



AUSTIN AVENUE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

May

Preschool

As we're nearing graduation of the preschool, we ask that you mark May 19th in your calendar as **Preschool Sunday**. Plan to be present in worship as we will be recognizing the graduates in front of the congregation. There will be a reception following the service in the fellowship hall. May 19th in the Pipkin Center, before and after worship, we will once again partake in a **Scholastic Book Fair**. Purchasing books at this fair will help build our preschool library, and help kids reach their goal of 1,000 books before kindergarten. May 30th is the **last day of school** for AAP.

Children's

Nursery Care will be available Sunday, May 5th during the **town hall meeting** in room 112, but will not be available during the church council vote on the 13th. Sunday May 5th will be a **Family Worship Service**, which means there will not be children's church for kids. Nursery care for those not yet in kindergarten will still be available. **Mother's day** is coming up, May 12th, and we need all the help we can get passing out flowers that day. If you or your child would like to help pass out flowers during children's time on mothers day, please contact Julia.

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Waco, TX 76701
(254) 754-4685 /
(254) 714-1767 Fax

ONLINE
www.austinavenueumc.org
info@austinavenueumc.org
tjarrell@austinavenueumc.org
FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

WORSHIP TIMES
Sunday School 9:30 AM
Traditional Worship 11:00AM

Worship Streaming
Listen to our 11:00 traditional service on the radio via 92.9 FM
Watch our services live via our website and Ustream.

Austin Avenue Preschool
Contact 254-754-4685 or
cbrigham@austinavenueumc.org



Don't forget!
First Sunday of Each Month
Nonperishable Food
Collection (even pet food)

June 2nd—7th Go Shine (Youth Mission Trip)
June 3rd Book Club (My Reading Life)
June 9th Arc Cake Auction



Austin Avenue News

Austin Avenue United Methodist Church
1300 Austin Avenue
Waco TX, 76701

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I came to Austin Avenue UMC, almost 6 years ago. I came because I believed I was called, had unique connections to the church, and had a skill set that gave AAUMC the best chance of finding a way to correct its four decades of decline. One pastor compared my coming to AAUMC with being helicoptered in to captain the Titanic – after it hit the iceberg. I came knowing the task was monumental and by most measures – impossible. With a stutter-step start, Claire and I arrived in Waco, while Sarah and Ryder remained in Weatherford to finish out his senior year of high school. My style of leadership is to model and teach/educate, it's also called Servant Leadership. I am still convinced that we can teach our way through or out of any problem(s) we encounter. To that end we read and discussed Thom Rainer's book, *Autopsy of a Deceased Church*. Say what you want about the morbid title, the book hits the nail on the head in helping us understand what kills churches. Many were in denial before the book and a surprising number continue to hold that outlook. We brought in (with help from the District and Conference) a top church coach to help us look at way to create a new future for AAUMC, to that end we had meetings and raised funds and engaged in a nationwide search to find a planter with hopes that he/she could plant a new congregation that would help us achieve critical mass in ministries to families and that the new worshipping community along with the existing traditional worship community would grow and thrive. We had a top candidate from one of the largest seminaries in the country flown in to interview for the planter position only to discover that he was a complete mismatch. We talked to other conferences, reached out to numerous church coaches and consultants without success. It was in the midst of those challenges that we began to investigate what it might look like to reunite AAUMC and FUMC Waco, both of which owe our lineage to the earliest Methodist church in Waco, formed on the banks of the Brazos in 1850. It has been a roller coaster of a ride, but we have finally arrived at the place where we have an excellent proposal from FUMC Waco on our unification. We will have a Church Council/Town Hall meeting during the Sunday School Hour on May 5th. The church council will vote on recommending the proposal to the Church Conference, to be held, Monday, May 13th (6:00 light meal; 6:30 Church Conference).

You will soon be receiving a copy of the proposal to read in preparation for the upcoming meetings. Additionally I recommend reading another book by Dr. Rainer titled, *Who Moved My Pulpit*. I have a few copies or they are available on Amazon. I commend all the book to you, but particularly chapter two which shares: *Five Kinds of Unmovable Church Members* (perhaps you'll recognize yourself?). We are at a historic moment, much like the children of Israel on the edge of the promised land. The desert wandering have been difficult and Moses gives a final word to the Israelites: (Deuteronomy 30:19-20 NLT) "Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live! You can make this choice by loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and committing yourself firmly to him. This is the key to your life. And if you love and obey the Lord, you will live long in the land the Lord swore to give your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob."

I assure you I'm not seeking to be melodramatic, and certainly I'm uncomfortable with my "Moses" role, but the reality is, the future of Methodist Ministry at 1300 Austin Avenue hangs in the balance. With Moses I say and pray of the decision you are about to make: "Today I have given you the choice between life and death . . . Oh, that you would choose life . . ."

Keep the SON in your eyes!
Pastor Tim

Youth

The school year is coming to an end, and summer is about to begin! We've got lots of events to celebrate!

May 8th instead of our normal Wednesday night activities we will once again be hosting our annual **dodgeball team!** Get your friends together and get ready for a night of fun and friendly competition! (bonus points for teams that dress up)

May 26th at 6:00pm will be our end-of-the-year **Youth Banquet**. This is a night of great food (from the legendary Carri Jones herself), great friends, and celebrating all the work we've put in this last year. Make sure to get your tickets early!

Look for our **Senior Gift Baskets** this month as we prepare for high school graduations. Fill these baskets with gifts and notes of encouragement for all our graduating seniors, to be presented May 26th. **If you are a graduating senior, please contact Julia to sign up for senior Sunday which will be May 26th.**

For more information about events, or how to sign up contact Julia, or look online at firstmethodist.org

Adults

Book Club will meet June 3rd to discuss the book "My Reading Life" by Pat Conroy. They will meet at noon, and drinks will be provided.

The Gathering Place will meet May 7th at 9:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. May 5th, at 9:45 am, during the Sunday school hour there will be a **town hall meeting** to discuss the proposal from First Methodist regarding reunification.

We ask that you be present for this meeting as it is the only time to discuss questions as a group, before the **Church Council** vote April 13th, at 6:00pm. All adult members are eligible to vote at this conference, so we ask that you please be present. All questions should be asked before April 13th. Questions can be asked at the town hall meeting, or directly to Tim.

May 5th is our beloved organist and choir master, Jillian's, last Sunday with us. We will be hosting a reception after worship to celebrate all the wonderful times we've had with her, and to send her off to Alabama with a blessing.