



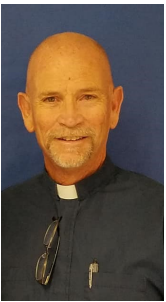
# Words of Faith

January 2022

Volume XII, Issue I

*Glorify God, grow disciples, and meet the needs of our neighbors*

## From the Pastor



First, in-person worship returns this week, 1/9/22. We are still in the midst of a very concerning and challenging period with the surge of the Omicron variant of

COVID-19. Special care and precautions must be observed by all of us – this includes facial coverings, social distancing, and vaccinations. However, the specific concerns that arose last week within worship leadership have been resolved. One of the pandemic lessons we have been forced to learn is to be flexible. In our flexibility is our resilience. If for any reason, you are uncomfortable with in-person gatherings during this surge, please consider worshipping online through Facebook or YouTube.

Every January we hear the story of the baptism of Jesus. We leave a swaddled baby and gift-bearing Magi, fast forwarding to an adult man standing on the banks of the Jordan River with John the Baptist. We are in the season of Epiphany. The word “epiphany” comes from a Greek word that means “appearing” or “revealing.” Epiphany is

the season between Christmas and Lent. We leave miraculous births and angel choirs to see the love, majesty, and power of God revealed in seemingly mundane things. This week those routine things are rivers, voices, doves, and clouds. In the weeks that follow it is the commonplace gathering of the community of faith that provides the context of the appearing of God’s love, majesty, power, and life. Throughout Epiphany, we hear stories of God parting the grand cosmic curtain for brief, shimmering moments, allowing us to look beneath and beyond the ordinary surface of our lives, and catch glimpses of the extraordinary.

What can be seen in the ordinary water is that Jesus’ first public act was a declaration of solidarity. God is one of us. His first public act is an act of alignment. His first step is a step toward us in humility and love. In this radical joining, Jesus stepped into the whole story of God’s work on earth, allowing that story to resonate, deepen, and find completion. Through the ordinary waters arises righteousness, redemption, and restoration. Hope claims us in love!

## Rev. Dr. Ken Ritchie

Jesus’ radical solidarity opens to us the new reality of belovedness. We are always and already God’s beloved – not in theory, but in the flesh. In the chaotic uncertainty of our days replete with pandemic, politics, protests, personal issues, and parish issues we are claimed as God’s own. We are not abandoned, rejected, or forgotten. This frees us to be in radical solidarity with those around us; we are freed to touch, embrace, and love all that is broken within us and around us.

I look forward to seeing you in worship soon, either online or in-person.

Let me know of any needs or concerns. If you would like to visit with me, let me know and we can arrange a time to meet.

Let’s continue to choose kindness, compassion, and love; let’s do justice and make peace; let’s welcome the stranger; let’s persevere in prayer, as we glorify God, grow disciples, and meet the needs of our neighbors.

In Christ’s Love,

*Pastor Ken*

Ken@FaithUnited-pc.com

# Words of Faith

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## Outreach & Evangelism

Debbie Rainier

Christmas time gave us the wonderful opportunity to share our Christmas Joy with others. The **Christmas Joy Offering** affects the lives of many people outside the walls of our church home. The amounts collected (designated **Joy Offering** in memo section) during Advent and the Christmas season will be distributed equally to the following:

- ◆ PCUSA Board of Pensions for special needs of active and retired clergy
- ◆ Developing our Future Leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Presbyterian Church (USA)



Thank you for your donations to the Metrocrest Services Toy Drive and Joy Offering in December.



## Weekly Bible Study class

Rich Lewis

The class is currently led by Rich Lewis. They meet from 9:45 to 10:45 in classroom #4. They will start a new series of lessons on Sunday, January 9: The Other Three Kings: Saul, David and Solomon. The kings were heroic, troubled, principled, and flawed. They will read about and discuss these characteristics and their effects on the Kingdom of Israel.



**Next newsletter is February 2022. Deadline for articles, Friday, January 21. Contact church office or Brenda Swindle via email to submit articles.**

## Happy Birthday!

### January 4

- \* Jim Laclede

### January 6

- \* David Kirchmeyer

### January 7

- \* Janet Marxer Rodriguez

### January 9

- \* Dick Nelson

### January 10

- \* Ralph Miller

### January 11

- \* Doris Rose

### January 22

- \* Quinn Moser

### January 27

- \* Tracy Tiemann



### Prayers for:

- ♥ David Duell
- ♥ Dale Durcholz
- ♥ Kathie Heffler
- ♥ Roger Jones
- ♥ Mike Jones
- ♥ John Marxer
- ♥ George & Mozelle Mills
- ♥ Dennis Van Deventer

### Homebound or Recovering:

- ♥ Charley Rae Furrh (Terri Russell's cousin)
- ♥ Freddie Simmons

Worship services are available In-Person, via Facebook Live, or on our YouTube channel.

Worship resources available at [www.FaithUnited-pc.com](http://www.FaithUnited-pc.com)



## 2022 Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for 2022 are available on the table near the office. If you currently give online or have checks mailed by your financial institution, no envelope is necessary. Rest assured your gifts are logged under your giving profile. If you do not see an envelope box with your name on it and you would like a box, please contact us at the church office and a box will be reserved for you.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>3</b> Church Office Closed 7 pm GA-Room #2	<b>4</b> 7:30 OA-Fellowship #1	<b>5</b> 9:30 LTCDS #1	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 9:00 LTCDS Fellowship Hall #1	<b>8</b> 9:00 GA Double Rm #4 11:00 OA-Fellowship #1
<b>9</b> 9:45 Adult Sunday School 11:00 Communion Worship 11:00 Iglesia-Fellowship Hall 12:30 FUPC Session	<b>10</b> 7 pm GA-Room #2	<b>11</b> 7:30 OA-Fellowship #1	<b>12</b> 9:30 LTCDS #1	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 9:00 LTCDS Fellowship Hall #1	<b>15</b> 9:00 GA-Double Rm #4 11:00 OA-Fellowship #1
<b>16</b> 9:45 Adult Sunday School 11:00 FUPC Worship 11:00 Iglesia-Fellowship Hall	<b>17</b> 7 pm GA-Room #2	<b>18</b> 7:30 OA-Fellowship #1	<b>19</b> 9:30 LTCDS #1	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 9:00 LTCDS Fellowship Hall #1	<b>22</b> 9:00 GA-Double Rm #4 11:00 OA-Fellowship #1
<b>23</b> 9:45 Adult Sunday School 11:00 FUPC Worship 11:00 Iglesia-Fellowship Hall	<b>24</b> 7 pm GA-Room #2	<b>25</b> 7:30 OA-Fellowship #1	<b>26</b> 9:30 LTCDS #1	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 9:00 LTCDS Fellowship Hall #1	<b>29</b> 9:00 GA-Double Rm #4 11:00 OA-Fellowship #1
<b>30</b> 9:45 Adult Sunday School 11:00 FUPC Worship 11:00 Iglesia-Fellowship Hall	<b>31</b> 7 pm GA-Room #2	<b>1</b> 7:30 OA-Fellowship #1	<b>2</b> 9:30 LTCDS #1	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 9:00 LTCDS Fellowship Hall #1	<b>5</b> 9:00 GA-Double Rm #4 11:00 OA-Fellowship #1

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**Faith United  
Presbyterian Church**

12717 Marsh Lane  
Farmers Branch, TX 75234  
Phone: 972-243-2866

Newsletter email:  
Brenda@FaithUnited-pc.com  
Editor: Brenda Swindle



**On the Web!**  
[www.FaithUnited-pc.com](http://www.FaithUnited-pc.com)