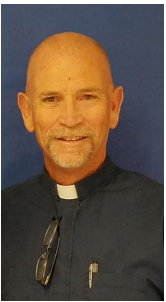


From the Pastor



Brad has a friend who several years ago had an intriguing greeting on his answering machine. Yes, this was in the days before voice mail! He ended his greeting with the affirmation, “Ready for the revolution!” Given his friend’s commitment to African people worldwide, this revolution might have referred to the overthrow of tyrannical ideologies and practices that oppress Black people. Given his friend’s commitment to Christ, this revolution could also carry profound religious implications. His declaration of revolutionary readiness might have been a subtle reminder that all powers in this world, political and otherwise, must eventually answer to a divine ruler whose sovereignty is absolute. Brad wondered if the phrase, “ready for the revolution” is an apt summary of the significance of Jesus’ baptism by John.

In baptism, Jesus declared his readiness for the revolution represented by the reign/realm/kingdom of God. The realm of God is a new world order wherein God will set right all that sin, evil, and death have put awry. Jesus declared that he was ready to join in the movement whereby God’s justice and peace will be manifest, not only in our lives, but throughout the entirety of all creation. Jesus waded into our human pathos, ready to take it upon himself to bring a revolution, a complete reversal of the status quo of sin, evil, and death.

This understanding of Jesus’ baptism affects how we understand our baptism. In baptism, we affirm the work of Christ in the forgiveness of our sins, making whole what is broken in our lives, the healing of our hurts and pains, the gift of eternal life. Additionally, in baptism, we affirm the call to join in Christ’s

Rev. Dr. Ken Ritchie

work. We, and the church, are called to live out the revolutionary implications of baptism. As we move into 2023, what will this look like in our church, in our community, in your life?

I look forward to seeing you on a Sunday soon, either in-person or online.

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

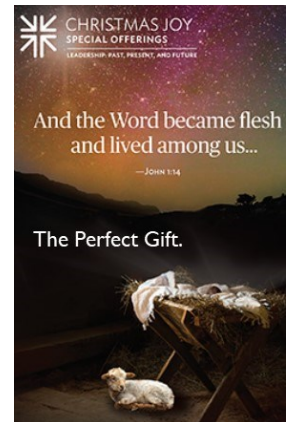
Words of Faith

Outreach & Evangelism

Courtland Lewis

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 9:30 to 10:30 in classroom #4. The Adult Sunday School Class will have a new series of six lessons beginning on January 8. The lessons are based on Amy-Jill Levine's book, *The Difficult Words of Jesus*. Each lesson will include a video in which she guides in ways to think of these often startling teachings of Jesus. They include Jesus saying to sell what you own, to hate your father and mother, to be a slave to all, to go nowhere among the Gentiles, as well as Jesus talking of an outer darkness or hell and his attitude toward other Jews.



Amy-Jill Levine is one of the most popular and thought provoking teachers of the Bible. She will guide us in how these words of Jesus can be understood to help us be faithful Christians.

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



Homebound or Recovering:

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

Prayers for:

- ♥ David Duell
- ♥ Dale Durcholz
- ♥ George & Mozelle Mills and their son-in-law, Greg Kaut
- ♥ Dennis Van Deventer

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

Worship resources available at www.FaithUnited-pc.com



2023 Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for 2023 are available on the counter in the Narthex. 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
	2 Offices Closed 7 pm GA-Room #2	3	4 9:30 LTCDS #1 7:00 FUPC Choir	5	6 9:00 LTCDS Fellowship Hall #1	7 9:00 GA-Double Rm #2 11:00 OA-Double Rm #2
8 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:30 Coffee Fellowship 11:00 Communion Worship 11:00 Iglesia-Fellowship Hall 3:00 RYLA—Fellowship Hall	9 7 pm GA-Room #2	10	11 9:30 LTCDS #1 7:00 FUPC Choir	12	13 9:00 LTCDS Fellowship Hall #1	14 9:00 GA-Double Rm #4 11:00 OA-Double Rm #4
15 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:30 Coffee Fellowship 11:00 FUPC Worship 11:00 Iglesia –Fellowship Hall 12:30 FUPC Session	16 7 pm GA-Room #2	17	18 9:30 LTCDS #1 7:00 FUPC Choir	19	20 9:00 LTCDS Fellowship Hall #1	21 9:00 GA-Double Rm #4 11:00 OA-Double Rm #4
22 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:30 Coffee Fellowship 11:00 FUPC Worship 11:00 Iglesia-Fellowship Hall	23 7 pm GA-Room #2	24	25 9:30 LTCDS #1 7:00 FUPC Choir	26	27 9:00 LTCDS Fellowship Hall #1	28 9:00 GA-Double Rm #4 11:00 OA-Double Rm #4
29 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:30 Coffee Fellowship 11:00 FUPC Worship 11:00 Iglesia-Fellowship Hall	30 7 pm GA-Room #2	31	1 9:30 LTCDS #1 7:00 FUPC Choir	2	3 9:00 LTCDS Fellowship Hall #1	4 9:00 GA-Double Rm #4 11:00 OA-Double Rm #4

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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