

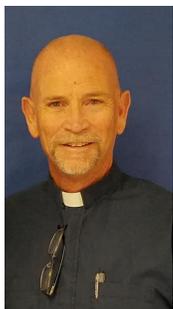


Glorify God, grow disciples, and meet the needs of our neighbors.

From the Pastor

Rev. Dr. Ken Ritchie

“We continue to love God and love others; we continue to glorify God, grow disciples, and meet the needs of our neighbors; . . .”



April and Easter are giving way to May and Mother’s Day, and the weather is getting warmer. Yet, disruption from COVID-19 continues to leave a wake of loss and grief, disappointment and frustration. Fear and

uncertainty entwine themselves with expectation and hope. What will May bring?

The prophets and mental health professionals agree when reflecting on crisis and disruption. Find the lesson. In the face of exile, the prophets wanted the people to learn how they had fallen away from God and into the arms of idolatry. It was within their power to return to the Lord and live in faithfulness. When Barbara works with a person dealing with trauma, a key feature is helping that person find their agency, the potential positive outcomes that a person can affect, and, the meaning and construction that can come out of trauma. What can we learn, in big and small ways, from this disruption? What can I learn? What can you learn? What needs to change in ourselves, our homes, our church, our community, our nation, and our world?

I think of the inequities and injustices once again exposed in our society as communities of color and the poor are suffering disproportionately greater than white communities and the relatively wealthy. I think of the revelation that our economy and lifestyle are more fragile than thought. I think of the reinforced importance of community and connection. We are dependent upon God and each other. I think of the ways we have been reminded of what is important, and what may not be so important. What do you think of when reflecting about the lessons to be learned? Find the lesson.

What lies ahead for our church? When will we be able to return to in-person church activities, like worship? We don’t know. Perhaps one of the lessons to be learned is to be patient and trust that the Spirit will lead us in wisdom and faithfulness. Health professionals have issued important health protocols that we need to consider as we seek to keep people healthy and safe. Our concern is one of love and care, not fear.

There is lots of talk about reopening throughout the community. Some of us might be willing and ready; some of us might be hesitant and anxious. I think of

Paul’s counsel when he suggested that while something might be lawful, that doesn’t make it helpful or wise towards building up the community. We must be wise, prudent, cautious, loving, and faithful. Additionally, it is also reasonable to expect that when we do return to in-person activities, some things will need to change to be safe.

Please keep the Session in prayer as they take on these questions and challenges. The Lord is faithful! Remember that while we may need to continue worshipping online for additional weeks to stay safe and healthy, the church is not closed; we just worship in a different context. We continue to love God and love others; we continue to glorify God, grow disciples, and meet the needs of our neighbors; we continue to be a Matthew 25 church.

Please let me know of any needs out there. Choose love and kindness, compassion and empathy. Stay connected with each other.

In Christ’s Love,
Pastor Ken

Ken@FaithUnited-pc.com

Words of Faith

Presbyterian Women

The Presbyterian Women Circles will conclude their Bible study, *Horizons* "Love Carved In Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments" this month.

Tuesday Morning Circle-2nd Tuesday, Circle moderator, Linnie Hinkle.

Evening Circle Moderator, Patti Sloey.

Amidst the COVID-19 crisis, we have been called to be flexible and patient as we plan new ways to have worship, Sunday school classes, and our PW Bible study.



Mary Marxer

Once again, we are grateful to Jennifer Tiemann as she has graciously agreed to teach a **Joint PW Circle** on Tuesday, May 12 at 1 p.m. She will lead the study via Facebook Live, lesson #9. The Faith United Facebook page is the same way that Pastor Ken has led us in worship during April and May. We hope you can join us online as we join together for lesson #9. The lesson will be available by Tuesday, May 12 at 1 p.m. and can be viewed at your convenience.



www.facebook.com/FaithUnitedFarmersBranch

Online Worship Continues

We will continue to worship online through May.

You will find Worship Guides and resources on our website:

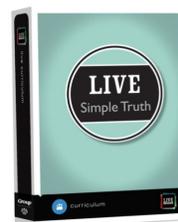
www.FaithUnited-pc.com

You will see the logos (right) on the website and can choose which method you would like to worship with. The Faith United Facebook page is the only "Live" option. The YouTube channel will be updated as soon as possible after the worship or class event.



Teen Class Continues

The Teen Sunday school Class, a joint ministry between Iglesia Emmanuel and Faith United, each week on Zoom! Zoom is an online meeting site. Barbara will be leading the class. Teens should send Barbara their email address and she will send a link for them to join the class on Sunday morning! Barbara's email is toohappy50@yahoo.com



Happy Birthday!

May 1

* Nathan Miller

May 2

* Anne Kirchmeyer

* Mary Marxer

May 3

* Charlie Cole

May 4

* George Mills

May 6

* Jan Cole

May 11

* Fiona Coughenour

May 15

* Joan Nelson

* Grace Stottlemeyer

May 16

* Linnie Hinkle

May 17

* Cathy Marxer

May 30

* Steve Nelson



**Next newsletter is June 2020. Deadline
for articles, Friday, May 22.
Contact church office or Brenda
Swindle via email to submit articles.**



Rehab/At Home:

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

Prayers for:

- ♥ Grethel Creech
- ♥ Dale Durcholz
- ♥ Kathie Heffler
- ♥ Roger Jones
- ♥ Hubert Laney
- ♥ Sugie Maxfield
- ♥ Betty Runkel
- ♥ Barbara Stein
- ♥ Dennis Van Deventer

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.

We will continue our study of the books of the prophets. The prophets are being examined in roughly chronological order. May begins with multiple weeks on Jeremiah. This will be followed by studies of Zephaniah, Ezekiel, and Daniel.

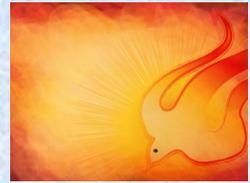
As usual, I will try to place these prophets in the context of their times by explaining the history surrounding their prophecies. I hope you can join us for our continued studies. If you have questions you may email me at rzlewis@gmail.com.

Expect updates and links to be on the website: www.FaithUnited-pc.com or the Faith United YouTube channel.





Eastertide & Day of Pentecost FUPC *Worshipping online*



Sunday, 5/3 **Adult Sunday school class** at 9:30 a.m.
4th Sunday of Easter, Communion Worship at 11 a.m.
Stated Session meeting, via Zoom at 1 p.m.

Sunday, 5/10 **Adult Sunday school class** at 9:30 a.m.
5th Sunday of Easter, Worship at 11 a.m.

Sunday, 5/17 **Adult Sunday school class** at 9:30 a.m.
6th Sunday of Easter, Worship at 11 a.m.

Sunday, 5/24 **Adult Sunday school class** at 9:30 a.m.
7th Sunday of Easter, Worship at 11 a.m.

Sunday, 5/31 **Adult Sunday school class** at 9:30 a.m.
Day of Pentecost, 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



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