



Words of Faith

Faith United Presbyterian Church

Volume VIII, Issue 2

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends of FUPC,



Recently Terry and I reviewed our calendars to discover that Valentine's Day falls on Ash

Wednesday this year, the 14th of February. Consequently, the two of us will be celebrating Valentines Day in the church worshipping God on what some people consider one of the most solemn evenings on the Christian Calendar. Don't worry, the two of us will find another time during the week to celebrate our love and devotion to each other. I believe Valentines Day serves a very special purpose in a couple's relationship and should not be ignored. Besides, from a theological perspective, both occasions are an expression of love, though admittedly, the kind of love we focus on for Valentine's Day is not the same as God's unconditional love we reflect upon during an Ash Wednesday service.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten season. The season of Lent has a dual purpose. On the one hand, Lent is a time of self-evaluation and looking deep into our souls to discern our sinful nature and our need for repentance. Since

ancient times, ashes have been a symbol of human sin and human mortality. Therefore, at the Ash Wednesday Service we place ashes on the foreheads of Christian believers. On the other hand, Lent is also the time when we recognize that ashes and death are not the final answer for Christian believers. We don't randomly place the ashes on people's foreheads but use the ashes to mark people with the sign of the cross to remind people of God's grace in sending the Messiah to be our Lord and Savior. In addition, this year I plan to celebrate communion at the Ash Wednesday service to remind us that Jesus is the bread of life and the cup of salvation. By God's grace Jesus came to save us from sin and death.

It is customary for the people of God to exercise Spiritual disciplines during their Lenten journey to the cross. Many people will give up something during this period as a form of fasting and sacrifice. Popular sacrifices are giving up sweets, desserts, and alcoholic beverages. While there is nothing wrong with giving up something, I have always felt a better Spiritual discipline would include doing something extra

such as engaging in additional prayer, meditation, and Bible study during the period of Lent.

With that in mind, I am going to offer a five-week Bible study on the newest addition to our Presbyterian Book of Confessions. "The Confession of Belhar" emerged out of the reformed church's response to the oppressive and separatist culture of apartheid in South Africa. During the middle of the 20th century in South Africa, racial segregation was legalized and people's freedom determined by the color of their skin. For many Christians, this practice was not only abhorrent, but stood against everything the Bible and Jesus taught about loving one's neighbor. Many people believe that our own country stands on the brink of moving backwards to a time when discrimination was more accepted. We'll discuss this and what the Bible has to say about this situation. Our first class meets the day after Ash Wednesday on Thursday, February 15 and for the next four Thursdays beginning at 10 am. Come and join us for this opportunity to learn and engage in a Lenten Spiritual discipline. Have a great February.

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, 2/16/18.

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

Words of Faith

Presbyterian Women

FUPC Presbyterian Women Bible studies/Circles meet monthly. Feel free to contact Mary Marxer if you need more information or contact a circle leader. The 2017-2018 Bible study is *Cloud of Witness*, books are available for purchase at \$11 each.



Tuesday Morning Circle-2nd Tuesday, 10:30 a.m. Next meeting, 2/13. Circle moderator, Linnie Hinkle.

Thursday Morning Circle-2nd Thursday, *NEW TIME*, 10 am at the church, Next meeting, 2/8. Co-Moderators, Patsy Craig and Sharon Meurer.

Tuesday Evening Circle-3rd Tuesday, 7:00 pm in members homes. Next meeting, 2/20, Circle moderator, Irene Simpson.

Mary Marxer

The Starboard Stitchers will no longer meet on a monthly basis. You have the opportunity to help. They have placed patterns and items needed for finishing the animals in the credenza in the front of the Adult Sunday School room (Double Room #4). They encourage you to help by sewing or stuffing the items as they are much appreciated by the nurses and children. Pick up a pattern and just sew around the outside, leaving an opening for stuffing or pick up one of the sewn animals and stuff it - good to keep your hands busy while watching TV! Return finished animals to bottom of credenza and they'll be sure to get them down to the clinic. Lois Duell or Lorna Acker can help if you have any questions.

Outreach & Evangelism



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

Sunday, February 4 is the "Souper Bowl of Caring" to help stop hunger. Vote for your favorite Super Bowl team with

Gail Crumpler

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.



The **Weekly Bible Study** led by Rich Lewis will continue their study of Matthew. They will not meet on Feb. 11, 18 or 25. They will meet on Feb. 4 and resume on March 4. Courtland and Rich will be traveling on the Sundays they do not meet. Meets in Double Classroom #4 at 9:30.

The **Searchers** class continues to meet at 9:30 in the Library/Resource Room. Led by Alison Meier, the class will be using the pcusa curriculum for 2018: *Feasting on the Word*.

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 28

* Hubert Laney

* John Marxer

* Jacob West



Prayer Concerns

Prayers for:

- ♥ Dale Durcholz
- ♥ Elizabeth Hendricks
- ♥ Roger Jones
- ♥ Ray Kirchmeyer
(David's brother)
- ♥ Lilas Kinch
- ♥ Sugie Maxfield
- ♥ Sherrard Family
- ♥ Glen Sparks
- ♥ Alan Swope
- ♥ Dennis Van Deventer
- ♥ Margaret Plunkett

Rehab/At Home:

- ♥ Bobbie & J.R. Jones
- ♥ Margaret Jones
- ♥ Joanne McKnight
- ♥ Anne Mobley
- ♥ Wanda Mosher
- ♥ Freddie Simmons

Journey through Lent with FUPC

Ash Wednesday Worship
2/14 at 7 p.m.
Choir meets at 8 p.m.

Lenten Bible Study, Thursdays at 10 a.m.
2/15, 2/22, 3/1, 3/8 *, 3/15

Sunday School at 9:30—Worship at 11
2/18, 2/25, 3/4, 3/11, 3/18



* Meets at 11 a.m. on 3/8 only

North Texas Presbyterian Pilgrimage

Lois Duell

Looking for a pick-me-up? North Texas Presbyterian Pilgrimage will have a 3 day retreat April 4 -8 at Briarwood Retreat Center in Argyle Texas. It begins at 5pm on Thursday and ends Sunday afternoon. Pilgrimage is a lay led 3 day weekend, similar to the Lutheran Via de Cristo and Methodist Walk to Emmaus. The cost is \$225, which covers accommodations and meals, scholarships are available. To sign up or find more information, go to NTPP.org.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat					
4 9:00 FUPC Prayer Time 9:30 FUPC Sunday School 10:30 Coffee/Fellowship 11:00 Communion Worship 11:00 Good Shepherd & Following Jesus	5 7:30 GA-Room #2	6 7:00 GA-Rm #2 7:00 OA-Fellowship #1	7 6 pm PNC #4 7 pm FUPC Choir  6:00 PNC #4 7:00 Worship  8:00 Choir	8 10:00 PW Circle #2 7:00 GA-Fellowship #1	9	10 8:00 FUPC Breakfast 11:00 GA Double Rm #4 11:00 OA-Fellowship #1					
11 9:00 FUPC Prayer Time 9:30 FUPC Sunday School 10:30 Coffee/Fellowship 11:00 Worship 11:00 Good Shepherd & Following Jesus 12:30 FUPC Session	12 7:30 GA-Room #2	13 10:30 PW Circle #4 7:00 GA-Rm #2 7:00 OA-Fellowship #1	15 10:00 Lenten Bible Study Rm #4 7:00 GA-Fellowship #1	16	17 11:00 GA-Double Rm #4 11:00 OA-Fellowship #1	18 <i>Lent 1</i> 9:00 FUPC Prayer Time 9:30 FUPC Sunday School 10:30 Coffee/Fellowship 11:00 Worship 11:00 Good Shepherd & Following Jesus 2:30 RYLA group #1					
19 7:30 GA-Room #2	20 7:00 GA-Rm #2 7:00 OA-Fellowship #1 7:00 PW Circle	21 6 pm PNC #4 7 pm FUPC Choir	22 10:00 LTCDS #1 10:00 Lenten Bible Study Rm #4 7:00 GA-Fellowship #1	23	24 11:00 GA Double Rm #4 11:00 OA-Fellowship #1	Complete calendar of events may be found on the website—www.FaithUnited-pc.com					
25 <i>Lent 2</i> 9:00 FUPC Prayer Time 9:30 FUPC Sunday School 10:30 Coffee/Fellowship 11:00 Worship 11:00 Good Shepherd & Following Jesus	26 7:30 GA-Room #2	27 7:00 GA-Rm #2 7:00 OA-Fellowship #1	28 6 pm PNC #4 7 pm FUPC Choir	1 10:00 Lenten Bible Study Rm #4 7:00 GA-Fellowship #1	2	3 11:00 GA Double Rm #4 11:00 OA-Fellowship #1					



Affix
proper
postage

**Faith United
Presbyterian Church**

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

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



On the Web!
www.FaithUnited-pc.com