



Faith United
Presbyterian
Church
in Farmers Branch

Words of Faith

June 2020

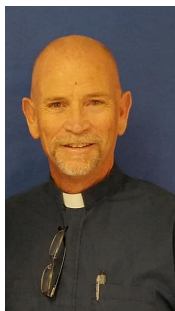
Volume X, Issue 6

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

From the Pastor

Rev. Dr. Ken Ritchie

“God is present in our midst. There is the reality of God’s care and provision. The Spirit is leading us in love...”



The season of pandemic continues as we move into June. Anybody else tired of this new reality? Oh, how I miss being with each of you!

I have been reflecting on the story of the

Israelites in their journey through the wilderness. I think we can view this time as a wilderness journey – it sure feels like it. They journeyed through the wilderness of Sin; we journey through the wilderness of pandemic. Let’s hope our journey is shorter than their 40-year trek!

Their wilderness experience was a time of formation and preparation as the people of God. They were not led on the quickest path; there was not a specific route; they encountered threats and danger; they experienced uncertainty and doubt. In the wilderness it can be hard to sort out perceptions and reality, and anxiety can rise quickly. Anxiety can lead us to grasp for control of a situation. Anxiety can easily become panic.

There were times when the Israelites allowed their anxiety to steer them astray as they hungered, thirsted, complained, and sought false assurance in a golden idol.

Within their story is a tension of trust – trusting God in the midst of the reality of chaos, uncertainty and challenge. God was steadfastly present with them, providing and caring for them in their journey. Indeed, the stories often indicate that providential care came in unexpected ways. God was also leading and guiding them to a new place of promise. While they voiced desires to return to what was, God promised something new, which they did not yet totally understand.

Can we trust God in this reality of pandemic? Can we view this time of wilderness as a time of formation and preparation? Is there something new that lies before us? All of us are certainly anxious to get back to what we thought was normal, including in-person church activities. Yet, the quickest route is not always the

wisest route, especially when it comes to God. All of us have a range of emotions and thoughts, full of uncertainty, question and concern. A wilderness journey is more often than not a marathon, not a sprint.

God is present in our midst. There is the reality of God’s care and provision. The Spirit is leading us in love, compassion, perseverance, and wisdom. The church is not closed, even though we choose to worship remotely in the interest of love and safety. We are still glorifying God, growing disciples, and meeting the needs of our neighbors – all be it differently. Are we open to the unexpected, as God forms and prepares us?

Let’s continue to be in prayer. Stay connected with each other and your neighbors. Choose love, kindness, compassion. Advocate for peace and justice.

In Christ’s Love,
Pastor Ken

Ken@FaithUnited-pc.com

Words of Faith

Faith United Presbyterian Church and Iglesia Presbiteriana Emmanuel Join us for Camp-In-A-Box VBS 2020!

Camp-in-a-Box brings the fun of a camp or VBS program to your doorstep! The box is designed with the elementary camper in mind, grades K-6th. Each box provides 5 days' worth of activities that are screen-free, encourage outdoor activity, and minimize demands on parents or grandparents.

The theme for this box is: **Deep Roots, New Leaves**. In their weeklong experience, campers will discover that God is always doing a new thing. While God offers stability and safety, like a tree's deep roots, God is also working for good in each new moment, like a tree sprouting new leaves.

Campers will look at God's creation of the world, how God shapes us like clay, how we can have new life as we are renewed, how God is still doing new things today, and how we are invited into God's continuing creation.



What's in the Box?

- ◆ Each Camp-In-A-Box comes with 5 day bags.
- ◆ Each day will have a Guide, with a scripture, questions, a prayer, and a checklist of camp activities for the camper to complete throughout the day.
- ◆ Two of these activities will have additional instructions on Cards - the One Square Yard (where they will visit the same spot outdoors each day) and the Weeklong Project Card (a painting project they'll add to each day).
- ◆ In addition, each day will have an Optional Family Challenge Card, with theme related activities for the whole family, Table Talk questions for a meal-time discussion, and a Family Prayer.
- ◆ The box will include a focus object for each day, as well as supplies needed to complete the daily activities (for example, the painting canvas).

How Much does it cost? Boxes are available for a donation you feel comfortable contributing.

How Do I get a box? Please visit the 2020 VBS website at <https://www.myvbs.org/CampBox2020/> to register a child or family for a Camp-In-A-Box. Boxes will be available in **English, Spanish or both languages**.

Boxes will be available for curbside pick-up on **July 18th**! The VBS Program will kick-off with an Online Welcome Meeting and conclude the week with an Online Closing Meeting showcasing the wonderful art, activities and smiles. Below are the details:

When 7/20/20 – 7/24/20 Anytime

Where Curbside Pick-up at 12717 Marsh Ln, Farmers Branch, TX 75234

Contact Jessica Stottlemyer, VBS Director, 214-534-8232, jess.stottlemyer@gmail.com

How Can I help with VBS? Boxes will arrive assembled. However, prayers and donations to subsidize the cost of the boxes for neighboring children is requested. The Camp-in-a-box program is endorsed and supported by: Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center, Gilmont Camp and Conference Center, Camp Hopewell, The Presbytery of Arkansas, Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery, Grace Presbytery and The Presbytery of the Pines.

Happy Birthday!

June 1

* Annali Reyes

June 2

* Dalia Menendez

June 5

* Ralph Moser

* Samuel Sparks

June 11

* Mozelle Mills

June 12

* Kathleen Ferguson

June 14

* Ade Reyes

June 18

* Logan Burkham

June 19

* Rich Lewis

June 21

* Susie Wing

* Claire Stottlemeyer

June 22

* Dave Sloey

June 23

* Mary Silva



June 27

* Alex Shepard

June 29

* Freddy Simmons

* Patti Sloey

Next newsletter is July 2020. Deadline for articles, Friday, June 19.

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



Rehab/At Home:

- ♥ Margaret Jones
- ♥ Wanda Mosher
- ♥ Freddie Simmons

Prayers for:

- ♥ Grethel Creech
- ♥ Dale Durcholz
- ♥ Kathie Heffler
- ♥ Roger Jones
- ♥ Sugie Maxfield
- ♥ Betty Runkel
- ♥ Barbara Stein
- ♥ Dennis Van Deventer

Weekly Bible Study class

Rich Lewis

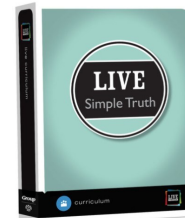
Our adult Sunday School class, **Weekly Bible Study**, is currently being taught by video. Links to these videos are included in the weekly News Brief.

The Adult Sunday School class is meeting through recorded videos which are available on the church's Facebook page and on YouTube. Facebook users may click on "Videos" on the church's home page. YouTube users may search for "Faith United Presbyterian Church" and add it as a subscription. The group is now studying the prophets. June and July's lessons will include Ezekiel, Joel, Obadiah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi, Daniel and Jonah. Expect updates and links to be on the website: www.FaithUnited-pc.com or the Faith United YouTube channel.



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





Trinity Sunday & Sundays after Pentecost FUPC *Worshipping online*

Sunday, 6/7 **Adult Sunday school class** at 9:30 a.m.
Trinity Sunday, Communion Worship at 11 a.m.

Sunday, 6/14 **Adult Sunday school class** at 9:30 a.m.; **2nd Sunday after Pentecost**,
Worship at 11 a.m.; Stated Session meeting, via Zoom at 1 p.m.

Sunday, 6/21 **Adult Sunday school class** at 9:30 a.m.; **3rd Sunday after Pentecost**, Worship at 11 a.m.

Sunday, 6/28 **Adult Sunday school class** at 9:30 a.m.; **4th Sunday after Pentecost**, 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

Online Worship Continues

You will find Worship Guides and resources on our website:

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.



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Faith United Presbyterian Church

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