



Faith United
Presbyterian
Church
in Farmers Branch

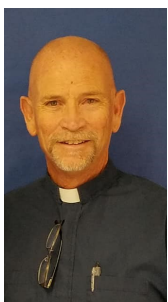
Words of Faith

July 2021

Volume XI, Issue 7

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

From the Pastor



“Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.” (Isaiah 40:1) Scripture is a source of great comfort. As we encounter uncertainty and struggle, pain and illness, challenge and ambiguity, grief and death there remains the presence of God’s saving love, in us, around us and through us. Deliverance is promised and hope is raised up in the comfort of God’s grace and faithfulness. Scripture is also a source of great discomfort in its expectation that we are to be transformed into the likeness of Christ. This creates tension. Tension leads to change.

There is plenty of tension present in both passages for the first Sunday in July this year (Ezekiel 2:1-5; Mark 6:1-13). Ezekiel is given a call to go to a rebellious people with a word calling for repentance and change. He faced great resistance and rejection from the people. Jesus visited his hometown for the first time in the gospel of Mark with a message that was a threat to the status quo. He was rejected. Jesus sent his disciples out a mission to share the gospel message. He intimated that they would also face resistance and rejection. What is so threatening about God’s saving, healing, redeeming, and delivering love?

As humans, we like to see ourselves as the heroes or the good persons in a story. Most of us probably see ourselves as Ezekiel and the disciples in these two stories. Obviously, that is part of the claim Jesus makes upon our lives. However, what if we are to see ourselves as the people to whom Ezekiel and disciples

Rev. Dr. Ken Ritchie

were sent? This creates tension. The good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ brings comfort and healing into our lives. It also brings the call to be transformed in the likeness of Christ. This means change, formation and shaping that is always ongoing in our lives, but seldom smooth or easy. The gospel of Christ is constantly challenging our presuppositions, opinions, viewpoints, loyalties, understandings, perspectives, and our awareness of others around us and their needs and perspectives. This creates tension; tension leads to change. Perhaps we are called to embrace the tension.

Christ calls us to a mission that goes out into the neighborhood in love, but we are also on a mission to be changed into the likeness of Christ. I look forward to seeing you Sundays in worship, in-person or on-line through Facebook or YouTube!

I have returned to the office and have resumed going to restaurants and coffee shops. So, let me know if you would like to meet to talk. I have also resumed making hospital, care facility and home visits. Remember, I am not aware of hospitalizations and admissions into care facilities unless you or your family tell me.

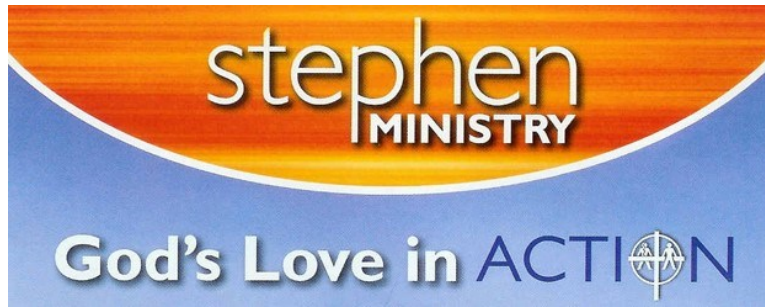
Let’s continue to choose love and compassion, do justice, make peace, embrace all and persevere in prayer as we glorify God, grow disciples, and meet the needs of our neighbors.

In Christ’s Love,

Pastor Ken

Ken@FaithUnited-pc.com

Words of Faith



Would you like to be a part of a ministry that makes a real difference in other's lives when they need it most – and in your own? Consider Stephen Ministry. Stephen Ministers are members of our church who provide one-to-one caring ministry to people experiencing life difficulties. Stephen Minister training equips you to do an excellent job. Even if you choose to not become an active Stephen Minister after the training, the training will improve the quality of all of your relationships. Topics include:

- ◆ Listening
- ◆ Feelings
- ◆ Confidentiality
- ◆ Maintaining boundaries
- ◆ Providing Christian care
- ◆ Crisis theory and practice
- ◆ Ministering to people experiencing grief, hospitalization, illness, and more

If you would like to learn more about Stephen Ministry at our church, contact one of the following people. Training classes will be forming for the Fall soon.

Pastor Ken Ritchie	972-249-6666
Nancy Smith	214-725-0715
Linda Laclede	214-686-1519

Weekly Bible Study class

Rich Lewis

The class is currently led by Rich Lewis. They continue their study of the Gospel of Luke and have returned to their classroom. Since there is limited fellowship opportunities before worship they currently meet from 9:45 until 10:45. On July 4 and 11 they will look at chapters 16-19. The class will not meet on July 18 and 25 or on August 1. They will meet again on August 8. Rich looks forward to seeing you soon.



Happy Birthday!

July 1

- * Amanda Norman
- * Cameron Rodriguez

July 5

- * Gerry Shotswell

July 6

- * Alison Meier

July 7

- * Andrew West

July 10

- * George Walker

July 15

- * Mark Saiter

July 17

- * Samantha Burkham
- * Dale Durcholtz
- * Irene Simpson

July 25

- * Nancy Bond
- * Doris Newton

July 26

- * Barbara Stein

July 28

- * Robin Laclede

July 29

- * Ken Ritchie



Homebound or Recovering:

- ♥ Linda Fehmel (Frank's niece)
- ♥ Charley Rae Furrh (Terri Russell's cousin)
- ♥ Freddie Simmons

Prayers for:

- ♥ Dale Durcholtz
- ♥ Kathie Heffler
- ♥ Roger Jones
- ♥ Mike Jones
- ♥ George & Mozelle Mills
- ♥ Barbara Stein
- ♥ Dennis Van Deventer

Next newsletter is August 2021. Deadline for articles, Friday, July 23. Contact church office or Brenda Swindle via email to submit articles.

Outreach & Evangelism

Beginning in July we will be collecting school supplies for Chapel Hill Preparatory. A list of the needed supplies will be posted the second week in July.





Debbie Rainier



Worship services are available In-Person, via Facebook Live, or on our YouTube channel. Worship resources available at www.FaithUnited-pc.com



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	28 7:30 GA-Room #2	29 7:00 Gam-Anon #2 7:00 GA-Rm #4 7:30 OA-Fellowship #1	30 9:30 LTCDS #1 1:30 GSKPC #4	1 7:00 GA-Fellowship #1	2 9:00 LTCDS Fellowship Hall #1	3 11:00 GA Double Rm #4 11:00 OA-Fellowship #1
 9:45 Adult Sunday School 11:00 Communion Worship 11:00 Iglesia-Fellowship Hall	5 Church Offices Closed July 4th Holiday 7:30 GA-Room #2	6 7:00 Gam-Anon #2 7:00 GA-Rm #4 7:30 OA-Fellowship #1	7 9:30 LTCDS #1	8 7:00 GA-Fellowship #1	9 9:00 LTCDS Fellowship Hall #1	10 11:00 GA Double Rm #4 11:00 OA-Fellowship #1
11 9:45 Adult Sunday School 11:00 FUPC Worship 11:00 Iglesia-Fellowship Hall	12 7:30 GA-Room #2	13 7:00 Gam-Anon #2 7:00 GA-Rm #4 7:30 OA-Fellowship #1	14 9:30 LTCDS #1	15 7:00 GA-Fellowship #1	16 9:00 LTCDS Fellowship Hall #1	17 11:00 GA-Double Rm #4 11:00 OA-Fellowship #1
18 9:45 Adult Sunday School 11:00 FUPC Worship 11:00 Iglesia-Fellowship Hall	19 7:30 GA-Room #2	20 7:00 Gam-Anon #2 7:00 GA-Rm #4 7:30 OA-Fellowship #1	21 9:30 LTCDS #1	22 7:00 GA-Fellowship #1	23 9:00 LTCDS Fellowship Hall #1	24 11:00 GA Double Rm #4 11:00 OA-Fellowship #1
25 9:45 Adult Sunday School 11:00 FUPC Worship 11:00 Iglesia-Fellowship Hall	26 7:30 GA-Room #2	27 7:00 Gam-Anon #2 7:00 GA-Rm #4 7:30 OA-Fellowship #1	28 9:30 LTCDS #1	29 7:00 GA-Fellowship #1	30 9:00 LTCDS Fellowship Hall #1	31 11:00 GA Double Rm #4 11:00 OA-Fellowship #1

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On the Web!
www.FaithUnited-pc.com