



Faith United
Presbyterian
Church
in Farmers Branch

Words of Faith

April 2019

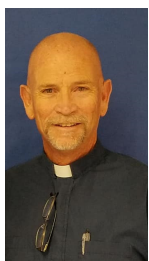
Volume IX, Issue 4

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

From the Pastor

Rev. Dr. Ken Ritchie

“May all of our borders, walls and fences be blown away
in the sacrifice and victory of Christ Jesus!”



Trusting God without borders. Maybe you have heard or encountered this phrase. It is a provocative and challenging expression. Borders are a lot like fences and walls. They define what is to be inside and what is to be

kept outside. They sometimes are meant to give security within or protection from outside influences. They can be useful for keeping in or keeping out. They can define who is included and who is excluded.

Borders, walls and fences separate, and sometimes hide. Unfortunately, more times than not, borders, walls and fences are built with the materials of fear and anxiety. Fences that keep children and animals within borders make sense; borders that keep God and God's gospel at the arm's length of respectability, prosperity, favor, and propriety do not make sense.

Twice a year the church has the audacity to speak of deep mysteries that defy explanation. In December we celebrate the birth of a savior – the Son of God, the Son of Man, Jesus born of Mary. In the spring we celebrate that this Jesus was crucified, dead, and buried – on the third day he rose again! In December we proclaim that the Lord God of all creation took upon himself our flesh, leaving the

heavenly throne room to lower himself in love and humility. In the spring we gaze in awe at the crucified Christ taking upon himself the sins of world, and tasting the ultimate human experience – death. Then, on Easter morning, there is victory to be celebrated!

Both of these unexplainable events so easily become domesticated and tamed through borders erected with the materials of pride, comfort, indifference, predictability, certainty, guilt, bitterness, anger, abuse, among other building blocks. We glibly speak of romanticized manger scenes and picture perfect Easter fashions, Easter eggs and gift exchanges, snowy vistas and spring flowers.

However, the gospel of Jesus is meant to turn our lives upside down, to radically transform our hearts and minds until they reflect the image of Christ himself. There is no place for borders when it comes to our relationship with God through Jesus Christ. In fact we need to let the Spirit of God blow down all of the walls and fences and borders we have constructed to protect the status quo of our souls, hearts and minds.

A faith with borders allows the illusion of material, physical and spiritual favor to blind and anesthetize. But in the face of evil that manifests itself in our lives in

sickness and disease, division and brokenness, rejection and injustice, violence and threat, loss and death; in the face of evil that has no respect for our borders, walls and fences, such a faith is impotent. But a faith that trusts God without borders allows the deep mysteries of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus to remain unshackled and untamed – a gospel that awes, brings down, binds together, reconciles, and lifts up with a light that shines in the darkness, a peace that surpasses all understanding, a hope that does not disappoint, a life that is eternal, and a love that heals.

As we move towards another holy week, we will speak of the deep mystery of the gospel of Christ once again. May all of our borders, walls and fences be blown away in the sacrifice and victory of Christ Jesus! May you trust God without borders. And may we allow this gospel of life and joy to take us out into our neighborhood in love, service, witness, and welcome, removing all that might separate us from them.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Ken

Ken@FaithUnited-pc.com

Words of Faith

Presbyterian Women

Mary Marxer

The Presbyterian Women Circles continue the *Horizon's* Bible Study, "God's Promise: I am with You."



Tuesday Morning Circle-2nd Tuesday, 10:30 a.m. at the church. Circle moderator, Linnie Hinkle. Next meeting Tuesday, April 9.

Tuesday Evening Circle-3rd Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. Meet in member homes. Circle moderator, Irene Simpson. Next meeting, Tuesday, April 16.

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

Christian Education Planning Annual Egg Hunt!

Jessica Stottlemeyer

FUPC will once again host a Community Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 20, from 3 to 4 p.m. Children will participate in a craft, mission activity, outdoor obstacle course, and hear the Easter story!

Based on last year's turn out, we are expecting more than 70 children! Please help us by donating plastic eggs as well as individually-wrapped candy and non-candy items to fill the eggs. We are also asking for snack donations such as individually-wrapped packages of pretzels, cheese sticks, rice krispy treats, and small bottled water. PLEASE NO items containing nuts!

We need donations by **Friday, April 12** as we will stuff eggs after the Community Breakfast on Saturday, April 13. Donations will be collected in the Narthex/Coffee area each Sunday.

We also need volunteers for the various planned activities at the event. If you would like to help us, please sign-up in the Narthex or contact Jessica Stottlemeyer or Pastor Ken.

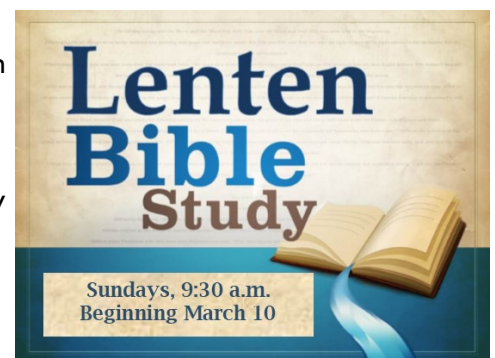


Psalms In Lent Time

Rev. Dr. Ken Ritchie

The Christian calendar provides different times for us – ordinary time, Epiphany time, Christmas time, Easter time, Pentecost time and Lent time. Each of these times present an opportunity to allow prayer to form and shape a dance of faith and faithfulness. Lent is a blessed time for spiritual discipline – prayer, self-giving, fasting, as we walk with Jesus and with others on the journey to the cross.

The **Lenten Bible Study** class continues until Sunday, April 14. Each week Pastor Ken will make a presentation, followed by discussion on the lectionary Psalm for that Sunday. Prayer will also be incorporated into the class. We hope you will continue to join us for this special holy season study!



Happy Birthday!

April 9

* Dixie Howell

April 10

* Helen Gereaux

* Doug Sparks

April 11

* Brenda Burkham

April 13

* Scarlett Silva

April 19

* Richard Davenport

April 27

* Dan Gereaux



Directory Updates

Please remember to notify the church office if your information changes.



Ray Butler

Bentley Retirement Community
3362 Forest Lane, Unit 132
Dallas, TX 75234

Gerry Shotswell

New phone number
972-900-0434



Rehab/At Home:

- ♥ Margaret Jones
- ♥ Dalia Menendez
- ♥ Anne Mobley
- ♥ Wanda Mosher
- ♥ Freddie Simmons

Prayers for:

- ♥ Seth Davison
- ♥ Dale Durcholz
- ♥ Kathie Heffler
- ♥ Elizabeth Hendricks
- ♥ Roger Jones
- ♥ Sugie Maxfield
- ♥ Betty Runkel
- ♥ Margaret Plunkett
- ♥ Barbara Stein
- ♥ Craig Ritchie

Annual Congregational Meeting

The Session has called for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation to be held Sunday, April 7, immediately following worship. The purpose of the meeting is to receive a financial report for 2018, to present the 2019 budget approved by the Session, and, to provide an update on recent building projects. Please plan to stay after worship for this important meeting.



Outreach & Evangelism

Pancake Breakfast—Our next Community Breakfast is Saturday, April 13, 8 to 10 a.m. Join us as we share food and fellowship with our neighbors and



Journey to the Cross with FUPC

Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday, 4/20, 3–4 pm

Games, the Easter Story & more!



Easter Sunday Celebration, 4/21

Sunday School, 9:30—Childcare at 10—Worship, 11 am

Palm/Passion Sunday, 4/14

Sunday School, 9:30—Childcare at 10—Worship, 11 am

Maundy Thursday Worship, 4/18 Communion Worship at 7 pm

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7:30 GA-Room #2	2 7:00 Gam-Anon #2 7:00 GA-Rm #4 7:30 OA-Fellowship #1	3 9:30 LTCDS #1 3:30 GSKPC #4 7:00 FUPC Choir	4 7:00 GA-Fellowship #1	5 9:00 LTCDS Fellowship Hall #1	6 6:30 GSKPC #4 11:00 GA Double Rm #4 11:00 OA-Fellowship #1
7 Lent 5 9:00 Prayer-Resource Rm. 9:30 FUPC Sunday School 10:30 Coffee/Fellowship 11:00 Communion Worship 11:00 Good Shepherd & Following Jesus 12:15 Congregational Meeting 3:30 RYLA-Fellowship #1 11 am to 4 pm GSKPC	8 7:30 GA-Room #2	9 10:30 PW Circle #4 7:00 Gam-Anon #2 7:00 GA-Rm #4 7:30 OA-Fellowship #1	10 9:30 LTCDS #1 3:30 GSKPC #4 7:00 FUPC Choir	11 7:00 GA-Fellowship #1	12 9:00 LTCDS Fellowship Hall #1	13 6:30 GSKPC #4 8:00 FUPC Breakfast #1 11:00 GA Double Rm #4 11:00 OA-Fellowship #1
14 Palm/Passion 9:00 Prayer-Resource Rm. 9:30 FUPC Sunday School 10:30 Coffee/Fellowship 11:00 FUPC Worship 11:00 Good Shepherd & Following Jesus 12:30 FUPC Session #4 11 am to 4 pm GSKPC	15 7:30 GA-Room #2	16 7:00 PW Circle 7:00 Gam-Anon #2 7:00 GA-Rm #4 7:30 OA-Fellowship #1	17 9:30 LTCDS #1 3:30 GSKPC #4 7:00 FUPC Choir	18 7:00 GA-Fellowship #1 Maudy Thursday Communion Worship 7 pm	19 9:00 LTCDS Fellowship Hall #1	20 6:30 GSKPC #4 11:00 GA-Double Rm #4 11:00 OA-Fellowship #1 Easter Egg Hunt 3—4 pm 
21 Easter 9:00 Prayer-Resource Rm. 9:30 FUPC Sunday School 10:30 Coffee/Fellowship 11:00 FUPC Worship 11:00 Good Shepherd & Following Jesus 11 am to 4 pm GSKPC	22 7:30 GA-Room #2	23 7:00 Gam-Anon #2 7:00 GA-Rm #4 7:30 OA-Fellowship #1	24 9:30 LTCDS #1 3:30 GSKPC #4 7:00 FUPC Choir	25 7:00 GA-Fellowship #1	26 9:00 LTCDS Fellowship Hall #1	27 6:30 GSKPC #4 11:00 GA Double Rm #4 11:00 OA-Fellowship #1
<div> Complete calendar of events may be found on the website—www.FaithUnited-pc.com </div>						



Faith United Presbyterian Church

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www.FaithUnited-pc.com

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