



RIDGLEA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

www.RIDGLEAPRES.org

December, 2023

Join Zoom Meeting (US and Canada)

Topic: Ridglea Worship Service

Time: 10:30 AM Central Time

Every week on Sun, until Jul 21, 2024

60 occurrence(s)

December 3 10:30 a.m.

December 10 10:30 a.m.

December 17 10:30 a.m.

December 24 10:30 a.m.

December 31 10:30 a.m.

Join [Zoom](#) Meeting

Meeting ID: 875 7535 3065

Passcode: 818178



**We will celebrate the
sacrament of
Communion Sunday
morning,
December 3, 2023**

MERRY CHRISTMAS



**We will be celebrating the sacrament
of communion during our
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
December 24, 2023, 5:30 p.m.**



Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/
j/88088212685?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88088212685?pwd=NC8rWCsyUEEwTjJEN3NhakUzMlArQT09)

[pwd=NC8rWCsyUEEwTjJEN3NhakUzMl
ArQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88088212685?pwd=NC8rWCsyUEEwTjJEN3NhakUzMlArQT09)

Meeting ID: 880 8821 2685

Passcode: 986977

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 studying the book by
Kathleen Norris entitled "Amazing Grace: A
Vocabulary of Faith". The class selected the words
they were most interested in discussing out of the 62
words the author has written.

Mission/Vision statement

Following our Savior's example,
Ridglea Presbyterian Church
strives to perform
acts of compassion
and inclusivity
in our daily lives
while seeking to grow
in spirit and hope.

**FIRST, SECOND, THIRD, &
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 3, 10, 17 AND 24, 2023**





PASTOR'S NOTES

Depth of Character

(adapted from an earlier article; RAH)

A while back, as I was bemoaning the fast-approaching sunset, seemingly just minutes after lunch, I was reading a commentary that pointed out the tension between lament and thanksgiving – both of which are expressed eloquently and often throughout Scripture and elsewhere. The author of the commentary was pondering why these two concepts are often treated separately, because (the commentator wrote) much of what brings lament might also be lifted in thanks, because understanding lament through the lens of thanksgiving frequently leads us to a deeper, fuller faith experience. Having moved through despair, in other words, often provides us with a better understanding of our relationship with God and with one another.

Hmmm.... there is perhaps more truth to such a concept (pairing lament and thanksgiving) than we might like to admit, let alone spend time considering. Many people would prefer to put troubles behind them, and don't put trials and tribulations in the categories of thanks that include health, families, happiness, or our hopes for tomorrow.

I have moved through plenty of difficult times in my life – and no, I'm not going to write about them, for many, many reasons. I would also guess that each person reading this newsletter has their own set of circumstances, their own dark hours of the soul that they would rather not have to re-hash or remember (especially for public consumption). I would also admit that rarely do I look back fondly on those difficulties and say to God "thanks for the opportunity to learn from such terrible experiences."

At around the same time I was reading the commentary about the tension between lament and thanksgiving I was also reading an article about the history and utilization of wooden barrels and the distillation of alcohol. The article included a story about a barrel warehouse, owned by the Buffalo Trace Distillery, that was hit by a tornado, exposing nearly 25,000 barrels to the elements for quite some time. When those barrels were opened (five years later), there was a realization that the bourbon inside was more flavorful than others of the same vintage which had not gone through such exposure. The company even went so far as to label and market the contents as "tornado-surviving" bourbon, to much profit and delight.

There is an easy analogy – the barrels that survived a tornado produced an unexpected depth and character, which is akin to those times when we survive heartache, disaster, and turmoil, developing unexpected depth and character. But there is also an important perspective on the seeming simplicity of wooden barrels: each stave forms both a longitudinal arch, bulging in the middle, and a latitudinal arch through their circumference. The effect of both bulge and arch mean that, if a barrel falls, the impact is shared by all of the staves. When standing upright a barrel can be tilted and rolled on edge, and when on its side only a tiny portion of the barrel touches the ground, meaning they are easily maneuverable and portable.

Have you ever thought of your faith like a barrel, interacting with the Holy Spirit through the length and circumference of experiences? Have you ever considered that even the travails of yesterday will have an impact on how we move through tomorrow? As we move out of November and into December; as we move out of Ordinary Time and into Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany, let's strive to be more mindful of the lessons of lament, as well as the thankfulness of our blessings.

Peace,

Making contact...

Ridglea Presbyterian Church is a member of the Presbyterian Church (USA). It is governed by the Session, an elected body composing of elders and pastors. Our committees, led by elders, oversee our ministries. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us. Email: Clerk@RidgleaPres.org. Our deacons oversee our ministries of care and compassion. Email: Deacons@RidgleaPres.org

RPC SESSION		
<u>Class of 2024</u>	<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>
Susan Everts	Mary Fisher	Beth Duncan
Jean Hadley	John Little	Shiryl Gillaspie
Marji Raunikar	Mick Stuart	George Tischler
Mary Beth Wagner	Durinda Walker	Reeve Van Nostrand
<i>Clerk of Session: Karen Landon</i>		

RPC TRUSTEES		
<u>Class of 2023</u>	<u>Class of 2024</u>	<u>Class of 2025</u>
Jim Godfrey	Tom Sisolak	

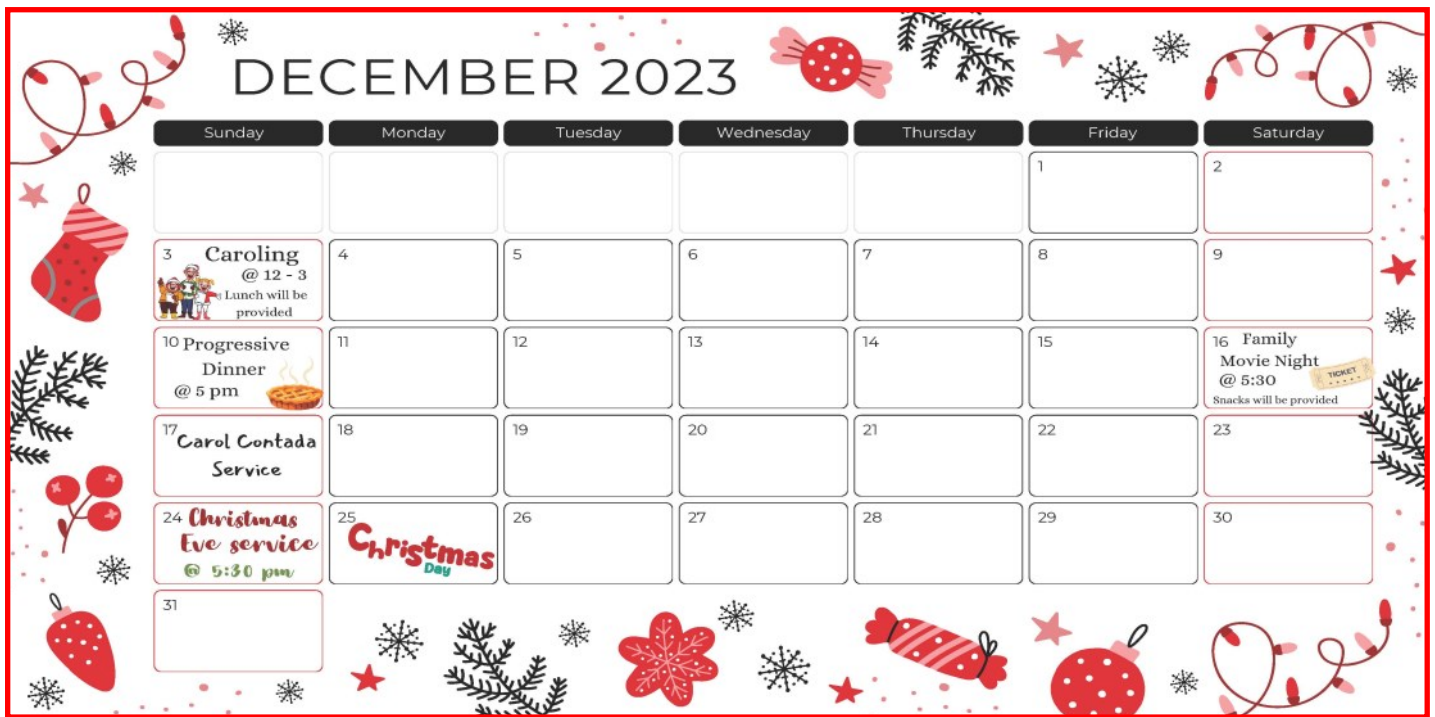
2022-2023 RPC DEACONS	
Lynne Payne - Moderator	
Kit Van Nostrand—Home Member Care Coordinator	
Ruth Ann Rinewalt—Hospital Care Coordinator	
Dean Phillips – Hospital Care Coordinator	
Jean Godfrey – Funeral Reception Coordinator	
Jo VanOosterhout	
Glenna Cleworth	

RPC FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS				
<u>Class of 2023</u>	<u>Class of 2024</u>	<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Designee</u>
Will Stallworth	Steve Staples	Ken Kibler	Gordon Ramsey	Shiryl Thompson Gillaspie

Staff	
Roger Harwerth, Pastor	roger@ridgleapres.org
Patricia Taber, Office Manager	patricia@ridgleapres.org
John Sauvey, Director of Music Ministries	john@ridgleapres.org
Dale Bench, Organist	dalepipeorgan@sbcglobal.net
Emily Everts, Children and Youth Ministries Coordinator	youth@ridgleapres.org
Church Office #817.732.3388	

SESSION MEETING
WILL BE HELD ON
DECEMBER 21, 2023 At 7:00 P.M.

DECEMBER NEWSLETTERS
ARE AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE



December 3 - December 24, 2023

Christmas Joy

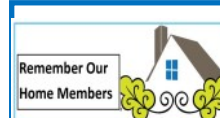
WE WILL BE RECEIVING THE CHRISTMAS JOY SPECIAL OFFERING DECEMBER 3RD TO DECEMBER 24TH.

By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor God's gift of Jesus Christ by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.



PWR General Meeting

No meeting during the month of December, 2023. We will be hosting our annual Holiday Luncheon on December 12, 2023 at 10:30 a.m.



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.

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.



COME JOIN US!
December 2nd, 2023, 6:00 p.m.
Dinner With Friends
(1st Saturday of the month)

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.

We coordinate groups that meet for lunch as well as dinner. You may now indicate if you would like to participate in a lunchtime option.

Please consider being a host:

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.



The Jam Sessions are held on the 2nd and

4th Monday 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!



Matthew 25 Action Team



Books have been selected for the spring. We hope you will read the books, and if not that you will still join us for the discussions which are always thought provoking.

January 23 Up Home: One Girl's Journey a memoir by Ruth Jay Simmons - Leader Melissa Burkhead

February 27- Memphis by Tara M. Stringfellow - Leader Thylis Chambless

March 26--Our Kind of People, Inside America's Black Upper Class by Lawrence Otis Graham - Leader Marsha West

April—No meeting because of the Women's Retreat

May 28 Empire of the Summer Moon by S.C. Gwynne - Need Leader

We will share more about these books as we get closer. Sure looks to me like you've got a great list when someone asks what you want for Christmas. ☐

Our work continues at Quail Trail including the Birthday celebrations. One of the residents asked about a Book Club, so we may have info about that in the new year.

Thank you so much for supporting the work of the Matthew 25 Action Team in conjunction with PWR and Outreach. When we serve others, we're serving God, who has blessed us mightily.



NOVEMBER FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON



The Children and Youth will be going
CHRISTMAS CAROLING
To our Homebound,
Assisted living and
Nursing home members
Sunday, December 3rd
Right after church to
about 3 pm pm
Lunch will be provided meet in the
youth room

Church Wide
MOVIE NIGHT
Saturday December 16, 2023 @ 5:30 pm
In the Sanctuary
We will be watching The Star
Popcorn, Hot Chocolate
and Water will be provided
Bring dinner
and the
whole family!



Wednesday mornings
8:30 a.m.

Central Market- Upstairs

The men's prayer breakfast has been a vital part of Ridglea's mission and ministry for decades. We enjoy a hearty breakfast and pray for people and events around the world.

THE 2024 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.



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 at r.rinewalt@att.net.

DINNER WITH FRIENDS NOVEMBER 4, 2023



L-R: Ken and Betsy Kibler, Linda Hart, Lynne Payne, Jo VanOosterhout, Miriam Gallagher. Not pictured George Tischler.



Mo-Ranch Women's Conference

June 7-9, 2024 \$425 per person

For the first time in several years, RPC will have a group of women attending the Mo-Ranch Women's Conference next summer. If you are interested in joining us, send an email by December 10th to Karen Landon at clerk@ridgleapres.org to get the details. For more information, visit the Mo-Ranch website: <https://www.moranch.org/attend-a-conference/adult-conferences/womens-conference/>



Women's Conference

Each year, hundreds of women from across the region gather together for the Mo-Ranch Women's Conference.

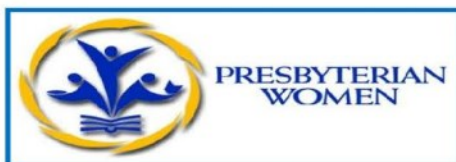
www.moranch.org



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>



Circle News:

Circle 1: No December Meeting

Circle 2: No December Meeting

Circle 3: Dec. 5 at Church (Eclectic Café) 6:30 p.m.

December PWR General Meeting: Our Christmas Program will be held on Tuesday, December 12th at 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary. We will have a potluck luncheon followed by entertainment from John Sauvey and Dale Bench. Be sure to loosen up your vocal cords for a few Christmas sing-alongs.



The women of Circle 2 assembled batches of cookies for families at the foster care Village in Itasca. The items were delivered prior to Thanksgiving, and they were warmly received and thoroughly enjoyed! ~~Maria Shupe, Development Officer, Fort Worth and Northwest Texas, Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services

Just Bring It –December, 2023: The Christian Education Committee is hosting an intergenerational Sunday School event on December 3rd. We will assemble hygiene kits for the Day Resource Center. Please bring any of the following items by December 3rd: Shampoo, soap, mouthwash, wet wipes, men's crew socks, deodorant, disposable razors, hard candies, cheese crackers.

Looking Ahead:

PWR Women's Retreat: April 19-20, 2024 at Camp Crucis in Granbury. The focus is "God's Goodness" with an emphasis on the Bible verse Habakkuk 3:19. There will be dinner and entertainment on Friday, and the retreat will be on Saturday. More information will be coming soon!

Mo-Ranch Women's Conference: June 7-9, 2024; \$425 per person. For the first time in several years, RPC will have a group of women attending the Mo-Ranch Women's Conference next summer. If you are interested in joining us, send an email by December 10th to Karen Landon at clerk@ridgleapres.org to get the details. For more information, visit the Mo-Ranch website: <https://www.moranch.org/attend-a-conference/adult-conferences/womens-conference/>



"JUST BRING IT"

JANUARY 2024



Presbyterian Night Shelter is in need of:

- * coats
- * gloves
- * socks



**INTERGENERATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL EVENT
DECEMBER 3, 2023**

December 3, 2023: The Christian Education Committee is hosting an intergenerational Sunday School event on December 3rd. We will assemble hygiene kits for the Day Resource Center. Please bring any of the following items by December 3rd: Shampoo, soap, mouthwash, wet wipes, men's crew socks, deodorant, disposable razors, hard candies, cheese crackers.



WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Mark Gottschalk



We are happy and delighted to welcome Mark to RPC. Mark is an enthusiastic and vision-oriented higher education administrator with over 10 years of experience in Texas Community Colleges. He is currently works at TCC as Dean of Learning Commons for the SE Campus in Arlington. He is very active in the Texas Library Association recently serving on the Executive Board and is currently serving as a mentor for the Texas Accelerated Library Leader Class of 2022. Meeting and developing future leaders within libraries and higher education is a professional hobby and calling for Mark. He is originally from the Pacific Northwest and has lived in many states before settling in Texas. In his spare time he enjoys reading, being outdoors and coaching basketball, where he has served as a volunteer assistant for several years at the junior college level. Robyn Reid is his better half and they enjoy spending time with friends, cooking, traveling, going for walks and spending time with their 3 dogs.

Welcome New Members Jane and Roger Blair



Roger and Jane Blair are our newest members transferring from Arborlawn United Methodist Church. Roger is a neurologist at UTSW, not ready to retire so he works 3 days a week. Jane majored in clinical psychology and is a retired counselor. For a while Jane wrote for the Star Telegram under George Dolan.

The Blairs have been married for 54 years. Golf and the YMCA keep Roger in shape and Jane enjoys playing bridge. They have 2 married sons each with 2 daughters. Since Roger has 4-day weekends, they enjoy being with family and enjoy being with each other.



See details and register on Realm for these upcoming events:

Event:	Date:	Register By:	Information:
December Dinner With Friends	Saturday December 2nd	Sunday November 26th	Dinner or Lunch Groups are available
December Fellowship Luncheon	There will be no Fellowship Luncheon for December		
January Dinner With Friends	Saturday January 6th	Tuesday January 2nd	Dinner or Lunch Groups are available
January Fellowship Luncheon	Sunday January 21st	Wednesday January 17th	Menu to be announced at a later date

Mark your calendars for events coming soon:

(We'll let you know when registration opens on Realm)

Event:	Date:
February Dinner With Friends	February 3rd
February Fellowship Luncheon	February 18th



SHYC 2024

Senior High Youth Connection

January 26 - 28, 2024

9th - 12th Graders are invited to attend a fun filled weekend church camp

It will be held at Austin College in Sherman, Tx

For more information and interest in attending please reach out to Emily Everts @ youth@ridgleapres.org



**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
December 10, 2023 11:45 a.m.
Board of Deacons: Focus on Members
Lynne Payne, Moderator

2nd Tuesday of the Month
December 12, 2023 6:15 p.m.
Christian Education: Focus on Learning and Growing
Susan Everts, Chair

1st Tuesday of the Month
December 5, 2023 7:00 p.m. & Zoom
Fellowship Team: Focus on Social Gatherings
Beth Duncan, Chair

2nd Wednesday of the Month
December 13, 2023 5:30 p.m.
Commitment Team: Focus on Guests
Mary Fisher, Chair

1st Wednesday of the Month
December 6, 2023 5:30 p.m.
Worship Team:
Focus on Sunday & Special Services
Durinda Walker, Chair

2nd Wednesday of the Month
December 13, 2023 6:30 p.m.
Building & Equipment :
Focus on Physical Structures
George Tischler, Chair

1st Thursday of the Month
December 7, 2023 6:00 p.m.
Personnel: Focus on Staff Support
George Tischler, 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
December 12, 2023 6:00 p.m.
Outreach Team: Focus on Mission
Marji Raunika, Chair

3rd Thursday of the Month
December 21, 2023
7:00 p.m.—RPC Sanctuary & Zoom
Session Meeting
Pastor Roger Harwerth, Moderator

Clerk of Session
Karen Landon



December, 2023 Birthdays

Nereyda Sabido	12	1
Gleda Griffin	12	1
Wanda Deluio	12	4
Kathy Doty	12	6
Bailey Martin	12	6
Jeff Sills	12	7
Ivey Ramsey	12	9
Mary Fisher	12	10
Myra Marrow	12	10
Paul Morrison	12	13
Marsha Dueease	12	14
Robin Roberts	12	17
Barbara Dorman	12	18
Maria Shupe	12	19
Jeanne Owens	12	21
Billye Kane	12	23
Miriam Gallagher	12	24
Beth Duncan	12	25
George Sloan	12	26
Johanna Jones	12	26
Paul Duncan	12	27
Aubrey Henderson	12	27
Micky Severson	12	29
Glen Walker	12	30
John Bacon	12	31

The next
newsletter
deadline
will be
January 18, 2024
at noon.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

RIDGLEA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
5000 SOUTHWEST BOULEVARD
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76116