



Faith United  
Presbyterian  
Church  
in Farmers Branch

# Words of Faith

December 2019

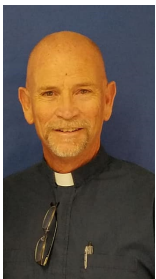
Volume IX, Issue 12

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

## From the Pastor

Rev. Dr. Ken Ritchie

Advent is a quiet time of preparation for the gift of a miraculous presence – God with us!



The countdown begins; creative turkey leftovers are on the menu; Black Friday/Thursday and Cyber Monday give way to the diminishing days until Christmas. These cultural messages want to

induce us into a buying panic. It pretty much works, as one feeding frenzy presses hard into the next.

Yet, the church has its own countdown – Advent. The church begins its new year when the days are still getting darker. The season rejects shallow sentimentality and false cheer. The images that greet us at the beginning of Advent are not swaddling clothes, twinkly stars, and fleecy lambs but images that startle us out of our complacency.

Advent is nothing like the consumer manic depressive panic of the holiday countdown. Advent is a quiet time of preparation for the gift of a miraculous presence – God with us! It is a reflective period that prepares us to receive a gift far greater than the latest high-tech gotta-have thing. The voices

of heaven draw us to the gift which comes into the world and into our lives, not abstractly, but cradled in dirt and mangled in mystery.

During the season of Lent, we give up something that leads us to reflect on the self-giving sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. Advent is different.

Advent is an opportunity to align ourselves with the “game changing” approach of God that occurs on

Christmas morning. Advent is a time we get in “sync” with the amazing story of salvation and redemption God unwraps for all creation in the birth of a baby. Advent is meant to draw us not to the retail stores, on-line or in malls, but to the Christ child. Into the darkness of December there comes not a sale, but a birth of hope to the despairing, comfort to the grieving, strength to the weak, deliverance to the discouraged, hope to the wanting, peace to the troubled, and joy to the sorrowful.

I invite you to embrace this season of Advent in worship and prayer, study

and community. Remember that how things are now is not how they have always been, and that it's not how they always will be. Remember that God's kingdom has come, is growing among us, and the time will come when it fills the world with peace, justice, healing, reconciliation, love and joy.

Pray for the coming of Christ to those around the world whose poverty, pain, and grief make God's kingdom seem remote. Pray for the coming of Christ to our community so that we might express love and compassion for all to

receive. Pray for the coming of Christ in your life that the light of hope, faith, love and joy will shine bright today, tomorrow, and all days until all things are on earth as they are in heaven.

Welcome to Advent! I will look forward to seeing you in worship and in community!

In Christ's Love,

*Pastor Ken*

Ken@FaithUnited-pc.com



## Presbyterian Women

Mary Marxer

The Presbyterian Women Circles are well into their new Bible study, *Horizons* "Love Carved In Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments." Study books are available at the Church Office for \$10.

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



**Evening Circle** Moderator, Patti Sloey. They will NOT meet in December. Next meeting, Wednesday, January 15, 5:30 p.m. for brown bag dinner, 6 p.m. Bible study. Meets in classroom #4.

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

## Outreach &amp; Evangelism

Debbie Rainier



**Pancake Breakfast**—Our next Community Breakfast is Saturday, Dec. 14, 8 to 10 a.m. Join us as we share food and fellowship with our neighbors and each other.

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.



## MOST-NEEDED TOY ITEMS

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

Metrocrest  
Santa  
Store 2019!

Bring your New unwrapped gifts and put them at the designated location. We will collect gifts until Sunday, 12/8. We will deliver the gifts to the Store the following week. If you have any questions, you may contact Debbie Rainier.

*Thank you for your donations!*

## Happy Birthday!

### December 1

\* Steve Laclede

### December 8

\* Bob Hinkle

### December 12

\* Jerry Dunaway

### December 13

\* Miranda Rodriguez

\* Marilyn Rose

### December 16

\* Gail Dunaway

### December 20

\* Annette Shepard

### December 22

\* Ruth Yost

### December 26

\* Bob Howell

### December 30

\* Nick Norman

### December 31

\* Dottie Cogar



**Next newsletter is**

**January 2020. Deadline**

**for articles, Friday,**

**December 20.**

**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
- ♥ Barbara Stein
- ♥ Dennis Van Deventer



### Address updates

#### Tom & Lois Duell

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## Christmas Celebration!

Faith United Presbyterian Church will gather for a Christmas celebration on Sunday, 12/15.

The FUPC choir is preparing special music for

worship on the 15th. 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 15th as we worship during 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.



## Congregational

## Meeting

**Sunday, 12/8**

The Session is calling for a meeting of the congregation for the purpose of electing new officers for the church. The meeting will be December 8, immediately following worship. Please plan to attend this important meeting of our congregation.



*Hope Peace Joy Love*



## *Advent @ Faith United*

We wait...



### **Sunday, December 1**

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

### **Sunday, December 8**

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

### **Sunday, December 15**

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

### **Sunday, December 22**

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

### **Tuesday, December 24**

Christmas Eve Worship, 5 pm Childcare available

✦ 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)**



### **Faith United Presbyterian Church**

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