



# Words of Faith

Faith United Presbyterian Church

Volume VII, Issue 11

## From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends of FUPC,



Judith Viorst wrote a very popular children's book a few years ago entitled,

"Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day." In her book, she narrates a story about a five-year-old boy who experiences a day filled with the misfortunes that most boys and girls experience in their lives.

The young boy, Alexander, begins his day waking up with gum in his hair and ends his day having to eat lima beans for dinner and going to bed in ugly pajamas.

Though none of these misfortunes are life threatening, when added up together, the totality of misfortunes constitutes a terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day that no child would want to experience. Though this is a children's story, I think most of us can identify with this kind of a day. We wake up in the morning only to realize that we forgot to set the alarm clock the night before and we're running forty-five minutes late. We spill coffee on our new tie, or our new blouse, and realize that the cell phone we had intended to place on the charger the night before had been left unconnected. Then,

when you get to your car, you realize that the tire your wife had said looked low and needed to be checked was now flatter than a pancake. Now, you not only have to change the tire, you must admit to yourself that your wife knows more about car maintenance than you do. And not only that, but you have to face the certain indignity of the inevitable "I told you so."

Eventually you get to work only to discover that it's casual Friday and you're the only employee dressed in a suit. Like Alexander, none of these single circumstances would ever be thought of as disastrously traumatic, but again, when you add them all up, you have to wonder if the stars hadn't quite aligned themselves correctly or unknowingly a black cat crosses your path. When you experience a terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day, it hardly puts you in the mood to give thanks. And yet Paul instructs the Thessalonians that they are to, "give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (1 Thess. 5:17). If this had been anyone else but Paul, we could possibly justify ourselves by saying, "Yeah,

## Rev. Dr. Jim Johns

but I bet he never had a terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day like I had last week." But we know better. Paul's bad day makes my bad day look like a walk in the park. He was subjected to persecution, beatings, incarcerations, ship wrecks and starvation; all for the sake of sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ.

I guess that's why I like Thanksgiving Day so much. I know I'm supposed to give thanks constantly and "in all circumstances," but when you specifically set aside a day to give thanks, surrounded by family, friends, and good food, it makes giving thanks to God a natural response to our many blessings. When you think about it, even on our worst day, we have so much to be thankful for. But I have to admit; it sure makes it easier to give thanks when you're looking at a great big old 14-pound turkey with mashed potatoes, gravy, dressing, grandma's green bean casserole, and a big old slice of pumpkin pie. Have a great Thanksgiving and a blessed November.

Joy in Christ, *Pastor Jim*  
James@FaithUnited-pc.com

### Inside this issue

- From the Pastor's desk
- Presbyterian Women
- FUPC in the community
- ...and more!

### Next newsletter is

**January 2018.**

**Deadline for articles, Friday, 12/15/17.**

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

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## Presbyterian Women

FUPC Presbyterian Women Bible studies/ Circles have begun. 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 am. Next meeting, 11/14. Circle moderator, Linnie Hinkle.



## Mary Marxer

**Thursday Morning Circle**-2nd Thursday, *NEW TIME*, 10 am at the church, Next meeting, 11/9. Co-Moderators, Patsy Craig and Sharon Meurer.

**Tuesday Evening Circle**-3rd Tuesday, 7:00 pm in members homes. Next meeting, 11/21, Circle moderator, Irene Simpson.

The Starboard Stitchers will next meet on Tuesday, November 7 at 1:00 pm at the church. All are invited to come help them stuff fabric animals. These animals go to toddlers when they get their shots at the North Dallas Shared Ministries clinic.

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## Adult Sunday School

The **Searchers** class meets in the Resource Room/Library at 9:30 each Sunday morning. Katie Miller is leading the class.

The **Weekly Bible Study**, taught by Rich Lewis. They are studying the Gospel of Matthew. This study will continue through Advent and into January. They meet at 9:30 on Sunday mornings in Double Classroom #4.



## Outreach & Evangelism

### Pancake Breakfast

Our next Community Breakfast is Saturday, November 11, 8 to 10 a.m. Join us as we share food and fellowship with our neighbors and each other.



## Deck the Halls—Work Day

Building & Grounds and Worship & Music will have a special Work Day Saturday, 12/2, from 9 am until noon. We will decorate the church for Christmas. All are invited to come and enjoy the fellowship and spirit of the season.



### Happy Birthday!

**November 1**

\* Cheryl Sparks

**November 4**

\* Kay McLellan

**November 7**

\* Clark Penfold

**November 9**

\* Margaret Jones

**November 10**

\* Pepper Durholz

**November 16**

\* Terry Johns

**November 18**

\* Gerry Nichols

**November 20**

\* Sharon Meurer

**November 21**

\* Jewell Haworth

**November 23**

\* Betty Laney

\* Wade Yost

**November 24**

\* Teresa Nelson

**November 30**

\* David Pierce



### Prayer Concerns

**Prayers for:**

- ♥ Dale Durholz
- ♥ Elizabeth Hendricks
- ♥ Roger Jones
- ♥ Ray Kirchmeyer (David's brother)
- ♥ Lilas Kinch
- ♥ Betty Klein family
- ♥ Sugie Maxfield
- ♥ Sherrard Family
- ♥ Glen Sparks
- ♥ Alan Swope

**Rehab/At Home:**

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

### Notes & News from the Pews



Dear Faith United family,

I want to thank the members of Faith United for the thoughts and prayers for my Mom, Betty Van. It was so nice to read all the cards and letters to express concern and sympathy for the Van family. Thank you so much!

*Margaret Lusby*



### Poinsettias 2017

It is time to place your order for poinsettias. We will take orders Sundays 11/19 & 11/26. You may place this form in the offering trays, box in Narthex, or return to the church office by Monday, November 27, 2017. Please note **"for poinsettias"** in the memo section if paying by check.

I (we) wish to order \_\_\_\_\_ poinsettias at \$10.00 each. Please check one: \_\_\_\_\_  
Quantity Payment included Wish to pay later

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

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

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>31</b> 7:00 GA-Rm #2 7:00 OA-Fellowship #1  <b>TRUNK or TREAT!</b> <b>5 to 7 p.m.</b>	<b>1</b> 6:00 PNC #4  7 pm FUPC Choir	<b>2</b> 6:30 ABA-Room #4 7:00 GA-Room #1	<b>3</b> 9:00 LTCDS #1	<b>4</b> 11:00 GA-Double Rm #4 11:00 OA-Fellowship #1
<b>5</b> 9:00 FUPC Prayer Time 9:30 FUPC Sunday School 10:30 Coffee/Fellowship 11:00 Communion Worship 11:00 Good Shepherd & Following Jesus 12:30 Town Hall Lunch	<b>6</b> 7:30 GA-Room #2	<b>7</b> 1:00 Starboard Stitchers 7:00 GA-Rm #2 7:00 OA-Fellowship #1	<b>8</b> 6:00 PNC #4  7 pm FUPC Choir	<b>9</b> 10:00 PW Circle #2 6:30 ABA-Room #4 7:00 GA-Room #1	<b>10</b> 9:00 LTCDS #1	<b>11</b> 8:00 FUPC Breakfast #1 11:00 GA-Double Rm #4 11:00 OA-Fellowship #1
<b>12</b> 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	<b>13</b> 7:30 GA-Room #2	<b>14</b> 10:30 PW Circle #4 7:00 GA-Rm #2 7:00 OA-Fellowship #1	<b>15</b> 6:00 PNC #4  7 pm FUPC Choir	<b>16</b> 6:30 ABA-Room #4 7:00 GA-Room #1	<b>17</b> 9:00 LTCDS #1	<b>18</b> 11:00 GA-Double Rm #4 11:00 OA-Fellowship #1
<b>19</b> 9:00 FUPC Prayer Time 9:30 FUPC Sunday School 10:30 Coffee/Fellowship 11:00 Worship 11:00 Good Shepherd & Following Jesus	<b>20</b> 7:30 GA-Room #2	<b>21</b> 7:00 GA-Rm #2 7:00 OA-Fellowship #1 7:00 PW Circle	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 6:30 ABA-Room #4 7:00 GA-Room #1	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 11:00 GA-Double Rm #4 11:00 OA-Fellowship #1


**Church Offices Closed**  
**Happy Thanksgiving!**



Affix proper postage

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**On the Web!**  
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