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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).

Share the Harvest - A Fa-Boo-Lous Outreach Initiative

Fourteen years ago, a 14-year-old active participant in FUMC-Denton's Youth Ministry and the youth mission's chair, presented an idea to Children's Director Deana Mason (Deana is also Hannah's mother). Hannah Hollister, who grew up in our church wanted to offer a safe alternative for trick-or-treating. Being new on FUMC-Denton's staff, Deana



John and Jean Priddy

had no idea how folks would feel about it. So, she recommended that Hannah and the youth team tried to partner with our Children's Ministry Council (CMC). After getting the idea approved, they rolled up their sleeves and split responsibilities: CMC would be responsible for the set-up and the youth would run the

event so parents could participate with their children.

The church blessed the idea but asked that the event carried both the name and theme of a fall festival. It also mandated that the event would always be on Halloween, so that it would truly be an alternative, not just one more event on the church calendar. So the celebration was named, "Share the Harvest."

Lots of laughter, sweat and effort were put into organizing this Halloween alternative. Eighty-one people participated in that first event, including our volunteers. We had trunk-or-treating, carnival games, a hayride and a free corn dog dinner.

Share the Harvest has continued every year since and has significantly grown, becoming one of the largest FUMC-Denton community outreach events. This year the event was more successful than ever. Children from our church and from our community, all races, ethnicities, gender and ages sported their costumes, paraded their candy baskets and bowls and shared a laughter or two.

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Upcoming Events



A Christmas Concert



FUMC-Denton Music Ministry presents "A Christmas Concert." November 27 at 6:00 pm in Monroe. All our choirs and ensembles

will perform. A meal prepared by Karen Styles will be served at 5:30 pm. A love offering benefiting our youth is highly encouraged.

Evening in Bethlehem

Our Evening in Bethlehem will take place on Dec 2, 5:30-8:00 pm. Live nativity, live music, free hot-dogs, wassail, petting zoo, door prizes, hot chocolate and much more! Experience this epic event and celebrate the birth of Jesus on the same day of the Square Christmas tree lighting!



Letter from Editor

Dear members:

The election is over! I've never thought I would say that with so much joy. Not that I am passionate about politics but it got to a point that I could not watch TV any more without feeling annoyed. Thankfully it's over. So we can start a new chapter and move on. We can pray for the new elected president to have clarity, grace and wisdom to carry his mandate. We can pray the next four years to be years of growth, peace and unity. Now, let's get back to thinking about Thanksgiving and Christmas!

Thanksgiving is about gratitude, about recognizing that not everything around us is difficult or bad. It is understanding the challenges of being thankful sometimes for things we don't even understand, being thankful for blessings we don't immediately see or comprehend. I believe that being thankful is the fuel for a happy life. When you can be grateful for the beautiful and the ugly, for the easy and the difficult, for the happy and sad moments you grow spiritually and draw yourself closer to God. Being grateful is also a sign of strong faith, because faith allows us to be thankful for the intangible. Faith allows us to be thankful for Jesus.

I am thankful for so many things in my life. Among these, I am thankful for my job, the opportunity to share my humble messages here and there, the chance of using my skills and experience to help grow the ministries of this church. I have the opportunity to hear stories from some really incredible people and share that with this congregation and the Denton community, the opportunity of spreading the word about the amazing things this church does for its family, local and global community through their missions and ministries. I have the chance of seeing God's love shining into every life.

What are you thankful for? If you want to share your stories, please email them to mware@fumc-denton.com.

Have a great week.

Martha Ware

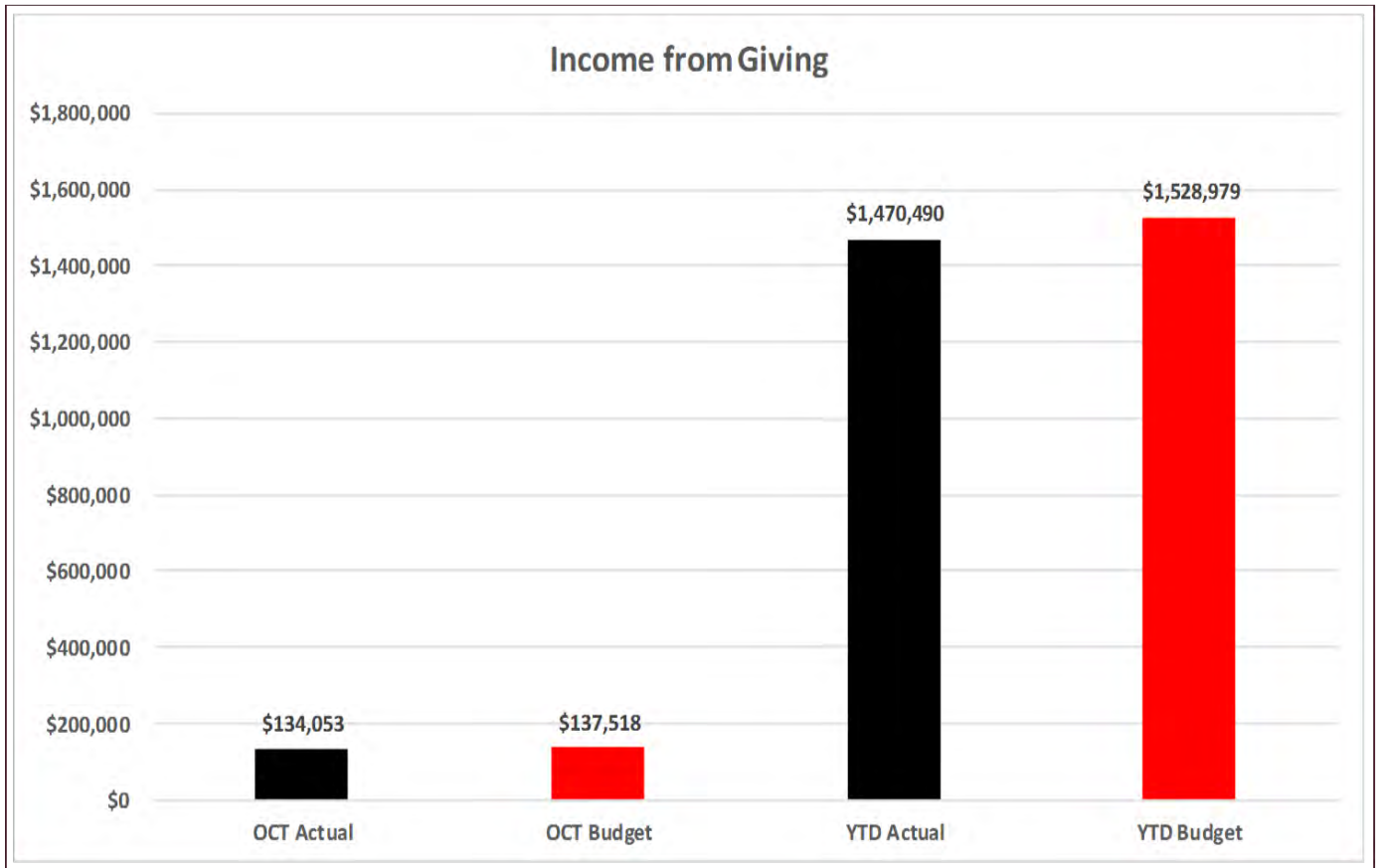
Thanksgiving Closings

Church offices will be closed on Nov. 23, 24, 25, 26 and 27

CDO and FunStop will be closed on Nov 24, 25, 26 and 27

Fine Arts Academy and Library will be closed all week.

Financial Update



Childcare for Christmas Shopping

Need to do all your Christmas shopping? We will offer childcare on December 10 in Miller Center from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm so you can shop away!

Children will have a lot of fun with special activities such as a gingerbread hunt and decoration and Christmas ornaments. If you are interested in leaving your child in the hands of trained and caring childcare professionals, RSVP to Madison at madisonbrown3@yahoo.com. Reservations will be accepted until December 5. Please include name of the child/children, age and any allergies they have. Also, your child/children should bring their own lunches.

For information about our childcare staff go to <http://fumc-denton.com/children-childcare-church-events/>.

Have peace of mind while shopping for your holiday gifts!



December
Gingerbread Hunt
& Decoration
Christmas Ornament

FUMC-Denton Social Media



FUMC-Denton has a very active social media presence. It is a great and quick way to update yourself on events, activities and programs, as well as last minute changes and cancellations.

We are on Facebook as First United Methodist Church Denton. "Like us" and be always up-to-date on anything FUMC-Denton. Follow us on Twitter, @FumcDentonTX or Instagram at @fumcdenton.



8:30 am – Traditional Worship - Sanctuary

9:45 am – Connection Fellowship -Monroe Fellowship Building

11:00 am – Celebration Worship (Also televised*) - Sanctuary

12:30 pm – Bilingual Service – Flinn Hall

11:15 am – 3rd Day Family Service (3rd Sunday of every month) - Flinn Hall

For details go to <http://fumc-denton.com/worship-us/sunday-worship/>

Community Service of Unity and Prayer



A service of unity and prayer took place in our Sanctuary on October 9. Over 300 people attended the service organized by the Denton Together Coalition, praying for peace and celebrating the diversity in our community.

The service began with a welcome message from Pastor Don Lee and proceeded with an incredible performance of a joint choir. Pastor Ella McDonald, elder of the African Methodist Episcopal Church’s Greater Dallas District delivered a heartfelt message.

John Carpenter, Long time FUMC-Denton member said that he nearly missed the service but but Erma, his wife, persuaded Him to go. "I have to thank her for leading me to an exciting, heart- warming event," John said.

Serena Eckert, Caring Ministries Director of Faith United Methodist read *The Good Samaritan* parable. A video, where Denton residents spoke about the direction they believe Denton should take to unite was shown during the service as well.

"It was a special event and you could feel it from the moment you stepped into the Sanctuary. People did not see color or race, they just greeted each other with hugs. The mixed choir singing *Amazing Grace* was beautiful and very meaningful. I could see the desire for peace and unity came not just from the lips but from the heart."

According to John, concerns were also expressed because there are still steps to be taken before complete peace and unity is achieved. Public leaders and representatives from law enforcement were there to express their desire to unite the community.

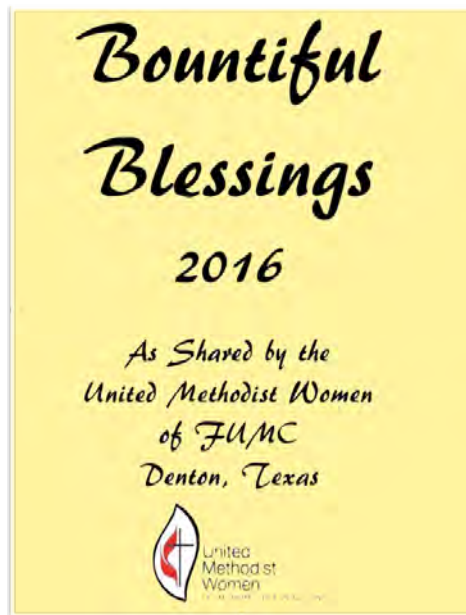
"I felt it encouraged to make a greater effort to reach out to others in the community regardless of race or color. Peace and unity will make Denton a better for all of us," said John.

There was a reception after the service where people had the chance to mingle and get to know each other.

Updates

BOUNTIFUL BLESSINGS 2016 UMW Cookbook

Do you have yours yet ? Great gift for Christmas, welcome gift for new neighbor or teachers. Only \$5. All proceeds go toward UMW missions locally, nationally and globally.



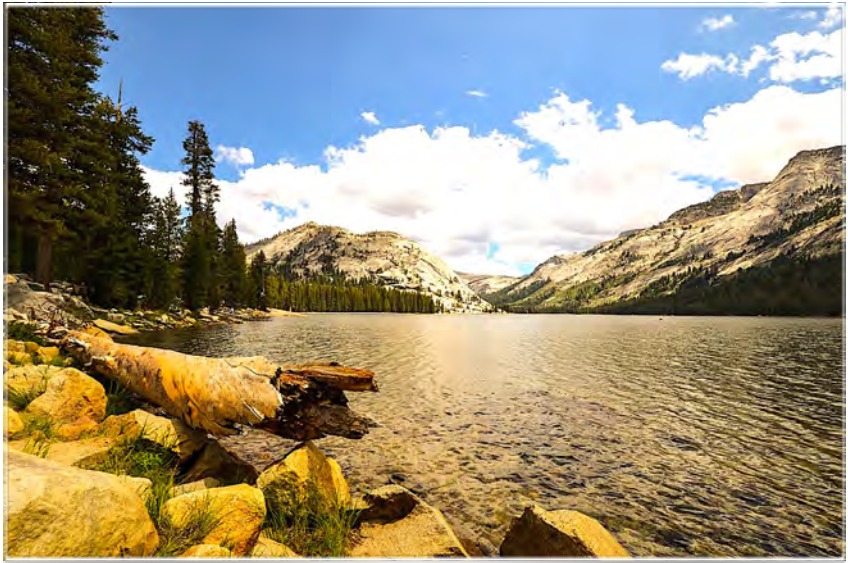
FunStop Films Debut!



Several of our kids have been working hard on creating short films and posting them to FunStop's very own YouTube channel! The responses have

been great so far and has sparked the perusal of acting classes for some of our kids! If your child would like to participate, contact John at Jclinton@fumc-denton.com. Click on the link to see our most recent films! https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-y_hhwr-NfkthoSq1Vr9vQ

Pastor's Note



I've found genuine joy difficult to muster in what has been a contentious election season. So the words to Psalm 65 are somewhat unsettling for me, "Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion!" They are like that coworker sitting next to you at lunch singing whimsically to him or herself, "Because I'm happy..." You want to bark back, "What are you so happy about?!"

How do we rediscover the joy of our salvation and the assurance that God is at truly work in the world? The psalmist's answer is to turn our attention toward God's creative and saving acts. By reflecting on God's grace and a creation that proclaims God's handiwork we can find the gift of gratitude being birthed within us. Gratitude comes like a shower of grace, cleansing, renewing and calling us back to God. In this season of thanksgiving we can find our way back to hope, joy, and gratitude by simply giving God our thanks and praise.

See you in Church,
Don

Advent Worship services

Dec. 7 - Advent Vesper service, Cole Chapel, 6:30 pm
A service of meditation, prayer, and communion led by Rev. Deana Mason.

Dec. 14 - Advent Vesper service, Cole Chapel, 6:30 pm
A service of meditation, prayer, and communion led by Rev. Jonathan Perry.

Dec. 21 - Advent Vesper service, Cole Chapel, 6:30 pm
A service of meditation, prayer, and communion led by Rev. Mauricio Orozco and ministry candidate, Kathy Nations.

Upcoming Events

ATTENTION!!!

“Charge to Witness Celebration”

(Charge Conference)

November 13

3:00 - 5:00 pm

Christ United Methodist Church
3101 Coit Rd, Plano, TX 75075

All are welcome to attend!



Sunday, November 20

11:15 am in Flinn Hall

Join our children in the 3rd Day Family Service. Our 3rd Day Family Service is designed to engage children while introducing them to the many traditions of worship. Children can bring their parents to a kid-friendly atmosphere for prayer, scripture, music led by our own RUSTY BUMPERS band led by Jett Cheek, our Children's Choir Director, and more. Wiggles and giggles are most definitely acceptable and always present when we gather on the third Sunday of each month. The service is entirely presented by the kids for the kids and families of our congregation and community

Salvation Army Angel Tree Needs You!



The miracle of Christmas is repeated during the Christmas season through the joy of caring and sharing. The Salvation Army Angel Tree allows our members with big hearts to fulfill the Christmas wishes and needs for 250 individuals that are here in Denton or the surrounding area.

Through your compassion and generosity, you are making a difference for a child or senior who needs your help at this particular time in their lives. These Angels have been authenticated of their needs and verified that they are not participating in a similar program through other agencies.

Angels will be available to choose from in Miller Center on Sundays November 13, and 20 and 27. Final collection day is Sunday, December 4. Your Angel Tree Coordinator is Greg Ankeney, and he can be reached at gregankeney@msn.com.

We are looking for volunteers to staff the Angel Tree (8:00 - 9:30, 9:30 - 11:00, 11:00 – 12:30) on November 13th, and 20th and 27th. You can sign up by contacting Greg Ankeney.

December Mission Corner

This month we are collecting items for the Linda McNatt Animal Care & Adoption Center, which is the portion of the City of Denton Animal Shelter that houses the vet clinic, care areas and adoption center and serves the Denton, Corinth and unincorporated Denton County area.

They need:

- kitty litter (cheap clay variety)
- good quality dog and puppy food (both wet and dry - as many arrive malnourished)
- good quality cat and kitten food (both wet and dry - as many arrive malnourished)
- pet toys and treats
- pet bedding (washable)
- towels & bath mats
- leashes (rope style)
- flea treatments,
- Dawn dishwashing liquid
- bleach
- old newspapers

Share the Harvest

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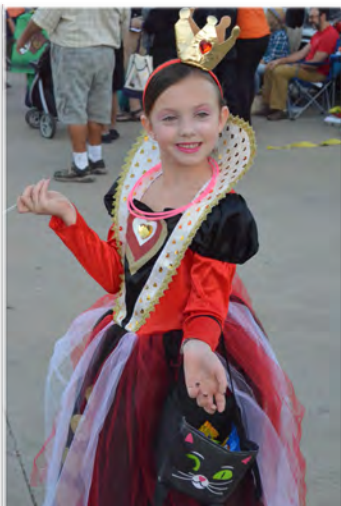
A few years ago, FUMC-Denton partnered with Tomas Rivera Elementary, one of Denton ISD's most culturally diverse elementary schools. We partner with the school in several ways: mentoring programs, volunteering, offering support during Spring break, and offering their children opportunities that they otherwise wouldn't have, like Share the Harvest.



Close to 800 "children" ages 0 to 100 years-old dressed up to enjoy some spookylicious candy and fa-boo-lous activities this year. "Thing One" greeted the guests and registered them for door prizes drawing while "Thing Two..." well, "Thing Two" mingled and gave out lots of candy!

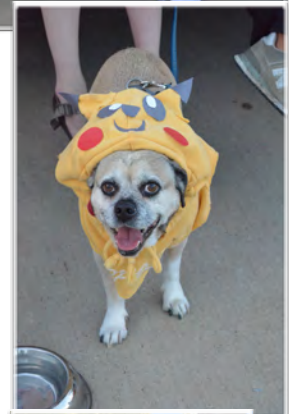
Santa visited the party while elves and reindeers took the children for a sweet ride in the Polar Express. Scarecrows, ghosts and Minions were big attractions and mesmerized small and big kids alike.

John and Jean Priddy, dressed as Vulcans, won the best trunk contest, transforming their car into a spaceship. The mobile ghost containment unit was also very popular. Princesses, super heroes, cheerleaders, cowboys, policemen, all had fun together, played games and ate 350 corndogs. They trunk-r-treated at pumpkin patches, a Hawaiian beach, haunted trunks and a ferocious giant spider web (guarded by a big ghost!) Clark Kent was ready to save the world from villains.



Many furry friends also dressed up and came to enjoy our trunk-r-treat. Thirty-nine car trunks were decorated, over 14,000 pieces of candy were distributed and 167 pounds of can food was collected to benefit Denton Community Food Center.. What a blast!

You can see more photos in our Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/fumcdenton/>



FunStop Staff



This school year we have added lots of friendly, new faces to our FunStaff team. Above, from left to right, are: Victor, Marcos, Bailey, Sheyanne, "Murph", Victoria, Kaleb, Liz & John. Mr. Johann was in class the day we took our group photo but is also a valuable part of the Afterschool team!

Victor, Kaleb and Marcos came to us with previous experience in helping children with math and reading skills through work experience at Project Transformation and other childcare programs. Alex has grown up as an active youth member of FUMC-Denton, serving as a volunteer for VBS and counselor at Bridgeport Camp. We are delighted to have each of them on the team!

School schedules and life changes required D'Andre, Jessica and Madison to make a move from the FunStaff Afterschool team but they are all part of our Substitute Teaching team, so we still get to see their smiling faces!

Christmas Decorating

Christmas is just around the corner and we will be soon placing the decorations all around the church. And we need your help! Join us on Sunday, Nov. 20, right after church and help us make the church beautiful and festive. For details, email Rev. Deana at dmason@fumc-denton.com.

