



Faith United
Presbyterian
Church
in Farmers Branch

Words of Faith

July 2020

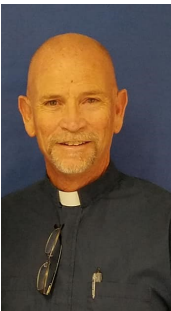
Volume X, Issue 7

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

From the Pastor

Rev. Dr. Ken Ritchie

“Every day we can celebrate our true freedom in Christ!”



There is great awkwardness to the celebration of freedom during COVID-19 and the intense racial protests and discussions. Often, we can put aside differences and

challenges for a few days of fireworks, parades, celebrations, picnics, and outdoor fun as we mark Independence Day. This year is different. Most parades are cancelled; public celebrations scaled back significantly. What does it mean to celebrate justice, liberty and the pursuit of happiness in days when so many voices long ignored or dismissed are expressing the pain of generations of injustice? How do we celebrate freedom when a pandemic greatly limits how we live in these days of uncertainty, anxiety, and fear?

Some years ago, William H. Willimon, a retired Methodist pastor, questioned the quality of freedom in our land. He predicted that “our age shall be known, not as the age of freedom, but

as the age of anxiety. We are anxious about many things: having enough money, having good enough health, being secure and safe.” These words still speak ominously. Have we accepted a yoke of fear, with its burden of anxiety?

Jesus used the imagery of a yoke to teach about the kingdom of God. Yokes are big, bulky, and heavy. A yoke is a familiar symbol of burden bearing, oppression and subjugation. Yokes were laid upon necks and shoulders of oxen. This allowed those beasts of burden to be better controlled for maximum efficiency to accomplish difficult tasks at hand.

Jesus offered rest to a weary people struggling under great burdens. Then he offered his yoke – a yoke he described as easy with a burden that is light. Jesus still makes this offer to us in these days of COVID-19 and racial unrest, and all of the other burdens we carry. The implication is clear, true freedom is found in the yoke of Christ – free from the burdens of fear and anxiety, free for a

life of loving God and loving others, free to glorify God, grow disciples, and meet the needs of our neighbors.

We can look forward to celebrating Independence Day in grand patriotic style next year. Every day we can celebrate our true freedom in Christ!

In this freedom, choose love and kindness, compassion and care. Seek to make peace and pursue justice. Stay connected to each other and your neighbors.

Unfortunately, the recent spikes in COVID-19 in our area make it unwise to return to in-person worship. If you haven’t watched the service online since we upgraded the video equipment you will be greatly surprised and pleased. I know the quality of the sound was not good before – but now, it is great! I urge you to give it another try this weekend.

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!

July 1

- * Amanda Norman
- * Cameron Rodriguez

July 5

- * Gerry Shotswell

July 6

- * Alison Meier

July 7

- * Andrew West

July 10

- * George Walker

July 15

- * Mark Saiter

July 17

- * Samantha Burkham
- * Dale Durcholtz
- * Irene Simpson

July 25

- * Nancy Bond
- * Doris Newton

July 26

- * Barbara Stein

July 28

- * Robin Laclede

July 29

- * Ken Ritchie



Next newsletter is August 2020.

Deadline for articles, Friday, July 24.

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



Rehab/At Home:

- ♥ Margaret Jones
- ♥ Wanda Mosher
- ♥ Marilyn Rose
- ♥ Jeanne Sawyer
- ♥ 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 continues to meet through recorded videos which are available on the church's Facebook page and on YouTube. The group will complete its study of the prophets. In July the lessons will cover the books of Malachi, Daniel and Jonah.

Expect updates and links to be on the website: www.FaithUnited-pc.com or the Faith United YouTube channel.



SUNDAY SCHOOL
Make the Connection

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





Summer @ Faith United FUPC Worshiping online

Sunday, 7/5 **Adult Sunday school class** at 9:30 a.m.
5th Sunday after Pentecost, Communion Worship at 11 a.m.

Sunday, 7/12 **Adult Sunday school class** at 9:30 a.m.; **6th Sunday after Pentecost**,
Worship at 11 a.m.; Stated Session meeting, via Zoom at 1 p.m.

Sunday, 7/19 **Adult Sunday school class** at 9:30 a.m.; **7th Sunday after Pentecost**, Worship at 11 a.m.

Sunday, 7/26 **Adult Sunday school class** at 9:30 a.m.; **8th 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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