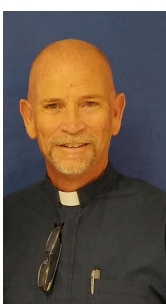


From the Pastor



We are anxious people living in anxious times – and anxiety breeds mistrust, and mistrust opens the door to insecurity and temptation – and the devil get a wide

grin on his face! It is not a stretch to think that these anxious days are akin to being in a desert wilderness, with our travel partners of fear and anxiety. We are thirsty for hope; we are hungry for deliverance. We need strength to persevere; we need wisdom to know what to do and how to do it. Clarity is not easy to come by.

Before Jesus began his public ministry the Spirit led him into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. Jesus was not lost; he was not being punished – reasons why we sometimes find ourselves in the wilderness. In the wilderness, Jesus stood squarely in the long history of the people of God, even as this encounter pointed ahead to a future as yet unfolding.

In the Scriptures, the wilderness represents a place of preparation, a place of waiting for God's next move, a place of learning to trust in God's mercy. This is not a one-time ordeal for Jesus to get through. It is a time of preparation for the choices Jesus would make in his earthly ministry.

The promise of the gospel is that the one who is with us always, even to the end of the age, has already gone ahead of us, even to the most forsaken places of the wilderness.

This means that Jesus is able to meet us in the most difficult tests of our lives. No place is so desolate, so distant or so challenging that Jesus has not already been there; no test or temptation is so great that Jesus has not already overcome it.

In the very first story of temptation and testing in the Bible, Adam and Eve failed in their fear and anxiety. This is the human condition and pathos that leads to death. But Jesus has accomplished the great cosmic reboot in the wilderness. In the faithfulness and victory of Christ a

Rev. Dr. Ken Ritchie

new way emerges for we who must journey in the wilderness. Jesus gives the alternative of trust – the path of deep faith. In this trust, we do not trust in our ability to get it together, but solely in the victory of Christ. We cannot overcome fear and anxiety in our own power. But in Christ, fear and anxiety have been defeated – they hold no power over us.

These are anxious times, that allow for the alternative of faith in Jesus Christ to be made real. God WITH us!

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

The **One Great Hour of Sharing** offerings will be received through Easter, April 9. Whether giving online or via check please designate your offering by noting it for "OGHS."



SPECIAL OFFERINGS
ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

For over 70 years, **One Great Hour of Sharing** has provided Presbyterians a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world. In a world of disaster, hunger, and oppression millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by **One Great Hour of Sharing** - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. Thank you in advance for your gifts to **One Great Hour of Sharing**.



Metrocrest Services will hold their annual KEYHOLDERS Breakfast on Tuesday, March 28 at the Courtyard by Marriott in Carrollton. If you would like to attend or learn more about the good work being done by Metrocrest, please contact the church office or Courtland Lewis at 214-417-9982.

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. Rich and Courtland are currently traveling, and the class is NOT meeting. On March 12 they will resume and begin a series of lessons on the Psalms. The New Testament quotes the Psalms more than any other book of the Old Testament with the possible exception of Isaiah. We hear at least one psalm every Sunday as part of our worship service. Often, we sing hymns based on psalms. Psalms serve many purposes. There are psalms of praise, psalms of lament, psalms of thanksgiving, and psalms of celebration. There are psalms to fit our many moods and needs. We will look at all types of psalms and see how they can affect our faith.



Praying the Kingdom of God

Whenever we pray the Lord's Prayer, we pray that God's kingdom would come and that God's will would be done on earth as it is in heaven. What are we praying for? Jesus offers several parables to describe the kingdom of God. We will consider those parables as models of prayer to form and shape our faith and faithfulness. Each week, usually Wednesday afternoon, a new episode will be uploaded to the church's Facebook page and YouTube channel. If you like the Facebook page and/or subscribe to the YouTube channel you will be notified when the latest video is uploaded. You can view the video offering at your convenience. This midweek devotional series will run through April 19. Join Pastor Ken as we pray the kingdom of God!



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



Homebound or Recovering:

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

Prayers for:

- ♥ David Duell
- ♥ Dale Durcholz
- ♥ Mike Jones
- ♥ George & Mozelle Mills
- ♥ Greg Kaut (George & Mozelle's son-in-law)
- ♥ 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



Faith United and Iglesia Emmanuel will be hosting a Community Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday April 8, 10:30 am - 11:30 am at the church. Invite your family and neighbors! We need **YOUR HELP** by donating plastic eggs and individually wrapped candy and non-candy items to fill the eggs. **PLEASE** no items containing nuts! We would prefer plastic eggs that are large enough to hold candy items. We need the eggs and candy by **SUNDAY, APRIL 2**. People from both churches will be assembling the eggs after worship on the 2nd. You are invited to stay and help! At the Easter Egg Hunt there will be arts and crafts, face painting, music, and other activities. If you are able to help let Pastor Ken know! This will be our opportunity to meet our neighbors!

Order Form for Lilies

It is time to place your order for Easter Lilies. We will take orders until Wednesday, March 29. Please print your **specific** dedication/sentiment. You may mail this form with payment attached to the church office by March 29. Please note **"for Lilies"** in the memo section if paying by check.




I (we) wish to order _____ lilies at **\$13.00 each**.
Quantity

Please check one: _____
Payment (include check #) Wish to pay later

Name(s): _____

Please print the following dedication(s) for my (our) Easter Lilies.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9:30 LTCDS #1 7:00 FUPC Choir	2	3 9:00 LTCDS Fellowship Hall #1	4 9:00 GA-Double Rm #2 11:00 OA-Double Rm #2
5 <i>2nd Sunday in Lent</i> 10:30 Coffee Fellowship 11:00 FUPC Worship 11:00 Iglesia-Fellowship Hall	6 7 pm GA-Room #2	7	8 9:30 LTCDS #1 7:00 FUPC Choir	9	10 9:00 LTCDS Fellowship Hall #1	11 9:00 GA-Double Rm #4 11:00 OA-Double Rm #4
12 <i>3rd Sunday in Lent</i> 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:30 Coffee Fellowship 11:00 Communion Worship 11:00 Iglesia –Fellowship Hall 12:30 FUPC Session	13 7 pm GA-Room #2	14	15 9:30 LTCDS #1 7:00 FUPC Choir	16	17 9:00 LTCDS Fellowship Hall #1	18 9:00 GA-Double Rm #4 11:00 OA-Double Rm #4
19 <i>4th Sunday in Lent</i> 10:30 Coffee Fellowship 11:00 FUPC Worship 11:00 Iglesia-Fellowship Hall 3:00 RYLA—Fellowship Hall	20 7 pm GA-Room #2	21	22 9:30 LTCDS #1 7:00 FUPC Choir	23	24 9:00 LTCDS Fellowship Hall #1	25 9:00 GA-Double Rm #4 11:00 OA-Double Rm #4
26 <i>5th Sunday in Lent</i> 10:30 Coffee Fellowship 11:00 FUPC Worship 11:00 Iglesia-Fellowship Hall	27 7 pm GA-Room #2	28	29 9:30 LTCDS #1 7:00 FUPC Choir	30	31 9:00 LTCDS Fellowship Hall #1	1 9:00 GA-Double Rm #4 11:00 OA-Double Rm #4

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On the Web!
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