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**About us**

We are a community of believers committed to living out our vision – *to shine God's love into every life!* We are a vibrant and authentic church family, offering many opportunities for fellowship and service. We are a family of talented, creative and imperfect individuals who gather as the people of God, united by the Holy Spirit, living faithfully as disciples of Jesus Christ.

*FUMC-Denton News* is a regularly published newsletter created to inform, update and share relevant and thought-provoking content.

You can also read FUMC-News at <http://fumc-denton.com/fumc-denton-news/>

Connect with us on [Facebook](#) (First United Methodist Church Denton), in Instagram (@FumcDenton) and on [Twitter](#) (@FUMCDentonTX).

**Best of Denton again!**



We did it again! Our Children's Day Out and FunStop were voted the best pre-school and after-school programs in Denton. We are Denton's only Christian childcare and after-school programs that range from infancy through middle school. CDO and FunStop. What really makes us the Best of Denton are our staff, parents and community.

No matter whom you talk to-the teachers, directors or parents-they all have something in common to say: "CDO is the Best of Denton because of its staff."

Kay Jennings, CDO Director, says, "The staff and the support of this wonderful church makes CDO special like no other program in town. Our staff is completely committed and dedicated to develop each child to their full potential."

"Our staff, stellar programming and the numerous children-dedicated areas such as the mud kitchen and the learning garden, make our program different from the others," said Brandi Southwell, Children's Director.



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## Announcements



### CHRISTUS



A new work by S. Andrew Lloyd

Encore Performance  
 May 7 – 7:30 pm  
 Christ the King Catholic Church  
 8017 Preston Rd.  
 Dallas, TX

For more information or if you wish to contribute to help support the premiere of CHRISTUS, please visit: [gofundme.com/christuspremiere](http://gofundme.com/christuspremiere)

## Children’s Musical: Once Upon a Parable

May 17, 7 pm  
 May 19, 7 pm  
 May 21, 33 pm

## Letter from Editor

Dear members:

While on vacation last week, I went for coffee with a women’s network group. We talked about life in the US, careers, children and other girl talk. I was the oldest one, with a 29 year-old daughter. The others had children in different age groups: 9, 7, 4 and 3. And we all had different views on raising children.

I have always worked and was lucky enough to take my daughter with me from the time she was about a month-old. I have always made her part of my life, accommodating her needs the best I could to my lifestyle.

A guest of the group thought the best way was basically living her child’s life and adjusting her lifestyle to the child’s needs. She does not work and is a full-time mom. According to her, her child is very well behaved, plays quietly and entertains herself quite well. Yet she complained over and over of her lack of time. She doesn’t clean, or cook, or do laundry. She is 24/7 doing what her child wants. Even though we gave her ideas on how to prioritize, how to “get her life back,” she said it was too much work. She is married, lives with her husband and despite his working all day, she asks him to help with house chores.

Then I thought about a friend of mine. She is a single mom with a two year-old daughter. She works 10-hour days, cleans, cooks and plays with her daughter every night. She sometimes struggles with her time-management and wishes someone could pick up her kid from school, or help her prepare the meals. She has a vibrant, smart and beautiful child. And whenever you need a friend, there she is to offer a hand.

Just one of the cited women goes to church.

“The sluggard does not plow in the autumn; he will seek at harvest and have nothing.” - [Proverbs 20:4](#)

I remember when I was a kid, my great-grandmother would tell me: “If you need help, ask a busy person. They will always find time to help you. The lazy ones do never have time.” The teaching behind her statement became more clear to me over the years. It doesn’t matter how busy you are, how convoluted your life might be, you must always find time for God and for your neighbor. You must find time to serve your purpose.

God “will repay each person according to what they have done.” - Romans 2:6

He never stops working and offering His hand. No matter how busy He is, He will always be there for us, His sons and daughters. So open your hearts and your arms to the ones who struggle with “finding time for God and their neighbors,” and help them see the love and light that He pours into our lives, expecting us to do the same for His other children.

Have a great week!  
 Martha Ware

## 40 Acts - A Generous and Grateful Journey



During Lent, we encouraged and challenged you to participate in the 40acts initiative. The purpose was to give back, do good and live generously during the 40 days of Lent.

Many of our members did. They took the challenge and generously shared their stories. Here are some of the stories:

“I was in the Philippines during Holy Week. The Filipinos are extremely religious and devout, and we witnessed street processions with people carrying life-sized crucifixes, young men stripped to the waist and standing on sidewalks to whip and punish themselves, and the faithful singing praise songs in groups outside churches. Good Friday was quiet in Manila as thousands filled the streets to attend vigil Masses, many wearing t-shirts with gospel verses printed on them. Witnessing this sparked a discussion among many of us on our tour bus. The topic was Lent.

“Many denominations have joined us in our idea of living Lent gratefully-doing good works, engaging in service, being a part of active faith-instead of the old practice of giving up chocolate or TV during the 40 days and then immediately going back to previous behavior on Easter. It was a great discussion about living faith in all that we do and the idea that everything we do is for the glory of God. Giving up chocolate doesn't fit that criteria.

“I started the idea of Lenten service on my own a few years ago. I began by simply cleaning out closets and donating carloads of items to local charity thrift stores. I discovered that the Lenten practice of service quickly became part of me, and I continue this practice throughout the year. Being a Christian is more than giving up something for 40 days. It means the proverbial ‘walking the walk.’

“I benefited greatly from the 40 Days of Gratitude emails and ‘exercises.’ I began a gratitude journal that I will continue after Easter. This way of approaching life has changed me. It has made me more aware of all of God's gifts and how I can use those gifts to help others.

“My gratitude continued on my Philippines trip, and I did keep up the journal. Being on that trip brought several gratitudes to mind. First of all, it is a miracle that my dad survived World War II, so it is a miracle that I exist. Also, seeing how many people live in absolute poverty again made me realize how fortunate I am to live where I do and strengthened my promise to keep up the fight.” - Georgianne Burlage

“I have had the experience of ‘paying it forward’ during this Lenten season. Quite unexpectedly, I was touched when someone who I thought would be the least likely person to do so, paid for some greeting cards that I intended to purchase. I told her I would ‘pay it forward’ and have had two occasions to do so. I felt like God was sending me a message, and the ‘Doing Lent Generously’ fit in to carrying out what I was to led to do.”- LaVonne Ankeney

If you have a story to share, email it to Martha Ware at [mware@fumc-denton.com](mailto:mware@fumc-denton.com).

## Interfaith Prayer Service

On Thursday, May 4, the Fourth Annual National Day of Prayer Interfaith Service will be held at Trinity Presbyterian Church, 2200 North Bell. An interfaith meal will be offered at 6:00 pm followed by the prayer service at 7:00 pm. Trinity will provide food and also welcomes contributions from the varied congregations. Due to the variety of diets, please consider something kosher/halal or vegan.



The Interfaith Prayer Service will include a children’s choir made up of children from all participating churches. All interested children (first grade and older) and youth (middle school and high school) are invited to participate. The choir will have one rehearsal at 6:00 pm prior to the service at Trinity Presbyterian Church. Music and a sample recording will be available for learning. Please contact Jett Cheek (940-390-5827 or [jcheek@fumc-denton](mailto:jcheek@fumc-denton)) for more information.

To download an mp3 reference/practice recording and a PDF of the written music/words for *Let There Be Peace on Earth*, which will be sung by the Children's Choir, use the link below:

[https://www.mediafire.com/folder/tinw425pc11va/Denton\\_Interfaith\\_Children's\\_Choir](https://www.mediafire.com/folder/tinw425pc11va/Denton_Interfaith_Children's_Choir)

Any child who is interested in singing should download both files and begin learning the song

on their own. It is important that all participants learn the song from this recording.

## FUMC-Denton UMW to Host Meeting on Human Trafficking

FUMC-Denton United Methodist Women will meet on May 2 to hear about the services Opening Doors offers to our community. The guest speaker will be Connie M. Hay, the Executive Director for Opening Doors International Services, Inc., which supports families and protects kids by providing anti-human trafficking education and helping individuals pursue legal immigration status. She will also give the group some statistics. The meeting will start at 9:30 am in Room 108. Everyone is invited.

Human Trafficking prevention is achieved through education. The average age of entry into trafficking is 13, so we go to where the kids are to teach them real life strategies to stay safe.

**Opening Doors International**

**United Methodist Women**  
hosts  
**Connie M. Hay**  
Executive Director for Opening Doors International Services, Inc.

Opening Doors supports families and protects kids by providing anti-human trafficking education and helping individuals pursue legal immigration status. Connie will talk about the services Opening Doors offers to our community.

**MAY 2** **9:30 am, Room 108**  
**Everyone is invited!**

## Once Upon a Parable: An Inspiring Musical for All Ages



FUMC-Denton Children’s Choir Ministries is excited to announce its upcoming performance of *Once Upon a Parable* (words by Tom S. Long, music by Allen Pote).

With direction from Jett and Nancy Cheek, choreography by Francie Pavelek, and a cast of over 25 children (PreK – 5th grade) *Once Upon a Parable* will be fun, entertaining and inspiring for all ages.

Performance dates are:

Wednesday, May 17, 7:00 pm

Friday, May 19, 7:00 pm

Sunday, May 21, 3:00 pm

All performances will be in Flinn Hall with reception to follow in Flinn Hall Lounge.

## Spring Enrichment opportunities

Spring is here and our enrichment opportunities are blooming. Consider signing up::



- Walking Tour of Stained Glass Windows led by Christie Wood on May 7, 3:30-5:00 pm. Gather in the Sanctuary. Wear your walking shoes.

To reserve your seat, go to <http://fumc-denton.com/get-involved/small-groups/>, chose the study or studies that you want to participate in, print the form and drop this in the offering plate, take it to the church library, or bring it to the reception desk during the week.

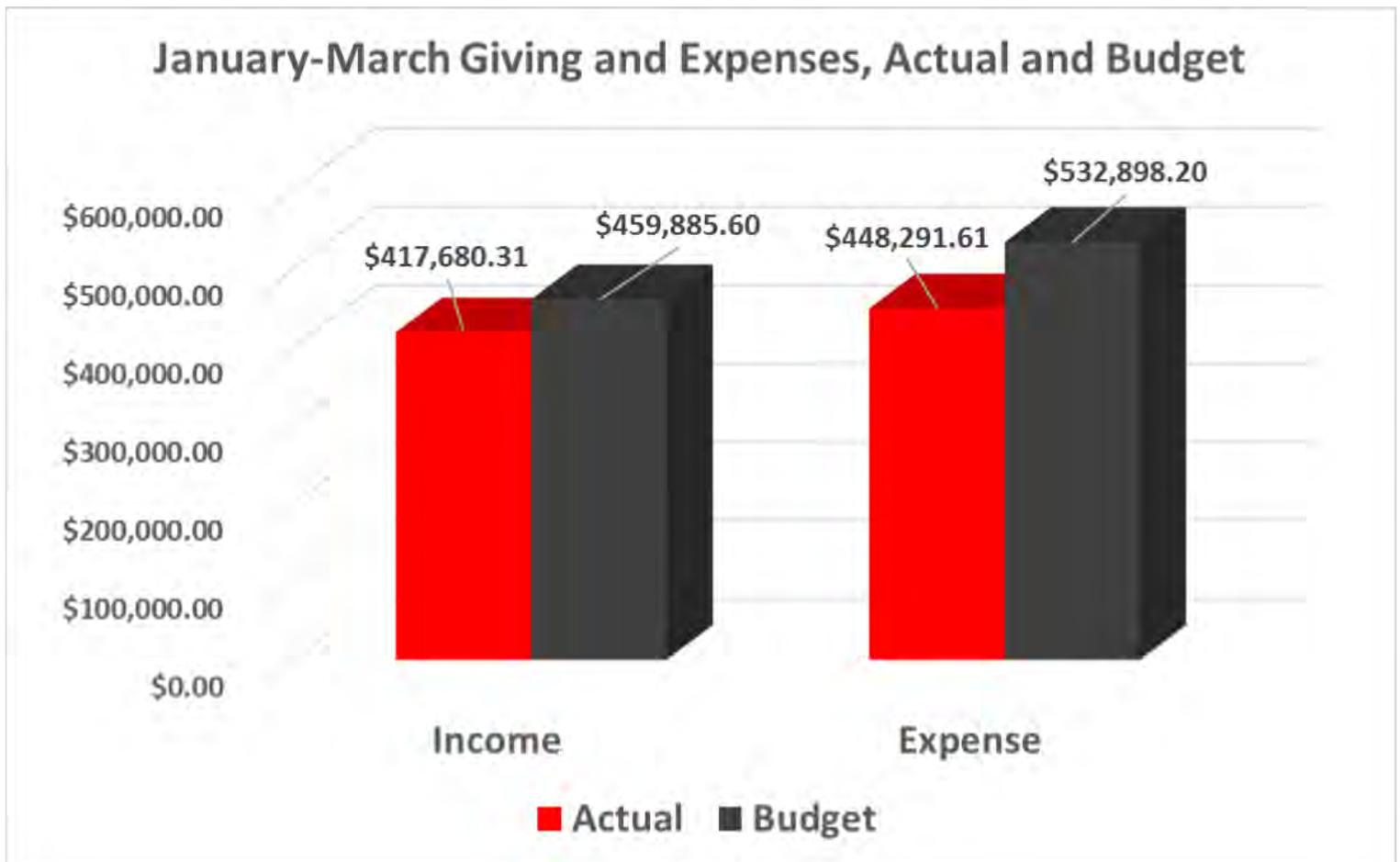
***Catch the Fire, Children Choir Camp,  
July 31 - Aug 4***

**(<http://fumc-denton.com/catch-the-fire-childrens-choir-camp-2017/>)**

**Fall Kickoff, Sunday, Sept 10  
Save the Date!**

## Financial Update

We finished the first quarter of 2017 with giving short of budget by a little over \$40,000. But expenses were also less which allowed us to finish the first quarter close to budget. However, we need a healthy increase in giving if we are to make our annual budget of over \$2.2 million and giving to date for 2017 is a little over \$10,000 less than last year.

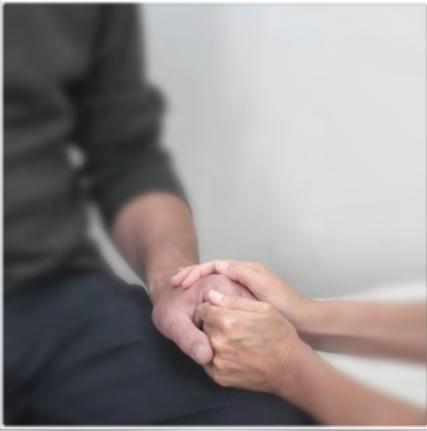


## Facebook Donate Button



We have great news for you. You will now be able to donate to FUMC-Denton through Facebook! It is very easy: just click on the "donate" button on the right corner, just below the cover photo and follow the instructions. It's quick and easy. Help us spread the news!

## Pastor's Note



This Sunday, I'll be preaching from Hebrews 13:1-6, a sermon titled, "Traveling Mercies," having just returned from South Korea. I am excited to share my travels, my experience of hospitality as a guest of the Methodist Church in South Korea, and the lessons on life and faith I have learned along the way. I also look forward to sharing about the panel discussions held on racism with students of Yonsei University in Seoul, the largest university in South Korea. In addition, after attending the Annual Conference of the Korean Methodist Church, I will report on the state of the Methodist Church in Southeast Asia.

See you in Church!  
Don



## Open Worship

Our modern worship service, Open Worship, launched last Sunday. The first service was tremendously successful. With over 200 attendees, the service was heartwarming and the energy in the room was contagious. Open Worship is the new FUMC-Denton faith community that welcomes all people—no matter age, race, gender, identity, orientation or affiliation; a community where you can be authentically you, where actions are more important than answers, where you can grow on your spiritual journey, where you can connect with God and with others in a spirit of community and kindness and service and life — just like Jesus lived.

If you didn't attend last week, we invite you to join us this Sunday. If you have, we want you back!

Open Worship takes place in Flinn Hall, every Sunday at 11 am.

## Announcements

### Rev. Dr Larry George Retiring

After 47 years of ordained ministry in the North Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church, Rev. Dr. Larry George is retiring. Join the celebration honoring him on May 7, 3:00-5:00 pm at the University Park UMC, 4024 Caruth Blvd, Dallas, TX, 75225. Many of our members are aware of Dr. George's connection to our church as he served here as an associate pastor and his daughter Emily and her family are members here.

### Donut Duty



Church Family - We have a hole in our donut ministry only you can fill!

If you love sitting in Miller Center on Sunday morning visiting with friends, or grabbing a yummy donut and drinking good, hot coffee, please sign up to serve in Miller Center.

There are now two shift options available: "Early Shift" – 8:15 am to 9:30 am and "Late Shift" – 9:30 am to 10:55 am.

We need two people per shift, so invite a friend that you want to catch up with to serve donuts with you!

The schedule is completely open from May to August, so please sign up with the SignUp Genius link (<http://signup.com/go/rcBfWj>) or by emailing DonutDuty@yahoo.com.

## Best of Denton Again!

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Rebecca Diaz-Lopez, Jonice Gaidar, April Seals and Michelle Wood all agree on one thing: "The teachers here make a difference. We are all very dedicated. And we are a giant family."

"We care so much about our kids!" said Rebecca. "Kay, our director, makes a difference," said Brandi and Michelle, and "the kids," added Jonice.

Something else that contributes to CDO's success is the number of activities they offer. "Children here have Spanish classes, yoga, music, a mud kitchen, a learning garden. There is so much to do!" said April. Michelle also believes that the activities set us apart from other preschool programs: "The classes, the chapel time, all the extra activities make this program very special," she added.

FunStop is our out of school program. Its staff is very passionate about the program and the children in it. Kaleb Jones, FunStop staff, believes that, "What makes FunStop Best of Denton is the safe, open, healthy Christian atmosphere where kids can grow together and we can grow together with the kids. As a member of this church, working for FunStop helps me connect to the calling of my life, to work with kids."

Alex Nance is very enthusiastic about working for FunStop. "You get to see tons of awesome kids from all walks of life in Denton and I end up getting the best of it because I love this church so much and I get to be a part of so many ministries."

"FunStop is the Best of Denton because of the great staff and leadership, who should be just where they are," said Marcos Gonzales, another FunStop staff member.

Both programs have amazing resources to help our children grow to their full potential but what really makes them the Best of Denton are our people.

Congratulations, CDO and FunStop!

