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About us

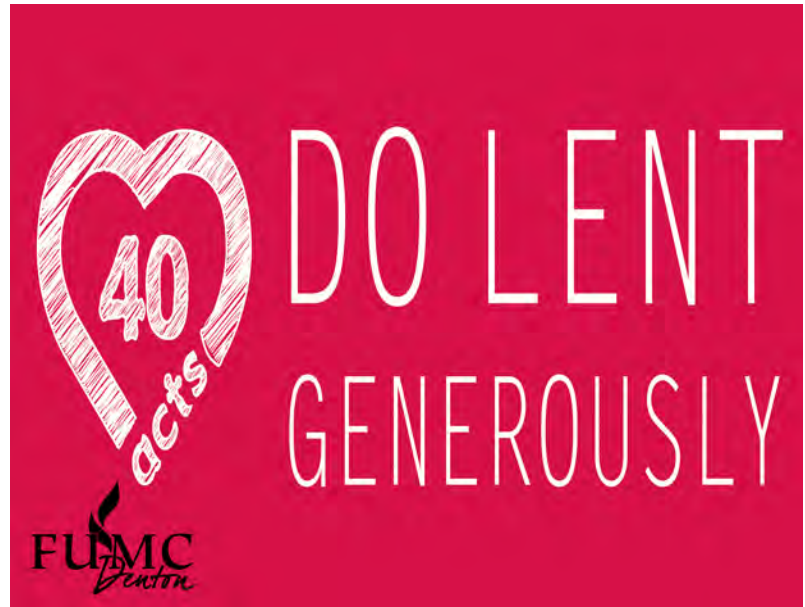
We are a community of believers committed to living out our vision – *to shine God's love into every life!* We are a vibrant and authentic church family, offering many opportunities for fellowship and service. We are a family of talented, creative and imperfect individuals who gather as the people of 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).

Do Lent Generously



FUMC-Denton's Stewardship Team invites you to "Do Lent Generously," joining the 40acts initiative. "As I see it, the challenges in our lives offer us the opportunity to bear fruit - 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>.

And we want to challenge you to do Lent generously. But...what does challenge mean to you?

Many of us believe that a challenge is thinking outside the box, getting out of our comfort zone, running that extra mile. Some, like John Fredrickson, think a challenge is a test of determination: "Are you willing to go out and give everything you have to achieve that goal?"

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Announcements



Andrew Lloyd's Concert

Come hear our organist S. Andrew Lloyd in concert at TWU. He will be



performing works by Bach, Messiaen, de Grigny, Tournemire, and one of his original compositions: The Three Gardens.

TWU

Monday, February 13, 7:30 pm
Margo Jones Performance Hall

Credo Bake Sale

The Credo Bake Sale is back! February 12, all morning in Miller Center. Support the Youth choir with your donation or purchase of delicious baked goods.



Letter from Editor

Dear members:

Last month, a new donut shop opened in my neighborhood. I am not crazy about donuts, so I didn't make a big deal of it. But my Facebook feed is, to this day, flooded with comments about the shop. And all of them have one thing in common: they all have to wait anything from one to two and half hours in line to buy the donuts. What? Two and half hours to buy donuts?

Most of the comments say the donuts are heavenly, the best donuts they have ever eaten. Some say they are heavy, cake-type donut and have too much icing and toppings. All I can say is...not me. I really can't wait two and half hours in line for donuts, not even heavenly donuts!

That made me think about waiting. I don't like to wait. I get frustrated and annoyed every single time I go to the doctor's office and have to wait 45 minutes to be seen, or 30 minutes to sit and eat in a restaurant. I guess I'm not the most patient person. I can walk out and go to a different restaurant, maybe look for another doctor. However, there are situations when we have to wait, no matter if we like it or not. And the top one that comes to my mind is waiting on God.

Many times we have to wait for God. Wait for His command, for His resolution, for His light. Many times we have to wait for His time, which can be very different from ours. More often than not, we don't understand the wait, we don't understand His time. And that can be a challenge. Although challenge has somehow different definitions for each one (as you will read in the 40acts article in this newsletter) everyone agrees that challenge is working towards a goal that is hard for you. And although God puts many challenges in our lives, He is always there to show us the way, we just have to be open to see it. He always gives us the path to follow, we just have to be willing to accept it and persist.

We don't have to wait for two and half hours for a donut but we need to learn to wait for God's time. Because His time is the right time, it is the only time that draws us closer to Him.

Have a great week.
Martha Ware

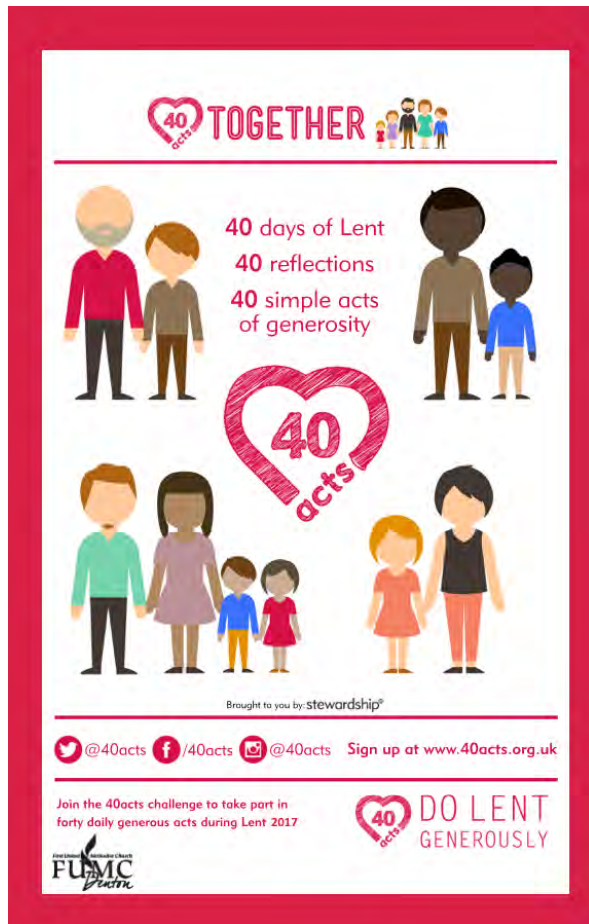
Mardi Gras



Celebrate Mardi Gras with our church family! February 28, 5:30 to 7:30 pm in Monroe. It is a potluck, so don't forget to bring a dish to share. And if you haven't yet, you must try Pastor Don's famous beignets! Live music will be provided by Foo McBubba. There will also be a craft table for the children to work on. Come have some fun!

Do Lent Generously

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“Challenge is when you are trying to achieve something but it’s hard to do, so you have to rise up to the challenge. Let’s say that someone asks you to climb a mountain. That would be a challenge for you, but would you do it or not? If you did, then you rose to the challenge and accepted to do it,” Kloe Clobber, 5th grader.

Terrell King, from Searchers Sunday School class, sees challenge as “something he knows he can do, but will take some time to figure out how.”

“Doing stuff harder than you usually do, like doing Fifth grade work. But I think another part of challenge is being faithful, thinking you could do it and being brave about it,” said Kaia Anderson, 4th grader.

However you see challenge, we want you to join us and give back. Can you do it?

Starting on February 19, we will have two “trees” placed in Miller Center and the gym. Once you have decided to participate, write your name in one of the “fruits” and hang it on the tree. Let’s fill the tree with fruits of the spirit and have a generous Lent.

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

Stone Soup Sunday

Stone Soup Sunday is just around the corner. Sponsored by the New Horizons Sunday School class, it benefits the Denton Community Food Center. Join us on February 26 for some soup, hot rolls, dessert and fellowship in Monroe from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. Can't stay? Soup-to-go will be available in Miller Center from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm.

Founded in 1974, the Food Center has had as its mission to provide food from a central community storehouse to needy individuals and families in emergency situations. The Food Center is an all volunteer staffed and run, donor funded and supported, community based charity. Their service area includes 21 cities, towns and communities in 31 different zip codes of Northern Denton County.

FUMC-Denton has been partnering with the Denton Community Food Center for several years.

Pastor Don Lee Elected to the RSVP Board of Directors



Our Lead Pastor, Rev. Don Lee has just been elected to the Board of Directors for RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteer Program serving Denton County). RSVP’s mission is to improve lives, strengthen communities and foster civic engagement through national service programs and volunteering in Denton County and surrounding communities.

Don currently serves on the City of Denton Downtown Task Force and the Denton Together Coalition, a mayor’s task force formed to strengthen community ties in Denton. He also serves on the Board of Ordained Ministry responsible for interviewing and recommending ministerial candidates for commissioning and ordination in the North Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church.



Trippers Annual Valentine Lunch

Join the Trippers on February 14 at 12 pm for a delicious lunch at the Denton Country Club. Entertainment will be provided by Bunny Hodges. You don’t have to be a Tripper to enjoy this special lunch, everyone is invited. For detail, contact Jim Hook at (940)383 4678

Monday Women’s Study Group



From February 27 through April 10, the Monday Women’s Study Group will offer a new study of the Book of Daniel using Daniel: A Life-Changing Encounter with God’s Word, led by Janet Luttrell.

The book is available to purchase in the church library.

All women are invited to join the group for an in-depth study of a fascinating book in the Old Testament. They will read both the Holy Scripture and the study book and will share lively discussion and friendship every week.

They will meet in Flinn Hall Lounge from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. Refreshments will be served.

To register please contact Risa Crews at risa.earl@verizon.net or Janet Luttrell at dentonluttrell@verizon.net.

Best of Denton

Best of Denton voting has started and our Children's Day Out and FunStop need your help.

Thanks to a dedicated staff, a cautiously developed curriculum and great amenities we can offer the best quality childcare in the area.

Our CDO program is an extension of the total ministry of the church, serving not only the families of the church but also the entire community. We provide a stellar pre-school experience for infants through four years old. Crafts, stories, an Outdoor Learning Center, music and other fun activities engage the children enrolled in our CDO developing them in the social, emotional, physical, cognitive and spiritual skill areas.



Godly Play with Brandi Southwell

Look at the CDO children learning through the Godly Play program (photo on the left). They learn bible stories through wonder and play. It sets a firm foundation for them to begin exploring their faith by using hands on interactive storytelling.

FunStop is a safe, fun place for children to spend time working on homework, developing their social skills and engaging in active play. FunStop emphasizes a family-style atmosphere that reflects Christian values. You can read testimonials, watch videos and see photos of CDO and FunStop at <http://fumc-denton.com/ch-preschool-afterschool-care/>.

Go to <http://dentonrc.secondstreetapp.com/l/Best-of-Denton-2017/Ballot/DentonLifeandFun> and cast your vote for First United Methodist Church of Denton. Voting ends on February 26. Our programs deserve to be Best of Denton again!



"Flubbing"

Story time



VOTE FOR US!

IN THE **DENTON LIFE & FUN** CATEGORY



Vote at DentonRC.com
Now - February 26th



Music class



Crafts



Administrative Board Accepts 2017 Budget

Capping a months-long process that began in August of 2016, the Ad Board accepted the recommendation from the Finance/Budget Committees for the 2017 budget at their meeting on Thursday, January 26.

The budgeting process began several months ago as ministry areas requesting additional funding prepare presentations for the August meeting of the Ad Board. Those requests were included along with the renewed budget requests from 2016 to create a “first-pass dream” budget that became the “ask” for the Fall Funding Campaign held during September/October.

After analyzing the results of the campaign and estimating other revenues, it was clear that adequate funding for the full budget request would not be available. The Budget and Finance Committee then analyzed 2016 actual spending and developed two alternative budget requests, one with significant cuts and no funding for the worship service and a moderated request including Modern service funding and using reserves and other income for the budgeted shortfall income. The latter budget was then recommended for adoption by the full Administrative Board.

Notes on Budget as Shown: 1. Income and Expense amounts shown are slightly less than the budget approved due to minor calculation corrections made when finalizing the monthly budget for input into our financial software. 2. Those lines with an asterisk represent areas with funding for the Modern Worship service. There are \$30,000 in one-time costs and about \$50,000 in personnel costs included.

First United Methodist Church Fiscal Year Beginning 1/1/2017 Approved Budget	
INCOME	
Income from Giving	\$1,845,034
Receipts from Other Income Sources	\$302,540
Reserves	\$67,569
TOTAL INCOME	\$2,215,143
EXPENSES	
Children's Ministry	\$11,600
Youth Ministry	\$28,250
Young Adult Ministry	\$1,525
Library	\$750
Music	\$8,000
Conference Apportionments	\$166,535
Facilities Management*	\$394,985
Debt Service	\$156,760
Administration	\$36,850
Pitts Fund Assessment	\$21,979
Communications*	\$21,100
Adult Education	\$1,600
Stewardship	\$2,000
Congregational Care	\$1,850
First Impressions Team	\$2,200
Worship	\$6,620
Stephen Ministry	\$2,900
Technology *	\$42,000
Compensation & Benefits*	\$1,277,589
Boy Scouts	\$525
Mission Committee	\$4,000
Council On Ministries	\$2,950
Hispanic Ministries	\$12,500
Food Services	\$9,075
Funerals	\$1,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,215,143

Pastor's Note



Hello First United Methodist Church, Denton, Texas!

At the invitation of your pastor, I am looking forward to being with you next Sunday, February 12, 2017.

My message will focus on two major themes:

- What does it mean to be a neighbor? How did Jesus define or understand the word, the concept of “neighbor?” What does his understanding have to say to us today, right here in Denton?
- What is CitySquare and how does our work with the community relate to the idea of being a neighbor? *Take a look at the video link below to find a basic introduction to our work.*

I look forward to meeting you on next Sunday!

Rev. Larry James

Rev. Larry James is a graduate of Harding University (BA 1972), Harding School of Theology (MA 1973), New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary (MDiv 1977), Tulane University (MA—American History 1986) and Perkins School of Theology at SMU (post graduate studies), an Elder in full connection with the North Texas Conference of the UMC, serves as a member of the clergy staff at Highland Park United Methodist Church in Dallas. He is the CEO for City Square, an organization that delivers compassion, education, medical care, legal services, technical training, youth and children’s ministry, affordable workforce housing, work force development and technology training initiatives, housing interventions for homeless persons and spiritual development to neighbors living in the tough inner city communities of East and South Dallas. In addition to Dallas, the work of *CitySquare* has expanded into Houston, Ft. Worth, Waco, Kaufman and Austin, Texas, and most recently into Denver, Colorado. To learn more about City Square, go to <https://youtu.be/3fvT8bp5I1A>.

Lent Worship Service Schedule

03.01 - Ash Wednesday, 6:30 pm in Sanctuary

Wednesday Vespers, March 8 to April 5, 6:30 pm in Cole Chapel

03.08 - Preacher: Jonathan Perry

03.15 - Preacher: Deana Mason

03.22 - Preachers: Mauricio Orozco and Kake Nations

03.29 - Preacher: Mauricio Orozco

04.05 - Preacher: Kake Nations

04.09 - Palm/Passion Sunday

04.13 - Maundy Thursday

04.14 - Good Friday

04.15 - Holy Saturday (Vigil)

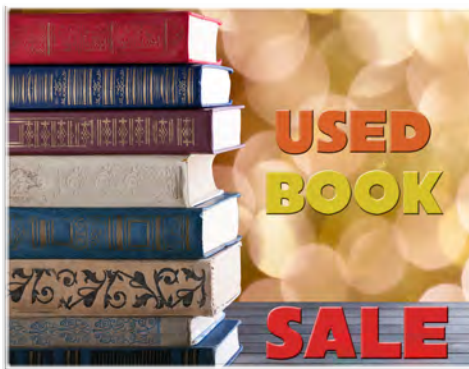
04.16 - EASTER Sunday



Announcements



Save the date: 2017 Choir Camp will start on July 31. Mark Burrows, Director of Children's Ministries at First UMC Fort Worth will be our clinician.



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/>

Youth Mystery Dinner



The youth are having a Mystery Dinner to raise funds for their activities on Saturday, March 4 with performance at 11:00 am. A second performance will occur on Wednesday, March 8 at 6:00 pm. Limited seating is available.

Solve the "Whodunit Mystery" with your table and win the Grand Prize! Tickets will be sold on

February 19 and 26 at \$20.00 per ticket, \$50.00 maximum per family and \$200.00 per table of eight.

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, February 17 at 7:00 pm. Free.