



Faith United
Presbyterian
Church
in Farmers Branch

Words of Faith

April 2021

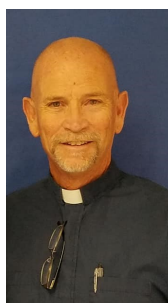
Volume XI, Issue 4

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

From the Pastor

Rev. Dr. Ken Ritchie

Easter. Resurrection. Christ is risen; he is risen indeed! Alleluia!



Easter. Resurrection.
Christ is risen; he is risen
indeed! Alleluia!

How do we experience
Easter after thirteen
months of a devastating
pandemic? The enormity
of what humanity has

endured is bewildering. This year we will sing and proclaim the mystery of Easter in the shadow of 2.7 million worldwide COVID deaths. Multitudes are still experiencing the economic fallout of COVID. The pandemic has exacerbated loneliness, depression and anxiety. On top of this, we are once again dealing with mass shootings, children and teenagers in crowded living conditions on the border, and the scourge of racial tensions heightened by a trial, even while injustice persists. Many are weary, numb, frustrated, angry, disillusioned, sad, lonely. Yet, many are also hopeful, expectant, relieved, encouraged, even excited.

We need Easter – not the trappings of a consumer holiday. We need the mystery of resurrection to seize us anew, in such a way that it evokes trembling, terror, and amazement, as it did for the women on the first Easter.

We need an Easter that God is charge of, not one in which we control, plan, and engineer. We need a “he is not here; he has been raised,” death has been vanquished, kind of Easter. This is not an Easter that we find, as an Easter egg is found. This is an Easter that seizes us.

The most important event in history occurred in darkness. In the predawn hours nearly two thousand years ago, a great mystery came about in secret. No sunlight illumined the event. No human being witnessed it. No human narrative can ever contain it. It is a mystery known only to God.

Somehow, God brought life from death, from loss and misery there came hope and salvation. When the women went to the tomb, Easter seized them. There was no leap to explanation, theology, proof, or even joy. In the face of the defeat of death, there was first bewilderment. Maybe this is what we need most this year – to sit with terror and amazement when God’s incomprehensible work of redemption collides in real time



with the broken bewilderment of our lives.

He has been raised; he is not here. Christ is risen; love is eternal; death’s defeat is sure.

I look forward to literally seeing you on Easter, as we gather in the parking lot for a Drive-In Easter Worship Service. The service will be bilingual as we worship with our sisters and brothers from Iglesia Emmanuel. The weather looks promising so bring a lawn chair to sit outside your car or on the grass. We will remain socially distanced, and you are encouraged to wear a facial covering when outside your car. When you arrive, you will receive a worship guide and the elements for communion. Invite friends, neighbors and family!

If you are unable to attend, the service will be livestreamed via our Facebook page. Later in the day you will be able to watch the service on either Facebook or YouTube. Hope to see you then!

In Christ’s Love,

Pastor Ken

Ken@FaithUnited-pc.com

Outreach & Evangelism

Debbie Rainier



The **One Great Hour of Sharing** offerings will be received through April 15. Whether giving online or via check please designate your offering by noting it for “OGHS.”

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**.

Online Worship Continues

You will find Worship Guides and resources on our website: www.FaithUnited-pc.com

You will see the logos (right) on the website and can choose which method with which you would like to worship.



Happy Birthday!

April 9

✧ Dixie Howell

April 10

✧ Doug Sparks

April 11

✧ Brenda Burkham

April 13

✧ Scarlett Silva

April 19

✧ Richard Davenport



Rehab/At Home:

♥ Freddie Simmons

Prayers for:

♥ Dale Durcholz

♥ Kathie Heffler

♥ Roger Jones

♥ Mike Jones

♥ Dennis Van Deventer

Next newsletter is May 2021. Deadline for articles, Friday, April 23.

Contact church office or Brenda Swindle via email to submit articles.

Weekly Bible Study class

Rich Lewis

Our adult Sunday School class, **Weekly Bible Study**, is currently being taught by video. Links to these videos are included in the weekly News Brief. The class resumes on Sunday, April 11.

They will continue their study of the Gospel of Luke.

Expect updates and links to be on the website:

www.FaithUnited-pc.com or the Faith United YouTube channel.



Easter & Eastertide @ FUPC

Easter Sunday, 4/4 worship at 11 a.m. We look forward to a “drive-in” joint Easter Celebration with Iglesia Presbiteriana Emmanuel.

Weather permitting we will encourage people to sit outside of cars socially distant. Bring the lawn chairs.



Sunday, 4/11 **Weekly Bible Study class** at 9:30 a.m.

2nd Sunday of Easter, Worship at 11 a.m.

Special Session meeting, via Zoom at 1 p.m.

Sunday, 4/18 **Weekly Bible Study class** at 9:30 a.m.

3rd Sunday of Easter, Worship at 11 a.m.

Sunday, 4/25 **Weekly Bible Study class** at 9:30 a.m. **4th Sunday of Easter**, Worship at 11 a.m.

All worship services and classes available via Facebook Live or on Faith United's YouTube channel. Worship resources available at www.FaithUnited-pc.com



Faith United Presbyterian Church

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