

## Parkway Newsletter December 2024



Parkway  
Presbyterian Church

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We worship on Sunday Mornings at  
10:30 am.

Join us in person or on Facebook.

[Facebook](#) Live-Stream details:  
Click on this link: [FACEBOOK](#)

OR:

Log onto Facebook and search for  
Parkway Presbyterian Church of Metairie  
and tap JOIN

Scroll down - you will see the current  
livestream & past livestreams of church  
services



### Message from Pastor Mike

This Advent, I have been focusing my prayers and my opportunities for meditation and contemplation on what I think might be *the* virtue most sorely lacking in many of our lives: *peace*. With the already-hectic pace of life suddenly amplified by the hustle and bustle of the holidays, peace and peacefulness often feel like the last thing on offer. This makes sense: after all, there's not much money-making opportunity in joyful stillness, and anyway, it doesn't seem likely that we will ever figure out how to buy our way to inner contentment regardless. The kind of peace that really has value must be forged, cultivated in the spirit and the heart—no easy task when a thousand-and-one other items on the to-do list keep it from being a priority.

This is a shame, because so much of the story of Christmas is grounded in a deep sense of rest, calm, and peacefulness. Remarkably, this story manages to pull this off despite the undeniable violence and

instability that greeted Jesus at his birth, with the Massacre of the Innocents and the subsequent need for the Holy Family to flee their homeland as refugees demonstrating how fragile and precious peace can really be. Scripture doesn't ignore this troubling context—instead, it transforms it, depicting the birth of Jesus as a sudden, radical infusion of peace, hope and joy in a world that desperately needs all three. It's a reminder of the tremendous power of fostering tranquility, even when, *especially* when, the world feels particularly overwhelming.

Just as we put our faith and trust in the Prince of Peace, let us put our faith in the power of peace this Advent season. Here's one possible way to do that: research says just five minutes of silent meditation/prayer can have remarkable calming and soothing effects. This Advent, I hope you can join me in taking at least five minutes a day to work on your inner peace-making skills. I encourage you to make this part of a devotional if you're up for it—for instance, I chant a psalm, read the appointed daily scripture passages, and then repeat a simple one- or two-word phrase to focus my mind on my breathing, but you can take your own approach! Hopefully, by the time Christmas arrives, you'll be ready to joyfully greet Jesus, knowing that a peaceful and loving heart is the best way to celebrate the season.

Peace,  
Pastor Mike

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## Hangings of the Greens

Join us after worship this **Sunday, December 1** to decorate our **Chrismon Tree**. This is a wonderful time to share in fellowship as we prepare for the birth of Christ our Savior.





## The Season of Advent

“**Advent**” means “*coming*” or “*arrival*.”

During the season of Advent, we celebrate Christ’s coming into the world and watch with expectant hope for His coming again.

In its historical origins, the season of Advent was patterned after the season of Lent, a six-week period of penitence and preparation for Easter. Similarly, the four weeks of Advent present an opportunity for communal discernment and personal examination, as we prepare to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord and look with hope for Christ’s return.

During **Advent**, candles are lit each **Sunday** on the Advent Wreath, each symbolizing different themes of the season:

1. First Sunday of Advent (Dec 1): The purple candle symbolizes **HOPE**. Also called the "Prophecy Candle" in remembrance of the prophets, especially Isaiah, who foretold Christ's birth. It represents anticipation of the coming Messiah and the salvation He brings.
2. Second Sunday of Advent (Dec 8): The **purple candle** represents **FAITH** and is called the "Bethlehem Candle," recalling Micah's prophecy of the Messiah's birth in Bethlehem and Mary and Joseph's journey there.
3. Third Sunday of Advent (Dec 15): The pink candle symbolizes **JOY** and is called the "**Shepherd's Candle**," celebrating the joy of the shepherds upon hearing the angels' announcement of Jesus' birth. This is **Gaudete Sunday**, a day of rejoicing.
4. Fourth Sunday of Advent (Dec 22): The purple candle symbolizes **PEACE** and is called the "**Angel's Candle**," representing the peace Jesus brings, reconciling people with God and each other.
5. Christmas Day: The white center candle, known as **Christ's Candle**, represents **light and purity**, symbolizing Christ's **sinlessness** and His central role in our lives.

Each candle highlights a **different aspect** of the Advent season, leading to the celebration of Christ’s birth.

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## Bringing Our Vision to Life:

Pledge cards have gone out! During our stewardship pledge period, we hope you can take some time to reflect on how God is calling you to help steward our limited resources. To help with that, here are some questions for reflection on your personal

experiences with stewardship:

***What is your personal stewardship story?***

***What lessons have you learned about money and giving in your life?***

***Who have been your teachers?***

***What's been helpful to you and what has proven unhelpful?***

*(Adapted from the Rev. Anthony B. Robinson)*

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## Worship Cantata at John Calvin Presbyterian Church

**On Sunday, December 8**, there will be **NO** service at Parkway. Instead we will gather with John Calvin and Chinese Presbyterian churches at John Calvin Church to hear the Christmas Cantata presented by the choir of both churches.

The church service will be held at 10:30 am

**at John Calvin Presbyterian Church on 4201 Transcontinental Drive.**

The Cantata will be followed by a potluck luncheon where we can all fellowship and enjoy lunch.

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## Joy Gift Offering

The **Christmas Joy Offering** supports church workers and their families in the PC(USA) who need critical financial assistance. God has blessed the Church with incredible leadership in every time and place, but those leaders often need to be supported by their communities as well. This Offering addresses the support needed by some of our leaders, including supporting leadership development for communities of color, and providing support for Presbyterian church workers in their time of need. The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years. Give the gift of education and the gift of relief of financial burden this giving season by supporting the Christmas Joy Offering.



### **Christmas Eve Worship Service Lessons in Carols**

We will gather at 6 pm on December 24 to worship and celebrate the birth of our Jesus Christ. If you need a ride to the service, contact the church office or sign the sheet in Hospitality.

### **FEATURED RECIPE: TURKEY POT PIE**

*(A delicious way to use up those left-overs!)*



## INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups frozen peas and carrots
- 2 cups frozen green beans
- 1 cup sliced celery
- $\frac{2}{3}$  cup butter
- $\frac{2}{3}$  cup diced onion
- $\frac{2}{3}$  cup all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon ground black pepper
- $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon celery seed
- $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon onion powder
- $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon Italian seasoning
- 1  $\frac{3}{4}$  cups chicken broth
- 1  $\frac{1}{3}$  cups milk
- 4 cups cubed leftover cooked turkey
- 2 (14.1 ounce) packages pastry for a 9-inch double-crust pie

## Directions

1. Gather the ingredients. Preheat the oven to 425 degrees F (220 degrees C).
2. Place frozen peas, carrots, and beans in a saucepan with celery; add enough water to cover and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium-low and simmer until celery is tender, about 8 minutes. Drain.
3. While vegetables are simmering, melt butter in a saucepan over medium heat. Add onion and cook until translucent, about 5 minutes. Add flour, salt, pepper, celery seed, onion powder, and Italian seasoning and whisk until a paste forms, about 1 minute. Slowly whisk in chicken broth and then milk until incorporated; bring to a simmer and cook, whisking constantly, until sauce thickens, 3 to 5 minutes.
4. Remove thickened sauce from the heat; add cooked, drained vegetables and cubed turkey and stir until filling is well combined.
5. Set out two 9-inch pie dishes. Fit one pie pastry into the bottom of each dish. Spoon  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the pot pie filling into each dish, then lay remaining pie pastries over top. Pinch and roll the top and bottom pastries together at the edges to seal. Use a sharp knife to cut several small slits in each top pastry to allow steam to release while cooking. Place pies on baking sheets.
6. Bake in the preheated oven for 15 minutes. Check the top crusts for browning; if they are browning too quickly, cover with aluminum foil. Continue to bake until the crusts are golden brown and the filling is bubbly, 15 to 20 more minutes.
7. Remove from the oven and cool for 10 minutes before serving.
8. Serve and enjoy!

## How to Store Turkey Pot Pie

Allow the turkey pot pie to cool completely, then transfer it to an airtight container. Store in the refrigerator for three to four days.

## Can You Freeze Turkey Pot Pie?

Yes, you can freeze turkey pot pie leftovers for up to four months. Thaw in the refrigerator and reheat in the microwave or in the oven.

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## Dates to Remember

### December 1:

First Day of Advent  
Communion Sunday.  
Decorating the Christmas Tree after worship.



### December 8:

We will attend the worship service at John Calvin at **10:30 a.m.**, where the combined choirs of John Calvin, Parkway and the Chinese Presbyterian Churches will perform a Christmas Cantata. **There will be no worship Service or Sunday School class at Parkway.**

The Cantata will be followed by a Potluck Luncheon at John Calvin. Feel free to bring a dish if you'd like. If you need a ride to the service, please let the Church office or any of the elders know.

### December 15:

Pledge dedication Sunday

**December 24:** Christmas Eve Candle Light Service at **6 pm**

### December 29:

We will **NOT** have Pot Luck on this 5th Sunday; however, we **WILL** have a birthday party for our December birthdays AND for the New Year about to be "born!" The Worship Service will be a **hymn sing** where we can enjoy singing our favorite hymns.

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## PICTURE PARKWAY

*We enjoyed a wonderful Harvest Soup Hospitality after worship on Sunday, November 24. We celebrated and gave thanks for the many blessings God has bestowed upon Parkway.*







**Andrea Koch serves as liturgist during worship.**



**Martha Bauman helps give out sandwiches at Program of Hope.**



**Pastor Mike delivers the scripture message at Program of Hope.**



**Thank you Jerry! So wonderful to have you fill in to play the organ when Dale is out.**

**Pastor Mike serves communion at Program of Hope.**



**Special thanks to Robin Calvert who's ingenuity helped us to open the door to the Sanctuary A/C unit when the door knob broke.**



## **Join us for Sunday School! "The Chosen"**

**The Chosen.** It is the story, based on scripture and constantly critiqued by a learned Protestant clergyman, a most knowledgeable Priest, and a Rabbi who is a scholar on Jewish history and the Torah. The three of them must approve all scenes in all episodes shot, beginning with the initial scripts by Dallas Jenkins. We hope many of you will **join us at 9:15** for coffee and juice in the Conference Room as Sandy McGeehan leads the class. **We begin promptly at 9:30** with the airing of the morning's episode.



## December Birthdays

Tom Paine 1  
Ford Dieth 2  
Karen Dawson 7  
Becky Brown 9  
Donna Seitz 15  
Jo Ann Thigpen 22  
John Miquet 23  
Cathy Meyer 26  
John Womble 27  
Valerie Owen 29  
John Paine 30  
Joanne Chancey 31  
Betty Muller 31



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### Prayer 'n Share - Mondays at 10 am

Please join us. The telephone number is **720-740-9740**.  
Then dial the access code when prompted: **528-8266#**.



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Please adhere to all Jefferson Parish Parking rules around Parkway. If you are not parking in our parking lot on Condon: Do not park across from driveways, obey all parking signs, park 15 feet from corners, and park in the direction of traffic.

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