



Faith United  
Presbyterian  
Church  
in Farmers Branch

# Words of Faith

April 2020

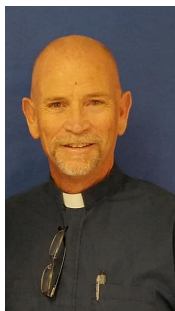
Volume X, Issue 4

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

## From the Pastor

Rev. Dr. Ken Ritchie

“Acceptance allows us to let go of what we can’t control or change”



The disruption and grief of COVID-19 is overwhelming, if not numbing. In these disruptive days of sheltering-in-place and social distancing we grieve. We grieve in the face of loss – the loss of normalcy, the loss of human connection, the loss of economic and financial safety and well-being, and other losses. We grieve the uncertain future. I miss seeing you! I miss greeting everyone on Sunday mornings. I miss being together in community in person.

When we do the work of grief we work towards acceptance. This is where power lies. Acceptance allows us to let go of what we can’t control or change. I can’t change the shelter-in-place. I can’t control the timeline of the pandemic. In acceptance we discover resilience – the capacity to recover from difficulty. We discover flexibility, pliability and adaptability. We discover hope.

COVID-19 and the resulting disruption and grief have certainly



changed our lives and our life together as a church. However, they do not stop the church. We are resilient in the power of the Spirit. The church discovers flexibility, pliability and adaptability. We worship online. We find ways to be the body of Christ in the world, even in the midst of shelter-in-place. Barbara is meeting with the teen class each week through Zoom. Katie is offering children’s Sunday School classes via video on our Facebook page. Truly we are the resurrection people!

Unfortunately, not everyone has been able to join in the online worship. This grieves me. If you have been unable to worship online, we would like to send you a copy of each week’s Worship Guide. I know it is not the same as being a part of the worship. However, I want to stay connected with you. Call the church office and we will add you to the mailing list. Please know that I am thinking and praying for you.

We will continue to worship online until we are able to worship together in community in person. I look forward to that day! On Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday we will

celebrate communion. Yes, we are going to celebrate communion online! Prior to each service I encourage you to prepare the elements of bread and a cup of juice/wine for your use. I will consecrate the elements during the online service. We will break the bread and share the cup as the people of God!



The God who raised Jesus from the dead is present with us in this difficult and anxious time. We are not alone. God who brings life to dry bones is

with us in this valley of the shadow of death. The steadfast love of God will hold us up in these days of hope and anxiety, trust and fear, disruption and grief. Let’s continue to push aside cynicism, panic, despair and fear. Let’s choose faith, trust, love. Let’s move with powerful compassion into a world sorely in need of love, kindness, and generosity. The Spirit of life is still flowing!

Keep in connection with each other. Call each other. Send notes and emails to each other. Let me know of any needs.

In Christ’s Love,  
*Pastor Ken*

Ken@FaithUnited-pc.com

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## Presbyterian Women

The Presbyterian Women Circles are well into their new Bible study, *Horizons* "Love Carved In Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments."



**Tuesday Morning Circle-2nd Tuesday,** Circle moderator, Linnie Hinkle.

**Evening Circle** Moderator, Patti Sloey.

Amidst the COVID-19 crisis, we have been called to be flexible and patient as we plan new ways to have worship, Sunday school classes, and our PW Bible study.

## Mary Marxer

We are grateful to Jennifer Tiemann as she has graciously agreed to teach a **Joint PW Circle** on Tuesday, April 14 at 1 p.m. She will lead the study via Facebook Live, lesson #8. The Faith United Facebook page is the same way that Pastor Ken has led us in worship during March. We hope you can join us online as we join together for lesson #8.



The lesson will be available after April 14 if you are not able to view it at 1 p.m.

[www.facebook.com/FaithUnitedFarmersBranch](http://www.facebook.com/FaithUnitedFarmersBranch)

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## Online Worship Continues

We continue to worship online and the Journey to Easter Sunday continues.

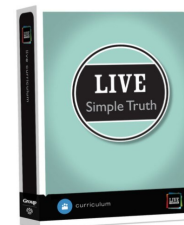
You will find Worship Guides and resources on our website: [www.FaithUnited-pc.com](http://www.FaithUnited-pc.com)

You will see the logos (right) on the website and can choose which method you would like to worship with. The Faith United Facebook page is the only "Live" option. The YouTube channel will be updated as soon as possible after the worship or class event.



## Teen Class Continues

The Teen Sunday school Class, a joint ministry between Iglesia Emmanuel and Faith United, each week on Zoom! Zoom is an online meeting site. Barbara will be leading the class. Teens should send Barbara their email address and she will send a link for them to join the class on Sunday morning! Barbara's email is [toohappy50@yahoo.com](mailto:toohappy50@yahoo.com)



### Happy Birthday!

**April 9**

\* Dixie Howell

**April 10**

\* Doug Sparks

**April 11**

\* Brenda Burkham

**April 13**

\* Scarlett Silva

**April 19**

\* Richard Davenport



**Rehab/At Home:**

♥ Margaret Jones

♥ Anne Mobley

♥ Wanda Mosher

♥ Freddie Simmons

**Prayers for:**

♥ Grethel Creech

♥ Dale Durcholz

♥ Kathie Heffler

♥ Roger Jones

♥ Hubert Laney

♥ Sugie Maxfield

♥ Betty Runkel

♥ Barbara Stein

♥ Dennis Van Deventer

### Weekly Bible Study class

Rich Lewis

Our adult Sunday School class, **Weekly Bible Study**, will be taught by video beginning the Sunday after Easter, that is, on April 19. I will record the videos of the classes and links to these videos will be included in the weekly News Brief. We will continue with our lessons on the prophets.

**April 19:** Nahum - Most of us know almost nothing about Nahum. We have an excuse. I plan to explain these two things and give us a reason to pay more attention to him.

**April 26:** Habakkuk - Most of us don't know much more about Habakkuk; however, I liked him the first time I read the book. He challenged God. That took some nerve. He makes us consider some of the most important issues about our faith.

As usual, I will try to place these prophets in the context of there times by explaining the history surrounding their prophecies. I hope you can join us for our continued studies. If you have questions you may email me at [rzlewis@gmail.com](mailto:rzlewis@gmail.com).

Expect updates and links to be on the website: [www.FaithUnited-pc.com](http://www.FaithUnited-pc.com) or the Faith United YouTube channel.



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### Order Form for Lilies

It is time to place your order for Easter Lilies. We will take orders until Wednesday, April 8. Please print your **specific** dedication/sentiment. You may mail this form with payment attached to the church office by Easter Sunday. Please note **"for Lilies"** in the memo section if paying by check.



I (we) wish to order \_\_\_\_\_ lilies at \$10.00 each.  
Quantity

**Please check one:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Payment (include check #)                      Wish to pay later

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Please print the following dedication(s) for my (our) Easter Lilies.

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_

Mail form & checks to **Faith United Presbyterian Church**  
12717 Marsh Lane, Farmers Branch, TX 75234; **Church Office phone:** 972-243-2866



## Holy Week, Easter & Eastertide *FUPC Worshiping online*



Sunday, 4/5

**Lenten Adult Sunday school class** at 9:30 a.m.  
**Palm Sunday Worship** at 11 a.m.

Thursday, 4/9

**Maundy Thursday Worship** at 7 p.m.

**Easter Sunday, 4/12** worship at 11 a.m.

**Weekly Bible Study class**, available online via YouTube channel each Saturday

**2nd Sunday of Easter, 4/19** worship at 11 a.m.

**3rd Sunday of Easter, 4/26** worship at 11 a.m.



All worship services and classes available via Facebook Live or  
on Faith United's YouTube channel  
Worship resources available at [www.FaithUnited-pc.com](http://www.FaithUnited-pc.com)



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**On the Web!**  
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