



Faith United
Presbyterian
Church
in Farmers Branch

Words of Faith

October 2020

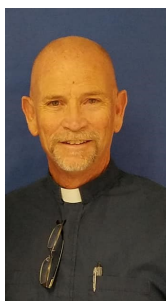
Volume X, Issue 10

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

From the Pastor

Rev. Dr. Ken Ritchie

In the eye of the storm . . .



Several weeks ago, we heard the story of Jesus' disciples in the midst of a storm. Last week, we heard the story of the Israelites thirsting in the wilderness. 2020 seems

like a nightmarish amalgamation of these two images. We are on a wilderness journey in the eye of the storm. We grieve loss upon loss. We're frustrated, angry, confused and disillusioned at life around us. We've had enough of it all. 2020 has been a train wreck! Yet, the journey continues in the eye of the storm.

This is our context for ministry, worship, and mission as a community of Christ-followers. As we journey in the wilderness in the eye of the storm, Christ continues to call us to glorify God, grow disciples, and meet the needs of our neighbors. Yet, the church office is closed, and staff is working remotely, we are doing our best to worship on-line, classes are also on-line, and, all of our meetings and gatherings are via Zoom. While

we are finding new and creative ways to be faithful in mission and ministry, it remains before us. How are we called to be stewards of our resources when in the eye of the storm? The temptation is to drawback; God leads us into the storm.

We haven't stopped doing and being the church. We enter stewardship season weary and apprehensive. However, in the power of the Spirit we endure, "and endurance produces character and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us." (Romans 5:4-5) God is present in our midst to guide and deliver in the victory of Christ.

On each of the Sundays during October, we will highlight how we are enduring in our mission and ministry together. This Sunday we will draw attention to the necessary workings of the church. This will be

followed by attention to glorifying God, growing disciples, and finally, meeting the needs of our neighbors.

Towards the middle of October, we will mail the stewardship packets, along with your third quarter giving statements. The mailing will include a 2021 pledge card and return envelope. This year all of the pledge cards will need to be returned via the mail. In my relatively short time among you I have seen your generosity and faithfulness in action, even while on a wilderness journey in the eye of the storm. So, I know that you will be prayerfully considering how God is calling you to be faithful and generous in the year that lies ahead.

Let's continue to choose compassion and kindness, love and mercy. Let's be peacemakers and advocates of justice. Let's commit to care. Stay connected with each other!

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Ken

Ken@FaithUnited-pc.com

Words of Faith

Outreach & Evangelism

Debbie Rainier

We will receive your **Peace & Global Witness** donations through Sunday, 10/25. Extending the peace of Christ is part of an active, engaged faith—a witness to what it means for us to be the Church, together. 25% of the Offering stays with local congregations (this year FUPC will direct 25% toward the purchase of item(s) from the *Presbyterian Giving Catalog*), and 25% with mid councils to unite congregations to support peacemaking in their regions. 50% of this Offering supports the work for peace and reconciliation being done by Presbyterians across the globe. **“PGW offering”** in the memo section.



Project Transformation—Volunteer opportunities include “Virtual Volunteers to read with students” and “Provide Virtual Homework Help.” This year they are accepting donations for “Stocking Stuffers” (educational toys and activities) and “Household Supply Bags” (household supply bags consist of hand sanitizer, paper towel, toilet paper, laundry detergent etc.) The “Stocking Stuffers” and “Household Supply Bags” are both distributed at the Project Transformation site church (Webb Chapel United Methodist where the reading program usually takes place) to families in the neighborhood. These will be distributed in November. **“PT donation”** in memo section.



Metrocrest Services—The Metrocrest Crop Walk will be virtual this year, Saturday, October 3. Donations may be made on their website. www.MetrocrestServices.org During October and early November FUPC will accept donations for Thanksgiving Meal bags/boxes. This is in lieu of collecting food items as we have done in the past. **“Metrocrest Thanks”** in memo section.



Presbyterian Children's Homes & Services Their Virtual Luncheon will be October 27th. Registration due by October 20th. Please contact Debbie Rainier if you would like to attend this Zoom meeting.



Thank you in advance for your prayerful consideration and donations to these FUPC supported organizations. For more information about any of these giving opportunities please contact Debbie Rainier, 972-342-2652, debbierainier@yahoo.com.

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 is continuing it's study of Paul's letters. October begins with Colossians, First Thessalonians and Second Thessalonians. The letters to Timothy, Titus and Philemon will follow. Expect updates and links to be on the website: www.FaithUnited-pc.com or the Faith United YouTube channel.



Happy Birthday!

October 1

* Courtland Lewis

October 5

* James West

October 11

* Kim Sloey

* Carol West

October 13

* Lloyd Yost

October 14

* Lois Duell

* Aileen Tiemann

October 21

* Frank Fehmel

October 26

* Lisa Laclede

* Aaron Russ

October 29

* Lois Norton



Next newsletter is November

2020. Deadline for articles,

Friday, October 23.

Contact church office or

Brenda Swindle via email to

submit articles.



Rehab/At Home:

♥ Margaret Jones
♥ Marilyn Rose
♥ Freddie Simmons

Prayers for:

♥ Dale Durcholz
♥ Kathie Heffler
♥ Roger Jones
♥ Betty Runkel
♥ Barbara Stein
♥ Dennis Van Deventer

In the Eye of the Storm ... What is your commitment for 2021?

As we continue our wilderness journey, we find ourselves in the eye of the storm. How are we called to be stewards of our resources in the eye of the storm? Our Mission Statement calls us to glorify God, grow disciples and meet the needs of our neighbors. Underlying our faithfulness to this call are the necessary workings of the church – administration, payroll, management and maintenance of the facility, and of course, utilities. These may not be glamorous, but they are necessary, and faithfully continue even in the midst of a wilderness storm. Please prayerfully consider your response to the mission of Christ through our church.



You will receive your **Stewardship Packet** in the mail in a few weeks. Enclosed will be a letter from the Finance Committee, your 3rd Quarter Giving Statement, and a commitment card with a return envelope. Kindly return your commitment card in the envelope provided by **Dedication Sunday, November 1.**



Fall Worship @ Faith United *FUPC Worshiping online*

Sunday, 10/4 **Adult Sunday school class** at 9:30 a.m.
World Communion Sunday, Communion Worship at 11 a.m.

Sunday, 10/11 **Adult Sunday school class** at 9:30 a.m.; **19th Sunday after Pentecost**, Worship at 11 a.m.;

Sunday, 10/18 **Adult Sunday school class** at 9:30 a.m.; **20th Sunday after Pentecost**,
Worship at 11 a.m.; Stated Session meeting, via Zoom at 1 p.m.

Sunday, 10/25 **Adult Sunday school class** at 9:30 a.m.; **21st Sunday after 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

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.



Affix
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