WORSHIP AT UNIVERSITY UMC: JANUARY 10, 2016

Baptism Reaffirmation Sunday
8:30 & 11 am, Sanctuary
Rev. John Elford, Senior Pastor, will preach on “Your Redemption Draweth Nigh” (Isaiah 43:1-7, Luke 3:15-17, 21-22). Make plans to join us as our community of faith reaffirms our baptismal promises during our worship services. To listen to our sermon archives, visit our UUMC podcast page.

Second Sunday Supper Potluck
Noon, Fellowship Hall
Bring a dish to share for our “Second Sunday Supper” potluck lunch gathering. This on-going fellowship event at University UMC is designed to bring our community of faith closer together — and it won’t be fun if you don’t come! Our speaker at the day’s event is Sarah Worthington, the chairperson of the Austin/Travis County Reentry Roundtable. She’ll discuss the challenges faced by formerly incarcerated persons and individuals with a criminal record as they seek to reestablish their lives. She will also talk about the work of the Austin/Travis County Reentry Roundtable in addressing the systemic challenges in Austin and Travis County specific to housing, employment and behavioral health. For more information, contact Rev. Heather Lee, UUMC’s Justice Associate, at hlee@uumc.org.

COMMUNITY NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS

Racial Reconciliation Conversation Group with Pastor John
Tues. Jan. 12, 7 to 8:30 pm, UUMC Parsonage: 1406 Ethridge Ave. 78703
Join Senior Pastor John Elford for an informal conversation about “Between the World and Me,” an acclaimed best-selling book by Ta-Nehisi Coates. This discussion time is an expression of UUMC’s ongoing work toward racial reconciliation, and all are welcome. RSVP to office@uumc.org.

Campus Ministry Returns for Spring Semester
Sun. Jan. 17, 7 pm meal in Fellowship Hall & 7:45 worship in the Chapel
In addition to our Sunday night activities, join us on Wednesdays for lunch and conversation at 11 am to 1:30 pm
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Keep up with University UMC throughout the week

uumc.org  facebook.com/uumc.austin  twitter.com/atxuumc  instagram.com/uumcatx  podomatic.com/universityumc
and Bible Study from 7 to 9 pm. Contact Megan Otto, Campus Ministry Director, at motto@uumc.org.

Austin's Annual MLK Community March
Mon. Jan. 18, 9:30 am | Meet up at First UMC, 1201 Lavaca St. 78701
Gather with us and our friends from First UMC as we head out to the MLK Community March to celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. To learn more about the March and the day’s events, click here for details. If you don’t want to walk but would still like to participate, we could use a few drivers to transport walkers back to the church. Contact Rev. Heather Lee, our Justice Associate, at hlee@uumc.org.

MLK Ecumenical Service
Mon. Jan. 18, 11 am | Grant AME Church, 1701 Kramer Lane
If you are unable to walk in the MLK March, you may consider attending the Martin Luther King Ecumenical Worship Service being held at Grant AME Worship Center. Rev. Sylvester Patton will be presiding. For more information, contact Rev. Heather Lee, our Justice Associate, at hlee@uumc.org.

A Crash Course on Methodism
Tuesdays, Jan. 26 & Feb. 2, 6:30 to 8 pm
Why are we Methodists? What makes Methodism unique among other Protestant faith traditions? Come explore these questions as we take two nights to learn about Methodism’s founder, John Wesley, and the legacy of his teachings. We’ll also cover the history of Methodism in America and what it means to identify as a Methodist today. This class is designed for both newcomers and those who would like to deepen their understanding of our faith tradition at University UMC. This is a free class facilitated by Rev. John Elford, Senior Pastor, and Rev. Lisa Blaylock, Associate Pastor. Register online at www.uumc.org.

Life is Brutiful: The Best of Momastery
Tuesdays, Jan. 26 & Feb. 2, 6:30 to 8 pm
Join us for a light dinner together as we enjoy some of author Glennon Doyle Melton’s best works. We’ll view and discuss her TED Talk and cover a curated selection of entries from her popular Momastery blog and her best-selling book, “Carry On, Warrior.” There will be time for sharing and discussion together. Please remember to RSVP for childcare one week in advance of these events. This is a free class facilitated by Diana Dworin, UUMC Adult Education Coordinator. Register online at www.uumc.org.

Guns & Safety at UUMC
Sun. Jan. 31, 9:45 am, Chapel
Join us for our Fifth Sunday Gathering as Senior Pastor John Elford facilitates a conversation about changes in the state’s gun laws and the implications for UUMC. We’ll also talk about UUMC’s safety policies and the United Methodist Church’s stance that its places of worship are designated as gun-free areas.

Reconciling Ministries Network Sunday
Sun. Feb. 7, 11 am service and Noon reception in Fellowship Hall
UUMC is delighted to welcome M Barclay to the pulpit for our annual Reconciling Ministries Network Sunday worship service, which celebrates our church’s anniversary as a reconciling congregation committed to public witness for the full inclusion of LGBTQ persons in our community. M, a life-long Methodist seeking ordination as a deacon,
serves as RMN’s Communications Director and is a former Youth Director and Justice Associate at UUMC. While attending seminary at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, they worked as a hospital chaplain and volunteered in local advocacy efforts. Since, they have served as Faith Network Coordinator at Texas Freedom Network. M has experience organizing around issues of gender, sexuality, housing, and reproductive rights and is passionate about the intersections of faith and society. They have a partner, Annanda, and has two beloved dogs. For more information, contact Rev. Heather Lee, our Justice Associate, at hlee@uumc.org.

Follow UUMC on Facebook
Did you know that more than 650 people follow UUMC on our church’s Facebook page? Be a part of our church’s vibrant online conversation by “liking” our page and following UUMC at www.facebook.com/uumc.austin. For help or information about how to follow UUMC on social media, please contact Diana Dworin, our Communications Director, at ddworin@uumc.org.

SOCIAL JUSTICE & MISSIONS

Racial Reconciliation & Social Justice at University UMC
September 2015 through January 2016
We have a variety of events and opportunities at UUMC to engage our church in its commitment to anti-racism. Click here to download our calendar and be a part of our work toward social justice and racial reconciliation. For more information, contact Rev. Heather Lee, our Justice Associate, at hlee@uumc.org.

UUMC’s Annual Mission, Justice & Pie Fair
Sun. Jan. 31, Fellowship Hall, Noon
Come explore all of UUMC’s mission and social justice ministries. This event includes a pie contest judged by our pastors — and pie will be served to all who visit at least three mission and justice displays. If you’d like to bring a pie for the contest, please contact Rev. Heather Lee, our Justice Associate, by Sun. Jan. 17 at hlee@uumc.org with your name and pie flavor.

UUMC PEOPLE & STORIES

An Update from Street Youth Ministry of Austin
by Terry Cole, SYM Missionary & Founder

If you’ve been following Street Youth Ministry, you know it’s been a very difficult past year because of a terrible drug called “spice.” It’s been dominating the scene for 15 months. It’s a very cheap drug with an almost instant addiction. The makers and distributors of spice prey on the poor. Despite the challenges, we labor on.

“Creeper” was addicted to spice and spent the better part of the summer flat on his back or wandering around under the influence. We ministered more than 40 times to him, both spiritually and practically. He didn’t seem to make any progress or even express interest in change. Perhaps our hope for his rebirth was weakening. And then he disappeared.

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Six weeks later, I got a message from someone named Whit. I didn’t recognize the name, but I recognized a familiar face when I looked online. So I responded, “Hey Creeper! How are you? Where are you?” The response told me so much!

“Creeper is gone. Please call me Whit! I’m in Fredericksburg. I’m working at a barbeque place.” Street youth take on a persona, including a street name, when they come to the street. It serves them well in many ways, including protecting their inner selves from moral injury from what may happen to them on the street, or what they may do while there. By saying “Creeper is gone,” Whit was telling me that he had left that persona behind. This was exciting!

I asked, “How can I be praying for you? And how is your drug use?” Whit replied, “Terry, I don’t use drugs anymore. I don’t even smoke! I moved back with my dad, brother and 97-year-old grandma. I’m going to church with my family, and I’m going to be confirmed!” Wow! Creeper hadn’t shown significant interest in faith in our encounters. So something had changed!

I continued, “How did this come about?” Whit explained, “Two friends on the street had really deep conversations with me on many nights. They convinced me of God. I was baptized as a kid, so I decided to go back. I’ll be confirmed in my Catholic church soon.” I was excited to know about his path to faith. And the two people he named were both clients, also addicted to spice during the summer. We’ve ministered to the two of them for more than 110 hours. I shared the news with our clients at a recent Bible study and they were so happy for Whit and filled with hope for themselves!

Rarely a week goes by that someone isn’t calling, messaging or emailing to share important changes in their life. Our model is to spend time with our clients. We provide practical help, but the most important thing we do is keep the conversation centered on things that matter, our belief in our client’s ability to change, and encouragement to take small steps. These seeds cause conversation at all hours on the street and all across the country. Wherever our clients travel, the Gospel gets a foothold.

UUMC hosts Street Youth Ministry of Austin each Thursday afternoon by opening our Fourth Floor Loft as a safe place for homeless youth to rest, eat and connect. For more information about this group and ways to support this ministry, visit the organization’s website at http://www.streetyouthministry.org/

Contact us at University UMC

UUMC Church Office: (512) 478-9387 | office@uumc.org | 2409 Guadalupe Street, Austin, Texas 78705
Business Hours: Monday to Thursday 8:30 am to 4 pm | Friday 9 am to Noon
Rev. John Elford, Senior Pastor: jelford@gmail.com
Rev. Lisa Blaylock, Associate Pastor: lblaylock@uumc.org
For our complete University UMC staff list and other online resources, please visit www.uumc.org/contacts-links

Keep up with University UMC throughout the week