



Faith United
Presbyterian
Church
in Farmers Branch

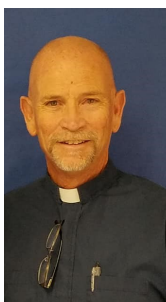
Words of Faith

May 2021

Volume XI, Issue 5

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

From the Pastor



I'm excited; I'm anxious. I'm eager; I'm hesitant. I'm hopeful; I'm wary. These are just a few of the emotions I have as we prepare for the return of in-person worship. Maybe you have these, or other emotions. After a hiatus of over a year we return to in-person worship on Sunday, May 23, Pentecost! The Session has approved a plan for re-opening that will allow for in-person worship while following

reasonable safety protocols related to COVID. That plan can be accessed in its entirety in the "Return to In-Person Worship" article on page 2. Please take time to read through it. We will need your help and cooperation as we move forward so that all will feel safe and be safe. As we learned how to move forward at the beginning of the pandemic, so now we will be learning how to move forward coming out of the pandemic restrictions. We may make some mistakes, and your patience will be humbly appreciated. We will learn as we go.

Here are some of the key details of the plan:

- ◆ Masks will be required while inside the building at all times. Masks will be available for those who need one.
- ◆ Social distancing must be maintained throughout the church building, including the sanctuary.
- ◆ Everyone will be checked-in upon arrival for contact tracing purposes. Therefore, everyone is asked to enter the building via the south parking lot entrance
- ◆ The choir will not be present in worship at this time and will continue to tape anthems and hymns.
- ◆ Responsive readings, prayers, and singing may be done softly with masks in place.
- ◆ Everyone is asked to use no-contact forms of greeting and remain in place during the service. This will include the Passing of the Peace.
- ◆ There will be no coffee or food available.

Rev. Dr. Ken Ritchie

- ◆ People will be encouraged to leave the building at the conclusion of the service. Fellowship is encouraged outside.
- ◆ When communion is celebrated, individual communion elements will be provided at the entrance of the sanctuary.
- ◆ Offering plates will not be passed during the service. They will be placed at the entrance of the sanctuary for your use.
- ◆ Bulletins, with words and music for the hymns, will be available at the entrance of the sanctuary. You are asked to place them in the recycling bin or take them home when you leave.
- ◆ There will be no childcare available at this time.
- ◆ Sunday School classes will continue to meet remotely.
- ◆ The building will remain closed to outside groups.

COVID may change how we worship, but it will not stop us from worshipping.

Even as we move towards a return of in-person worship, we will also continue to live-stream the service. Initially, this will be through the church's Facebook page. By Sunday afternoon, the service will be available from both Facebook and the church's YouTube channel. If you are unable to attend in-person or are not yet ready for in-person worship this will allow you to remain connected in real time. The service will be geared toward both in-person and virtual participants.

As we journey together, let's stay safe and remain connected to each other, trusting in the Holy Spirit, as we glorify God, grow disciples, and meet the needs of our neighbors. Reach out to me if you have questions or concerns.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Ken

Ken@FaithUnited-pc.com

Return to In-Person Worship

Recommendation for Re-Opening Approved by Session April 11, 2021

All of us are anxious to return to normal and put the pandemic in the past. All of us are anxious to return to in-person worship. We have missed community in our sacred space. However, we must do so in a way that is safe and wise. The threat of COVID is still very real and threatening. Do not take it lightly. Be vigilante and safe!

None of us have experience in navigating a pandemic. So, in prayer and humility we will incorporate guidance from health professionals into our plan. This means that in-person worship will be different than pre-pandemic in-person worship. We ask for your cooperation with the guidelines and requirements below. Your cooperation will make for a smooth and safe return. We need your help!

As we return to in-person worship we may have to or want to make adjustments as we go. All of must be flexible. Please have patience and forbearance with the leaders of the church and with each other. Those who attend in-person worship will be asked to follow certain guidelines. This is for the mutual health and safety of all present. We will journey together, trusting in the Holy Spirit, learning and growing in faith.

Target Date – May 23, 2021 (Pentecost)

This will allow a few more weeks to judge the effect of vaccines on the COVID cases in our area. It will also allow time to judge whether the feared fourth wave occurs. This also gives us several weeks to publicize the new processes and address expectations.

- ◆ Given average worship attendance before the pandemic, there will be no limit in attendance.
- ◆ Masks will be required while inside the building at all times. Masks will be supplied for those who arrive without a mask. The only exception will be those speaking during the service and young children. The CDC recommends that children over the age of two wear masks around people not of their household.
- ◆ Signs will be placed throughout the church to remind people to keep the masks on, wash hands and practice social distance.
- ◆ Social distancing must be maintained while in the building.
- ◆ Everyone will be asked to check-in upon arrival for contact tracing purposes. Therefore, everyone will enter the building via the south parking lot entrance. People will be encouraged to arrive early. A volunteer will be present to mark attendance.
- ◆ The service will be live-streamed via Facebook. People are encouraged to watch on-line if they have a fever, they are not feeling well, they are exhibiting symptoms, or are uncomfortable attending in-person worship. The service will be directed towards both those viewing remotely and those in-person.
- ◆ The doors in the sanctuary will remain open during the worship service.
- ◆ Initially, there will be no nursery.
- ◆ The sanctuary will be reconfigured to allow for social distancing. Families and couple may sit together. Each family/group/single will need to be socially distanced.
- ◆ Hymnals and bibles will be removed from the sanctuary. People may bring their own bible.
- ◆ Bulletins will be available on a table at the entrance to the sanctuary. They are to be disposed in the recycling bin upon leaving or taken home.
- ◆ Responsive readings/prayers/singing may be done softly with masks in place.
- ◆ Hymns and choral anthem will continue to be recorded.
- ◆ Offering plates will be at the entrance to the sanctuary. They will not be passed during the service.



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



Rehab/At Home:

♥ Freddie Simmons

Prayers for:

♥ Dale Durcholz

♥ Kathie Heffler

♥ Roger Jones

♥ Mike Jones

♥ Dennis Van Deventer

Next newsletter is June 2021. Deadline for articles, Friday, May 21. Contact church office or Brenda Swindle via email to submit articles.

Return to In-Person Worship—Cont.

- ◆ Everyone is asked to use no-contact forms of greeting and stay in place during the service. This will include the Passing of the Peace.
- ◆ There will be no formal fellowship inside the church. Fellowship is encouraged outside. Tables and chairs will be located throughout the hallway between the building entrance and the sanctuary entrance for those who arrive early. There will be no coffee service.
- ◆ When communion is celebrated, individual communion elements will be provided at the entrance of the sanctuary. People are requested to dispose of the cups and packaging in the garbage as they leave.
- ◆ Dismissal will be aisle by aisle. People will have the option to leave via the southwest door in the sanctuary, the east facing doors in the hallway or the south parking lot doors.
- ◆ Funerals, memorials, and weddings will follow the above criteria.
- ◆ Iglesia Presbiteriana Emmanuel will be requested to follow the above guidelines for their worship in the Fellowship Hall.
- ◆ Should community conditions warrant or should Dallas County return to a Red level of concern, worship will return to remote only.

Sunday School Classes

- ◆ Sunday School classes will continue to meet remotely.
- ◆ Iglesia Emmanuel will be contacted to discuss a timetable for children's church.

Other

- ◆ The building will remain closed to outside groups.
- ◆ Office will reopen June 1. However, the option to work at home will remain.

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.

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



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.

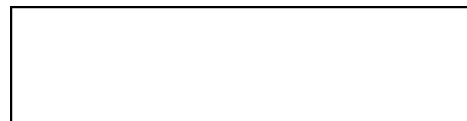


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On the Web!
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