



RIDGLEA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

5000 Southwest Boulevard, Fort Worth, Texas 76116 ❖(817) 732-3388
www.RIDGLEAPRES.org

February 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)

February 4, 2024 10:30 a.m.
February 11, 2024 10:30 a.m.
February 18, 2024 10:30 a.m.
February 25, 2024 10:30 a.m.

Join [Zoom Meeting](#)
Meeting ID: 875 7535 3065
Passcode: 818178



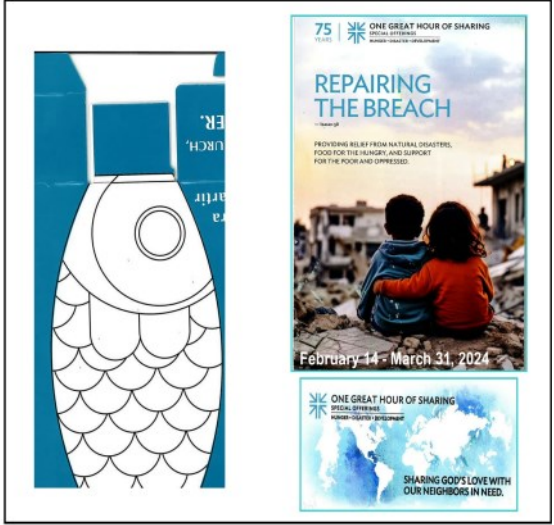
We will celebrate the sacrament of Communion Sunday morning, February 4, 2024

"THE GATHERING", RPC's multi-generational Sunday School Class led by Paul Duncan, has started a six part DVD Series on Revelation. The series began January 28th and will run for the next several Sundays. All interested are welcome to attend!

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.

SESSION MEETING WILL BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 15, 2024 At 7:00 P.M.

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTERS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE

PASTOR'S NOTES

Is It Any Surprise?



During a recent sermon I made reference to a newspaper story about the increase of the non-religious population in the United States. Those are people who, when participating in surveys about their religious affiliation (Jewish, Catholic, Buddhist, Protestant, etc.) reply “none.” In the early 1970’s just 5% of respondents placed themselves in that category; by the early 2000’s it had reached 15%, and in 2023 the category was at 28%.

The sermon addressed the assertion, from sociologist Jörg Stolz, that “People don’t like being told what they should [or should not] do ... especially when the teller isn’t especially qualified. Increasingly, people are saying ‘Why do I need a pastor to tell me what to do? What makes them any more insightful than this academic journal?’ The rise of the nones is the manifestation of a move toward greater autonomy of individuals.” (January 24, 2024 edition of the *Washington Post*; “More Americans are nonreligious. Who are they and what do they believe?” by Michelle Boorstein) The focus of that part of the sermon was the idea of authority, for Mark’s original audience and in the centuries since. The congregation in Capernaum was reacting to both the message and the healing abilities of Jesus, expressing astonishment at what they heard and saw (Mark 1:21-28).

A pastor addressing the question of “why do I need a pastor...?” can easily sound defensive (especially while standing in a pulpit!), and there was undoubtedly a bit of that, but beyond the topic of pastors is the larger concept of “the greater autonomy of individuals.”

Individual autonomy is important. Yes. Unfortunately, the Church has denigrated and battered the idea of individual autonomy for too long. Individual autonomy is different, though, than what Jesus is addressing in Capernaum, which is overcoming religious strictures and structures. What Jesus is illuminating and modeling in the synagogue is inclusion and relationship and honor within the larger community. A man who had been deemed unworthy, unwelcome, unfaithful, undesirable, and even more, was brought into relationship, through Jesus. In nearly every account of healing attributed to Jesus, there is an element of witness and connection to the larger community. In Mark’s gospel, Jesus is emphasizing the importance of relationships, especially with people who are outside of our comfort zone.

For too many decades too many Christian leaders have tried too hard to define the community of faith in ways that exclude, that shame, that denigrate the relationships that the gospels highlight. So, is it any surprise that in five decades nearly a third of the country is asking “why do I need a pastor...?”

Of course, congregations are not the only opportunities for people to connect, and we should also confess that sometimes congregations can be as insular and exclusive as civic, sport, or professional clubs. However, the pastors I know, and the communities they serve, work hard at building relationships, providing safe and welcome spaces, practicing compassion. Pastors like Lander in Sherman, Drew in Granbury, Matt in Fort Davis and Robyn in Fort Worth; Neill in Gaithersburg, Maryland, Marci in San Francisco, California, and Janet in Mt. Holly, North Carolina, and many dozens more. To paraphrase Ridgley’s vision statement, we, like others, strive to be compassionate and inclusive every day, while seeking to grow in spirit and hope. We, like others, are less concerned about the need for, or the authority of pastors, and more concerned about the connections between autonomy and community. When we say “see you in church,” it is less about the buildings, and more about the people. You are welcome!

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

Clerk of Session: Karen Landon

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	emily@ridgleapres.org

Church Office #817.732.3388

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.

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.



February PWR General Meeting

On February 27th, we will have a presentation from Sheri Paris, who works with A Beloved Community Bearing Fruit. This organization provides free Bible Study lessons to children experiencing homelessness.



YOUTH...RPC

Children and Youth February 2024 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
Making cards for Home Members 12 pm - 2 pm 4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Kickball 12 pm - 3 pm 11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	Parents Day Out 2pm - 6pm 24
25	26	27	28	29		



SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 4, 2024
12:00 PM - 2:00 PM

THE YOUTH WILL BE DECORATING PICTURE FRAMES AND MAKING CARDS TO SEND TO OUR HOME MEMBERS FOR VALENTINES DAY!



MARY BETH SISOLAK WAGNER, SARAH WAGNER, FRANK EVERTS, SUSAN EVERTS, SHIRYL GILLASPIE AND EMILY EVERTS

The Boar's Head Festival

SUNDAY JANUARY 7TH

Starting in February, there will be a signup sheet on the youth bulletin board for volunteers to sign up to provide lunches for the youth programs for the month and to be a sponsor for different activities.

This is a wonderful way to be apart of the youth activities with different levels of involvement and commitment.

Please contact Emily if you have any questions or concerns.

THANK YOU SO MUCH

THE YOUTH ARE INVITED TO

Come Play Kickball

Sunday February 11, 2024
From 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Lunch will be provided

Please contact Emily if you have any questions or concerns

PARENTS DAY OUT

Saturday, February 24, 2024
From 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Drop off your Kids (Toddler - 6th grade) at Church with a packed snack/food.

We will play outside, play inside, watch a movie, eat popcorn and have so much fun!

Please contact Emily to reserve a spot by February 10th!

emily@ridgleapres.org



See details and register on Realm for these upcoming events:

Event:	Date:	Register By:	Information:
February Dinner With Friends	Saturday February 3rd	Sunday January 28th	Dinner or Lunch Groups are available
February Fellowship Luncheon	Sunday February 18th	Wednesday February 14th	Annual Chili Cookoff
March Dinner With Friends	March 2nd	Sunday February 25th	Dinner or Lunch Groups are available
March Fellowship Luncheon	March 17th	Wednesday March 13th	

Mark your calendars for events coming soon:

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

Event:	Date:
April Dinner With Friends	April 6th
April Fellowship Luncheon	April 21st

JANUARY 21, 2024, RPC FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON





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.

Save the Date

RPC Women's Retreat
April 19-20, 2024

"God's Goodness"
Camp Crusis - Granbury, TX
Dinner and entertainment on Friday
Retreat on Saturday

Habakkuk 3:19



"JUST BRING IT" FEBRUARY, 2024



Here's hoping
this little
get well wish
will give
your spirits a
great big lift.

On Sunday, **February 25th**, please bring a NEW small bear (8 to 12 inches) to worship for a "blessing of the bears" donation. No writing, no perfumes, no sounds (BEARS ONLY). Remember, these bears are for sick children, so they should be of sufficient quality to be safe for an extended hospital stay, and should still have tags attached.



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.

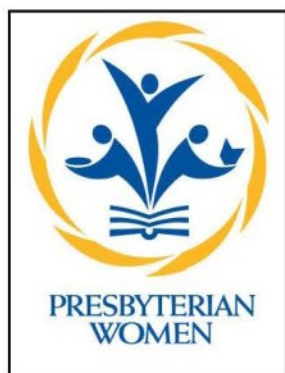
Sign up <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0d49a4ae2ea3f85-ushers1>



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!



At the January 23rd PWR General Meeting, members and guests gained valuable information about financial fraud from guest speakers Marcus Morris and Distiny Jones of First Financial Bank in Fort Worth. Several scam methods were explained in detail.



Circle Meeting Times:

- Circle 1: February 13th at Church (Fish Classroom) 10:30 a.m.
- Circle 2: February 13nd at Church (Eclectic Café) 10:30 a.m.
- Circle 3: February 6th at Church (Eclectic Café) 6:30 p.m.

February PWR General Meeting: On February 27th, we will have a presentation from Sheri Paris, who works with A Beloved Community Bearing Fruit. This organization provides free Bible Study lessons to children experiencing homelessness.

Just Bring It –February, 2023: We are collecting Prayer Bears for Cook Children’s Hospital. Prayer Bears are often the first point of contact from the hospital’s Spiritual Care Department. They are given to each child who is admitted into the medical center to remind them that they are not alone and that people care about them. Over 300 bears are given away each week. All bears must be new, have no scent, can’t move or dance, and cannot have words or logos on them. Bring donations to RPC or donate money to Cook Children’s Prayer Bear fund with this link: <http://fal.cn/3qoGm>

Looking Ahead:

March PWR General Meeting: A representative from the Fort Worth Fire Department will present information about home safety issues for the elderly, fire extinguisher use, and CPR.

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. Registration information will be available soon!



COME JOIN US!
February 3, 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.

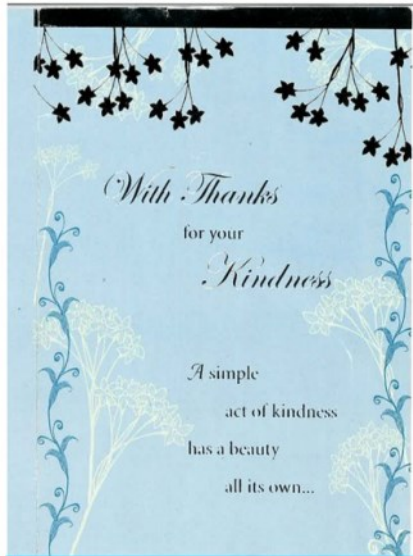


On the first two Sundays of the month, beautiful note cards will be available for RPC members to send to our "at home" members. Following worship service, these cards will be in white baskets in the Narthex on a first come basis.

The Eclectic Class and RPC Youth teamed up to create 200 ham & cheese sandwiches for the Presbyterian Night Shelter, January 21, during the Sunday School hour.

Thanks to all who helped plan and implement this special opportunity!!





Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services

1564. That's the number of children who received Angel Tree gifts this year through Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services.

You made Christmas happen for 1564 children.

We are so grateful for all your work, generosity, thoughtfulness, and help!

Working with you and your congregation or business on Angel Tree is one of my favorite projects. **And you are amazing!** Churches and businesses provided new pjs for kids, stuffed stockings to overflowing, carefully read through wish lists and worked to fill those wishes so thoughtfully!

And then you held toy drives, purchased gift cards and provided diapers; all to make sure that no one went wanting. It touches my heart... and make Christmas so special for our children and our families. Thank you!

In Fort Worth, Keller, Itasca, Wichita Falls, Abilene, and Lubbock, you joined 30 congregations and businesses to provide gifts for nearly 200 children. And since a picture is worth 1000 words, here are some photos of all you made possible.

Thank you! Thank you for being our partner in ministry! We can't do it without you!

May your new year be filled with blessings!
Grace and Peace,
Maria Shupe
Development Officer

12-11-2023

I continue to be blessed by my friends at R.P.C. Share your love for the beautiful Christmas season. It is a great addition for the time. The special Christmas Card party for you please me very much.

Thank You

Julie Ritz is like a ray of sunshine in the darkest of times. I wish each of you a Merry Christmas and Blessings throughout the New Year. Love, Betty Hankins

Jean Comer

To R.P.C. - My thanks to all for the lovely Pairsettig Mexican's visit - the work for the children!

Love (Blessings) -
Jean Comer

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION
presented to
Ridglea Presbyterian Church

Your 2023 donations yielding more than 1,000 pounds of food made a significant contribution to WestAid's mission to feed neighbors in need.

WILLIAM PHERIGO
Executive Director

DECEMBER 2023

Community Music Connection
Teaching Music Connecting People

Dear CMC friends,

Our new winter and spring schedule for CMC six-evening group guitar courses begins on Thursdays from 6 - 9 pm
January 11, 2024—February 15, 2024; February 22, 2024 — March 28, 2024; and
April 4, 2024—May 9, 2024

www.CommunityMusicConnection.org

The cost is \$65 for the six-evening course or \$55 for CMC members.

Please remember that even if you have not registered for a six-class session, you may DROP IN for one evening and pay \$17 (or \$14 for members) to attend all three hours from 6 - 9 pm.

Members of the Ridglea Presbyterian Church will be offered free CMC membership discounts for all Group Guitar Lessons held at the church!

Also, thanks so much to those of you who make contributions to CMC! As a 501c3 non-profit organization, we are working to make the joy of playing guitar affordable for everyone.

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

2nd Tuesday of the Month
February 13, 2024 **6:15 p.m.**
Christian Education: Focus on Learning and Growing
Susan Everts, Chair

1st Tuesday of the Month
February 6, 2024 **7:00 p.m. & Zoom**
Fellowship Team: Focus on Social Gatherings
Beth Duncan, Chair

2nd Wednesday of the Month
February 14, 2024 **5:30 p.m.**
Commitment Team: Focus on Guests
Mary Fisher, Chair

1st Wednesday of the Month
February 7, 2024 **5:30 p.m.**
Worship Team:
Focus on Sunday & Special Services
Durinda Walker, Chair

2nd Wednesday of the Month
February 14, 2024 **6:30 p.m.**
Building & Equipment :
Focus on Physical Structures
George Tischler, Chair

1st Thursday of the Month
February 1, 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
February 13, 2024 **6:00 p.m.**
Outreach Team: Focus on Mission
Marji Raunikar, Chair

3rd Thursday of the Month
February 15, 2024
7:00 p.m.—RPC Sanctuary & Zoom
Session Meeting
Pastor Roger Harwerth, Moderator

Clerk of Session
Karen Landon



February, 2024 Birthdays

Frank Turrella	2	4
Reeve Van Nostrand	2	6
Barbara Eubanks	2	6
Dale Wagner	2	8
Michaela Register	2	9
Megan Register	2	9
Linda Launder	2	9
Kelly Register	2	10
Sutton Thoni	2	13
Morgan Register	2	15
Kaki Rottler	2	15
Robyn Reid	2	16
Allan Howeth	2	19
Colton Morrison	2	19
Kathy Severson	2	22
Jo VanOosterhout	2	24
Diane Keller	2	26
Preston Lee	2	27
Durinda	2	28

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

RIDGLEA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
5000 SOUTHWEST BOULEVARD
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76116

The next
newsletter
deadline
will be
February 15, 2024
at noon.