



RIDGLEA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

5000 Southwest Boulevard, Fort Worth, Texas 76116 ❖ (817) 732-3388

www.RIDGLEAPRES.org

May, 2023

Join Zoom Meeting (US and Canada)
Topic: Ridglea Worship for May, 2023
Time: 10:30 AM Central Time (US and Canada)
Every week on Sun, until May 28, 2023,
4 occurrence(s)

May 7, 2023	10:30 A.M.
May 14, 2023	10:30 A.M.
May 21, 2023	10:30 A.M.
May 28, 2023	10:30 A.M.

Join Zoom Meeting
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89768955680?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89768955680?pwd=cWdnc2Z3Tk1lVDBiMWo0Um5HT0U4dz09)
[pwd=cWdnc2Z3Tk1lVDBiMWo0Um5HT0U4dz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89768955680?pwd=cWdnc2Z3Tk1lVDBiMWo0Um5HT0U4dz09)

Meeting ID: 897 6895 5680
Passcode: 366961



**We will celebrate the
sacrament of Communion on
Sunday, May 7, 2023**

May 14, 2023



ECLECTIC CAFÉ SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

The Eclectic Café Sunday School
Zoom code is 661 636 9082.
No password required; Attendees will be
admitted from the waiting room.

Lesson: The EC is doing a series on Christian Nationalism. Discussions of our Founding Fathers' Christian beliefs and subsequent separation of church and state, featuring some questionnaires regarding modern thoughts on Christian Nationalism, definitions and components, and some history of this concept. We'll end with a recent opinion from PC(USA).



**THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE
CLOSED ON MONDAY, MAY 29TH
IN OBSERVANCE OF MEMORIAL DAY**

**PENTECOST SPECIAL OFFERING
WILL BE COLLECTED ON
MAY 28, 2023**



**SESSION MEETING
WILL BE HELD ON
MAY 18, 2023 At 7:00 P.M.**

**MAY NEWSLETTERS
ARE AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE**



PASTOR'S NOTES

Sometimes Difficult

A couple of weeks ago I was talking to a colleague and somehow we got on the topic of doctoral programs and their efficacy for the types of congregational ministries that we have both practiced for over thirty years. My colleague earned a doctoral degree about a decade ago, and while chatting I asked what their thesis project had been about: preaching the difficult texts of Scripture. Now, that opened up some interesting conversation! There are more than a dozen such difficult, awkward, confusing, or embarrassing passages, but since they rarely come up in the 3-year lectionary cycle, most congregations don't hear about them, except in Bible studies.

My colleague and I didn't have time to chat about the recent hub-bub around ordination examinations, but the controversy is about this very topic. Back in February the exegesis exam (one of five required to pass for ordination in the Presbyterian Church USA) was centered on one of the difficult passages, and folks got stirred up quite a bit. There was no attempt at providing a "trigger warning" that the exegesis exam (critical analysis and exposition of a passage) would be focused on one of these difficult passages, mainly because these exams are taken simultaneously, and likewise read ("graded") simultaneously across the nation (so trigger warnings might provide an advantage to some). Many of the objections to utilizing this passage for this exam focused on the violence of the passage, and many others objected that there were no alternatives available if the test takers, or the test readers/graders, were offended, shocked, or disturbed.

There have been many important and differing views on the processes and practices of this particular exam, as well as the efficacy and validity of the exams for ordination. Many a seasoned pastor (like me) has opined on the good, bad, and irrelevant aspects of a make-or-break exam, and some of the reflections and reactions have been impactful with the Cooperative Committee on Examinations. But a couple of things have often been overlooked or forgotten in all of this commotion. One of the overlooked issues was the premise contained in the exam itself, which posited that the exam-taker was already a pastor, and was leading a series of Bible studies on a college campus, exploring unsettling passages in the Scriptures, and that the last study is the exam's focus: Judges 19:1-30, often called "the Levite's Concubine." The difficulty of the passage is part of the process (the ordination exam) for talking about the difficulty of the passage. Another oft-overlooked issue is that these are not make-or-break exams. If any of the five ordination exams (theology, worship, polity, exegesis, and Bible content) are unsuccessful, they can be attempted later. Few candidates pass all five exams on their first attempt; I will confess that I didn't pass the exegesis exam until my third attempt, nearly six months after graduating from seminary (which is why my ordination was in December of 1987 instead of July or August).

Quite a bit of pastoral ministry can be called routine, ordinary, mundane, repetitious, scheduled, and all of that is true – until there is a curveball, or an emergency, or a crisis, or a disaster. Things like tornadoes or frozen pipes; things like mass shootings or a church member being abused; things like embezzlement or adultery; things that no one imagines until they land in our sanctuary, in our neighborhood, in our homes. In those times, the difficulties of ministry can be tempered and undertaken within a community that understands that the people, problems, and difficulties we encounter within Scripture are not trapped in the amber of history. The issues that arise in Judges 19 point to a society that was under threat on many levels – just like now. Some leaders (governors, school boards, even pastors) would recommend ignoring such difficult passages and topics because they are difficult (or offensive), but doing that only makes everyone ignorant and, even worse, vulnerable. Sometimes "difficult" happens, and God's people are strong enough, are capable, and are resilient, together, particularly as we confess our failures and strive to live justly, live mercifully, live gracefully, and live humbly with each other and with God.

Peace,

Welcome New Member Gleda Griffin



Joyfully, we welcome Gleda Griffin to RPC. Gleda grew up in Arlington, Texas, where she graduated from Sam Houston High School and UTA. Growing up she attended Hillcrest Church of Christ.

She was married to her high school sweetheart, Henry, for forty-nine years, until his death. She has a son, Brian, daughter-in-law, Allison, and darling granddaughter, Reagan.

Gleda is a CPA and her career spanned forty-one years as CFO of Wet and Wild, then the Fort Worth Club, from which she retired.

She enjoys her daily walks along the Trinity River, reading, movies, and is teaching herself how to play the piano.

Welcome New Member Sue Guthrie



Welcome Sue Guthrie! Prior to joining RPC, she was a member of Handley United Methodist Church where her late husband James "Gus" Guthrie had been a pastor for 10 years.

Sue was married to Gus for 46 years before he passed away due to Covid. She has 4 children and 13 grandchildren. While raising her family, she was a Home Economics teacher. She went back to school and became a Principle, eventually became an Assistant Superintendent for Fort Worth ISD.

In her spare time Sue loves to read, but her love is quilting. She has made many over the years and loves making quilts for others and giving them away.

Sue has wasted no time getting involved in RPC.

WOMEN'S RETREAT 2023

JOY & LAUGHTER



That is the best way to describe the Women's Retreat that took place on March 24 & 25 on Lake Granbury attend by 42 women. It opened on a beautiful Friday afternoon with Shopping, Dinner & a wonderful performance of "Hello Dolly" by talented actors & actresses at the Granbury Opera House.

Saturday was a full day led by our keynote speaker Rev. Jennifer Hayes focusing on our Theme "Giving Witness, A Time for .." Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. She led us in the most amazing way reading from children's books with breakout discussion groups in the morning and afternoon with thought provoking questions. Robyn Reid & Mandy Hand lent their talents singing beautiful songs tied to the scriptures in both sessions.

We had a relaxing art project with Zentangle taught by Laura Dyson using our talents to create squares of designs with pens & pencils.

The venue offered a huge deck with beautiful views of Lake Granbury, and the combination of the gorgeous weather brought some outside for lunch and as well some breakout groups. We wrapped up the Retreat Saturday afternoon with Worship & Communion.

It was fun filled Retreat with unbelievable fellowship and bonding that led to much laughter and joy. Thanks to Rev. Jennifer Hayes, we left much wiser and stronger with our walk with Christ. Thanks to all that were on the Planning Committee and especially all that attended. 2024 Women's Retreat cannot come soon enough.

Katrina Little, Retreat Planning Committee Chair



PWR UPCOMING EVENTS

May General Meeting
May 23rd 10:30am Closing Luncheon
Potluck
Bunko with Lynne Payne



On the first and second Sunday of each month, beautiful note cards will be available for RPC members to send to our "at home" members. Following worship service, these cards will be in white baskets in the Narthex on a first come basis.



The Jam Sessions for May will be on Monday, the 8th and 22nd in the Sanctuary from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Lots of bluegrass, folk, Americana and country music is shared with acoustic (unamplified) instruments. Musicians of all skills are encouraged!



COME JOIN US!
May 6, 2023
Dinner With Friends

Gather in groups of 6 to 8 or more to enjoy a meal and fellowship at the host's home or a local restaurant. The Fellowship Committee will coordinate registration and organizing the Friends Groups. Groups will differ from month to month.

There has been interest in meeting for lunch instead of dinner. You may now indicate if you would like to participate in a lunchtime option. If there are enough people to make a lunch Friends Group, we will coordinate one.

If you agree to host in your home, you decide what entree you would like to serve and ask the assigned members of your Friends Group to bring side dishes to complement the meal.

If you agree to host in a restaurant, simply make a reservation at the restaurant of your choice. Then notify the members of your assigned Friends Group of the restaurant and reservation time. Dinner in a restaurant will be dutch treat.

Please remember, if you attended or hosted, send pictures to the church office for the Newsletter.



Many of us know the blessings of having fellow church members pray for us and others. Prayer Request items are distributed to a list maintained by PWR. Anyone who would like to be added to this distribution list should call the Church office. Anyone who has a prayer request can send the information to Ruth Ann Rinewalt r.rinewalt@att.net.



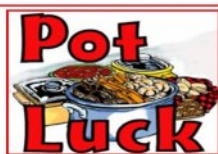
WESTERN HILLS HIGH SCHOOL COUGAR PRIDE ALLIANCE

Many thanks for your "Just Bring It" donations to the Cougar Pride Alliance. We are so grateful for the 1,236 granola bars, 798 Rice Krispie treats, and 1,234 packets of fruit snacks. We appreciate your continued support these last 6 years.

Patty Pressley
 Executive Director
 Cougar Pride Alliance



THE 2023 FLOWER CALENDAR IS POSTED IN THE NARTHEX FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO WOULD LIKE TO PROVIDE FLOWERS FOR THE SANCTUARY SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES IN RECOGNITION OF SPECIAL DATES, OCCASIONS OR LOVED ONES YOU WOULD LIKE TO CELEBRATE IN THE UPCOMING YEAR.



May Fellowship Lunch
May 21, 2023
(Immediately following our Worship Service)
It's Potluck in May!!

The Fellowship Committee will provide baked ham and beverages. Church members are invited to bring a side, salad, bread, or dessert to share.

As you plan what to bring, please remember that our church kitchen has one microwave and one regular residential oven/range. We are happy to accommodate heating or reheating as we can but space will be limited. It is best to bring something to serve cold or perhaps plan to bring something warm in a crock pot.

You can register on Realm or contact a member of the Fellowship Committee.



EASTER SUNDAY



PWR APRIL GENERAL MEETING

We were very lucky to have Matt Zavadski, Chief Strategic Integration Officer from Medstar speak to our group. It was quite educational. Matt did an excellent job explaining the intricacy of Medstar and how they are a fully Mobile Integrated Healthcare Provider. It was amazing to hear how many cities they cover (15) and the number of calls they receive each day (av 425) and how many emergency vehicles they have in place every minute of the day. They operate a high-performance system with no tax subsidy by fusing high economic efficiency. Medstar and their team members work very diligently to prevent unnecessary trips to the ER if there are alternative choices for their customer. They play a very pivotal part communicating options to the patient. Matt shared with us an app on our cell phones that can help communicate our medical details with EMS if we are unable to communicate. Medstar is always watching ways to reduce costs for all their partners. They are recognized as one of the premier EMS agencies and we are very fortunate to have them as our EMS authority in Fort Worth. Thank you, Matt, and thank you Medstar!





UPCOMING FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES MARK YOUR CALENDARS

See details and register on Realm for these upcoming events:

Event:	Date:	Register By:	Info:
April Fellowship Lunch			NOTE: There is no Fellowship Lunch in April
May Dinner with Friends	Saturday, May 6th	Sunday, April 30th	Dinner or Lunch groups are available
May Fellowship Lunch	Sunday, May 21st	Wednesday, May 17th	It's Potluck in May!! The Fellowship Committee will provide baked ham and beverages. Church members are invited to bring a side, salad, bread, or dessert to share. As you plan what to bring, please remember that our church kitchen has one microwave and one regular residential oven/range. We are happy to accommodate heating or reheating as we can but space will be limited. It is best to bring something to serve cold or perhaps plan to bring something warm in a crock pot.

Mark your calendars for events coming soon:
(We'll let you know when registration opens on Realm)

Event:	Date:
June Dinner with Friends	Saturday, June 3rd
June Fellowship Lunch	Date TBD



RPC PALM SUNDAY APRIL 2, 2023





May, 2023

In its first one hundred years, the Birthday offering of Presbyterian Women has funded over 200 major mission projects. As we begin our next hundred years, we are starting with two projects for 2023.

1. Making Miracles Group Home in Tallahassee, Florida. In operation since 1910, it provides a one-year live-in program that supports young mothers helping them to develop skills to care for their children and live independently. Many are wishing to leave a past of abusive relationships, addiction, or incarceration. Monies will also help purchase a second group home for five families at risk of homelessness.

2. Berhane Yesus Elementary School (K-8) in Dembi Dollo, Ethiopia. It helps prepare children of migrant workers, subsistence farmers and displaced groups of people for a high school education and a "life of Christian service." Monies will help construct a much needed classroom for an overflowing kindergarten that have outgrown the chapel where they currently meet.

Thank you to all who have contributed already. It's not too late. Bring your offering to May Circle or give to Jean Godfrey or church office.

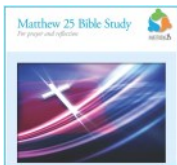
PW trivia: Do you know there is one recipient who has been granted a Birthday Offering more than three times? Coming in next month's Newsletter.

Circles meet in May

One	May 9	At church (Fish Classroom)	10:30 a.m.
Two	May 9	At church (Eclectic Café Classroom)	10:30 a.m.
Three	May 2	At church (Eclectic Café Classroom)	6:15 p.m.

Just Bring It: May, 2023. We will be helping Hope Farm with school supplies.

All Women, Always Welcomed
BIBLE STUDY - MISSION - FELLOWSHIP



Matthew 25 Book Club Spring 2023

Our book club is open to all. We ask you to join as we read and study books that may push us out of our comfort zone. Join us on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 6 pm with your own sack supper. The study will begin at 6:30 and go to about 8 pm.

Below is the list of the upcoming date, books, and leaders. You don't have to have read the book to attend.

April 25 WE ARE NOT LIKE THEM
by Christine Pride & Jo Piazz.
Becky Williamson is the Leader.

May 28 THE OTHER WES MOORE
by Wes Moore. Leader Chris Shahan.
We hope you will be able to join us.

The Matthew 25 Study Group

HOPE



FARM

Just Bring It for May - we will be supporting Hope Farms with specific school supply items. (pencils, pens, wide-ruled paper for 60 kids, notebooks to practice handwriting.



Wednesday mornings
8:00 a.m.

Sanctuary

The men's prayer breakfast has been a vital part of Ridglea's mission and ministry for decades. We enjoy a home-cooked breakfast (just \$4.00) and pray for people and events throughout the world.

SECOND SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH



The RPC Women are collecting quarters in the Narthex after service every second Sunday of the month to assist Westaid in providing laundry services and supplies to those in need.



We need ushers, communion servers, and liturgists for Sundays during the 2023 year of worship. Please volunteer to help with the Sunday morning worship service. Also, if you signed up for a particular Sunday and something comes up, please contact Durinda Walker at 817-229-9880 in order to fill those positions.

Sign up <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0d49a4ae2ea3f85-ushers1>

Marsha & Bob West and Kit Reeve Van Nostrand, enjoyed a great meal including this antipasto salad at Maria Shupe's lovely home.



DINNER WITH FRIENDS APRIL 2, 2023

Ken and Betsy Kibler, Durinda and Glen Walker hosted by Paul and Beth Duncan.



Pastor Roger and Brenda Harwerth, George Tischler, Mac and Zim Zimmerman and Sue Guthrie enjoyed Saturday evening hosted by John and Laura Campbell.

Welcome New Member Melissa Burkhead



Melissa had lived in different locations that have shaped her life. Melissa grew up in Mt. Washington, KY and continues to visit her family in the Bluegrass State.

After college, she moved to Mexico City to teach and experience the culture and heritage of Mexico. She then moved to Texas where she lived in El Paso, Austin, and finally ended up in Fort Worth. She is a teacher at Trinity Valley School for the last 15 years. She holds a BA in Mathematics and Political Science from Georgetown College and a MA in Education with Mathematics specialty from the University of Texas at El Paso.

Traveling, bicycling, and playing pickleball are her recreational activities. She gives care and love to her headstrong black and white cat named Erdos. Melissa is very excited to be part of RPC.

Welcome New Members Ron and Linda Launder



Ron grew up near Columbus, Ohio and graduated from the Ohio University. He retired in 2014 from a 30 year career as a financial advisor with Edward Jones. Linda is a fifth generation Texan and grew up on a ranch helping her dad with the cattle, resulting in a lifelong love of animals, particularly horses and dogs. She retired from a career as a Real Estate Broker several years ago.

Prior to the pandemic, they enjoyed traveling to many places, the favorites being Scotland, Ireland, Switzerland, Alaska, and the Caribbean. They now spend time entertaining and spoiling their Havanese dog, Joey. And Linda reading, particularly historical novels and biographies.

They have 4 children, two who live nearby in Aledo and Joshua and two who live in Virginia and Maryland. They are blessed with 4 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

Linda has said they both are so thankful to now be members of RPC. Ron has already found a place to serve, volunteering at WestAid each week.

**YOUR SESSION INVITES YOU TO
FOLLOW THESE SIMPLE STEPS:**

- 1. FIND YOUR PASSION**
- 2. FIND YOUR TEAM/COMMITTEE**
- 3. IDENTIFY YOUR MEETING NIGHT**
- 4. GET INVOLVED!**

2nd Sunday of the Month

NO MEETING IN MAY

May 14, 2023 11:45 a.m.

Board of Deacons: Focus on Members
Lynne Payne, Moderator

2nd Tuesday of the Month

May 9, 2023 6:15 p.m.

Christian Education: Focus on Learning and Growing
Susan Everts, Chair

1st Tuesday of the Month

May 2, 2023 7:00 p.m. & Zoom

Fellowship Team: Focus on Social Gatherings
Gayle Johnson, Chair

2nd Wednesday of the Month

May 10, 2023 5:30 p.m.

Commitment Team: Focus on Guests
Mary Fisher, Chair

1st Wednesday of the Month

May 3, 2023 5:30 p.m.

Worship Team:
Focus on Sunday & Special Services
Durinda Walker, Chair

2nd Wednesday of the Month

May 10, 2023 6:30 p.m.

Building & Equipment :
Focus on Physical Structures
George Tischler, Chair

1st Thursday of the Month

May 4, 2023 6:00 p.m.

Personnel: Focus on Staff Support
Nick Thoni, Chair

2nd Thursday

(week prior to Session Meeting)

6:00 p.m. - Zoom

Finance & Budget: Focus on Stewardship
Reeve Van Nostrand, Chair

2nd Tuesday of the Month

May 9, 2023 6:00 p.m.

Outreach Team: Focus on Mission
Marji Raunika, Chair

3rd Thursday of the Month

May 18, 2023

7:00 p.m.—RPC Sanctuary & Zoom

Session Meeting

Pastor Roger Harwerth, Moderator

Clerk of Session

Karen Landon



May, 2023 Birthdays

Johnny Haenes	5	3
Bill Long	5	3
Bobbie Damon	5	9
Luanne Morrison	5	9
Dick Rinewalt	5	10
Rosemary Everts	5	11
Katrina Little	5	13
George Tischler	5	16
Kevin Ballard	5	17
Ruth Ann Rinewalt	5	20
Susan Everts	5	23
Gayle Johnson	5	23
Jack Henderson	5	25
Jody Maas	5	27
Gerry Curtis	5	28
Cathy Johnson	5	28
Sharon (Sue) Guthrie	5	28
Frank Everts	5	31

The next
newsletter
deadline
will be
May 18, 2023
at noon.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

RIDGLEA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
5000 SOUTHWEST BOULEVARD
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76116