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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).



On Sunday, April 23, FUMC Denton's new modern worship service, Open Worship, will launch in Flinn Hall at 11 am. This new service and community is built to reach out to the community, especially younger generations and families who have yet to connect with a faith community. The style of the service will be modern, with engaging worship, accessible, grace-filled preaching and liturgy, and authentic community.

For those who are seeking and haven't yet found a home, it can feel like there are substantial barriers to attending church. Open Worship hopes to alleviate some of those barriers by meeting people where they are, welcoming them with open arms, and presenting a relevant message and worship experience that helps people open and connect with God. Open Worship hopes to be a place that feels like home, where people can be themselves, no matter history, doubts, questions, or imperfections; no matter age, race, identity or creed. At Open Worship all people are invited to experience God and catch a glimpse of the infinite love, purpose and God they were built to know.

The community and worship will take place in a retrofitted Flinn Hall which is being transformed by work teams from FUMC into a compelling worship environment and coffee gathering place that welcomes new people and families from the porch all the way to the altar. Tell a friend the exciting news about our new worship service. If you are interested in being a part of Open Worship or in helping create it, visit openfumc.com/signup to let us know how you want to help out!

Announcements



Baked Potato Luncheon

The United Methodist Women will have their Baked Potato Lunch Sunday, March 26, from 11:30 am until 1 pm in the Monroe Fellowship Building. Love offering proceeds will benefit our local and national mission partners.



Children's Musical: Once Upon a Parable

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

Letter from Editor

Dear members:

Last week, I felt like my house was going to fall apart. Because of heavy rain, my fence leaned toward my neighbor's back yard and my gate broke. My kitchen sink started to leak. It leaked so much that it looked like a waterfall. So, I needed to find someone to fix it all. And my nightmare had just started.

My hunt for a great handyman began. I spoke to friends, I looked in Angie's List (and read reviews that mostly discouraged me) and I finally checked out Facebook. I am part of a ladies group in Facebook and they are very connected with my area. I got many referrals for fence companies and thought all of them were very expensive. I also got a referral from a guy who had just started his handyman business. I first felt quite hesitant because he was a newbie and I had a ton of work to get done. But after a while I took a shot and contacted him.

He was extremely polite, humble and honest. When he came to give me an estimate, he was excited about all that work to be done. He left and told me he would get me a quote next morning. To my surprise, he did exactly what he told me he would. But he added, "I prefer to not do this part of the work because I am afraid I cannot deliver exactly what you need. I can look for someone for you if you want." For him, this was a great opportunity to get a lot of work, since he was not booked for anything else during the whole week. But he didn't. He chose to be honest. And he did a great job!

When I later thought about it, I was really glad that I gave him the opportunity. Because I am a believer and God is a God of opportunities. So, instead of judging the guy without even knowing him, I chose to give him a chance. That's what being a Christian is about, isn't it? To open our arms, hearts and doors; to give people the opportunity to show their value.

"Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?" Matthew 14:31

I don't want to be the "one with little faith." I chose faith in God and faith in people, because just a little bit of faith can make a big difference in my life and the lives of the ones I believe.

Don't forget to Do Lent Generously this year. Go to Miller Center or the Monroe Fellowship Building, find the 40acts tree on the wall and hang your "commitment fruit" (available around the trees.)

Have a great week.
Martha Ware

Stone Soup Sunday Was a Huge Success!

The Stone Soup Sunday was a huge success! About 50 members of the New Horizons Sunday School helped with the set-up of tables and chairs for lunch. Over 125 meals were served in the Monroe Fellowship Building and many more packed to go both in Monroe and Miller Center. The amazing amount of 3985.63 was raised to date. For every dollar donated the food center can purchase \$7.00 worth of food, which means our donation will be multiplied to purchase about \$28,000 worth of food to feed the hungry. A big thank you to all the volunteers and everyone that made this event possible, as well as to everyone who donated to this wonderful cause.



FUMC-Denton Adult Discipleship Leadership Team Offers Spring Enrichment Opportunities

Spring is almost here and our enrichment opportunities are blooming. Here are some of them:

- *Toxic Charity*, Tuesday, March 21, 28, April 4, 11, 6:30-7:30 pm, Room 208. Led by Dale Tampke.
- *Why? Making Sense of God's Will*, Wednesday, April 19, 26, May 3, 10, 6:30-8:00 pm. Led by Don Williamson.
- *Using Library Resources to Enrich Bible Study*, Wednesday, April 26, 1:00-2:30 or 6:30-8:00 pm –two identical sessions, choose only one. Led by Gloria Thomas and Delores Hettler.

There will also be a Walking Tour of our Stained Glass Windows led by Christie Wood on May 7, 3:30-5:00 pm. Gather in Cole Chapel and wear your walking shoes.

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

Red Bird Mission Trip

The Red Bird mission trip to Beverly, Kentucky work camp is from October 22 to October 28. Informational meetings will be held on Monday, March 27 and Monday, April 24 from 7:00 - 8:30 pm in Flinn Hall Lounge. For additional information, contact Donna Gregory at donnasgregory@gmail.com.



We don't want you to be late for church this Sunday, so don't forget to set your clocks FORWARD before going to bed Saturday night. You wouldn't want to miss another Sunday of great music and preaching at FUMC-Denton!

Welcome New Members!



Ann Austin & James Mitchell Jr

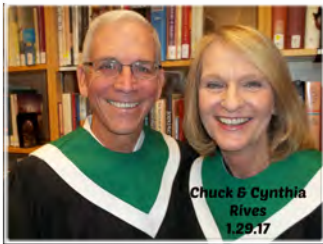
Ann Austin and James W. Mitchell Jr. joined FUMC-Denton on January 15. They attend the 11:00 am service. They transferred their membership from Lovers Lane UMC in Dallas. Welcome to our church family, Ann and James!



Kristy Woodard

On January 15, Kristy Woodard became an FUMC-Denton member. She attends the 11:00 am service. Kristy works in the environmental science field for the city of Dallas. She heard

about our church through friends in the Denton community and loves the "one community, one church" message. We are glad you joined our church, Kristy!



Cynthia and Charles Rives

Cynthia and Charles (Chuck) Rives joined FUMC-Denton on January 28. Their children and grandchildren are already members of our church. Both of them are retired. They have been attending the 11:00 am service. We are glad to have you with us!



Noel Jett & Nancy Shastid

Noel Jett and Nancy Withers Shastid joined FUMC-Denton on February 5. The mom and daughter team joined us because of the yet to come Open Worship. Welcome to our church family!

Edith Javens joined us on January 26. She's the mother of Judy Weir, also an FUMC-Denton member. Welcome, Edith!

Emily Scholz joined our church family on February 19. Emily is a student. She loves our church because she feels loved here and also because of such understanding and supporting members. We are so glad to have you with us!

Easter offering:

Saratov United Methodist Church: A church in Saratov, Russia that is our covenant church.

Go Camp Ministries: Go Camp will be providing a youth camp in August for children who don't ordinarily attend summer camp. This is a joint venture between FUMC and Rivera Elementary.

Mad Money 2nd quarter:

Communities in Schools of North Texas: focus is to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life.

Stop Hunger Now: An organization that wants to end hunger in the world by providing food and life-changing aid to the most vulnerable.





Holy Week

Service Schedule

Palm Sunday - 8:30, 9:45 & 11 am

Maundy Thursday, 7 pm, Sanctuary

Good Friday, 7 pm, , Sanctuary

Easter Sunday

Sunrise service - 6:30 am

Pancacke breakfast - 7:30 am, Monroe

Worship services - 8:30, 9:45 and 11 am



Pastor's Note



I might be presumptuous to suggest that of the nine “fruits of the Spirit” listed in Paul’s letter to the church at Galatia, love, joy and peace are God’s top three picks. And yet, there does seem to be some synergy between these three “spiritual fruit” not shared by the others on Paul’s list. Of course, Jesus has already gone on record about the overarching command to love God and neighbor, adding, that on these two commandments “hang” all the teachings of the Law and the Prophets (Matthew 22:40). So what does joy and peace have to do with God’s top pick of love? Better yet, how can you and I provide the right environment for God’s Spirit to create all three in our lives?

Don’t forget to hang your fruit on one of two Generosity trees in Miller Center and the Monroe Fellowship Center as a sign of your commitment to Do Lent Generously. Also, plan to take part in our Lent Rebuild with St. James AME church.

See you in Church!
Don

Zip Code Connection

Welcome to the Neighborhood. We are working with our neighbors in the South Dallas Fair Park area and the Clarksville Red River County area to recreate vibrant, thriving communities. Bishop McKee invites all North Texas Conference members to participate in the Zip Code Connection initiative. During Lent, you are invited to a daily study and combined sacrifice to help make possible our goal of eradicating poverty in these two North Texas communities. The study will take only five minutes of your day!

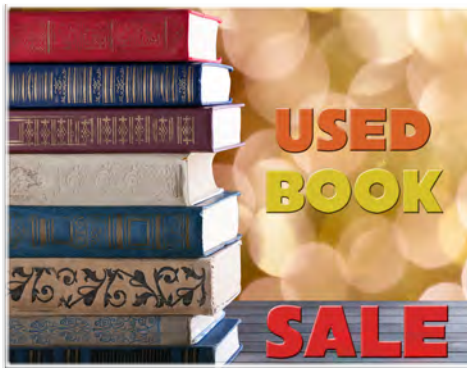
For details on supporting Bishop McKee’s initiative go to www.ntcumc.org or <http://www.zipcodeconnection.org>. To download the bishop’s Lenten Devotional go to <http://www.zipcodeconnection.org/resources/devotional-guide/>.

Thanks for your continuing support of the Zip Code Connection and the important work being done in the name of the North Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church!

Announcements

Credo Talent Show

FUMC-Denton's Credo Choir is hosting their Talent Show on March 29, 7:00 pm and April 2 at 1:00 pm. Both performances will take place in the Monroe Fellowship Building.



FUMC-Denton Library will hold a used book sale this spring and needs your donation of used books in good conditions. You can drop your donations off in the Library during regular Library hours. For Library hours go to <http://fumc-denton.com/get-involved/library/>



40 Acts

Have you joined the 40acts challenge yet? Are you Doing Lent Generously? Many of our members are. Don't miss the opportunity to manifest the work of God's spirit within us. "God challenges us to be increasingly mindful of the needs of others, and use our resources to participate in God's work in the world," said Demi Prentiss, Chair of the Stewardship Team.

The purpose of the initiative is to give back, do good and live generously during the 40 days of Lent. If you want to check out any of the 40acts resources for churches and groups, you can go here: <http://www.40acts.org.uk/40acts-resources-for-groups/a03a3f9cf29d39416c7f558e82ecca8c/?result=success#group-signup>.

We have two "trees" placed in Miller Center and the Monroe Fellowship Building. Come along! Don't miss the opportunity to be generous. Write your name on one of the "fruits" and hang it on the tree. Commit to do good!

If you want to share your 40 acts story, email it to Martha Ware, our Communications Director at mware@fumc-denton.com.

Movie Night with Pastor Mauricio



We will have a Christian movie with content for any audience, in Spanish (with subtitles in English), coffee or chocolate and cookies. Of course, we will also have some delicious popcorn!

Are you enrolled in our Spanish classes? Do you simply want to practice your Spanish? It is a great opportunity for fellowship. Friday, March 17 at 7:00 pm. Free.