



Faith United  
Presbyterian  
Church  
in Farmers Branch

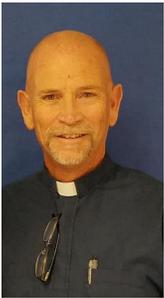
# Words of Faith

November 2021

Volume XI, Issue 11

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

## From the Pastor



The providence of God. The story of Ruth is a story about the providence of God. The Christian doctrine of providence says that God not only creates but upholds creation. The One who created us has not left us. The question of God's activity in the world is a classic and supremely difficult theological dilemma. How do we understand the relationship between human action and divine agency?

God is portrayed only twice in the story of Ruth as an actor intervening directly in human affairs. Early in the story God gave food to the people. Towards the end of the story God gave conception. Each divine intervention reversed a condition over which human control in the ancient world was limited at best. Together these bookends frame the story as it progressed towards resolution of the dual problems of famine and death.

God intersected with the characters of the story of Ruth the way many of us experience God today – not as a burning bush, not as a booming voice from heaven, not as a visible mover of events, but as a mysterious and loving presence. Sometimes, we can attribute God's faithfulness in our daily interactions with others. Other times, we can look back to recognize the life-changing and life-affirming presence of God in our lives, whether that presence is in the form of comfort, healing, or challenge. At other times, however, we may find it difficult to experience God's loving and caring presence in any form or fashion.

The unsettling nature of life with its chaos, change,

## Rev. Dr. Ken Ritchie

anxiety, fear, loss, brokenness, pain, and death easily can give rise to doubt and despair. Yet, God, whose word spoke life and creativity into a formless universe and order to a nation of escaped slaves, whose strong and compassionate voice challenged injustice through frail prophets, who is the Lord of history, is also the Lord in history in Christ Jesus. In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus our lives are bracketed in love and grace that frame our story as it progresses towards the resolution of wholeness and deliverance that awaits all creation in God's eternal reign and realm.

As the story of Ruth unfolded, resolution was uncertain. Yes, it has a happy ending. Happy endings are not always experienced in our lifetimes. However, the intertwined agency of the human characters with the agency of God offers us hope and promise. Even when we are uncertain of God's providential presence and care, God is steadfast in faithfulness and love to the promises of God, not only for all creation, but you and me, for the church, and our neighbors.

I look forward to seeing you soon, in-person or on-line. Let me know of any needs or concerns. If you would like to visit with me, let me know and we can arrange a time to meet.

Let's continue to choose kindness, compassion, and love; let do justice and make peace; let's welcome the stranger; let's 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

## Outreach & Evangelism

Debbie Rainier

**Metrocrest Services Thanksgiving Food Drive** - This year we will be accepting monetary donations and non-perishable food items for the food drive from November 1 through November 15. Non-perishable food items for Thanksgiving include canned corn, green beans, potatoes. Other items always in need are Soup, Peanut butter, Canned meat, Canned fruit, Mac & cheese, Cereal. **All food must be nonperishable and not expired. No glass, please.** Please note "Thanksgiving" or "Xmas" in memo section if donating by check.

Metrocrest Services Christmas Toy Drive "Santa Store" 2021. See below for more info.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and donations to these important Metrocrest Services events. For more information about the events please contact Debbie Rainier, 972-342-2652, [debbierainier@yahoo.com](mailto:debbierainier@yahoo.com) or Courtland Lewis, 214-417-9982, [rzlewis@gmail.com](mailto:rzlewis@gmail.com).

## Brighten a *child's holiday.*

### TOY DRIVE

Each donated toy gives hope to a child of opening up at least one gift this holiday season.

Help by donating new unwrapped toys for children ages 1-18. Collect toys based on what you think a child or teenager would like or refer to our Most-Needed Toy list below.



### Metrocrest Santa Store 2021!

This year we have several ways to participate in the Santa Store giving.

- 1) Bring your New unwrapped gifts and put them in the designated location at the church.
- 2) Bring your NEW unwrapped gifts to our "Drive through" event on Saturday, 12/11, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

If you cannot participate in one of these ways, call the church office for assistance. We will deliver the gifts to the Store on or shortly after Monday, 12/13.

Thank you for your donations!

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#### MOST-NEEDED TOY ITEMS

- Sports & college apparel
- Electronics, video & board games
- Gym bags & sports equipment
- Wallets, jewelry, & watches
- Leggos
- Hair dryer, flat & curling irons
- Nail & cosmetic sets
- Perfume/cologne sets (AXE sets)
- Wal-Mart & Amazon gift cards
- Disney themed items
- Marvel themed items



## Weekly Bible Study class

Rich Lewis

The class is currently led by Rich Lewis. They will complete their study of the parables on Sunday, 11/14. They will begin a series of Advent lessons on November 21. These lessons will be based on Adam Hamilton's book, *Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas*. Each session will include a video on a chapter in the book. 11/21: Presidents and Kings; 11/28: The Savior and Our Need for Saving; 12/5: Emmanuel in the Midst of a Pandemic; 12/19: The Light of the World. They will not meet on December 12. They meet from 9:45 to 10:45 in classroom #4.



# Happy Birthday!

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <b>November 1</b><br>* Cheryl Sparks   | <b>November 18</b><br>* Helen McKemie | <b>November 21</b><br>* Jewell Haworth             | <b>November 24</b><br>* Teresa Nelson |
| <b>November 10</b><br>* Pepper Durholz | <b>November 20</b><br>* Sharon Meurer | <b>November 23</b><br>* Betty Laney<br>* Wade Yost | <b>November 30</b><br>* David Pierce  |



### Homebound or Recovering:

- ♥ Charley Rae Furrh (Terri Russell's cousin)
- ♥ Freddie Simmons

### Prayers for:

- ♥ David Duell
- ♥ Dale Durholz
- ♥ Kathie Heffler
- ♥ Roger Jones
- ♥ Mike Jones
- ♥ John Marxer
- ♥ George & Mozelle Mills
- ♥ Dennis Van Deventer

Worship services are available In-Person, via Facebook Live, or on our YouTube channel.

Worship resources available at [www.FaithUnited-pc.com](http://www.FaithUnited-pc.com)



## Online Giving

We now have online giving available. Just scan the QR Code to the right with your smartphone or go to our website and click the "Give Now" button. [www.FaithUnited-pc.com](http://www.FaithUnited-pc.com) You will have the option to set up your giving profile. This will make it easy to login anytime you are ready to give, even designated giving like Special Offerings throughout the year. **You can also select to donate the 2% fee so Faith United does not in-**



## Order Form for Poinsettias/DUE by Tuesday, 11/16



**Time to decorate for Advent!** And time to place your order for Poinsettias. Please **print** your **specific** dedication/sentiment. You may mail this form with payment attached to the church office by **Tuesday, 11/16**. Or complete an order card and place in the box in the Narthex. Please note "**Poinsettia**" in the memo section. Mail form & checks to **Faith United Presbyterian Church**, 12717 Marsh Lane, Farmers Branch, TX 75234.

I (we) wish to order \_\_\_\_\_ poinsettias at \$11.00 each. **Please check one:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Quantity Payment (check #) Wish to pay later

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Please print the following dedication(s) for my (our) Poinsettias.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

## Stewardship 2021—Receive Hope, Be Hope, Share Hope

*Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1*

For congregations everywhere, these are days of uncertainty and reinvention. Now more than ever, staying together through the delights and struggles of life has never been more important. We continue to be the body of Christ through our ministries, our witness, and our care for one another. This is not a time to pull back in fear, but to support one another, love our neighbor, and lean into the promises of God, like never before.

These days have brought financial challenges to the church. We are facing required plumbing repairs of over \$63,000. The Session has also decided to remove the old garage rather than repair it. These projects will total \$75,000. Our reserves will not cover this expense. We will need to consider a loan. Please consider this need as you make your pledge for 2022. Please also consider a special gift that would help us seek a smaller loan.

While we face these financial challenges, these days also bring fresh opportunities to receive hope, be hope and share hope to our neighborhood. God has done, is doing, and will do marvelous things. **We will dedicate these gifts during worship on Sunday, 11/7.** By now you should have received your Stewardship Packet with a 2022 Pledge Card and return envelope. It is not too late to send your 2022 commitment. It will help the Session in setting the 2022 budget in the coming weeks.



### Faith United Presbyterian Church

12717 Marsh Lane  
Farmers Branch, TX 75234  
Phone: 972-243-2866

Newsletter email:  
Brenda@FaithUnited-pc.com  
Editor: Brenda Swindle

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**On the Web!**  
[www.FaithUnited-pc.com](http://www.FaithUnited-pc.com)