1626, Manchaca  
OFFICE HOURS: 8 am-5 pm M-Th, 8 am-noon F

Child Development Center: 512-280-2552



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