



Words of Faith

Faith United Presbyterian Church

Volume VII, Issue 2

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends of FUPC,



On February 14, boys and girls and men and women all over the world will exchange gifts and cards and possibly promises of endearment in the name of love. I'm talking of course about Valentine's Day, a day set apart for the sole purpose of celebrating the gift of love to those near and dear to us. We usually think of Valentine's Day in terms of romantic love, a special love reserved for our spouse or sweetheart. This is a gift from God and one we should never neglect or take for granted. But the Bible speaks of another word for love that, in the opinion of most scholars, was considered a higher form of love. In the Greek language, the word is "agape." Agape love is an unconditional love that is given without regard to any qualifications and asks for nothing in return. It is the same word the author of John's gospel uses in the familiar verse, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." (John 3:16).

When I was a young boy growing up in rural Virginia, we always had

a Valentine's Day party at school. Some of the mothers would bring a cake or popcorn balls and we would pass around those little tiny cinnamon hearts called "Red Hots," or the heart shaped candy engraved with a personal message proclaiming, "Be My Valentine," or "I Love You." The highlight of the party came when the Valentine cards were passed out. I would bug my mother every year to make sure she had gotten me a 99-cent box of Valentine cards that contained enough valentines to pass out to everyone in the class.

Apparently, all the other children did the same thing because I always came home with between 20 to 30 valentine cards. It didn't matter whether you liked everyone in the class or not, everyone received a valentine. I don't know if that would have been considered "agape" love but it sure felt good. Somewhere around the sixth grade it became un-cool to give Valentine cards and so the parties stopped. But what if, as adults, we made it a point to tell people at least one day out of the year that they were loved and appreciated and respected? What if one day out of the year we did what Jesus

told us to do and loved our enemies and prayed for those who persecute us?

One of the most problematic churches the Apostle Paul helped to organized was the church at Corinth. The church in Corinth had become a very divisive church with some groups claiming superior leaders and espousing superior Spiritual gifts. When you read his letters to the Corinthians you can almost feel the animosity and tension simmering among the members. It was not a healthy or harmonious situation. His advice was to exercise unconditional love for one another in all they did and in all their relationships – a love that was "patient, kind, not envious, or boastful, or arrogant, or rude." I suspect if they had shared a few candy hearts or given cards to every member of the church, their lives would have been infinitely more joyful and in tune with Christ's will. May you know Christ's unconditional love for you and pass it along to others throughout the month of February and always.

Shalom, *Jim*

James@FaithUnited-pc.com

Inside this issue

- From the Pastor's desk
- Presbyterian Women
- FUPC in the community
- ...and more!

Next newsletter is

March 2017.

Deadline for articles, Friday, 2/17/17.

Contact church office or Brenda Swindle via email to submit articles.

Words of Faith

Presbyterian Women

FUPC Women are into the new year of Bible study with “Who Is Jesus?” Books are available for \$10 in the office or at your circle meeting or from your circle leader.

Tuesday Morning Circle-2nd Tuesday, 10:30 am. Next meeting, 2/14. Circle moderator, Linnie Hinkle.



Mary Marxer

Thursday Morning Circle-2nd Thursday, *NEW TIME*, 10 am at the church, Next meeting, 2/9.

Tuesday Evening Circle-3rd Tuesday, 7:00 pm in members homes. Next meeting, 1/21, Circle moderator, Irene Simpson.

The Starboard Stitchers will next meet on Tuesday, February 7 at 1:00 pm at the church. All are invited to come help them stuff fabric animals. These animals go to toddlers when they get their shots at the North Dallas Shared Ministries clinic.

Outreach & Evangelism



Monthly Pancake Community Breakfast will be Feb. 11 from 8-10am. Join us and meet your neighbors and friends.

Sunday, February 5 is the “Souper Bowl of Caring” to help stop hunger. Vote for your favorite Super Bowl team with

Wayne Saunders

donations of money and/or food. Look for the pots and bowls in the Narthex area to donate. This year’s donations will be given (equally) to North Dallas Shared Ministries and Metrocrest Services.



Faith United Concert Series

Sunday, February 26, 2 p.m. at Faith United. FUPC invites you to a unique performance featuring music from four hands on two grand pianos. The eclectic program will include Taiwanese music, compositions with strong international flavors, American pieces and other musical offerings sure to delight the ears. You will not want to miss this special concert, offered by two outstanding musical friends.

Mei-En Chou (Mabel) started playing the piano at age four. During her formative years she also played the trumpet, earning a bachelor’s degree from the National Taiwan Normal University on the instrument. She then earned a certificate as a music instructor, allowing her to teach in her homeland. Always eager to expand her musical horizons, Mabel came to Denton, Texas to pursue a master’s degree in piano performance at UNT. During her years of study and performing in the metroplex, she played, accompanied and adjudicated many competitions and festivals in the North Texas area.



Chiao-Ju Hung (Cherry, left)
Mei-En Chou (Mabel-right)

David Pierce

Ms. Chou is the Artist in Residence and Assistant Professor of Piano at Louisiana College in Pineville, LA, where she teaches college students, concertizes and is a member of numerous professional music organizations state-wide and nationally.

Ms. Hung, Chiao-Ju, (Cherry) Piano

Also from Taiwan, Ms. Hung started piano lessons at the age of six, and attained the highest level of proficiency from the Royal Schools of Music by age eleven. Cherry studied in Duisburg, Germany with Prof. Wambach, and earned her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from National Taiwan Normal University. Her love of contemporary music is fueled by the challenges of interpretation new music offers the performer. She is a music instructor in Taipei and currently teaches piano at several studios.

Please invite your neighbors, friends, colleagues and anyone that loves & enjoys music to attend this recital. The performance will have one brief intermission. There will be a reception for the artists following the hour & a half program. You will not be disappointed!

Happy Birthday!

February 3

* Angela Penfold

February 5

* Lorna Acker

February 8

* Jack Walden

February 15

* Chuck Acker

* Dick Smith

February 16

* Kurt Booth

February 25

* Betty Van

February 28

* Hubert Laney

* John Marxer

* Jacob West



Prayer Concerns

Prayers for:

- ♥ Oscar Bennedsen
- ♥ Dale Durcholz
- ♥ Elizabeth Hendricks
- ♥ Roger Jones
- ♥ Ray Kirchmeyer
(David's brother)
- ♥ Lilas Kinch
- ♥ Sugie Maxfield
- ♥ Sherrard Family
- ♥ Alan Swope

Rehab/At Home:

- ♥ Earl Blackney
- ♥ Bobbie & J.R. Jones
- ♥ Margaret Jones
- ♥ Henry Knight
- ♥ Betty Laney
- ♥ Joanne McKnight
- ♥ Anne Mobley
- ♥ Wanda Mosher
- ♥ Freddie Simmons
- ♥ Betty Van

Directory Updates

Please remember to notify the church office if your information changes.

Kathleen Ferguson

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Ben & Lauren Hinely

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Lauren cell: 404-401-7483
Ben email: mailong1987@gmail.com
Lauren email: grovelau77@gmail.com



The **Weekly Bible Study** led by Rich Lewis will continue their study of the Gospel of John. Meets in Double Classroom #4 at 9:30.

The **Searchers** class continues to meet at 9:30 in the Library/Resource Room.

Notes & News from the Pews



Dear FUPC,

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your outpouring of generous support, and for your continued prayers, as we begin to recover from the wildfires in Gatlinburg.



Your faith and your action are giving us strength! We wish you all a richly blessed new year.

Gratefully, Anne Turner (Lois Duell's niece)

Dear FUPC,

Thank you all so much for all of your loving kindness to our expanding family during our short stay with you. We have enjoyed not only being members with you but being part of your family. We will think of you fondly and hope we find a church at least half as good as you guys have been to us. Emily will miss speaking to all of you. Sabrina will miss giving you her shy smiles. And John will miss flirting with you all. The church blessed us greatly in our time of need, and we will never forget you.

Ben, Lauren, Emily, Sabrina, and John Hinely

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		31 7:00 GA-Rm #2 7:00 OA-Fellowship #1	1 7 pm FUPC Choir	2 6:30 GA-Double #2 7:30 ABA-Rm #4	3	4 11:00 GA Double Rm #4 11:00 OA-Fellowship #1 3:30 CSID Choir Sanctuary
5 9:00 CSID Worship 9:00 FUPC Prayer Time 9:30 FUPC Sunday School 11:00 CSID Sunday School 11:00 Communion Worship 11:00 Good Shepherd & Following Jesus	6 7:30 GA-Room #2	7 1:00 Starboard Stitches 7:00 GA-Rm #2 7:00 OA-Fellowship #1	8 7 pm FUPC Choir	9 10:00 PW Circle #2 6:30 GA-Double #2 7:30 ABA-Rm #4	10	11 8:00 FUPC Breakfast 11:00 GA Double Rm #4 11:00 OA-Fellowship #1 3:30 CSID Choir Sanctuary
12 9:00 CSID Worship 9:00 FUPC Prayer Time 9:30 FUPC Sunday School 11:00 CSID Sunday School 11:00 FUPC Worship 11:00 Good Shepherd & Following Jesus	13 8:00 LTCDS Fellowship #1 7:30 GA-Room #2	14 10:30 PW Circle #4 7:00 GA-Rm #2 7:00 OA-Fellowship #1 	15 7 pm FUPC Choir	16 6:30 GA-Double #2 7:30 ABA-Rm #4	17	18 11:00 GA-Double Rm #4 11:00 OA-Fellowship #1 3:30 CSID Choir-Sanctuary
19 9:00 CSID Worship 9:00 FUPC Prayer Time 9:30 FUPC Sunday School 11:00 CSID Sunday School 11:00 FUPC Worship 11:00 Good Shepherd & Following Jesus 12:30 FUPC Session 2:30 RYLA group #4	20 7:30 GA-Room #2	21 7:00 GA-Rm #2 7:00 OA-Fellowship #1 7:00 PW Circle	22 7 pm FUPC Choir	23 10:00 LTCDS #1 6:30 GA-Double #2 7:30 ABA-Rm #4	24	25 11:00 GA Double Rm #4 11:00 OA-Fellowship #1 3:30 CSID Choir-Sanctuary
Complete calendar of events may be found on the website—www.FaithUnited-pc.com						



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proper
postage

**Faith United
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On the Web!
www.FaithUnited-pc.com