



Faith United  
Presbyterian  
Church  
in Farmers Branch

# Words of Faith

December 2018

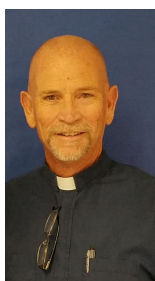
Volume VIII, Issue 12

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

## From the Pastor

Rev. Dr. Ken Ritchie

*I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall  
execute justice and righteousness in the land. Jeremiah 33:15*



One year ago, Barbara and I were able to visit Scotland with our children. Scotland in late November means days with little sunshine. Sunrise each day was after 8:30 am and sunset

occurred before 4 pm. The fascinating part of these short days of sunshine is the location of the sun in the sky. It sits very low in the southern sky. In fact, there were several days when I was disoriented about direction. Usually I am very good about knowing direction. However, when the sun sits as low as it does in Scotland in the winter, there were times when I wasn't sure if I was looking east, west or south. Even at midday the sun sat so low it looked like a setting sun, or was it a rising sun?

As we begin the season of Advent, I think about the disorientation we experience in our everyday lives. There is so much that can be so troubling, in our lives, in our families, in our relationships, in our community, in our country, and in our world. Sometimes it can make us wonder, where is God? Advent acknowledges the present

darkness of evil, sin and brokenness. Of all the seasons of the church year, Advent most closely mirrors our daily lives, asks the most important ethical questions, presents the most accurate picture of the human condition, and above all, orients us to the future of the God who will come again. Advent looks beyond history and awaits Christ's coming again "in glory to judge the living and the dead."

Yet, we must also recognize the importance of Advent for life in the present. Advent is not Christmas. We often think of Advent as a time of preparation for Christmas. This is misleading and insufficient. Advent can become a religious veneer for our efforts of planning and experiencing our idealized Christmas. We live in the time between the first coming of Christ, incognito in the stable in Bethlehem, and his second coming, in glory, to judge the living and the dead. Advent contains within itself the crucial balance of the now and the not-yet that our faith requires. The disappointment,

brokenness, suffering, and pain that characterize life in this present world is held in dynamic tension with the promise of future glory that is yet to come, in which judgment is taken up into promise and hope.

Advent is a time of reorientation. It is the opportunity to perceive where in the world the activity of God can be discerned. Our gaze is directed to the promise and hope of a new day, and, at the same time, to this present moment, imperfect yet beloved, fragile yet important, flawed yet beautiful, the very time and moment in which God chooses to meet, love, and redeem us.

This year we will hear the voices of prophets speak, "The Prophetic Hope of Advent." Into the darkness comes the light – the light of the world, God with Us. We wait, we prepare, we anticipate, we long, we live, we love. Let's allow Advent to be God's gift to us of orientation – God's loving and saving presence – in days of disorientation.

In Christ's Love,

*Pastor Ken*

Ken@FaithUnited-pc.com



## Presbyterian Women

The Presbyterian Women Circles continue the *Horizon's* Bible Study, "God's Promise: I am with You." Books are available in the church office or at a Circle meeting.



**Tuesday Morning Circle-2nd Tuesday, 10:30 a.m.** at the church. Circle moderator, Linnie Hinkle. Next meeting Tuesday, December 11.

## Mary Marxer

**Tuesday Evening Circle-3rd Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.** Meet in member homes. Circle moderator, Irene Simpson. They will not meet in December. Next meeting, Tuesday, January 15.

**Stuffed Animals Project**, materials remain available in classroom #4. Contact Lorna Acker or Lois Duell if you have any questions about this project.

## Outreach & Evangelism

**Pancake Breakfast**—Our next Community Breakfast is Saturday, Dec. 8, 8 to 10 a.m. Join us as we share food and fellowship with our neighbors and each other.



### Metrocrest Services

It is again time to support Metrocrest's



Christmas store. We will be collecting toys or clothing items on November 25<sup>th</sup>, December 2<sup>nd</sup> and December 9<sup>th</sup>. Please bring your unwrapped gifts to put under the tree in the narthex on these dates.

List of items suggested:

### Infants

- ♦ sleepers & toddler clothes; diapers (size 3-6) & wipes
- ♦ push / pull / riding toys
- ♦ play gyms; car seats; educational games

### Children

- ♦ large plastic toys; baby dolls & accessories; play dish sets
- ♦ trucks, cars, tools; DVDs & CDs; pajamas
- ♦ scooters/skateboards; hooded sweatshirts
- ♦ tricycles & bicycles; sport helmets & safety equipment
- ♦ remote controlled toys; educational software

### Family

- ♦ comforters/blankets sheets/towels/pillows
- ♦ sleeping bags
- ♦ iron/ironing boards
- ♦ pots/pans and silverware
- ♦ boxed glasses and dish sets
- ♦ household cleaning products
- ♦ boom boxes, DVD player

## Gail Crumpler

### Preteen/Teen

(Preteen/Teen gifts are always in short supply.)

- ♦ college logo sweats
- ♦ boom boxes/radios
- ♦ cameras/watches
- ♦ fleece stadium blankets
- ♦ gym bags/sports equip.
- ♦ wallets/silver jewelry sets
- ♦ DVDs & CDs
- ♦ personal hair, nail, and cosmetic product sets
- ♦ Walmart, Target gift cards

You can sign up to volunteer on the Metrocrest website.  
[www.metrocrestservices.org](http://www.metrocrestservices.org)



### North Dallas Shared Ministries

On November 8<sup>th</sup>, nine members of our congregation toured NDSM's facility. Also Judy, the coordinator there spoke to us about all of their services and how they help those in need. They not only supply food, clothing and personal items, they also have medical, dental and financial services. We came away more convinced than ever that we want to continue our contributions to them. They can also use our hands-on help. If you would be interested in volunteering there, let me know. Or email at [volunteer.coordinator@ndsm.org](mailto:volunteer.coordinator@ndsm.org).



## Happy Birthday!

### December 1

\* Steve Laclede

### December 4

\* Emily Hinely

### December 8

\* Bob Hinkle

### December 12

\* Jerry Dunaway

### December 13

\* Miranda Rodriguez

\* Marilyn Rose

### December 16

\* Gail Dunaway

### December 20

\* Annette Shepard

### December 21

\* Ray Butler

### December 22

\* Ruth Yost

### December 26

\* Bob Howell

### December 30

\* Nick Norman

### December 31

\* Dottie Cogar



**Next newsletter is**

**January 2019. Deadline**

**for articles, Friday,**

**December 21.**

**Contact church office**

**or Brenda Swindle via**

**email to submit articles.**



### Rehab/At Home:

- ♥ Margaret Jones
- ♥ Anne Mobley
- ♥ Wanda Mosher
- ♥ Freddie Simmons

### Prayers for:

- ♥ Dale Durcholz
- ♥ Kathie Heffler
- ♥ Elizabeth Hendricks
- ♥ Roger Jones
- ♥ Sugie Maxfield
- ♥ Betty Runkel
- ♥ Margaret Plunkett
- ♥ Barbara Stein

**We have many**

**opportunities to serve**

**in our community.**

**Check the bulletin**

**boards near the church**

**offices for ways that**

**YOU can serve!**

## Adult Sunday School

The **Searchers** class meets in the Resource Room/Library at 9:30 each Sunday morning. Alison Meier is leading the class.



The **Weekly Bible Study**, taught by Rich Lewis. They will have Advent lessons on Dec. 9 and 23. They will NOT meet on Dec. 2 or 16 (12/16, due to choir preparation for "The Christmas Promise" during worship). They meet at 9:30 on Sunday mornings in Double Classroom #4.

## Successful Trunk or Treat!



Despite the rain on 10/31, we had quite a few Trunk or Treaters. Thanks to all who volunteered and/or donated candy. We did have left overs. We donated the unopened bags (6) to Operation Gratitude. They send treats to our troops to give them a little Halloween spirit.

## Christmas Celebration!

Faith United Presbyterian Church will gather for a Christmas celebration on Sunday, 12/16.



The FUPC choir is preparing "The Christmas Promise," for worship on the 16th. Please extend an invitation to your family and friends. We hope to share a morning of worship, music, food and fellowship with many on the 16th as we continue through Advent.

Look for the sign up sheets in the Narthex for the luncheon. The church will provide turkey, dressing, gravy, and green beans for the lunch and will gladly accept donations either beforehand or at the lunch. You can sign up to bring items to share or sign up to donate \$5-\$10 toward the cost of the meal. The items to share will be salads, desserts, & rolls/butter.





## Advent @ Faith United

We wait...



### Sunday, December 2

Prayer, Sunday School, & Worship, beginning @ 9 am  
Childcare beginning at 10 am

### Sunday, December 9

Prayer, Sunday School, & Worship, beginning @ 9 am  
Childcare beginning at 10 am, Congregational Meeting,  
FUPC Session at 12:30 pm

### Sunday, December 16

Prayer & Sunday School beginning @ 9 am  
Childcare beginning at 10 am  
**The Christmas Promise** & Worship @ 11 am  
Christmas Lunch & Fellowship @ 12:30 pm (All welcome!)

### Sunday, December 23

Prayer, Sunday School, & Worship, beginning @ 9 am  
Childcare beginning at 10 am

### Monday, December 24

Christmas Eve Worship, 5 pm

✦ More details available at [www.FaithUnited-pc.com](http://www.FaithUnited-pc.com)

Complete calendar of events may be found on the website—[www.FaithUnited-pc.com](http://www.FaithUnited-pc.com)



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