



Faith United  
Presbyterian  
Church  
in Farmers Branch

# Words of Faith

March 2020

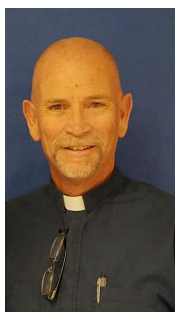
Volume X, Issue 3

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

## From the Pastor

Rev. Dr. Ken Ritchie

“Lent forces us to get real  
with our mortal humanity.”



I recently heard, albeit third hand, a story about the famous jazz trumpeter Wynton Marsalis. He was performing a concert in an intimate venue. While he was trumpeting a song someone's cell

phone rang with a distinctive musical ringtone. Trust me, I have been in this spot! No one else wants to hear my ringtone! As the person panicked to silence the phone an awkward silence filled the hall. Even Marsalis paused in his playing, but only for just a moment. Fairly quickly he began to play the tune which was the ringtone. Can you imagine that scene? He played it repetitively, and in different keys. But the real surprise occurred when he transitioned from that tune back to his original song which he was playing when the phone rang. It was seamless and effortless. No one expected what they heard. The moment was redeemed.

I think this story points to our experience of God's presence in our lives. Through Christ, God redeems the brokenness and messiness of our lives and makes it something beautiful. We don't always understand how. In fact, rarely do we understand how. Yet, this is the hope for which we long, hoping beyond hope, as Paul wrote. Lent readies us for the unexpected ways that God moves in and through our lives. Easter affirms the victory of that delivering presence. As we let go, and trust, God lifts us up into something new and amazing, something unexpected. Perhaps this is the essence of the gospel that we experience in our lives – God redeeming and making something beautiful of our mess.

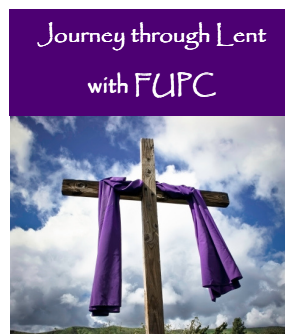
What is the hope that lies before us? It is that God through the death and resurrection of Christ will make something beautiful out of our

situation. It may not be what we expect, or even what we would want, but it will be what God intends to further God's kingdom. This is true for our lives and families and relationships; it is true for our church. What will become of the budding relationship

between Iglesia Presbiteriana Emmanuel and our church?

I hope that we can be open to God's redemptive movement in our midst that might be unexpected and surprising. Resurrection make us new. However, resurrection does not

return us to the old, it moves us forward to the new. Life and death and life, these are the realities of our existence. Lent forces us to get real with our mortal humanity. Yet, this frees us to be open to the deliverance of God, and resurrection, however, unexpected.



In Christ's Love,  
*Pastor Ken*

Ken@FaithUnited-pc.com

## Presbyterian Women

Mary Marxer

The Presbyterian Women Circles are well into their new Bible study, *Horizons* "Love Carved In Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments." Study books are available at the Church Office for \$10.



**Evening Circle** Moderator, Patti Sloey. Next meeting, Wednesday, March 18, 5:30 p.m. for brown bag dinner, 6 p.m. Bible study. Meets in classroom #4.

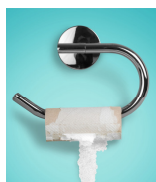
**Stuffed Animals Project**, materials remain available in classroom #4. Contact Lorna Acker or Lois Duell if you have any questions about this project.

**Tuesday Morning Circle-2nd Tuesday**, 10:30 a.m. at the church. Circle moderator, Linnie Hinkle. Next meeting Tuesday, March 10.

## Outreach & Evangelism

Debbie Rainier

**Pancake Breakfast**—Our next Community Breakfast is Saturday, March 14, 8 to 10 a.m. Join us as we share food and fellowship with our neighbors and each other.



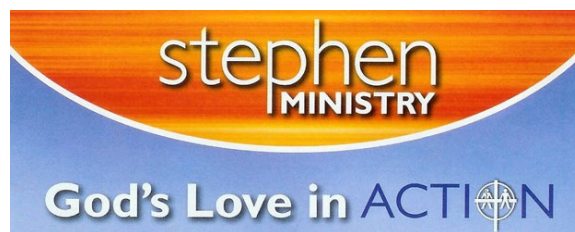
**Metrocrest Services**—Got TP? Ah, the luxury of having toilet paper!

Something we do not talk about and take for granted in our daily lives. But, something many in our surrounding neighborhoods struggle to afford and provide for their families. For this reason we are partnering with **Metrocrest Services** to help meet the need of over 600 rolls per month. They are currently experiencing a shortage. Please consider donating TP or making a monetary donation. Memo "TP" if donating by check. Thank you for your help!

**metrocrest services**  
building a stronger community together

## What Is Stephen Ministry?

Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ (Galatians 6:2, NRSV). In the book of Acts, Stephen was chosen to provide caring ministry to those in need. Since the time of the Apostles, caring ministry has been considered a hallmark of the Christian faith community.



Stephen Ministry is one-to-one lay caring ministry that provides high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting. Stephen Ministers are laypeople—Christian men and women—trained to provide one-to-one care to people experiencing a difficult time in life, such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, relocation, or separation due to military deployment. Stephen Ministers come from all walks of life. Their commonality? A passion for bringing Christ's love and care to people during a time of need.

If you are interested in learning more about Stephen Ministry at FUPC, or, would like to consider if this ministry could be of help to you talk with Pastor Ken.

## Happy Birthday!

### March 5

\* Kevin Miller

### March 8

\* Susan Saiter

### March 9

\* Chris West

### March 12

\* Erin West

### March 13

\* Brenda Swindle

### March 25

\* Wayne Saunders

### March 26

\* Glenn Craig

### March 30

\* Scott Sloey



### Rehab/At Home:

♥ Margaret Jones

♥ Anne Mobley

♥ Wanda Mosher

♥ Freddie Simmons

### Prayers for:

♥ Dale Durcholz

♥ Kathie Heffler

♥ Roger Jones

♥ Hubert Laney

♥ Sugie Maxfield

♥ Betty Runkel

♥ Barbara Stein

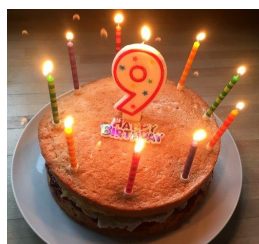
♥ Dennis Van Deventer

**Next newsletter is April 2020. Deadline**

**for articles, Friday, March 20.**

**Contact church office or Brenda**

**Swindle via email to submit articles.**



## Birthday Celebration!

FUPC's 9th birthday celebration is Sunday, March 15. All are invited to the punch and cake reception in the Narthex after 11 am worship.



**Journey Through  
Lent with FUPC**

### Lenten Bible study with Pastor Ken

Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

3/1, 3/8, 3/15, 3/22, 3/29, 4/5



### Sunday Worship in Lent at 11 a.m.

3/1, 3/8, 3/15, 3/22, 3/29

Childcare available at 10 a.m.

### Holy Week 2020

4/5 Palm Sunday Worship at 11 a.m.

Childcare available at 10 a.m.

4/9 Maundy Thursday Worship at 7 p.m.

4/12 Easter Sunday worship at 11 a.m.

Childcare available at 10 a.m.

| Sun  | Mon                             | Tue   | Wed  | Thu  | Fri  | Sat   |
|--|---------------------------------|---|--|--|--|---|
| <b>1 Lent 1</b><br>9:00 Prayer-Room 2<br>9:30 FUPC Sunday School<br>11:00 Communion Worship<br>11:00 Iglesia Emmanuel<br>11:00 FJ & GS<br>12:30 GSKPC                  | <b>2</b><br>7:30<br>GA-Room #2  | <b>3</b><br>7:00 Gam-Anon #2<br>7:00 GA-Rm #4<br>7:30 OA-Fellowship #1                        | <b>4</b><br>9:30 LTCDS #1<br>7:00 FUPC Choir                       | <b>5</b><br>7:00 GA-Room #4                    | <b>6</b><br>9:00 LTCDS<br>Fellowship<br>Hall #1  | <b>7</b><br>6:30 GSKPC #4<br>11:00 GA Double Rm #4<br>11:00 OA-Fellowship #1                            |
| <b>8 Lent 2</b><br>9:00 Prayer-Room 2<br>9:30 FUPC Sunday School<br>11:00 FUPC Worship<br>11:00 Iglesia Emmanuel<br>11:00 FJ & GS<br>12:30 GSKPC<br>12:30 FUPC Session | <b>9</b><br>7:30<br>GA-Room #2  | <b>10</b><br>10:30 PW Circle #4<br>7:00 Gam-Anon #2<br>7:00 GA-Rm #4<br>7:30 OA-Fellowship #1 | <b>11</b><br>9:30 LTCDS #1<br>7:00 FUPC Choir                      | <b>12</b><br>7:00 GA-Room #4                   | <b>13</b><br>9:00 LTCDS<br>Fellowship<br>Hall #1 | <b>14</b><br>6:30 GSKPC #4<br>8:00 FUPC Breakfast #1<br>11:00 OA-Fellowship #1<br>11:00 GA-Double Rm #4 |
| <b>15 Lent 3</b><br>9:00 Prayer-Room 2<br>9:30 FUPC Sunday School<br>11:00 FUPC Worship<br>11:00 Iglesia Emmanuel<br>11:00 FJ & GS<br>12:30 GSKPC                      | <b>16</b><br>7:30<br>GA-Room #2 | <b>17</b><br>7:00 Gam-Anon #2<br>7:00 GA-Rm #4<br>7:30 OA-Fellowship #1                       | <b>18</b><br>9:30 LTCDS #1<br>5:30 PW Circle #4<br>7:00 FUPC Choir | <b>19</b><br>7:00 GA-Room #4                   | <b>20</b><br>9:00 LTCDS<br>Fellowship<br>Hall #1 | <b>21</b><br>6:30 GSKPC #4<br>11:00 GA Double Rm #4<br>11:00 OA-Fellowship #1                           |
| <b>22 Lent 4</b><br>9:00 Prayer-Room 2<br>9:30 FUPC Sunday School<br>11:00 FUPC Worship<br>11:00 Iglesia Emmanuel<br>11:00 FJ & GS<br>12:30 GSKPC<br>3:30 RYLA-FH#1    | <b>23</b><br>7:30<br>GA-Room #2 | <b>24</b><br>7:00 Gam-Anon #2<br>7:00 GA-Rm #4<br>7:30 OA-Fellowship #1                       | <b>25</b><br>9:30 LTCDS #1<br>7:00 FUPC Choir                      | <b>26</b><br>10:00 LTCDS #1<br>7:00 GA-Room #4 | <b>27</b><br>9:00 LTCDS<br>Fellowship<br>Hall #1 | <b>28</b><br>6:30 GSKPC #4<br>11:00 GA Double Rm #4<br>11:00 OA-Fellowship #1                           |
| <div>Complete calendar of events may be found on the website—<a href="http://www.FaithUnited-pc.com">www.FaithUnited-pc.com</a></div>                                  |                                 |   |  |  |  |   |



## Faith United Presbyterian Church

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**On the Web!**  
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