



In this issue...

Share the Harvest
 Letter from the Editor
 John Crist, the Comedian Behind
 the Christian
 Sermon Series

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).

Spook-tacular and Fa-boo-lous: It's Time for our Share the Harvest!



On October 31, we will maintain our tradition and have the most Spook-tacular and Fa-boo-lous Share the Harvest yet! From 6:00 to 8:00 pm children from the Denton community will Trunk or Treat, enjoy carnival games, hay rides and a snack supper. We provide a safe alternative to Halloween trick-or-treating for children from our church, neighborhood and community. And we are prepared to have a great time *rain or shine!*

Admission is one canned food item in support of the Denton County Food Room.

We are now collecting candy to make this a very memorable trunk-r-treat. You can drop off a bag or two in Miller Center or many other places around the church. Just look for the Share the Harvest boxes. We also need volunteers who want to decorate their car trunks. If you like to see a smile when you give out candy to the children, we definitely need you!

Go to <http://fumc-denton.com/share-the-harvest/> to watch the Share the Harvest video.

Announcements



Monday Women's Study Group

October 9 - November 20
 10:00 am - Noon
 Flinn Hall Lounge

Old Testament Book of Daniel, Part II

Refreshments and Beverages provided.
 You are welcome even if you did not participate in the Spring study.
 The first session will be dedicated to an overview and video of the first half of the Book of Daniel.

For more information contact:
 Risa Crews, risa.earl@verizon.net or
 Janet Luttrell, dentonluttrell@verizon.net

Letter from Editor

Dear members:

It is already October. A few more months and we will be in 2018. Wow! Time sure flies by. A few weeks ago I took a class called *Connectional Giving*, offered by the United Methodist Communications. They talked about the United Methodist Church organization and structure and the UMC giving process. Did you know that UMC has seven different General Funds? World Service Fund, Africa University Fund and Interdenominational Cooperation Funds are just some of them. When John Wesley, founder of the Methodist denomination, thought or talked about giving he would say: "Make all we can, save all we can and give all we can."

"All things come from you, O God, and of thine own have we given You." - I Chronicles 29:14b. We also learned about missional storytelling, how to verbalize our connectional power and to call others to take action. That made me think of all the stories I've written for our newsletters, magazine and social media and all the wonderful and powerful things this church family has done. Do you have any idea how many lives we are able to touch? How many people gave their hearts to God or got back into church because of this congregation? How many received food, clothing, toiletries, medication because of you?

Through our ministries and missions we are able to give to our neighbors, near or far. We are able to show compassion and solidarity. We are able to be the hands and feet of Jesus, opening our hearts, minds and doors and shining God's love into every life. I hear, I see and I write stories about our people and the Godly work that have been doing. That's the way I am verbalizing the connectional power of this congregation.

I have all our communications channels to do that, so it might be easier for me. But how are you verbalizing our stories? Think about how this church family shares the word of God, how its members roll the sleeves up and are always ready to help. Think about ministries like the Children and Youth's Ministries, Children's Day Out and FunStop. How many children start they journey with God there? Think about missions such as the Alternative Gifts Fair, which has raised over \$243,000 in the last three years. Think about ODIM/Guatemala Mission Trips and our members building a bathroom in a house that had none, educating people about nutrition and hygiene basics. Or about the partnership with Rivera Elementary, which had doors decorated before STAAR tests, received funds for their Literacy Library and year-round support through our volunteer mentors.

This church does a lot. Giving is in its DNA. And what I've seen during the four years I have been working here is that, the more this congregation gives, the more it receives. Thank you all for all you do!

Have a great week.
 Martha Ware

John Crist, the Comedian Behind the Christian

On September 28, John Crist, Christian comedian, performed at FUMC-Denton's Sanctuary. Over 750 people came from surrounding areas to watch this sharp, funny and talented comedian. Rev. Jonathan Perry opened the event and said, "The night was really, really fun. It was so encouraging to be gathered with a group that loved the Church, but also thought that some of the things we do are pretty funny. Laughter and joy will be a big part of heaven, so it was good to get a preview!"

Martha Ware, our Director of Marketing and Communications, interviewed John and learned a little more about this grown-up pastor's kid.

Martha: Why/when did you decide to be a comedian? What is your background?

John: I graduated from Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama, in 2005 with a degree in Journalism/Mass Communication and Broadcasting. Right out of college, I moved to Colorado Springs to take my first job in sports marketing. In Colorado Springs, I started attending a mega church. Because of my experience in broadcasting, I eventually began volunteering to help produce video content that they played during the services, and I was also the "announcement guy." I started adding my own spin to the weekly church announcements, and the videos we produced were always funny too. People began asking me if I had ever considering standup, and that's what first planted the bug in my ear.

Martha: How long have you been doing this?

John: I performed my first set at a comedy club in Colorado Springs in 2007 during an open mic night. I got three minutes on the stage, and I didn't sleep for two days before performing. My first set bombed, but standing on that stage was a rush like I had never experienced before. I knew I was onto something, and I was determined to get better. This year is my 10th anniversary of doing standup.

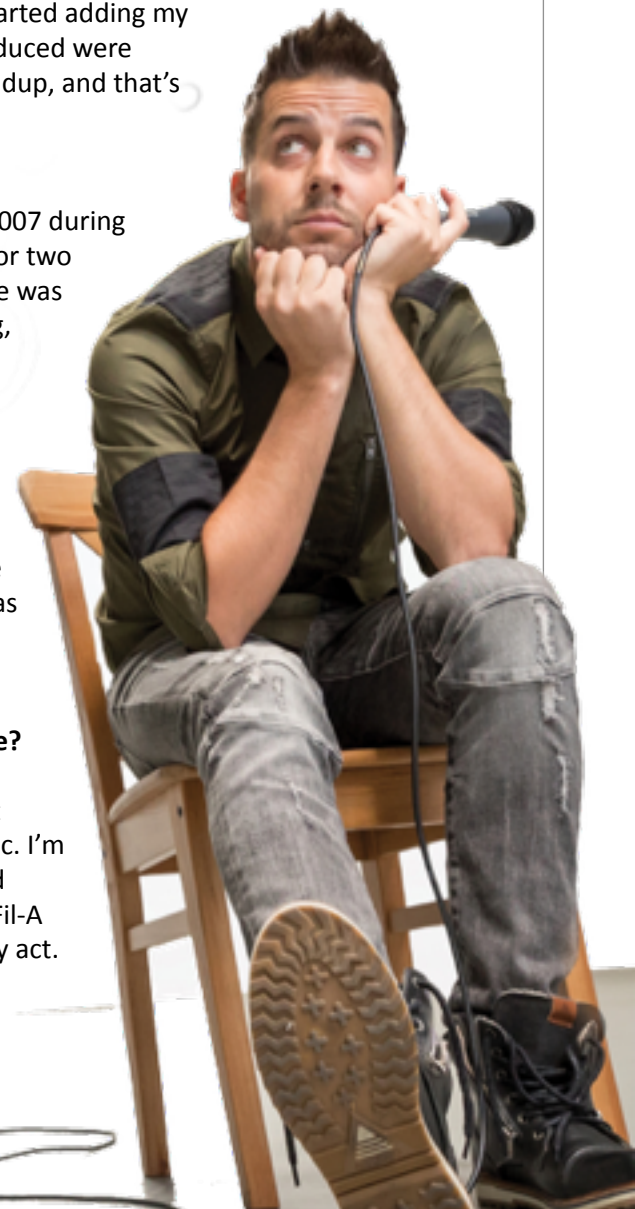
Martha: Why did you decide getting into Christian comedy?

John: As I was getting started in stand up, a seasoned comic who mentored me told me, "Write what you know." It's the single best piece of advice I've ever received in my career as a standup comic. I grew up as a pastor's kid in the Deep South and was the third of eight homeschool children. How do you not write jokes with a background like that?!

Martha: How do you create/develop/prepare your show/performance?

John: I've always been very observant, and I feel like I notice things that most people overlook. That translates into my career as a standup comic. I'm constantly thinking about content. Most people can go to their 9-5s and never think about work outside of those hours. I'm sitting at the Chick-Fil-A drive through picking lunch, but I'm thinking about ways I can add to my act. So I never really stop working.

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John Crist, the Comedian Behind the Christian

Continued from page 3

Martha: With such a wide and diverse Christian audience, going from very traditional to more liberal believers, how do you choose your themes/content? How do you know the limits, or not to “cross the line” between funny and offensive to one’s faith?

John: I write about things I observe and things I think need to be addressed. If I feel like it needs to be said and I put it out there, my job is done. It’s up to the individual how they receive it. I’ve always known that I have really good discernment, and I think it’s one of my biggest strengths. I’d be the first to say I “cross the line” sometimes, but I think that’s what’s gotten me as far as I am today. I’m not afraid to take risks, and that’s what has pushed my career to greater heights. Listen, I love Jesus, but I feel like some of us as Christians are trying to act like we’re not human beings. I’m not afraid to call out parts of Christian subculture that I think are pretty ridiculous. We take ourselves so seriously!

Martha: What was the best feedback you have ever gotten about your show?

John: After a recent show, a woman came up to me at the merchandise table holding a stack of my DVD’s she had just purchased. She had tears in her eyes. When I asked her what was up, she responded: “I have Stage 4 cancer. Every waking minute of my life I spend thinking about this disease that’s killing me. During your show was the first time since I was diagnosed that I wasn’t thinking about my condition. During those 90 minutes, I felt free.” That’s what it’s about right there.

Here is a link for John’s YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/johnbcrist>.

Mosaic Worship



What do you see when you look inside your heart? Sometimes we see broken pieces in need of repair, we see imperfection. God sees us just the way we are: a masterpiece. We are God’s artwork on full display, just as the Holy One made us. We are a *mosaic* of different colors, shapes, style, brokenness, wants and needs. *Mosaic*, former Connection, is the newly branded contemporary service of First United Methodist Church of Denton. We meet on

the campus of FUMC-Denton in Monroe Fellowship Center at 9:45 am on Sunday mornings. At *Mosaic*, a group of people from different walks of life, generations, stories and identities, work in harmony to make our community and our hearts a better place. Our eclectic style is tailored made for the creatives’ soul. *Mosaic* is about worshiping God in an artful way. Our 12-piece band counts with the best musicians in Denton, led by worship leaders J.R. and Laura Byrd. We play contemporary worship music with a jazz flair, utilizing many styles such as gospel, folk, indie and rock. You will also find Biblically-based teaching delivered by **Don Lee**, Lead Pastor of First United Methodist Church of Denton. Come find an engaging, immersive worship, where you can quiet your mind, center your soul and connect with God in a real way. For details go to mosaicfumc.com.

Sermon Series



Emotionally Healthy Spirituality - Most Christians know that two most defining characteristics of the Christian life are love of God and neighbor (as self), behaviors Jesus himself describes as most descriptive of God's desire and purpose for us. We go to church, listen to sermons, perhaps attend a Sunday school or Bible study. We give, pray when we feel the need, support our local Scouts when they come calling. We try to be good citizens, good parents, good people. And yet, something is missing. Perhaps we feel stuck or off center or don't feel like we are growing spiritually. "Part of growing into an emotionally mature Christian," writes Peter Scazzero, "is learning how to apply practically and effectively the truths we believe." In this

series we will first look at Scazzero's Emotionally Healthy Spirituality, what is it, and then apply it to well known biblical characters.

October 15 - Jonah: A model for emotionally unhealthy spirituality

October 22 - EHS: Naomi

October 29 - EHS: Joseph

Alternative Gifts Fair



Over 35 vendors sell their one-of-a-kind artisan items and crafts providing an alternative for gift giving and, at the same time, raising money with 100% of the proceeds going to the non-profit organizations represented. Fair trade goods, handmade merchandise by third-world-country artisans and merchandise donated by both First United Methodist Church members and Denton locals make the fair an event not to be missed. People from around our region come to the fair year after year to buy creative and unique items in a fun and safe environment, avoiding the rush and craziness of the malls. November 3 - 5:00 - 8:00 pm – Admission - \$5.00 November 4 - 9:00 am - 3:00 pm – FREE Admission

November 5 - 8:00 am - 1:00 pm – FREE admission.

Go to <http://fumc-denton.com/missions/alternative-gifts-fair/> for a list of vendors. If you have a yard sign for the Alternative Gifts Fair, please put it in your yard or in front of your business on Monday, Oct 30. If you don't have a sign yet, please stop by Miller Center, Sunday, Oct 22 or 29, to pick one up. Help us promote this wonderful opportunity for mission.

Welcome New Members!

Randale and Traci Laxton joined FUMC-Denton on September 24. They have a two-year-old son, Landry. Randall is a broadcast engineer and Traci is a realtor. They have been attending the 11:00 am worship service. They like Pastor Don Lee and the Children's programs and opportunities for Landry. Welcome to our church family!

On September 17, Jennifer Sanders joined our church family. She attends the 8:30 am Traditional Service. Jennifer is a special education teacher at Denton ISD. She likes this church because it makes her feel right at home. We are happy to have you here, Jennifer!

SOCIAL PRINCIPLES
of the
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FROM **20** **WEDNESDAYS** TO **25**
SEPT OCT

5:30 - 7 PM

Led by
Rev. Jonathan Perry and Ruth Bowen

Flinn Hall Lounge

John Wesley
"There is no religion without social religion,
no holiness without social holiness."

CALLING ALL ARTISTS, CRAFTERS and HANDMADE MAKERS!!



The Alternative Gifts Fair is November 3, 4 and 5 and we are once again looking for generous artists

to donate their time and talent to the Congregational and Community Artisans Booth. This year all the profits from this booth will go to the local non-profit Opening Doors International Services (ODIS). ODIS has been working for a decade in North Texas to raise awareness and fight human trafficking.

Please contact Shari Cobb at sscobb@verizon.net to donate. Thank you for using your talents to give back to our community!

IMPACT Magazine

The 2017 Fall edition of our IMPACT magazine is available in the Literature racks around the church. Grab yours before they are all gone!

Youth Fundraiser



Can you believe Christmas is almost around the corner? As you buy your gifts, think about taking them to Golden Triangle Mall, where our youth will be wrapping them beautifully. This gift-wrapping fundraiser will help our youth finance the many activities they participate in: retreats, camps and mission trips. It starts on Saturday, December 2 at 10:00 am. Stay tuned for the full schedule.



Live the Dance, Dance the Faith!

Reminder: If you haven't turned in your Estimate of Giving card, it is not too late! Go to www.fumc-denton.com/dance and print the card, fill it out and bring or mail it to the business office. You will also find FUMC-Denton's budget information in our website..

Live the dance, dance the faith.