



Faith United
Presbyterian
Church
in Farmers Branch

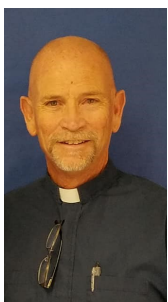
Words of Faith

June 2021

Volume XI, Issue 6

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

From the Pastor



On Sunday, May 30 we celebrated baptism! I was so excited to have the privilege of baptizing two grandsons. It was a great celebration for the Ritchie clan, and the body of Christ! While our eldest son and family live in Illinois, they were in Texas for Memorial Day weekend for a visit. That allowed Pappy to do the baptisms!

Celebrating baptism is also a time to remember our baptism. As we continue to emerge out of our isolation bubbles and rebuild our lives, baptism is an important sign of God's adopting love. We spent fifteen months of trauma isolated and on high alert to stay healthy and safe, all while watching numbers soar. We were lonely and disconnected. The vaccines have given us hope. Yet, it is our adoption by God in love through Christ that connects us to each other and to God as children of God. This connection gives healing and strength to rebuild our lives. Isolation and threat tested us, but God's choice to claim us in love is stronger. We are anxious to reconnect, while at the same time cautious to be safe. The journey of grief from loss upon loss is a long journey. It will take time to become comfortable with our new normal. We must be patient with ourselves, and with others.

Baptism is the sign and seal of our incorporation into Jesus Christ. Through the baptism of his suffering and death, Jesus set us free from the power of sin and evil forever. In his resurrection we are raised with him into the newness of life, trusting in the victory of Christ



over death. Evil and death do not have the last word; God's redeeming and adoptive love has the last word. Baptism points to the gift of the Spirit, the Spirit of truth, the Spirit who empowers in us the fruits of the Spirit – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Baptism incorporates us into the body of Christ. It is a sign of God's realm.

That is a lot of theology about baptism. Yet, it is also a very real reality in our lives. We are entering the rebuilding and remembering stage of grief. We do not journey on our own, or even in our strength. We rebuild and remember as children of God, adopted in love, connected to each other and to God with bonds that cannot be broken.

I hope to see you soon in Sunday worship either In-Person or online. Remember, if you are unable to attend in-person, the service is livestreamed through the church's Facebook page. The service will also be available through the church's YouTube channel later in the day each Sunday.

In the face of the meanness of spirit that is blowing throughout the land, let's continue to allow the Spirit to empower us in kindness and compassion, generosity and love; let's do justice and make peace; let's persevere in prayer, as we glorify God, make disciples, and meet the needs of our neighbors.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Ken

Ken@FaithUnited-pc.com

Words of Faith

Return to In-Person Worship

We have returned to In-Person Worship! The Session approved a plan which will allow those who are ready to worship in-person to do so safely with reasonable protocols related to COVID. Masks and social distancing will be required while inside the building. Follow the link below to read all of the protocols. Worship services will be live-streamed via the church’s Facebook page for those who are not able to attend, or who are not yet ready to return to in-person worship. The service will be geared towards both the persons worshipping on-line and in-person. We hope to see you soon either in-person or online.



Outreach & Evangelism

Debbie Rainier

Project Transformation We are scheduled for the virtual summer reading program July 5th-July 8th from 9:45A-12P. Project Transformation provides the children the opportunity to maintain their reading skills during the summer.

We need 5-7 reading buddies Monday-Thursday. Please call Debbie Rainier at 972-342-2652 for more information.



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.



Happy Birthday!



June 2

- * Dalia Menendez

June 5

- * Ralph Moser
- * Samuel Sparks

June 11

- * Mozelle Mills

June 12

- * Kathleen Ferguson

June 18

- * Logan Burkham

June 19

- * Rich Lewis

June 21

- * Susie Wing
- * Claire Stottlemeyer

June 22

- * Dave Sloey

June 23

- * Mary Silva

June 27

- * Alex Shepard

June 29

- * Freddy Simmons
- * Patti Sloey



Rehab/At Home:

- ♥ Freddie Simmons

Prayers for:

- ♥ Dale Durcholz
- ♥ Kathie Heffler
- ♥ Roger Jones
- ♥ Mike Jones
- ♥ Dennis Van Deventer

Next newsletter is July 2021. Deadline for articles, Friday, June 18.
Contact church office or Brenda Swindle via email to submit articles.

Notes & News from the Pews



Big news in the Silva household! My mother, Mary will celebrate her 100th Birthday on June 23! We may have a “Drive-by” party on Wednesday, June 23. So, stay tuned for more details to come. Until then, feel free to mail Mary a birthday card to help her celebrate this momentous occasion. The address is: Mary Silva, 2721 Selma Lane, Farmers Branch, TX 75234.

In Christ's love. *Scarlett Silva*





Sundays in June

FUPC *Worshipping online & In-Person*



Sunday, 6/6 **Adult Sunday school class** at 9:30 a.m.
2nd Sunday after Pentecost, Worship (online & In-Person) at 11 a.m.

Sunday, 6/13 **Adult Sunday school class** at 9:30 a.m.
3rd Sunday after Pentecost, Communion Worship (online & In-Person) at 11 a.m.
Stated Session meeting, via Zoom at 1 p.m.

Sunday, 6/20 **Adult Sunday school class** at 9:30 a.m.
4th Sunday after Pentecost, Worship at 11 a.m. (online & In-Person)

Sunday, 6/27 **Adult Sunday school class** at 9:30 a.m.;
5th Sunday after Pentecost, Worship at 11 a.m. (online & In-Person)

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



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