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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).

Fall Round-Up Celebrates FUMC-Denton's 160th Birthday



FUMC-Denton is turning 160 years-old and to celebrate it, we are throwing a big party! Join us on September 10 for the big day starting with a combined worship service at 11:00 am. Elements from our services will be included in the combined service. Following the service, a potluck brisket luncheon will be served in Monroe, so sign up to bring some brisket or a side dish at <http://fumc-denton.com/potluck-sing-up-form/>. After

lunch, we will have live music, water slides and outdoor games for children and youth, as well as various game rooms, bingo, bridge and a corn-hole competition for all ages. Note that there will be NO OTHER services this Sunday. Sunday School classes will happen at 9:45 am as usual. Please RSVP at <http://fumc-denton.com/fall-round-up/>.

But what is a birthday party without a birthday gift? To wish FUMC a happy birthday, please consider either giving \$1.00 for each of your birth years or \$1.00 for the church's birth years. Go to <http://bit.ly/2tZS1uT> to give or bring a check to the party.

We intend to have a lot of fun so, dress casually, bring lawn chairs or blankets and be willing to laugh, dance and play with our fellow church members and neighbors.

Happy birthday, FUMC-Denton!



Announcements



Connection Worship Concert

Join us for the Connection Worship Concert on August 27 at 6:00 pm in Monroe. The concert will feature our Connection band and friends. Eat some sweets and celebrate with us as we reveal our new worship vision!

In addition, join us at the downtown music venue LSA (Lone Star Attitude) for a Connection Worship Community Gathering, September 1, 8:45 pm where J.R. Byrd's band plays some of your favorite tunes and his own original music. We will eat, listen to some great music, and be in community together!



Letter from Editor

Dear members:

Summer vacation is almost over and many of us have cool stories to tell. Most college students go back home, many families travel, some of us prefer the “staycation.”

I don’t have children in school age but am blessed to share some incredible moments with some of my friends’ children and children at this church.

One of my friends has three children and no car, so the kids spent their whole vacation time at home. Other than a run to the story-time in the public library and the once-a-week ice-cream parlor visit, they had to stay home. They vary in age, from three to 13 years-old. And they do not have cellphones or tablets.

I usually stop by once-a-week to see my friend and confess that I was surprised to see their creativity and improvisation skills. They used chairs, lids and pillows to make a “bus” and traveled around the world. There was a book at each stop and stories about different countries and different cultures. It was amazing to see how they had fun reading the stories and improvising situations to fit each culture. Besides, it was beautiful to see how they all played well together, how they bonded over such little and simple things.

I saw the many VBS photos and their excitement was so contagious! (See photos in this newsletter.)

On a Monday at work, I had the chance to take some pictures during the Choir Camp with Mark Burrows. It was incredible not only to see his passion and talent with the kids but to see the kids completely taken by the experience: they breathed music; they sang with smiles on their faces; they exuded positive energy. They poured their hearts into the songs and had the time of their lives!

I also saw many social media posts about parents and organizations motivating children to giving. Some painted rocks with nice messages and gave to strangers, some volunteered in local pet rescues and some went on mission trips with their parents.

In all of the examples above, I saw God working in the children. Whether by beating their own adversities and being creative with their possibilities or doing something nice to a stranger, God showed them how to open their minds, theirs arms and their hearts. God showed them how to be a Christian.

Have a good week.
Martha Ware

Choir Camp's Children Catch the Fire with Mark Burrows

Choir Camp 2017 was an amazing week. Twenty-one children participated in the week-long camp with Mark Burrows (Director of Children's Ministries at FUMC Fort Worth) as the camp clinician. Hyebin Oh (piano performance student at UNT) was our camp accompanist. Other camp staff included Diana Benoit and Alexandra Martinez, both music education students at TWU, and Doug Raney, teacher of guitar, ukulele and mandolin at the FUMC Fine Arts Academy.

The week consisted of morning rehearsals, where the kids ages 6-11 learned several choral selections under the director of Mark Burrows in preparation for a final recording session and concert at the end of the week. In addition, each morning included a break-out session with Diana Benoit and Alexandra Martinez, where the kids learned about music in other cultures, culminating in a fun drum circle on Friday.

Optional afternoon enrichment activities included:

Monday – "Singing in Harmony" The kids enjoyed a performance and workshop from The Joyful Sound quartet, an all-female barbershop quartet. During the workshop, the kids learned several ways to sing in harmony including partner songs, canon, ostinato, descant, and part-singing.

Tuesday/Thursday – "Ukulele Band" Afternoon campers learned and rehearsed two selections which were recorded and performed at the end of the week. They were split into two groups: ukulele and mallet percussion. Each group learned one song on ukulele and the other song on mallet percussion. The groups were combined for the final recording session and performance. This was the favorite activity of the week.

Wednesday – "Explore the Arts Field Trip" On this field trip, we toured the Campus Theatre and learned about its history, then traveled to UNT where we visited the Music Library and College of Music. At the Music Library, the kids saw a demonstration of an old Edison cylinder record player, a Victrola 78, and a player piano where they were entertained by Scott Joplin playing "Maple Leaf Rag" via a piano roll recorded by Joplin himself. At the College of Music, the kids toured several performance spaces: Recital Hall, Voertmann Hall in the main Music Building and Winspear Hall and Lyric Theater in the Murchison Performing Arts Center.

The week culminated in a recording session at ReelTime studios in Denton. This was a first for choir camp and certainly a new experience for the kids. During the three-hour recording session, the kids recorded the six choral selections and two ukulele band selections they had rehearsed all week long. CDs are in preparation and will be available for \$10 each.

Following the recording session, campers returned to the church for a final concert in Cole Chapel. The chapel was filled with family and friends of all the campers who enjoyed an amazing performance.

Throughout the week, Mark Burrows continually commented on how amazed he was at the talent level of the kids. They learned quickly, memorized well, and sang beautifully.



Welcome new members!

Mark Williams joined FUMC-Denton on June 4. He attends the 11:00 am service. Welcome to our church family, Mark!

Auleen Robinson joined our church family on May 31. She likes our churches open hearts and open minds and also thinks everyone here is very friendly. We are glad to have you here, Auleen!

On July 2, Julie Ann Tipton joined our church. She loves the people and our heart for ministry. She has been attending the 8:30 am traditional service. We are so glad you joined us, Julie!

Jon and Mary Anne Knolle attend the 11:00 am Celebration service. Welcome to FUMC-Denton!

Joseph and MaryElma Rowell joined on June 25. They have been attending the 8:30 traditional service. Both found the people in our church very friendly and like the services. Welcome to our church family!

Derrick and Janna Morgan joined on May 21. They attend the 11:00 am service. They think FUMC-Denton is very welcoming and very children-focused. They have a daughter, Clara. We are so glad you joined us!

Living the Bible Today



Living, or "Living the Bible Today," a new Sunday School class promoting intergenerational discussions based on biblical teachings and how to use those in our lives today, has begun.

Aug. 13, 20 and 27

John Carpenter discussing the book *Making Sense of God--An Invitation to the Skeptical* by Timothy Keller.

Sept. 3

Pastor Mauricio will be sharing his faith journey. He will be using Jer. 29:11 as his scriptural basis.

Sept. 17 is the official kick-off. The group will begin the study of Moses--the reluctant prophet. This will include a video series.

Classes take place in Flinn Hall Lounge, on Sundays at 9:45 am.

Financial Update



Fine Arts Academy Adds Classes



Adults wanting to learn about writing their memoir or other types of writing may now enroll in classes through the Fine Arts Academy at First United Methodist Church in Denton.

Starting Aug. 22, the memoir and creative writing classes will add to the voice and instrument classes that have been offered since February 2012 in the FUMC Fine Arts Academy.

“As with the other classes in the academy, I’m hoping the writing classes will help bring out the creative side in people,” said instructor Betty Roberts. “We all have something to say; we just need to find the most interesting way to say it.”

Life on Paper, the memoir class, is designed to teach students the best way to leave a written legacy. It is being offered from 10-11 a.m. or 6:30-7:30 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Self-expression is a course where students will be urged to develop their writing talents in poetry, short stories or personal narratives. It will be offered from 7:30-8:15 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The classes cost \$45 per month or \$180 per semester. They will be offered in the spring semester, also.

The Academy also offers classes in voice, music therapy, piano, guitar, flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone and drums. Private classes are open to any age, and students at the Academy range in age from second grade to retired adults.

“The purpose of the Academy is to offer quality music and arts instruction in a Christian environment,” director Jett Cheek said.

Interested persons should register at fumc-denton.com/creative-writing or contact Roberts at bjrjournal@aol.com. They may also call Jett at the church at 940-382-5478.



John Crist, comedy

Christian comedian John Crist is bringing his “John Crist’s Captive Thought Comedy Tour” to FUMC-Denton. The performance will take place in the Sanctuary on September 28 at 7:00 pm.

Go to www.premierproductionstickets.com/buy?991 to purchase the tickets.

The church will be closed on September 4 for Labor Day holiday.

Vacation Bible School - A Year Like No Other

“Vacation Bible School was like no other this year,” said Brandi Southwell, Director of FUMC-Denton’s Children’s Ministries. Our church came together to prepare and execute a *super* time for our small “Heroes for God.” It was a time for our church family to join with many from our surrounding Denton community and learn about God. More than 130 children learned each night that God’s Heroes have *heart, courage, wisdom, hope and power*. Daily assemblies led by our very own Captain Shield allowed all involved to come together and praise God, practicing what they learned the day before. Kids of all ages participated in art, drama, recreation, science and music activities to reinforce the stories of the week. Three of our pastors were right in the middle of the excitement participating along with the kids.



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!

Upcoming Sermon Series

Live the Dance - Faith is a dance. We see this so clearly in the stories of the Bible. It is a dance where God takes the lead and we are invited to follow. God's lead is generous, setting the rhythm and guiding the movement of the dance purposefully to create something of incredible beauty that others will be drawn to watch and participate. God is a patient dance partner, gentling guiding us and forgiving our missteps. Sometimes we try to steal the lead from God, we wrest control of the dance by "hijacking" the lead, choosing instead to make our own way. Even then God's grace refuses to let go or give up on us. **Grace invites us to join God in the dance of faith.**

September 17 - The Evolution of Dance

September 24 - So You Think You Can Dance

October 1 - Dancing with the Stars

Methodism 101

Methodism 101 is a class for prospective members, visitors, new members and anyone who wants to know more about Methodism and our church . It will take place on September 17 and 24, October 1 and 8, 9:45-10:45 am in Room 108. Topics include United Methodist beliefs, what it means to be a connectional church, mission outreach in our congregation, ways to be involved, more involved, or less involved in ways that fit your gifts and graces.

Katie and Randy Martin took this class and said: "We enjoyed getting to know the background of the Methodist Church. Coming from a Baptist upbringing it was interesting to learn the similarities of the two faiths. I liked hearing all the great opportunities to help in the community as well. Attending Methodism 101 made us feel more a part of our new church!"

Landon Ellison thought that Methodism 101 was very informative and made him feel at home at the church and that he was a part of something greater and good.

Vanessa Ellison, new to the Methodist faith, believes that this class really helped answer her questions on Methodism compared to other faiths and our role as First United Methodist Church in the community.

The class is also excellent for old-time Methodists not only because there is always something new to learn but because it helps people discover the unique opportunities in this congregation.

Here is our schedule for this fall series:

September 17	What Methodists Believe	Gloria Thomas, presenter
September 24	How Methodists Get Things Done	Tim Crouch, presenter
October 1	Building Tour and Stories About This Local Church	Tim Crouch, presenter
October 8	Reaching Out Beyond Ourselves	Carol Rogers, presenter

Everyone is invited. For details, contact Gloria Thomas at gvthomas930@gmail.com.

Announcements

Third annual conference-wide event, "A Common Fount of the Laity"

The Conference Committee on Lay Servant Ministries, joined this year by the Board of Laity, is pleased to inform you of the third annual conference-wide event, "A Common Fount of the Laity" to be held on August 19, from 9:00 am to 3:15 pm at Aldersgate UMC, 3926 Old Denton Rd., Carrollton, TX.

After opening with prayer, greetings and song, Bishop Mike McKee will set the tone for the day by speaking on "The Importance of the Laity." Rev. Marji Bishir Hill will be the keynote speaker.

You may register online at <https://www.northtexasumc.org/2017/08/3rd-annual-laity-event-common-fount-laity-august-19-2017/> or mail form to Susan Anderson, 104 Wild Oak Lane, Lake Dallas, TX 75065.



IMPACT Magazine

The 2017 Fall edition of our IMPACT magazine is about to be released. It will soon be available in the Literature racks around the church. Stay tuned!

Brandi Southwell Heads to Russia



Brandi Southwell, FUMC-Denton's Children's Director, will head to Russia on September 28. Brandi will be training Vladislava, Saratov's UMC Pastor Dima's wife, on Godly Play, a program used for years in our children's Sunday school program. Dennis and Janet Fisher, with the help of Larry Fisher and other church members, are putting together many Godly Play kits to take to Russia. Methodist churches in Russia don't usually have Children's Sunday School, so Vladislava is a pioneer.

Dima and Vladislava are currently using money from our Easter Offering to prepare a room for Sunday school. That includes painting the walls, building shelves and carpeting the floor.

In addition to her time in Saratov, Brandi will visit a church in Moscow which currently has a Godly Play room in operation. The leader in that church is in the process of translating the stories into Russian.

We will have a follow up story on the trip to Russia once Brandi and the Fishers return. Stay tuned!

Swim Night



Over 100 of our FUMC-Denton family and friends had a splash of a time at our annual family swim night at the Civic Center Pool and Splash Area. With water attractions for all ages, potluck snacks and plenty of water, they were all set for a night of fun and fellowship. A huge car load of school supplies for Rivera Elementary, our partner school, was collected. Thanks to all who came out. Time with our church family is always priceless. See you next year!

