



Oak Hills Presbyterian Church  
Rev. Rachael Huntley

Beloved Family,

This past Sunday went a little differently than planned. Overnight storms caused an electricity surge, leaving us with fried appliances, persistent alarms, and no sound system in the sanctuary. To me, it felt as though God was trying to get our attention, to encourage us to not simply go through the business of worship as usual. So instead of listening to a typical sermon, you all allowed me to lead you through a God-centered meditation exercise. I can't count the number of people who later told me that it might have been the first time in weeks that they had relaxed their shoulders or unclenched their jaws. Which indicates that perhaps we could all use a little more relaxation these days. With that in mind, I have created this brief meditation. As you read it, just allow your body to follow the instructions, no brain power required!

Uncross your legs, and allow your feet to rest on the ground.

Relax your arms by your sides or in your lap, palms facing up.

Take a slow, deep breath in through your nose, and exhale through your mouth.

Do this two more times.

Notice your shoulders, and allow them to drop away from your ears.

Notice your jaw, and soften it if it is clenched, perhaps even parting your lips slightly.

Notice your forehead, and relax it if it is furrowed.

Take a slow, deep breath, marveling that God chose to create you.

Take a slow, deep breath, marveling that God chose to create the world around you.

Take a slow, deep breath, creating space for God's guidance.

Take a slow, deep breath, grateful for today.

I hope this blesses you. Come back to it as often as you need during the month of May and beyond. And remember to take things one day at a time.

With love,

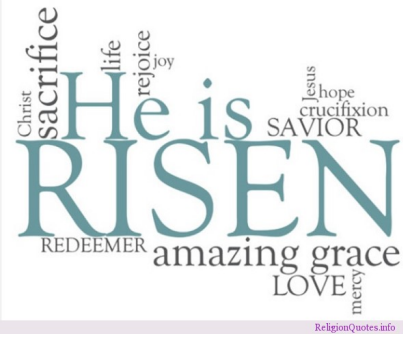
*Pastor Rachael*



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## Sunday Morning Worship, 10:30 a.m.



We continue to celebrate our risen Lord throughout the season of Easter, which ends with Pentecost. In keeping with Jewish tradition, the disciples were gathered on the day of Pentecost, which was the Greek name for the Feast of Weeks, so called because it fell seven weeks (a week of weeks) after the Firstfruits celebration. While gathered for this feast, there came a sound from heaven like the rushing of a mighty wind and above them appeared something like tongues of fire. As Christians, we celebrate this day of Pentecost as the birth of the church, when the Lord sent the blessing of his Holy Spirit to men on earth.

Listed below are Lectionary passages to reflect upon each week throughout the remaining Easter season.

### May 7, Fifth Sunday of Easter

- Acts 7:55-60 An angry crowd stones Stephen; he prays: Jesus, receive my spirit.
- Psalms 31:1-5, 15-16 Deliver me, O Lord; into your hands I commit my spirit.
- 1 Peter 2:2-10 Now you are God's people, built into a temple like living stones.
- John 14:1-14 Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life; he prepares a place for us.



### May 14, Sixth Sunday of Easter & Mother's Day

- Acts 17:22-31 Paul introduces the Athenians to their "unknown god": the Lord.
- Psalms 66:8-20 Bless God, who hears our prayers and keeps us among the living.
- 1 Peter 3:13-22 Do not fear; testify to the hope that is in you through Christ.
- John 14:15-21 Jesus says: the Father will send the Spirit, who will abide in you.



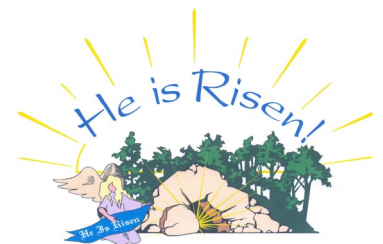
### May 18, Ascension of the Lord

- Acts 1:1-11 Forty days after his resurrection, Jesus ascends into heaven.
- Psalms 47 Clap, shout, and sing with joy: the Lord reigns over all the earth.
- Ephesians 1:15-23 Christ is seated at God's right Hand, above every earthly power.
- Luke 24:44-53 Jesus interprets the Scriptures; then he is carried up into heaven.



### May 21, Seventh Sunday of Easter

- Acts 1:6-14 After Jesus' ascension, the disciples go to Jerusalem and pray.
- Psalms 68:1-10, 32-35 God rides upon the clouds, and gives power to the people.
- 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11 You are suffering now, but the God of grace will restore you.
- John 17:1-11 Jesus seeks the glory of God and prays for his disciples.



### May 28, Day of Pentecost

- Acts 2:1-21 On the day of Pentecost, God pours out the Spirit upon the earth.
- or Numbers 11:24-30 The Lord sends the Spirit to the elders of Israel, and they prophesy.
- Psalms 104:24-34, 35b The Lord of creation sends forth the Spirit to renew the earth.
- 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 In the body of Christ there are varieties of gifts, but one Spirit.
- John 20:19-23 The risen Lord appears to the disciples and gives them the Spirit.
- or John 7:37-39 Jesus promises the Spirit: living water from the believer's heart.





## We love good books!

Join us Thursday, May 18, at 11 AM

*Where'd You Go, Bernadette?* by Maria Semple

When 15-year-old Bee aces her report card and claims her reward: a trip to Antarctica, her mother Bernadette disappears. She is so agoraphobic that a trip to the end of the world is problematic! Join Bee as she works to find her missing mother.

*Book Club goes on hiatus for the summer, but we'll be back in the fall. Check us out again in August when we will set out a new list of eclectic titles for your reading pleasure!*

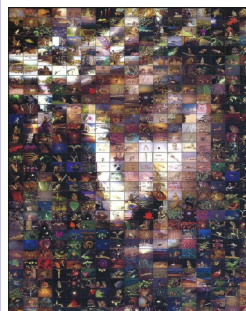
## Ron and Idalia Harmon Memorial Scholarship

*"Our Christian youth are always a pleasure in our lives. Our educated Christian youth must be the future of America." - Idalia A. Harmon 1928-2008*

OHPC will again be offering scholarships to degree-seeking college students, as well as students enrolled in vocational or technical programs. The scholarship is not age specific, and young adults as well as mid-career or older adults are encouraged to apply.

The Christian Education Committee administers the program and applications are thoroughly evaluated. Church members, staff, and their families are eligible to apply, and the awards will vary in size based on various considerations such as available funds, number of applicants, degree or certificate sought, etc. For more information regarding the *Ron and Idalia Harmon Memorial Scholarship Fund*, please contact the church office.

**Applications are available online and in the church office. Deadline for applications is June 16, 2023.**



## BIBLE STUDY!

May 4 and 18

6 PM in the library

or by Zoom

We will be wrapping up our study of *Who is Jesus?* in May. On the May 4, we will examine Jesus through the lens of other Abrahamic faiths. At our final meeting, we will explore contemporary cultural interpretations.

*Be joyful in hope,  
patient in affliction,  
faithful in prayer.*

Romans 12:12

*Summer camp is a great opportunity for young people to meet with other youth and grow in their Christian Faith.*

**John Knox Ranch** has camps for students in second through ninth grade. For dates and additional information, see <https://www.johnknoxranch.org/summer-camp>.



**Mo Ranch** has camps available for students age 8-15. Dates and additional information are available at <https://www.moranch.org/mo-ranch-summer-camp>

*The OHPC Christian Education Committee will be able to provide limited scholarship assistance. Contact Heather Ebert for more information.*

Before



## PAINT THE STEEPLE AND REPLACE THE A/C!

Our steeple has been painted, but now we find we need three new air conditioners. The largest and oldest in the narthex will likely cost over \$11,000. You can help with these unbudgeted expenses during our Capital Improvement Drive on April 30. Mark your check "Capital Improvement" and the money will be used for these and other projects necessary to maintain our aging building.

**THANK YOU!**

After



## FINANCIAL NEWS\$

We are still facing constant repair needs. After the April 23 problems with the speaker system and the alarms, it becomes evident that the 5th Sunday Capital Improvement Drive is essential. The good news is that our regular contributions are close to our budgetary needs. Again, thank you to all of you who faithfully provide financial support for OHP.

**P. Jack Henson, Treasurer**



## SESSION NOTES

- The Christian Ed Committee is accepting applications for the Ron and Idalia Harmon Scholarship and for summer camp.
- Steeple painting was completed April 12.
- Air ducts in the education wing will be cleaned April 22. Remaining ducts will be cleaned at a later date.
- Chris Huntley and C.A. Aranda will serve as Session members on the nominating committee. Pastor Rachael will recruit additional members from the congregation. The committee will be approved at a Congregational Meeting on April 30.
- May 21 was set for election of elders for Session.
- Session approved a choir appreciation luncheon the last Sunday in June.
- The May meeting will be moved to May 21 to avoid Mother's Day.

**Donna Amonett, Clerk of Session**



## Congregational Meetings

**April 30** : Elect nominating committee who will select nominees for Session

**May 21**: Elect new Session members



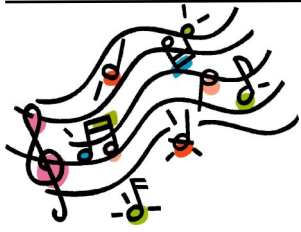
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



If you or anyone you know is in need of durable medical equipment, please contact the church office. We have a wheelchair, 3 walkers, and a set of crutches.

**SHHH!**

*(The Fellowship Committee is plotting something special for Mother's Day...)*



## TURNING A MUSICAL PHRASE

Music is so emblazoned in our culture that many everyday musical expressions populate our speech. Just come to our choir practice, and you will hear an assortment of phrases uttered by me and our loyal choir members.

My favorite is **Pull out all the stops**, meaning going all out. This phrase referred originally to organ stops (the pull tabs controlling the pipe voices). When they are all pulled out, the instrument achieves maximum volume. Of course, I rarely do this as certain choir members become rather upset as they are blasted from their pews.



Another one we hear regularly is **Preaching to the Choir**, meaning pointlessly trying to convince someone of an opinion they already agree with. One rarely hears Pastor Rachael preaching that folks should attend church, as most of our faithful members are already present.



We enjoy referring to people who **Toot their own horn**. In medieval times, heralds would announce the arrival of a VIP with a trumpet fanfare. If you weren't a VIP, you had to blow your own horn. Many politicians are famous for tooting their own horns.

Politicians also are known to **Change their tune**. It's another way of saying someone has changed an opinion on something.

When folks say **It strikes a chord**, they mean they personally agree with the statement – just like a piano hammer striking a string within the case of the piano.



The choir members sometimes inquire if we are **Singing from the same song sheet**. Usually, the comment is lobbed at me by one of our many astute singers, detecting I am not playing the score as written. The choir members seem to be correct about 99% of the time.



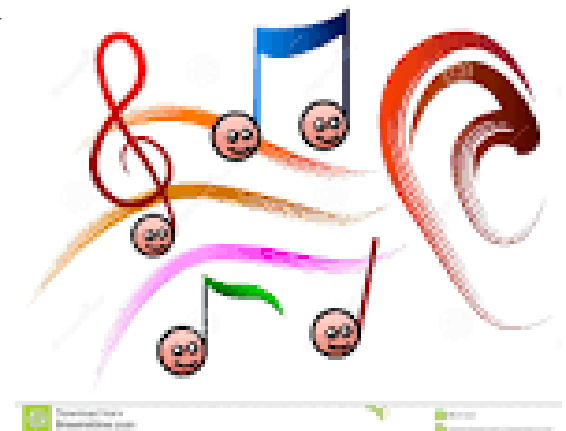
Our pipe organ truly has **All the bells and whistles**. You may have thought your loaded luxury car was laden with this trait. The phrase originated in the 1920's when theater pipe organs had extra stops and features – just like our John Lile Memorial Organ has a Zimbelstern, a Chime set, and a Festival Trumpet. I use these features regularly in our worship.

People often say **It rings a bell** if something appears to be familiar to them. In ordinary life we rely on bells to remind us to do certain tasks.

All of us aspire to good health, or to be **As fit as a fiddle**. First coined to refer to a violin ready for use, now it just means in sound health.

So many of our phrases have their origins in music, and this essay merely scratches the surface. Come to our choir practice sometime; your presence would be **Music to my ears**.

Gregory A. Nussel  
Organist and Music Director  
April 20, 2023



## LET'S GET TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER BETTER

*This month, the Membership Committee is highlighting one of OHPC's newest members: Terri Slonaker.*

Terri was born in Germany, as her father was in the military. She was the youngest of 4 children. Her family moved around quite a bit when she was young. After Germany, they were stationed in Crete, then back to the states to San Antonio. They then moved to Korea, Kentucky and eventually they returned to San Antonio. She graduated from Marshall High School and went to UTSA for her undergraduate work in Sociology. She then attended Texas State University in San Marcos for her master's degree.



Terri and her husband Patrick have been married for 33 years. They were married at the Forest Hills Presbyterian Church in Helotes.

Terri has worked at UTSA and Our Lady of the Lake University in student administration (advising, registration, etc.) and is currently an Associate Professor of Sociology at San Antonio College. Patrick is retired from UTSA where he worked in IT and Disability Services. They are 3-time cancer survivors.

When asked about how she chose OHPC, Terri said that as a child she enjoyed attending the Presbyterian services on base. During Covid, she learned about our church through online posts from Anne Speights. Terri and Patrick knew Anne from when they all worked at UTSA. She began listening to our services on Facebook. She then decided to attend worship in person. Terri felt it important that the church she attends be inclusive and welcoming. She found that to be the case here at Oak Hills.

Her hobbies include photography and mowing the lawn (really!) They have 2 classic cars that need to get back on the road: a '67 Camaro and a '37 Chevy. Terri and Patrick enjoy traveling and she is trying to learn to golf. Favorite time of day: morning. Favorite music: Classic Rock. Another fun fact: She jumped out of an airplane once.

Terri has already become an active member of our congregation. She worked tirelessly at the Garage Sale last year, and recently agreed to join our Membership Committee. We put her to work right away at the Easter Egg Hunt. Terri also recently helped with the Habitat for Humanity project supported by our congregation and participated in Book Club.

OHPC is blessed to have another wonderful new member. Welcome Terri!



**WHAT A  
DIFFERENCE  
A MORNING  
MAKES!**



After 300 hours of sweat equity and 17 classes in finances and home ownership, Samantha and Anthony are ready to move into their new home in Rancho Charlotta!

Connie Durocher, Terri Slonaker, and Donna Amonett were among the many volunteers who worked with Samantha to build and landscape her home.





About 20 folks accompanied Ken Maynard as he shared his pictures and observations on his trip to Israel.

On Maundy Thursday, 10 people met in the Library for a chicken potluck dinner before a Lectio Divina meditation and communion led by Pastor Rachael with music by Greg.



The Good Friday service on the following day encouraged 20 worshippers to meditate on Jesus' journey and its effects on us through the Stations of the Cross. Leaving in silence, they placed nails in the black-draped cross to signify their own sins.





## OHPC folks do love to eat!

Our Easter celebration began with breakfast enjoyed by about 45 folks—a wonderful assortment of casseroles, fruit, tacos, and pastries.



In the sanctuary, we filled the triumphant cross with flowers.

Behold—He is risen, as He said!



*Let's see—  
what's in  
my eggs?*



*Egg races!*



*Look what I  
Found!*

*Sack races!*



*Crafts!*



*Corn  
Hole!*



*Hula Hoops!*



*Bingo!*



## New Members

On April 16, we were delighted to welcome Roger Hughes and his wife Esther Russell-Hughes. They are coming to us from Treasure Hills Presbyterian Church in Harlingen, where Esther served as a lay pastor. As Pastor Rachael noted, they checked out all the Presbyterian churches in the San Antonio area and they chose us!



## Mother's Day



Celebrations of mothers and motherhood can be traced back to the ancient Greeks and Romans, who held festivals in honor of the mother goddesses Rhea and Cybele, but the clearest modern precedent for Mother's Day is the early Christian festival known as "Mothering Sunday." Once a major tradition in the United Kingdom and parts of Europe, this celebration fell on the fourth Sunday in Lent and was originally seen as a time when the faithful would return to their "mother church"—the main church in the vicinity of their home—for a special service. Over time the Mothering Sunday tradition shifted into a more secular holiday, and children would present their mothers with flowers and other tokens of appreciation. This custom eventually faded in popularity before merging with the American Mother's Day in the 1930s and 1940s. Mother's Day continues to be celebrated by presenting mothers and other women with gifts and flowers, and it has become one of the biggest holidays for consumer spending. Families also celebrate by giving mothers a day off from activities like cooking or other household chores.

*Taken from a longer article at <https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/mothers-day>*



## ISSA

ISSA's Spring into Auction 2023

April 22-April 28








Preview our fabulous auction items and get ready to bid on everything from music, painting and cooking classes to signed sports memorabilia, photography sessions, and gift packages. On April 28, we'll finish the auction with a raffle, offering the winner a choice of two incredible options. All proceed support our annual fund, allowing us to sustain academic excellence while supporting growth.

Register now and get ready to bid!

<https://app.galabid.com/issa-spring-2023>



# May 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 7 pm Choir 7 pm AA	4 12:30 pm Bridge  6pm Bible study	5	6 1-3 pm Girl Scouts
7 10:30 am Worship  4-6 pm Guide Dogs	8	9	10  7 pm Choir 7 pm AA	11 12:30 pm Bridge 	12	13
14 10:30 am Worship  <b>MOTHER'S DAY</b>	15	16	17  7 pm Choir 7 pm AA	18 11 am Book Club  12:45 pm Bridge 6 pm Bible study	19	20 1-3 pm Girl Scouts
21 10:30 am Worship and congregational meeting 11:30 Session 4-6 pm Guide Dogs 	22	23	24  7 pm Choir 7 pm AA	25 12:30 pm Bridge 	26	27
28 10:30 am Worship	29  <b>Memorial DAY</b>	30	31			

## Birthday blessings to:

- |                        |                         |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 5/2 Rosalie Buente     | 5/21 Geraldine Besecker |
| 5/2 Patty McCurnin     | 5/21 Jerry Lopez        |
| 5/5 Barbara Clevestine | 5/23 Tim O'Keefe        |
| 5/9 Robert Stull       | 5/24 Marjorie McFarland |
| 5/9 Ryan Williams      | 5/25 Ann Stull          |
| 5/11 Stacey Williams   | 5/27 JoAnn Strayer      |
| 5/18 Peggy Hudson      | 5/31 Joan Williams      |
| 5/18 Vanessa O'Keefe   |                         |



## Happy Anniversary!

- 5/16 Ron & Nancy Wilson
- 5/20 Ed & Kathleen Payne
- 5/29 Jeff & Susy Hallquist



to all of our  
OHPC mothers  
and grandmothers!

MOTHERS  
HOLD THEIR  
CHILDREN'S HANDS  
FOR A WHILE  
BUT THEIR  
HEARTS  
FOREVER



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PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

Return Service Requested

## *Oak Branch May 2023*

*Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life...*

**HELLO,  
MAY!**



*...consider the lilies of the field: they neither toil nor spin,,, - Matthew 6:25a and 28b*