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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).

Buddy Bench to End Playground Loneliness

Our Children's Day Out is always innovating and encouraging our children to be good kids and good Christians. We now have a Buddy Bench! The concept of the Buddy Bench is simple: students who want to partake in playground games and activities but may feel hesitant sit on the bench, which signifies to other children on the playground that they may need an extra boost to participate.

For a child with no one to play with, there may be no lonelier place than the school playground. Children with an established group of friends may not think to seek out those who feel excluded. Loneliness among young children is very common. It is common for children to go off by themselves when they feel sad while what they really need is for someone to notice and be there for them. The bench gives children a safe, nonjudgmental place to retreat. Once a child is asked off the bench to come play, the hope is that they will have the confidence to go play with their new friends again the next day.

According to Wikipedia, the "Friendship Benches" or "Buddy Benches" were originally created in 2012 by a fifth grader, at the time, Acacia Woodley. Acacia now speaks at schools across North America and is very happily the founder and CEO of the company, Tiny Girl, Big Dream.

Here is what parents are saying:



"I absolutely love this. Thank you so much. Y'all are the best." - Penni Abbott

"Thank you and your team for installing the Buddy Bench. It is such a great idea and addition to the CDO facilities. Our family has really been enjoying all the new additions, including the mud kitchen!" - Brooke Moore

"I LOVE this idea! Great job, AGAIN, CDO!!!" - Elizabeth Hardowin
 "I LOVE this idea!! How special and thoughtful!" -Brigitte Simpson

How can we not be proud of CDO and our children?

Letter from Editor

Dear members:

Last week I met a friend for coffee and “pao de queijo,” the traditional Brazilian cheese bread. She is a great cook and made it from scratch. Everything was simply delicious. I love getting together with her because we talk about a variety of topics and share our stories.

It was a quick visit because I had an appointment right after so I got up to leave. When we were saying good bye, she’s asked me if she had told me about her “daughter’s school thing.” And emotionally she started to tell me the story.

Back in February, she submitted applications for a charter school for both of her daughters, 13 and 9. She didn’t know exactly how it worked and thought it was a long shot. However, her oldest daughter (who I will call Nikki) insisted day after day that she wanted to attend this charter school. After submitting the application, Nikki started to log in to the school website on a daily basis to check the status of her application. She noticed that her name was way down the list. She told her mom persistently that she wanted to be accepted.

They are faithful church goers. So, her mom had a talk with her and said that if God thought it was the right thing for her, she would be accepted. But she had to believe and pray; she had to ask God to give her this grace. With tears in her eyes, she told me that Nikki prayed every day, and every day she believed God was going to grant her wish. She continued to check the website’s list every day. When her name moved up one spot, she celebrated. When it moved back down, she would pray more.

A couple of days after our coffee date, Nikki had checked the website and saw that she had been accepted to the charter school. She immediately went to her mom and euphorically gave her the news. She asked her mom to check her email because the website said they would get an acceptance email. And it was there!

This 13 year-old girl not only believed with all her heart and soul but she never gave up praying, even when the odds seemed against her. What an example to her little sister. What an example to all of us!

Her little sister is still on the list waiting to be accepted. And faithfully she keeps praying faithfully, knowing that God will only grant her wish if it is the best thing for her.

After hugging my friend and telling her what a wonderful a mom she is and what an incredible job she has been doing with her children, I left. During the drive to my appointment I could only think of how many times I prayed for God to grant me something and got mad at Him because He didn’t, without believing that He did that because it was the best thing for me, at least at that time. And then I prayed not to ask for anything but to thank Him for putting such strong testimonies in my life.

**The church will be closed on Fourth of July
for the Independence Day holiday!**

Vesper Concert Series



The first concert of a newly re-inaugurated Vesper Concert Series hosted by our Music Ministry will present the young concert pianist, Arsentiy Kharitonov, in a recital of masterpieces by Scriabin, Tchaikovsky, Schumann and Rameau in our church's Sanctuary on Sunday afternoon July 2 at 3:00 pm.

Kharitonov is a graduate of the Rimsky-Korsakov College of Music of the St. Petersburg Conservatory in Russia and the College of Music at the University of North Texas. After his triumphant debut at a packed Carnegie Hall in May of 2016 (for which he presented a preparation performance at FUMC Denton two weeks prior), noted New York classical music critic Raymond Beegle proclaimed him "in the top ranks of keyboard players today." At the close of 2016 Beegle went on to write that Kharitonov's Carnegie recital ranked among the top five classical music events in New York City for the entire year.

Fanfare Magazine described him as a pianist of "sumptuous tone, technical mastery, with a broad dramatic range of astonishing breadth and elegant phrasing."

A prizewinner of national and international competitions, Arsentiy Kharitonov has been heard in solo recitals and with orchestras in Russia, Europe, Asia and the USA. "His style is unlike any of his contemporaries, and harkens back to earlier times...Trumping some of the more prominent musical gymnasts, there is genuine poetry here and a rare sincerity issuing, it seems, from the deeper reaches of the human heart." *New York Observer*

The concert is free. A goodwill offering benefitting the church's music ministry will be collected.

Mission u: 2017



Mission u: 2017 has the best of what United Methodist Women has to offer: fellowship with friends from across the conference, Bible study with spiritual reflection and learning about our global mission. Classes will be limited to 30 participants and are filled on a first come, first served basis.

It will take place at Arapaho UMC, 1400 West Arapaho Rd, Richardson, TX, 75080, from July 19 to July 22. For online registration and more forms and info go to UMWNorthTexas.org. The cost of the event is \$50 (three studies possible), lunch \$10/day; Children- \$30 (three days)

There will be three studies:

Spiritual Growth: Living as a Covenant Community

Geographic: Missionary Conferences of The United Methodist Church in the United States

General Issue: Climate Justice

Mission u is for men and women, lay and clergy, children and youth. All ages follow the same schedule. Children's classes will include mission study, music, arts and crafts, creative play and snacks. A parent or sponsor must be registered.

In order to get the most out of Mission u, you might consider purchasing the study text and read the complete text before you attend the classes.

Catch the Fire



From July 31 to Aug 4, children entering grades 1-6 this fall are invited to join us for a week of choral singing. In addition to learning several songs in preparation for an end-of-week recording session and live performance, campers will also learn more about music through movement, listening and interactive activities.

This year's clinician is Mark Burrows, or "Mister Mark." He is currently the Director of Children's Ministries at First United Methodist Church in Fort Worth, Texas, where he leads the weekly Children's Message, as well as a monthly worship service for children and families called Children First. Two collections of his children's messages, *Wow Time* and *Moments of Wonder*, were published by Abingdon Press. Mark is a writer, composer and clinician whose works are published by many major houses. His choral music has been performed everywhere from Carnegie Hall to school cafeteriums. An

award-winning children's singer/songwriter, many of Mark's songs can be heard on Sirius XM Radio. One song – *Amazon Rock* – has been recorded by Nick Records for a *Dora the Explorer* album. He has two picture books released by Pelican Publishing - *Little Things Aren't Little...When You're Little* and *I'll Take My Chances*. Mark lives in Fort Worth with his wife, Nina,

Our hope is that every camper will "catch the fire" of enthusiasm for singing in a choral setting as well as "catch the fire" of faith through the power of sacred music.

The program takes place at FUMC-Denton from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm with optional afternoon enrichment activities called "Exploring the Arts." Each day, we will explore a different art form (music, theatre, dance) and will include either an on-site demonstration/workshop or field trip.

"My kid loved the extracurricular activities and felt special because a wide variety of experts wanted to work with this camp."

"The concert and getting to record a CD was a rewarding experience for the



kids. The quality of the instruction and how well the kids sang together after one week was impressive. Integrating the instruments along with the singing made it fun."

"Both of my kids came home excited each day. Their love of music grew during this enriching week."

Jett Cheek, Camp Director, currently serves as Director of the Fine Arts Academy and Children's Choirs at First United Methodist Church in Denton. He also teaches private piano lessons at the Fine Arts Academy.



Upcoming Sermons

The Art of Forgiving



June 25

Grant Forgiveness, Rev. Don Lee

July 2

Renew or Release the Relationship, Rev. Don Lee

Bible Super Heroes



July 9

God's Heroes Have Hope, Rev. Deana Mason

July 16

God's Heroes have Heart, Rev. Mauricio Orozco

July 23

God's Heroes Have Courage, Rev Don Lee

July 30

God's Heroes Have Wisdom, Rev. Don Lee

Fall Round-Up, Sunday, Sept 10



On September 10, we will celebrate the 160th birthday of our church while welcoming everyone back from their summer vacations. There will be one combined worship service at 11:00 am in which all of our different services will be represented. The service will take place in the Sanctuary. Make sure you attend this big and diverse service to worship and fellowship with your church family.

After the service a brisket luncheon will be served in the Monroe Fellowship Building. If you want to bring your best brisket or sides, sign up at <http://fumc-denton.com/fall-round-up/>.

Live music, water slides, outdoor games and game rooms are just some of the attractions. So, dress casually and bring your lawn chair. It will be a day of fun, rain or shine.

You can also celebrate this milestone by giving the church a birthday gift. Consider making a donation in the church's honor (\$1.00 x your age or \$1.00 times the church's age).

Save the date!

Announcements

Paper Shredding Event:

Have old or new documents that you want to dispose of and don't know how or where? Worry no more! Our Television Ministry will host a Paper Shredding Event on June 24 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm right here at our church. Bring whatever papers you want shredded to the Mulberry entrance, just below the Cross and Flame sign. Love donations will be gratefully accepted to assist with operating expenses for the TV Ministry.



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!

Financial Update

Often, when providing financial reports, our focus is obviously on the numbers. But the funds you generously provide result in so much more than numbers on a bank statement or monthly financial report. They represent spiritual formation through worship and study, young lives who are coming to know Jesus and what it means to be His disciple, new people coming to our faith community that need to know the love and grace of God.

We don't want to ever forget that the money we receive from you makes ministry possible. It's much more than paying the electric bill, making sure the lawn is mowed, paying salaries, etc. As you can see from the graphics below, our income from giving is short of budget, both for the month of May and year-to-date (\$10,291.49 and \$37,563.75 respectively). While we would all like for this to be a positive rather than negative variance, it is still a pretty good report. Have a great summer!

