



Faith United
Presbyterian
Church
in Farmers Branch

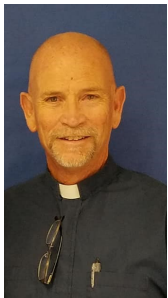
Words of Faith

August 2021

Volume XI, Issue 8

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

From the Pastor



We would like to think we have gone back to normal life; we didn't like wearing masks or staying socially distant. We grieve those absent from in-person worship. Those vaccinated have expected that we can move beyond the menacing danger of COVID. And then, to the ruin of our coming-out party comes the Delta variant. The CDC is now recommending all persons, unvaccinated and vaccinated, wear masks indoors when in public spaces. In the words of the CDC, "The war has changed." Ugh. Here we go again!

Predictably, the red/blue divide in our country politicizes such change in guidance from the CDC. I grieve the lives lost and families broken by this self-serving politicizing. What science is teaching us is that the Delta variant is reported to be transmissible by fully vaccinated persons who may not have any symptoms but are infected. The reports include the fact that infected persons can carry up to 1000 times more of the Delta variant that was true for prior variants of COVID. Because the Delta variant is now the dominant strain of COVID vaccinated persons can inadvertently spread the virus. This is a reality not subject to the politics of red and blue. COVID doesn't care about personal or political opinions.

Science is about observing and learning from experience and verifiable data. Therefore, the CDC has changed its guidance from time to time. We should expect that. They respond to what is learned and observed in real time, that now includes many different variants. This doesn't erode trust in the CDC for me, it builds trust.

Yet, with this new guidance, I find myself dealing with anger, disillusionment, frustration, fatigue, grief. I am done with COVID! However, COVID is not done with us, and no matter my or anyone else's declaration of

Rev. Dr. Ken Ritchie

moving beyond COVID is going to change that sobering fact. I think it is important to be cognizant of the emotions we are experiencing so that we can process them in a healthy manner. As we have witnessed this week, it is okay to admit you are not okay.

Paul called for us to have the same mind as Christ Jesus and look not to our own interests. but to the interest of others. (Philippians 2:4). We are to bear with one another in love, humility, gentleness, and patience. We are not to be a stumbling block to others. The safety of others is one essential way we look to the interest of others.

What empowers us in this endeavor is the Bread of Life, Jesus himself. As we look to Jesus and his grace and love we receive the sustenance to persevere in faithfulness and move beyond our loss and grief, our prideful insistence on our rights and move forward in faith and trust, humility and patience, compassion and hope, love and kindness – gifts given to us in the Spirit.

I look forward to seeing you Sundays, virtually through the church's Facebook page (Live) or on the church's YouTube channel (posted later in the day), or in-person (bring your mask). We will celebrate communion on August 1, as we contemplate what it means to come to the Bread of Life, especially when we need to admit we are not okay. If you will be worshipping virtually, I encourage you to prepare the elements of bread and juice/wine before the service.

Let's continue to choose love and compassion, do justice and make peace, include and welcome all, and persevere in prayer as we glorify God, grow disciples, and meet the needs of our neighbors.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Ken

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Words of Faith

Outreach & Evangelism

Debbie Rainier

LET’S ROLL Toilet Paper Challenge—Metrocrest Services is attempting to collect 100,000 rolls of toilet paper by August 26. In 2020 Metrocrest provided 25,638 of our neighbors with food and hygiene supplies (including toilet paper). Every year toilet paper is one of the most expensive items for the pantry to purchase. 100,000 rolls of toilet paper will equal one year of toilet paper for the pantry. The funds they save will be able to be used for other pressing needs in our neighborhood! Let’s do our part! You can bring toilet paper to the church by Sunday, August 22. We will deliver it to Metrocrest. Let’s roll!



Chapel Hill School Supply Drive—We will continue to accept school supply donations until August 8. A list of needed supplies is available in the Narthex or on the collection table near the Church Office.

Weekly Bible Study class

Rich Lewis

The class is currently led by Rich Lewis. They continue their study of the Gospel of Luke and have returned to their classroom. Since there is limited fellowship opportunities before worship they currently meet from 9:45 until 10:45. The class will not meet on August 1. They will meet again on August 8. Rich looks forward to seeing you then.



Happy Birthday!

August 2

- * Terry Stottlemeyer

August 3

- * Tom Duell

August 6

- * Terrie Russell

August 7

- * Judy Saunders

August 10

- * Tom Meurer

* Chris Walker

August 11

- * Renee Wensley

August 12

- * Alan Swope

August 18

- * Kathryn Heffler

August 19

- * Betty Russ

August 21

- * Jennifer Tiemann

August 27

- * Gail Crumpler



August 29

- * Jeanne Haben

August 30

- * Nancy Smith



Homebound or Recovering:

- ♥ Linda Fehmel (Frank's niece)
- ♥ Charley Rae Furrh (Terri Russell's cousin)
- ♥ Freddie Simmons

Prayers for:


- ♥ David Duell
- ♥ Dale Durcholz
- ♥ Kathie Heffler
- ♥ Roger Jones
- ♥ Mike Jones
- ♥ George & Mozelle Mills
- ♥ Barbara Stein
- ♥ Dennis Van Deventer

Next newsletter is September 2021. Deadline for articles, Friday, August 20. Contact church office or Brenda Swindle via email to submit articles.



Worship services are available In-Person, via Facebook Live, or on our YouTube channel. Worship resources available at www.FaithUnited-pc.com



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			28 9:30 LTCDS #1	29	30 9:00 LTCDS Fellowship Hall #1	31 9:00 GA Double Rm #4 11:00 OA-Fellowship #1
1 11:00 Communion Worship 11:00 Iglesia-Fellowship Hall	2 7 pm GA-Room #2	3 7:30 OA-Fellowship #1	4 9:30 LTCDS #1	5	6 9:00 LTCDS Fellowship Hall #1	7 9:00 GA Double Rm #4 11:00 OA-Fellowship #1
8 9:45 Adult Sunday School 11:00 FUPC Worship 11:00 Iglesia-Fellowship Hall 12:30 Session	9 7 pm GA-Room #2	10 7:30 OA-Fellowship #1	11 9:30 LTCDS #1	12	13 9:00 LTCDS Fellowship Hall #1	14 9:00 GA-Double Rm #4 11:00 OA-Fellowship #1
15 9:45 Adult Sunday School 11:00 FUPC Worship 11:00 Iglesia-Fellowship Hall	16 7 pm GA-Room #2	17 7:30 OA-Fellowship #1	18 9:30 LTCDS #1	19	20 9:00 LTCDS Fellowship Hall #1	21 9:00 GA Double Rm #4 11:00 OA-Fellowship #1
22 9:45 Adult Sunday School 11:00 FUPC Worship 11:00 Iglesia-Fellowship Hall	23 7 pm GA-Room #2	24 7:30 OA-Fellowship #1	25 9:30 LTCDS #1	26	27 9:00 LTCDS Fellowship Hall #1	28 9:00 GA Double Rm #4 11:00 OA-Fellowship #1
29 9:45 Adult Sunday School 11:00 FUPC Worship 11:00 Iglesia-Fellowship Hall	30 7 pm GA-Room #2	31 7:30 OA-Fellowship #1	1 9:30 LTCDS #1	2	3 9:00 LTCDS Fellowship Hall #1	4 9:00 GA Double Rm #4 11:00 OA-Fellowship #1

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