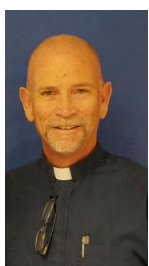


From the Pastor

Rev. Dr. Ken Ritchie



On the Second Sunday of Advent every year we encounter John the Baptist, whether we want to or not. Often, I have found myself thinking that John is a problem to solve. He is strange, divisive, and obnoxious. Yet, John is, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.” (Matthew 3:3)

Confession and repentance loom large in John’s message. John insists on truth-telling and truth-telling begins with self-examination. There are ugly truths that need to be laid bare. These are ugly truths that lie deep in the closets of our souls. These are also communal ugly truths that consign certain people to dehumanizing misery; truths that make religious commitment onerous, or even just blandly predictable and joyless; truths that feed our proclivity to trade astonishment and generosity for power and privilege. The good news of the gospel of Christ is God’s answer to truth-telling.

John’s call to repentance is necessary. While we might want to go straight to a glorious and spectacular celebration of the birth of Jesus, there is wisdom in truth-telling. Otherwise, Christmas becomes shallow and self-centered, Christian self-aggrandizement in a season of holiday. Triumphalism overshadows humility. John calls for us to look into the mirror, confessing wrongs and brokenness, as well as a repentant reassessment of the ways we have spurned God’s vision for human flourishing.



John’s message is more than simply preparing our individual hearts to receive Jesus. This is important. However, to limit the gospel to our inner experience opens the door to ignore the injustice around us, and God’s heart breaks. John’s message calls us to move beyond privatized faith; he is calling us to enlist in a cause, a way of living. He calls for us to have the heart to take a stand and follow the way of Jesus.

As we light the second candle on the Advent wreath this week, let us allow that light to illumine for us where God’s heart is breaking. Let us then bear the fruits of repentance, preparing the way of the Lord in the power of the Holy Spirit.

I look forward to seeing you soon for worship, in-person or online. On Sunday, 12/4, we will light that second candle, we will hear Paul speak of a welcoming hope for these days of division, we will celebrate the Lord’s Supper.

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

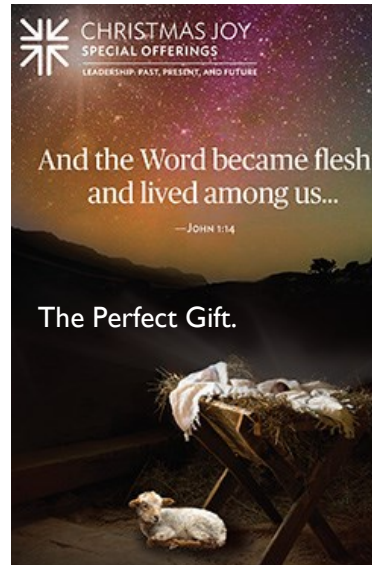
Courtland Lewis

Metrocrest Services Christmas Toy Drive “Santa Store” 2022. See below.

Thank you in advance for your donations to this annual event. For more information about the event please contact Courtland Lewis, 214-417-9982, rzlewis@gmail.com.

At Christmas time, we have a wonderful opportunity to share our Christmas Joy with others. The **Christmas Joy Offering** affects the lives of many people outside the walls of our church home. The amounts collected (designated **Joy Offering** in memo section) during Advent and the Christmas season will be distributed equally to the following:

- ◆ PCUSA Board of Pensions for special needs of active and retired clergy
- ◆ Developing our Future Leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Presbyterian Church (USA)



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
- 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

**Metrocrest
Santa Store 2022!**

Bring your New unwrapped gifts and put them in the designated location at the church.

If you cannot participate this way, call the church office for assistance. We will deliver the gifts to the Store on or shortly after Monday, 12/12.

Thank you for your donations!



Stewardship 2022—Eternally Loved, Intentionally Loving

It is not too late to return your 2023 Pledge Card. It will help the Session and Finance Committee when calculating the 2023 Budget. You may return the pledge card via mail or bring it on Sunday and place in the Offering trays. We offer and give what we have trusting that Jesus will multiply our giving! Consider an increase in your regular giving to help us be faithful in our neighborhood!



Happy Birthday!

December 1

* Steve Laclede

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



Homebound or Recovering:

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

Prayers for:

- ♥ David Duell
- ♥ Dale Durcholz
- ♥ George & Mozelle Mills and their son-in-law, Greg Kaut
- ♥ 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



Weekly Bible Study class

Rich Lewis

The class is currently led by Rich Lewis. They meet at 9:30 in classroom #4. For Advent Sundays in December we will use Matt Rawle's "The Heart that Grew Three Sizes." This includes 10 minute videos each week where Matt uses Dr. Seuss's story of *The Grinch that Stole Christmas* to explore faith themes. After the videos we will talk about these ideas. It should be fun and enlightening. **Note:** we will NOT meet 12/11 since Rich will be out of town.



Winter VBS @ Faith United Presbyterian!

Faith United Presbyterian Church and Iglesia Presbiteriana Emmanuel—Join us for Knights of the North Castle

The VBS program is setup for 2 continual Saturdays as a "parents' day out" to allow the parents time for holiday shopping, decorating or a winter break. Children from 5 yrs to 10 yrs will participate in activities to deepen their faith and introduce them to the various types of armor God provides us to stand.

When?

Saturday, December 3rd and Saturday, December 10th
From 9:30 am – 5:00 pm

Where?

12717 Marsh Ln, Farmers Branch, TX 75234

Questions or Volunteer?

Katie Miller, 214-458-5212, katiemiller3540@gmail.com

Register online

<https://faithunited.mycokesburyvbs.com/>



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	28 7 pm GA-Room #2	29	30 9:30 LTCDS #1 7:00 FUPC Choir	1	2 9:00 LTCDS Fellowship Hall #1	3 10am—5pm Winter VBS 9:00 GA-Double Rm #2 11:00 OA-Double Rm #2
4 Advent 2 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:30 Coffee Fellowship 11:00 Communion Worship 11:00 Iglesia-Fellowship Hall	5 7 pm GA-Room #2	6	7 9:30 LTCDS #1 7:00 FUPC Choir	8	9 9:00 LTCDS Fellowship Hall #1	10 10am—5pm Winter VBS 9:00 GA-Double Rm #2 11:00 OA-Double Rm #2
11 Advent 3 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:30 Coffee Fellowship 11:00 FUPC Worship 11:00 Iglesia-Fellowship Hall 12:30 FUPC Session 3:00 RYLA—Fellowship Hall	12 7 pm GA-Room #2	13	14 9:30 LTCDS #1 7:00 FUPC Choir	15	16 9:00 LTCDS Fellowship Hall #1	17 9:00 GA-Double Rm #4 11:00 OA-Double Rm #4
18 Advent 4 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:30 Coffee Fellowship 11:00 FUPC Worship 11:00 Iglesia—Fellowship Hall	19 7 pm GA-Room #2	20	21 9:30 LTCDS #1 7:00 FUPC Choir	22	23 Church Offices Closed	24 9:00 GA-Double Rm #4 11:00 OA-Double Rm #4 Christmas Eve Worship 5 pm
25 Christmas Day 10:30 Coffee Fellowship 11:00 FUPC Worship 11:00 Iglesia-Fellowship Hall	26 Church Offices Closed 7 pm GA-Room #2	27	28 9:30 LTCDS #1 7:00 FUPC Choir	29	30 9:00 LTCDS Fellowship Hall #1	31 9:00 GA-Double Rm #4 11:00 OA-Double Rm #4

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postage



**Faith United
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Editor: Brenda Swindle

