



# RIDGLEA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

[www.RIDGLEAPRES.org](http://www.RIDGLEAPRES.org)

January 2024

## Join Zoom Meeting

(US and Canada)

Topic: Ridglea Worship Service

Time: 10:30 AM Central Time

Every week on Sunday, until

Jul 21, 2024

60 occurrence(s)

January 7, 2024 10:30 a.m.

January 14, 2024 10:30 a.m.

January 21, 2024 10:30 a.m.

January 28, 2024 10:30 a.m.

Join [Zoom](#) Meeting

Meeting ID: 875 7535 3065

Passcode: 818178

**The church office will be closed Monday, January 15th, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.**



## 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.



**We will celebrate the  
sacrament of Communion  
Sunday morning,  
January 7, 2024**

## 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.

SESSION MEETING  
WILL BE HELD ON  
JANUARY 18, 2024 At 7:00 P.M.

JANUARY NEWSLETTERS  
ARE AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE



## PASTOR'S NOTES

### Looking Back

I made at least one mistake this past year, and it was all because something different, something special came along. The whole thing started out simply enough, and was anything but planned or expected. I was watching a guy build a project, then another, and another, back in the early spring, and the guy was informative, casual, knowledgeable, and seemed to know what he was doing. Then, one of his projects was less about building something, or using particular tools, and more about the boots, gloves, and jeans that he “relied upon” for years, all of which were from small companies who made high quality goods.

Instead of watching another project, or turning my attention to anything else, I clicked on a link that took me to a bootmaker. Since I don't live on acres of timberland, nor volunteer for a rural fire department, it was pretty easy to dismiss a pair of heritage-quality boots that were crazy expensive. That is when I should have just gone back to watching a friendly dude build some interesting stuff, but instead, I clicked on the link that took me to a manufacturer of heritage-loomed, ring-spun, unwashed, heavyweight denim jeans that are produced in small quantities in the United States.

There is no impulse purchase to confess, however. No, it is worse than that. Time was spent considering quality, cost, value; comparing what might be better than the jeans I have been wearing diligently for over forty years. Yep, since my late teens I have worn the same style of a particular brand of denim jeans. There have been occasional forays into other styles, even other brands, but none have taken the place of what has been a decades-long mainstay of my clothing choices. Here, however, was denim that was different, special, and might be a worthwhile upgrade.

Maybe others have, like me, convinced themselves to try something different, to support small businesses, to elevate quality over quantity, to take a risk, to dare to be different – these are, after all, the kinds of encouragement that pastors and parents and teachers and coaches provide over and over. Except this time, there was one crucial piece of information ignored when convincing myself to order a pair of denim jeans that were 3 ½ times the cost of what I have diligently, consistently, faithfully worn from adolescence into adulthood.

Ignored, in the process of comparing and justifying, was the phrase, “no returns, no refunds.” Of course that could be ignored, because so much time and consideration had been given to this decision, why would a return or refund be necessary?

There is another phrase that pastors and parents and teachers and coaches often say: “If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.” After days of comparing, considering, and, looking back on it now, willfully ignoring a potential problem in the guise of justifying an action, I placed the order. And, all these months later, I confess that heritage-loomed, ring-spun, unwashed, heavyweight, small-quantity denim jeans that are uncomfortable, that do not fit, that have awkward features, and cannot be returned, are now taking up space in my life. What a mistake!

In the season of Advent we often remember the Baptizer, out in the wilderness, with his camel-haired clothing and rustic diet. Not exactly unshrunk denim and blueberry muffins, yet the Baptizer's message of repentance – calling people to turn away from their mistakes – this message is also a reminder that the past informs, but does not define all that we are. In this time of reflecting on the past year and welcoming the new year, the Baptizer is also a reminder that mistakes do not overwhelm God's mercy and grace.

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](mailto:Clerk@RidgleaPres.org). Our deacons oversee our ministries of care and compassion. Email: [Deacons@RidgleaPres.org](mailto:Deacons@RidgleaPres.org)

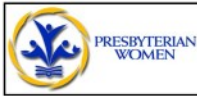
RPC SESSION		
<u>Class of 2024</u>	<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>
Susan Everts	Mary Fisher	Beth Duncan
Jean Hadley	John Little	Shiryl Gillaspie
Marji Raunikar	Mick Stuart	George Tischler
Mary Beth Wagner	Durinda Walker	Reeve Van Nostrand
<i>Clerk of Session: Karen Landon</i>		

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	<a href="mailto:roger@ridgleapres.org">roger@ridgleapres.org</a>
Patricia Taber, Office Manager	<a href="mailto:patricia@ridgleapres.org">patricia@ridgleapres.org</a>
John Sauvey, Director of Music Ministries	<a href="mailto:john@ridgleapres.org">john@ridgleapres.org</a>
Dale Bench, Organist	<a href="mailto:dalepipeorgan@sbcglobal.net">dalepipeorgan@sbcglobal.net</a>
Emily Everts, Children and Youth Ministries Coordinator	<a href="mailto:youth@ridgleapres.org">youth@ridgleapres.org</a>
Church Office #817.732.3388	



**"JUST BRING IT"**

**JANUARY, 2024**

**Presbyterian Night Shelter**

**Presbyterian Night Shelter is in need of:**

- \* coats
- \* gloves
- \* socks



On the last two Sundays in the month of January, 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.



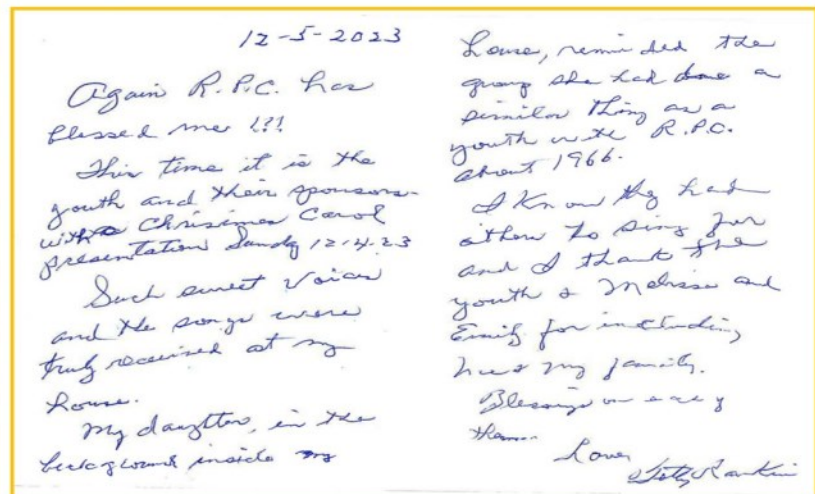
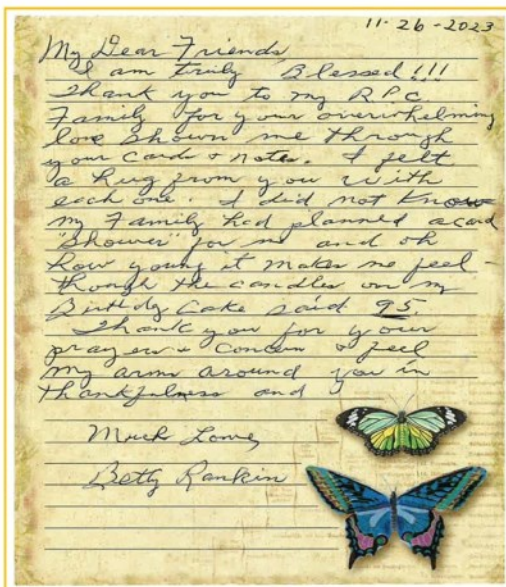
## January PWR General Meeting

On January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, Marcus Morris from First Financial Bank will present a program on Financial Elder Fraud and steps to take to protect yourself.

### 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.





# YOUTH...RPC



**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





**See details and register on Realm for these upcoming events:**

Event:	Date:	Register By:	Information:
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	Fellowship Committee will provide the meal for Brunch
February Dinner With Friends	February 3rd	Wednesday January 31st	Dinner or Lunch Groups are available
February Fellowship Luncheon	February 18th	Wednesday February 14th	Annual Chili Cookoff

**Mark your calendars for events coming soon:**

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

Event:	Date:
March Dinner With Friends	March 2nd
March Fellowship Luncheon	March 17th





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](mailto:r.rinewalt@att.net).



**The Jam Sessions are held on the 2nd and 4th Monday in the Sanctuary from 6:30 to 8:30 .m. Lots of bluegrass, folk, Americana and country music is shared with acoustic (unamplified) instruments. Musicians of all skills are encouraged!**



## 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 10<sup>th</sup> to Karen

Landon at [clerk@ridgleapres.org](mailto: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](http://www.moranch.org)

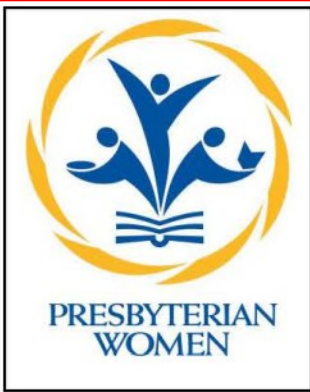


We need ushers, communion servers, and liturgists for Sundays during the 2023 year of worship. Please volunteer to help with the Sunday morning worship service. Also, if you signed up for a particular

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: January 9<sup>th</sup> at Church (Fish Classroom) 10:30 a.m.

Circle 2: January 2<sup>nd</sup> at Church (Eclectic Café) 10:30 a.m.

Circle 3: January 2<sup>nd</sup> at Church (Eclectic Café) 6:30 p.m.

**January PWR General Meeting:** On January 23<sup>rd</sup>, Marcus Morris from First Financial Bank will present a program on Financial Elder Fraud and steps to take to protect yourself.



Members and guests enjoyed a festive Christmas celebration on December 12<sup>th</sup>. Many thanks to John Sauvey, Dale Bench, Genie Long, & Jared Welch for the lovely music.

**Just Bring It –January, 2023:** We are collecting coats, gloves, and socks for the Presbyterian Night Shelter. These items are in great need this time of year.

### **Looking Ahead:**

**PWR Women's Retreat:** April 19-20, 2024 at Camp Crucis in Granbury. 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 January 10<sup>th</sup> to Karen Landon at [clerk@ridgleapres.org](mailto: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/>





**COME JOIN US!**  
**January 6, 2024 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.**

**DINNER/LUNCH WITH FRIENDS—DECEMBER, 2023**



L - R: Jean Hadley (host), Mary Fisher, Andy Fisher, Johanna Jones, Thylis Chambless, Lynne Payne, Becky Williamson, Roger Harwerth, Miriam Gallagher, Chris Shahan, Brendea Harwerth, Sue Guthrie, and Jo VanOosterhout.



L - R: Linda Hart, Dean Phillips, John Little, Kathy Braudway, Helen Luckett, Katrina Little

**Matthew 25 Action Team**

Matthew 25 Bible Study  
*For prayer and reflection*



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

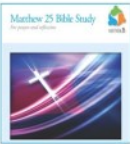
April—No meeting because of the Women's Retreat

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.



## RPC SERVING OTHERS

Presbyterian Women of Ridglea, (PWR), Outreach, and the Matthew 25 Action Team thanks you, the RPC congregation, for your amazing generosity. These three groups work together with you to do the outreach of this congregation. At the beginning of 2024, we want to take a look back at all the wonderful things you accomplished in God's name for those in need.

**January** Our youth worked at West Aid for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday. We began the Second Sunday collection of your "spare" quarters for West Aid. The total collected is \$799.43! (Yes, we know those are not all quarters, and we gladly take the extra stuff.

**February** You donated over 150 Bears for Cook Children's Hospital Prayer Bear program.



**March** You collected and we distributed granola bars, fruit gummy snacks, and Rice Krispie treats to students participating in after-school extracurricular activities and sports at Western Hill High School.

**April** You contributed and we distributed toilet paper and cleaning supplies for the folks at the Quail Trail Community for recently homeless folks.

**May** You contributed pencils, pens, and wide-ruled paper for 60 boys at Hope Farms in the Como Community. We worked with Cook Children's Services and West Aid to Provide health care items to the RISE community.

**June** You contributed peanut butter & Mac & Cheese for West Aid, two of their staples.

**July** You collected school supplies for specific children in middle and high schools at PCHAS home in Waxahachie.

**August** You contributed uniforms of all sizes for students in need at Luella Merrett Elementary just up the street from the church. We also provided first day back breakfast for the teachers and staff. What a fun event. We filled backpacks with school supplies for the clients at West Aid.



**September** You contributed Bug Spray for the Day Resource Center helping the homeless.

**October** You contributed canned green beans, peas, corn, and canned soup for West Aid for Thanksgiving.

**November** You contributed items for the hygiene kits for those on the streets.

**December** You assembled the hygiene kits during an Intergenerational Sunday School time. We also donated 30 stockings filled to the brim for kids living at Waxahachie Children's Home.

During the year, we began a monthly birthday celebration for residents of Quail Trail. We provide \$25 Gift Cards, Birthday cake, and birthday cards for the people celebrating that month. Several times during the year, we helped with the Tarrant Area Food Bank (TAFB) distribution of items at Quail Trail.

Our special offerings included:

**One Great Hour of Sharing** \$4467.00

**Pentecost Offering** \$3136.30 total with \$1881.60 going to Grace Presbytery, \$1254.50 to Center For Transforming Lives (CTL).

**Peace & Global Witness Offering** total \$2694.20 with \$2020.65 going to Grace Presbytery and \$673.55 to Safe Haven.

**Joy Offering** was collected in December, and we don't have that total as this goes to press.

These are all over and above our budgeted benevolences. And while we're talking dollars and cents, this involves a lot of person hours by lots of folks doing our small bit to make this world a little closer to what God intends for God's people. What an honor it is to be on this journey together. In Matthew 25:40 we read: "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." All we have is from God. May we continue this generosity in 2024.



**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**  
**January 14, 2024 11:45 a.m.**  
**Board of Deacons: Focus on Members**  
**Lynne Payne, Moderator**

**2nd Tuesday of the Month**  
**January 9, 2024 6:15 p.m.**  
**Christian Education: Focus on Learning and Growing**  
**Susan Everts, Chair**

**1st Tuesday of the Month**  
**January 2, 2024 7:00 p.m. & Zoom**  
**Fellowship Team: Focus on Social Gatherings**  
**Beth Duncan, Chair**

**2nd Wednesday of the Month**  
**January 10, 2024 5:30 p.m.**  
**Commitment Team: Focus on Guests**  
**Mary Fisher, Chair**

**1st Wednesday of the Month**  
**January 3, 2024 5:30 p.m.**  
**Worship Team:**  
**Focus on Sunday & Special Services**  
**Durinda Walker, Chair**

**2nd Wednesday of the Month**  
**January 10, 2024 6:30 p.m.**  
**Building & Equipment :**  
**Focus on Physical Structures**  
**George Tischler, Chair**

**1st Thursday of the Month**  
**January 4, 2024 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**  
**January 9, 2024 6:00 p.m.**  
**Outreach Team: Focus on Mission**  
**Marji Raunika, Chair**

**3rd Thursday of the Month**  
**January 18, 2024**  
**7:00 p.m.—RPC Sanctuary & Zoom**  
**Session Meeting**  
**Pastor Roger Harwerth, Moderator**

**Clerk of Session**  
**Karen Landon**



# January, 2024 Birthdays

Adrian Cleworth	1	1
Joy Key	1	2
Michael Bo Birdwell	1	4
Nancy Marchant	1	12
Betsy Kibler	1	18
Marsha West	1	21
Jared Welch	1	21
Ron Launder	1	22
Dean Phillips	1	25
Carolyn Chance	1	25
Charletta G Long	1	28
Rita Margarida Ferreira	1	28
Reagan Henderson	1	31

RIDGLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
5000 SOUTHWEST BOULEVARD  
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76116

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The next  
newsletter  
deadline  
will be  
January 17, 2024  
at noon.