

**Elders**

- \*Johnny Davis ..... 307-4232
- Dan Fuller ..... 685-4454
- Paul Metzkes ..... 870-8042
- Phil Porter ..... 575-4782
- Richard Watson ..... 307-2608

\*Chairman for the Month of December

**Evangelists**

- Dan Jenkins ..... 379-2325
- David Sproule ..... 301-2230
- Josh Blackmer ..... 319-1418
- Robert Lupo ..... 315-1411

**Deacons**

- David Brown ..... 972-7608
- Victor Colage ..... 719-1490
- Lance Collier ..... 985-4407
- Kirk Crews ..... 339-9283
- Mike Erickson ..... 310-9916
- Tim Fry ..... 373-9121
- Jeff Goodale ..... 261-1188
- Rick Hall ..... 622-5131
- Dion Hayes ..... 214-533-5065
- Bob Higbee ..... 303-386-6405
- Gary Jenkins ..... 889-3585
- Jeff Leslie ..... 744-3444
- David Lord ..... 346-2228
- Buzz Nelson ..... 385-1588
- Lawrence Williams ..... 662-3419

**Church Office**

- Phone ..... 561-848-1111
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- E-mail ..... [office@pblcoc.org](mailto:office@pblcoc.org)
- Ivan Villard ..... 667-8675
- Cindy Nelson ..... 801-9457
- June Pack ..... 627-5363

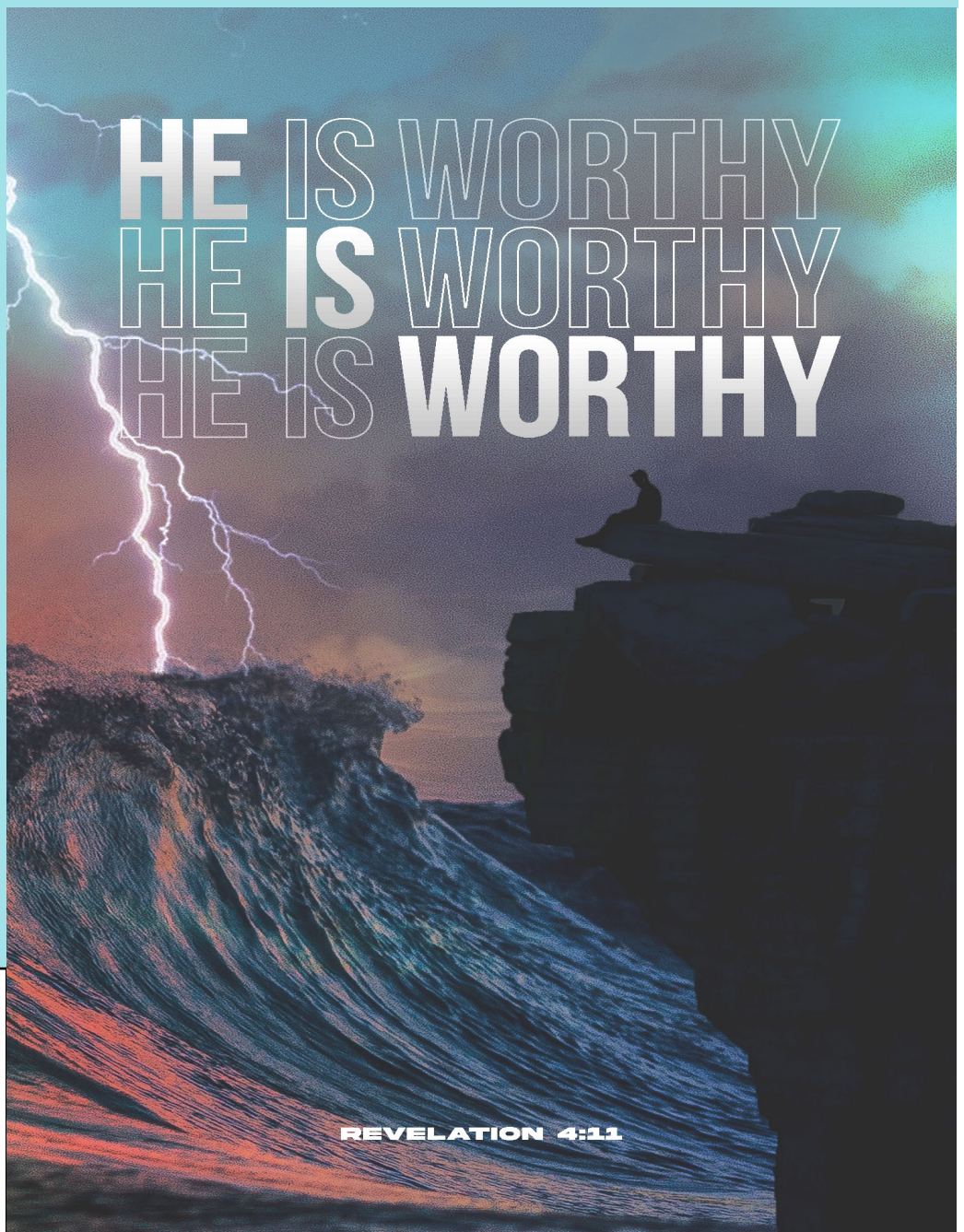


*Palm Beach Lakes church of Christ*

**Vol. LXII**

**December 17, 2023**

**No. 50**



**HE IS WORTHY  
HE IS WORTHY  
HE IS WORTHY**

**REVELATION 4:11**

READING THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT

*A Chapter  
A Day*

*This Week's Reading:*  
*Revelation 13 -  
Revelation 17*



By Dan Jenkins

## His Blessings Are Eternally Satisfying

This Sunday I will partake of the Lord's Supper for the 3,819th time. I vividly remember the first time I sat at His table and meditated on all that Jesus had done for me. I have never tired of that time of meditation, and communion is even more moving now than it was that first time. There are some things that we must never count as ordinary and outdated. Consider these timeless, eternal truths that are part of our soul.

The worship of God must never grow old. I made a decision more than seventy years ago, and I never have to decide if I will worship God every Sunday. How can we not worship the one "in whom we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28)? Daniel reminded King Nebuchadnezzar that it is "God who holds your breath in His hand and owns all of you" (Dan. 5:23). It is Jehovah God who is responsible for every good and perfect gift that comes to us (Jas. 1:17). As long as I remember these truths, how could worshiping Him ever grow old!

Singing must never grow old. When we properly understand how God views our singing, we will understand this truth. Singing is not properly sounding "Do-Re-Mi" at the proper pitch. Singing is not focused on making sure we noticed whether a note gets a full beat or two beats. God says nothing

about the quality of the vocal aspects of singing. He is concerned about the melody coming from our hearts, not the melody coming from our vocal cords (Eph. 5:19). The prophet Isaiah describes the hearts of those who truly worship God. "The ransomed of the Lord shall...come to Zion with singing, with everlasting joy on their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness; sorrow and sighing shall flee away" (Isa. 51:11).

Listening to the proclamation of God's words should never grow old. I remember as a younger preacher how Franklin Camp listened to my preaching. He had at that time studied the Bible for six hours each day for the previous forty years. What could a young preacher like me say that he had never spent hours studying? Yet he listened to the truths I was talking about like it was the first time he had ever heard it. I preached for years with him in the audience. It was

not my preaching that brought it about! He was one who hungered and thirsted to know all he could about righteousness. It was not my words, but His words that filled this older man's desire to know God's will.

Now think about it. What is there in a Christian's life that should ever grow old? This world has nothing to be compared to what God has given us that never grows old. Let me urge you to think soberly about the thoughts in this article. Let us never grow tired of all our God has given us!

**The world has nothing to be compared to what God has given us!**



By David Sproule

## "Let Me First"

Every parent (and probably every teacher) knows what this is like. You tell your kid to do something and the immediate response is something like, "Ok, *but first* I'm going to do this other thing." What's going on in that response? "This other thing" has taken priority over whatever the child has been instructed to do. The child thinks he/she knows better than the parent and that what he/she wants to do is more important.

Fortunately, kids grow out of that. Right? There aren't any adults who respond with a "but first" I am going to do something else. Right? And surely there aren't any Christians who respond with a "but first" I am going to do this other thing. Right?

In Luke 9, there was a scribe who came to Jesus and said, "Lord, I will follow You wherever You go" (9:57). Jesus warned him that it was not a position of earthly prominence to be in His kingdom, as even Jesus had "nowhere to lay His head" (9:58). Jesus then turned to another and said, "Follow Me" (9:59). Notice, like one of those children illustrated above, how he responded.

"But he said, 'Lord, *let me first* go and bury my father'" (9:59). The Lord gave him a command, but he does not respond as if Jesus is truly "Lord." He had something else that

was more important than doing what Jesus had instructed him to do, as evidenced in his words, "Let me first."

A second man also said, "Lord, I will follow You, but *let me first* go and bid them farewell who are at my house" (9:61). Again, this man addresses Jesus as "Lord," but does not treat Jesus as "Lord." In essence, he said, "I will do what you want me to do, but first I am going to do what I want to do."

**In that moment, we are being as irresponsible and selfish as that little child.**

Note Jesus' direct censure of this type of attitude— "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God" (9:62).

Let me ask you—Do you have any moments in your life when you look at the expectations of our LORD and say to Him (perhaps in action more than actual words), "Lord, *let me first* go and do something else that is more important in my eyes right now"? Let me follow that up by asking this very sobering question—How is that any different than the little child who responds to a parent's directions, "Ok, *but first* I'm going to do this other thing"? There is NO difference! In that moment, we are being as irresponsible and selfish as that little child.

May God help us to (1) put our hand to the plow in His kingdom and (2) not look back at what we could do first! Christ, and Christ alone, must be first (Matt. 6:33; Col. 1:18)!



By Robert Lupo

## Does Jesus Want You to Be Taken Advantage of?

In Matthew 5:40-42, Jesus gave some commands that may seem a little hard to swallow. He said, "If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also. And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two. Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away." As Christians, we must obey the commands of our Lord Jesus. So, does Jesus expect us to let people take advantage of us? To answer this question, we need to understand the context of these commands.

The first command is regarding a legal matter. Jesus uses the conditional phrase, "If anyone wants to sue you..." It is clear that the only area this command applies to is in legal matters. So, how do we apply it? Christians should not be involved in lawsuits over petty things. It is much harder to mend a relationship after a lawsuit than it is to buy a new tunic.

The second command (we summarize as, "Going the extra mile") refers to a Roman law which compelled subjects to transport men on a mission for the government. It was known that many Romans often took advantage of this law. Therefore, this command is to be applied in regard to responding to government abuse. Those who abuse their authority

have souls, too. If we insist on exercising our rights, we may miss an opportunity to show them the love of Christ. As Paul said in Romans 12:20, "...for in so doing, you will heap coals of fire on his head."

The third command, "Give to him who asks you..." may be the hardest to accept. In this case, there is no special context in view. This command applies generally. So, how do we apply this command to our lives? Do we have to give liberally to whoever asks of us without exception?

Jesus is very clear here that Christians need to give freely just like He gave freely. So, can we look to Jesus' life and see how He gave? He said in John 14:14, "If you ask anything in My name, I will do it." But, does Jesus give us everything that we ask? When Paul asked Jesus that his thorn in the flesh be taken away, Jesus did not remove it (2 Cor. 12:7-9). Jesus regulates His giving based on His wisdom and responsibilities. So, our giving must also be regulated in the same way.

Each of us has a responsibility to provide for his family (1 Tim. 5:8). Each of us has a responsibility to work as he is able (2 Thess. 3:10). But, we also cannot refuse to give in retaliation (Deut. 15:8-10). Jesus wants us to exercise wisdom. Giving does not always help; sometimes it hurts. A drug addict is not helped when they get money for their next fix. And, we do not help by giving to those looking to take advantage.

**A drug addict is not helped when they get money for their next fix.**

## Articles Published in PBL Family News Emails Last Week

### Cast it out and as far from you as possible

There is a Greek word used often in the New Testament that literally means "to place or lay away from." It was used of clothes in Acts 7:58, but mostly it is used figuratively. Romans 13:12 states, "Let us cast off the works of darkness." The idea of the word is to "put away from oneself, never to take it up again."

In Colossians 3:8, Paul lists a number of vices that are highly inconsistent with the moral standards of a faithful Christian, and he commands to "cast off" these behaviors "away from oneself." Included in this list is "filthy language out of your mouth." The word for "filthy language" involves "obscene speech, dirty talk." James says that "blessing and cursing...ought not" to proceed "out of the same mouth" (3:10), and here Paul is ordering Christians to get "out of your mouth" the words and nuances that are foul, vile and obscene in the eyes of God.

May God help us to "cast off," out of our mouths, the language that does not become a child of the holy God! – DS



### Who is the god?

The Babylonian king, Nebuchadnezzar, was so egotistical that he thought that he was all-powerful and could wield his authority to coerce anyone to do anything that he wanted. When Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego did not bow down to him or his image, the king threatened to throw them "into the midst of a burning fiery furnace." And then he asked this sneering question, "Who is the god who will deliver you from my hands?" (Dan. 3:15).

You and I know the answer to that question, and Nebuchadnezzar himself learned the answer to that question, when he later praised "the God of" these three Hebrews (Dan. 3:28).

Let us consider that question in our lives. Who is the god who can affect the moral decline all around us? Who is the god who can turn our wayward children back to righteousness? Who is the god who can take the mess of my life and straighten it out? Who is the god who will deliver us? We know! "Our God is greater than all gods" (2 Chron. 2:5), for our God "is able" (Eph. 3:20-21)! – DS

# Keep in Your Prayers



## Pray for These PBL Members

<b>Mattie Cox</b>	recovering from surgery to remove a kidney tumor
<b>Loretta Holaday</b>	recovering from reverse shoulder replacement
<b>Ophelia Holmes</b>	awaiting further diagnosis and treatment plan for mass
<b>Keith Joy</b>	recovering from eye surgery
<b>John Loftis</b>	fractured his left shoulder and dealing with a lot of pain
<b>Norma Mariano</b>	will have the shunt in her brain turned back on soon
<b>Juliette Mauvais</b>	suffering with severe pain
<b>John Patrick</b>	recovering at home from hip replacement surgery
<b>Joel Ramirez</b>	seeing a specialist for possible heart issues
<b>Amy West</b>	recovering at home from her stroke

## Ongoing Health Issues

<b>Robin Landen</b>	multiple health issues
<b>John Loftis</b>	back pain, weakness
<b>Joel Ramirez</b>	dialysis treatments
<b>Sherri Richmond</b>	multiple health issues
<b>Henry Williams</b>	dialysis treatments

## Pray for Our Shut-Ins

Millie Ames	Inell Ingram
Lillian Bankston	Daniel Johnson
Judy Carmack	Kasandra Jones
Josie Dawson	Betty Matter
Zula Garrett	Joyce Parker
Terri Hahn	Leigh Puckett
Margie Hardin	Maurine Reed
Loretta Holaday	Ricky Smedley
Joan Holloway	

## Pray for These Relatives of PBL Members

<b>Patterson Alexander</b>	Jean Archer's brother, hospital, multiple health issues
<b>Myrick Bassie</b>	Yolanda Stewart's father, suffering serious health issues
<b>Ignacio Ramirez</b>	Joel Ramirez's father, dealing with cancer & recent fall

**Remember**  
**Our Mission Works**

*Pacific Islands*  
**Robert & Mary Martin**  
**Wayne & Kristi Parker**  
**Joey & Tammy Treat**

*Africa*  
**Tamuka Arunashe**  
**Nnanna Aforji**

*Montgomery, Alabama*  
**Apologetics Press**

*Coral Springs, Florida*  
**Mauricio Yegros**

*Bahamas*  
**Tavaro & Shameika Hanna**



# Church Family Calendar of Events

## Sunday, December 17

- ◆ **PBL Family Photos Updated.** If your photo needs to be updated, please have your photo taken **after morning services or before evening services** by Mike Erickson in the Family Room.
- ◆ **His Kids Class** at 5:30 p.m. for Age 3 and up. Meet in the front of the auditorium. **All members are encouraged to be here at 5:45 p.m.** to see the young boys lead a short devotional before evening worship begins. This will be the last class until March 10, 2024.

## Monday, December 18

- ◆ **No Monday Night Bible Study.** Class will resume on Monday, January 8.

## Tuesday, December 19

- ◆ **No Tuesday Morning Bible Study.** Class will resume on Tuesday, January 9.

## Sunday, December 24

9:00 a.m. **Bible Study**  
 10:00 a.m. **Morning Worship**  
**NO Evening Services**

## Sunday, December 31

- ◆ **New 10-Week Classes Begin** at 9:00 a.m. for Jr. High, Sr. High and adults.
- ◆ **New Year's Eve Lunch** after morning services. Bring soup and sandwiches to share. All members are encouraged to come and enjoy this time of fellowship together.
- ◆ **Evening Worship** at 12:45 p.m. There will be no services at 6:00 p.m.

## Sunday, January 7

- ◆ **Every Member Present Sunday** for Bible Class and Worship. New plans for the new year will be presented, and every member is urged to be in attendance. Let's start the new year together!
- ◆ **Meeting of All PBL Men** at 5:00 p.m. in the Family Room.

## Monday, January 8

- ◆ **Men's Meet** at 6:30 p.m. at the church building. All PBL men in Grades 9 and up are invited. Bring your Bible, a chair, some meat to grill, a drink and your own plate/utensils. This is a great opportunity for men of all generations to fellowship.

*Palm Beach Lakes church of Christ*  
**Young Adults**

## Saturday, January 6

- ◆ **Young Adult Singing & Fellowship** at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Dion & Misty Hayes. See Ivan Villard for more details.

## Monday, January 8

- ◆ **Men's Meet** at 6:30 p.m. at the church building. All PBL men in Grades 9 and up are invited. Bring your Bible, a chair, some meat to grill, a drink and your own plate/utensils. This is a great opportunity for men of all generations to fellowship.

## Friday, January 26

- ◆ **Ladies & Lattes** at 7:00 p.m. Location TBD. All PBL women in Grades 9 and up are invited to fellowship and grow together in God's word. Coffee and tea will be provided. Please bring a dessert.

## Saturday, January 27

- ◆ **Young Adult Game Night** at 5:00 p.m. at the home of Sarah Collier. See Ivan Villard for more details.



**Palm Beach Lakes**  
**Youth**

## Sunday, December 17

- ◆ **His Kids Class** at 5:30 p.m. for Age 3 and up. Meet in the front of the auditorium. This will be the last class until March 10, 2024.

## Sunday, December 31

- ◆ **Sr. High Lock-In** from 10:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. Please bring \$5 to cover the cost of food. Invite your friends to join us for activities, video games and crafts. Parents, please let Robert know if you are able to chaperone part or all of this event.

## Sunday, January 7

- ◆ **Jr. High & Sr. High Family Devo** after morning worship. Please bring a potluck dish to share. See Robert Lupo for more details.

## Monday, January 8

- ◆ **Men's Meet** at 6:30 p.m. at the church building. All PBL men in Grades 9 and up are invited. Bring your Bible, a chair, some meat to grill, a drink and your own plate/utensils.

# PALM BEACH LAKES CHURCH OF CHRIST

## Men's Worship Service Assignments - January 2024

January 7 <sup>(A)</sup>

January 14 <sup>(L)</sup>

January 21 <sup>(A)</sup>

January 28 <sup>(C)</sup>

Morning Worship Service				
Song Leader	Dion Hayes	Gary Friedly	Robert Lupo	Dion Hayes
Opening Prayer	Jeff Leslie	Willie Smith	Gary Jenkins	Kane Campbell
Scripture Reader	Lawrence Williams	Orlando Lolo	David Lord	James Green
Presiding at Table	Jeff Goodale	Victor Colage	Dion Hayes	Kirk Crews
Serving at Table	Lance Collier James Green Jack Holoman Cayden Scriven Islay Rodriguez Jim Rogers Joseph Snyder Cristian Suarez Ivan Villard Marty Williams	Troy Alberga Douglas Alvarenga Ryan Hankins Namdidie Ikon Todd Juckett Steward Lynch Tim Mahlbacher Robert Mariano Taylor Reeves Tyler Williams	Ed Buonadonna Addison Collins Gorman Ericksen Andres Fernandez Bill Ingram, Jr. Keith Joy Dan McLeod Chuck Reeves, Jr. Darin Summerlot Brandan Widner	Lance Collier Graysen Hayes Trey Higbee Jack Holoman Joe Maloney Luther Robinson Jim Rogers Cayden Scriven Joseph Snyder Cristian Suarez
Closing Prayer	Johnny Davis	Ricky Smith	Dan Fuller	Islay Rodriguez

Evening Worship Service				
Song Leader	Dan McLeod	Ivan Villard	Graysen Hayes	Stephen Beliech
Opening Prayer	Graysen Hayes	Tim Fry	Dirk Summerlot	Jeff Goodale
Scripture Reader	Trey Higbee	Richard Watson	David Brown	Connor Goodale
Presiding at Table	Jimmie Banks	Tom Garrison	Paul Metzkes	John Hoelzer
Serving at Table	John Hoelzer Joe Maloney	Nicholas Pietro Trevin Roman	Cris Cuevas Daniel Wagner	Jim Davis Kameron Heitler
Closing Prayer	Jim Davis	Philip Porter	Blake Bennett	Mike Archer

Technical Assignments (Sunday & Wednesday)				
Audio	Ricky Smith	David Brown	James Green	David Brown
Computer	Buzz Nelson	Buzz Nelson	Bob Higbee	Ivan Villard
Video	Todd Juckett	Scott Studer	Edward Gager	Scott Studer

Service Assignments (Sunday & Wednesday)				
Safety	Kirk Crews	Seth Watson	Daniel Swayne	Marty Williams
Usher	Kane Campbell Vincent Rogers	Tim Cox Nahum Villard	Freddie Gadson Eugene Williams	Michael Erickson Lawrence Williams

Service Coordinator (Sunday Morning & Evening)				
	Bob Higbee	Eugene Williams	Mike Damron	Tim Cox

Please consider this opportunity to serve as special and dress accordingly.

Sunday Morning - Meet in Grade 6-8 classroom at 9:45 AM. Sunday Evening - Meet at front of auditorium before 5:50 PM.

If you are unable to serve, please contact the Service Coordinator for the week or Rick Hall at 827-4269.

Technical, Safety and Usher assignments are for Sunday morning, evening and Wednesday.

**"...always abounding in the work of the Lord..." (1 Cor. 15:58)**

**Members Traveling**  
this week



**Thank You**  
for worshipping with us

Sunday,  
December 10



We rejoice with **Johnny Singer** who was baptized on Sunday morning, December 10.

**LOCAL VISITORS:** Ms. Selena Booze; Ms. Sylvia Goldie; Mr. & Mrs. Robert & Claudja Henry; Mr. & Mrs. Dennis & Sharon Mann; Mr. & Mrs. Rai & Ashley Masuda; Miss Victoria Michwanazi; Ms. Brittney & Jessica Miller; Ms. Lizzie Rozier; Mr. Robert Shelton; Mr. & Mrs. Johnny & Lauren Singer; and Mr. Samuel Williams.

**OUT-OF-TOWN VISITORS:** Mr. Jordan & Perry Bretherick, Florence, AL; Ms. Denise Butler, Fresno, CA; Mr. Jerry Cole, Okeechobee, FL; Mr. Andrew Jenkins, Melbourne, FL; and Mr. Luke Stults, Florence, AL.



# Devotional Led by His Kids Boys



**Sunday at 5:45 p.m.**

ALL members are encouraged to come and hear the young boys. This will be the last class until March 2024.

Monday, December 18th  
Ted & Karen Friesner (Ann.)  
Rick & Melinda Price (Ann.)

Thursday, December 21st  
Casey Bound  
Islay Rodriguez, Sr.  
Ryan Smedberg

Tuesday, December 19th  
Victor & Sandy Colage (Ann.)  
Mary Quinn  
Patricia Patterson

Friday, December 22nd  
Devin Eutsey  
Emma Reeves

Wednesday December 20th  
Eugene Williams

Saturday, December 23rd  
Janice Cooley  
David Lord

## Those to Serve

*If you are unable to serve, please contact the Service Coordinator for the week or Rick Hall at 827-4269.  
If you are scheduled to serve on Sunday morning, please meet in the Grades 6-8 classroom at **9:50 a.m.**  
If you are scheduled to serve on Sunday evening, please meet at the front of the auditorium at **5:50 p.m.***

### Sunday Morning, December 17

- Singing ..... Dion Hayes
- Lord's Supper ..... Ivan Villard
- Singing
- Opening Prayer ..... Jeff Leslie
- Scripture Reading ..... Johnny Davis
- Singing
- Contribution
- Singing
- Sermon
- Singing
- Closing Prayer ..... Mike Archer
- Serve at Table:
- Kirk Crews            Luther Robinson
- Connor Goodale     Jim Rogers
- Jeff Goodale         Cayden Scriven
- Graysen Hayes       Joseph Snyder
- Jack Holoman        Marty Williams

### Sunday Evening, December 17

- Singing ..... Stephen Beliech
- Opening Prayer ..... John Hoelzer
- Scripture Reading ..... Michael Erickson
- Singing
- Lord's Supper ..... Kane Campbell
- Contribution
- Singing
- Sermon
- Singing
- Closing Prayer ..... Jim Davis
- Serve at Table:
- Kameron Heitler     Joe Maloney

Audio this week: James Green  
Computer this week: Buzz Nelson  
Video this week: Todd Juckett

### Wednesday Evening, December 20

- Singing ..... Ivan Villard
- Invitation ..... Dan Jenkins
- Family Prayer ..... Jeff Leslie

## Our Record

Attendance	Dec. 10	Nov. Avg
Sun. Bible Study	159	173
Sun. AM Worship	261	250
Sun. PM Worship	105	114
Wed. Bible Study	150	106
Contribution	\$18,002	\$17,330

2023 Weekly Budget: \$16,450

Y-T-D Contribution-to-Budget: \$28,843

Service Coordinators:  
Mike Damron

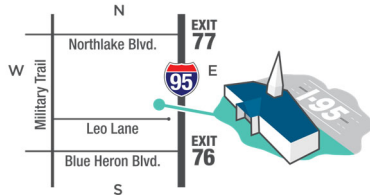
Ushers for this week: Lance Collier & Islay Rodriguez  
Safety Team for this week: Jimmie Banks



# Palm Beach Lakes CHURCH OF CHRIST

4067 Leo Lane  
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410

*Speaking where the Bible speaks, Silent where the Bible is silent.*



### Service Schedule

#### Sunday:

Bible Classes..... 9:00 a.m.  
Worship ..... 10:00 a.m.  
Worship ..... 6:00 p.m.

#### Wednesday:

Bible classes ..... 7:00 p.m.

Front Cover: John & Sue Hoelzer







# MISSION Sunday

TAKING THE GOSPEL TO THE WORLD

*January 28*

## First-Century Christianity in the Twenty-First Century

-  *Speaking where the Bible speaks*
-  *Silent where the Bible is silent*
-  *Calling Bible things by Bible names*
-  *Doing Bible things in Bible ways*

