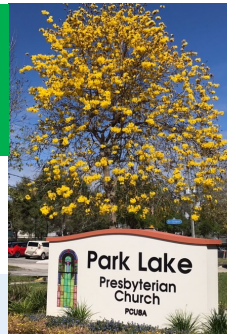


Worship and Work

Park Lake Presbyterian Church
407-841-6550
Dr. Dan M. DeBevoise, Co-pastor

www.plpc.org

309 East Colonial Dr.
Orlando, Florida 32801
Dr. Helen M. DeBevoise, Co-pastor



February-March 2024

Vol. 49 No. 2



Remember to set your clocks ahead
one hour!

SATURDAY, MARCH 10TH

Lenten Season 2024

The season of Lent begins on **Wednesday, February 14**, with the observance of Ash Wednesday, concluding with Holy Week: Palm Sunday through Easter Sunday. Lent is a time of turning toward God in very intentional ways and deepening your relationship with God.



Ash Wednesday services, on **February 14** will be held **12 noon and 5:30 pm**. Join us for ashes, quiet reflection, and prayer.

Holy Week

- ♦ **Sunday, March 24** - Palm Sunday, 10:30 am worship (Sanctuary)
- ♦ **Thursday, March 28** - Maundy Thursday, 7:00 pm, Worship service (Sanctuary)
- ♦ **Friday, March 29** - Good Friday, Community Worship Service (details to be announced)
- ♦ **Saturday, March 30** - 9:45 am, Annual Park Lake Children's Egg Hunt (Struble Fellowship Hall / patio)
- ♦ **Holy Saturday** —1-3 pm, a time of creative contemplation
- ♦ **Sunday, March 31 – EASTER SUNDAY**
7:00 am - Easter Sunrise Service (patio)
8:00 am - Youth Pancake breakfast fundraiser (Struble Fellowship Hall)
9:00 am - Sunday school, all ages (Education Building)
10:30 am - Easter Worship Service (Sanctuary)

TACKLE HUNGER

Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday
February 11, 2024
SOUP LUNCH
Struble Fellowship Hall
(after worship)

**What? Soup lunch provided
by the Park Lake Youth**
Valentine's Cookies
provided by the Deacons!

Cost? Monetary donations and non-perishable food items. Monetary donations will be used to purchase items for the **Blessing Bag Ministry**.



WHAT'S INSIDE....?

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- ♦ **Mission and Outreach** Page 4-5
- ♦ **Upcoming Events** Page 6-7
- ♦ **Church Library News** Page 8

Lent begins this year on February 14, Valentine's Day.

We may get a Valentine's card that says something silly or sweet like "You're the cat's meow and the dog's bow wow. Please be my number one Valentine pal."

Then we will come to church to have a smudge of ashes placed on our forehead and be told, "Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return."



Sometimes calendar dates collide with a disorienting effect.

Should we make a heart with ashes instead of a cross on our foreheads this year?

As a child, I always looked forward to Valentine's Day because my mother loved to give cards, candy, and presents. When you got home from school or at dinner there was always a celebration featuring pink and white decorations. Hand-drawn hearts with arrows and cupids adorned envelopes and napkins. Your name was written in her lovely handwriting with an extra flourish of xxx's and ooo's. It was her small expression of love and playfulness.

It seems odd to me to say I'm looking forward to Lent this year. Lent conjures ideas of abstaining from desserts or pleasurable activities. Words like sackcloth, fast, and repentance don't naturally go hand in hand with candy hearts and Cupid's arrows.

I already feel overwhelmed with daily news reports of war, suffering, and human hostilities. What could there possibly be to look forward to on a Lenten path focusing on our frailty and brokenness?

But I am looking forward to Lent this year. And I think it is because of the daily reminders of the world's suffering that I am reminded Lent is a path toward the amazing love and grace of Jesus Christ. "What Wondrous Love" is the hymn we often sing on Ash Wednesday at the beginning of Lent. "What wondrous love is this, that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dreadful curse for my soul." During Lent, we remember and commit ourselves again to walking the path of Jesus' life, in faith and hope that the risen Jesus walks with us today. We trust that in his company we can live and work for healing and love in our lives and the world.

Joan Chittister writes, "A good spiritual life connects us to where we come from, even in the midst of where we are now. It gives us roots. It carries tradition on its back. It ties us to the past in a way that enables us to know who we are in the present. It is the place we never really leave because being there together is what makes us who we are today. That's what Lent does for us. It's about reaching back to remember who we are even while we keep on becoming more than we were."

I am looking forward to Lent: the prayers, the hymns, the purple paraments, the commitment to sit longer with scripture, and the time spent pondering Jesus' life. I am looking forward to our journey through Lent together, when as Joan Chittister says, "our hearts may be opened once more to Jesus in the hope that, this time, meeting Jesus anew we might allow ourselves to become new as a result of it."

Remember who you are and who you are becoming.

Dan DeBevoise, Co-pastor



Welcome to Elder Class of 2026 and Deacon Class of 2025

The Ordination and Installation of Elders (Class of 2026) and Deacons (Class of 2025) occurred during worship.

Thank you for serving!



Elders ordained and installed: Alice Fortunato.

Elders installed: Mackenzie Bertram, Aaron Hull, Vicky Nicoll.

Deacons ordained and installed: Angela Chesser, Billie Jo Elliott, Anne Vercheski.

Thank you to these elders and deacons who have finished their term and rotated off this year.

Elders: John Bowers, Jane Callahan, Lynne Long, Barbara Martin, and David Simmons.

Deacons: Nancy Clark, Pam Coburn, Howard Vincent Kurtz.

Thank you to the many who thought of, purchased, picked out, planned the location and helped dedicate the beautiful Tibouchina tree in memory of Emma McDonald. Seeing the tree and its purple flowers blooming as we head into and out of Worship is a beautiful reminder of her life and how she lived - Vibrantly!



Thank you, thank you, thank you - Emma's Family

YOUNG ADULTS STUDY BEGINNING FEBRUARY 2024



In February, the Young Adult group at Park Lake will be studying, "The Practice of the Presence of God", by Brother Lawrence. Please contact Erin Cook if you would like to join the study, at erincook987@gmail.com.

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

FEBRUARY FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE—February 9

"It's More than a Pie, It's a Love Letter." This month Thomas and Lauren Poore invite us to their home for dinner, games and making pie! Thomas' dad, Craig, was masterful at pie making, and Thomas is going to share some of his skills with us. We'll eat and play some valentines games as well. **6-8 pm @ the Poore's home.** For details contact Helen helenparklake@gmail.com

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

• Saturday, February 11

The youth and parents will be hosting a soup lunch to raise money for blessing bags and canned goods for Washington Shores food pantry. Youth families - email Erin Cook to let her know you can contribute a crockpot of soup. erincook987@gmail.com

• **Saturday, February 17** - Youth volunteer opportunity at the Sharing Center. **Contact Erin Cook at erincook987@gmail.com to participate and for more information.**

SUNDAY SCHOOL

During the season of Lent, we'll be learning about the **"7 Deadly Sins."** **What's a sin? Are there only 7?!** Engaged by that title? Join us in the Youth Room at 9 am.



2024 ZEBRA COALITION GIFT CARDS



The GayStraight@ParkLake group will be collecting gift cards and monetary contributions for the Zebra Coalition as “gift of love” this Valentine’s Day . The Zebra Coalition is a network that provides services to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and all youth (LGBTQ+) ages 13 – 24. The Coalition assists young people facing homelessness, bullying, isolation from their families, and physical, sexual, and drug abuse, with individualized programs to guide them to recovery and stability.

Please consider helping our youth in the Orlando area by giving a gift of love. Needed are gift cards of \$5 and \$10 for economical meals (McDonald’s, Wendy’s, Subway, etc.) or somewhat larger amounts (\$20, \$25-\$50) for clothing, school supplies, and other goods (Walgreens, CVS, Target, Walmart, etc.). We can also convert your monetary gifts into gift cards. Please give or send your gift cards or cash to any member of Gay Straight@Park Lake between Sunday, January 7 and Sunday, February 11. Monetary contributions can also be made by sending a check to the church office or through the church website.

To learn more about the Zebra Coalition visit: <https://www.zebrayouth.org> Thank you for your continued support. Any questions please contact Howard Vincent Kurtz at howardvincentkurtz@gmail.com

Thank you from Family Hope Center!

Dear friends, our December 2023’s Toy drive positively impacted over 325 families, made possible by your unwavering support. Your belief in family, community and the magic of Christmas for children is truly appreciated by us and even more by the families. Wishing you and your families a blessed and joyous 2024.



To learn more about Hope Community Center, go to: hcc-offm.org/

Gratefully, The Staff at Hope Community Center



POTTER’S HAND* Combining Art and Faith

Join us for a creative twist to your Lenten journey. Beginning with Ash Wednesday, February 14, the Potter’s Hand Art and Faith group at Park Lake will guide you through the season with journaling, drawing, painting, and movement with the sacred stories of the season approaching Easter. **Join us in Struble Hall, Wednesday, Feb 21st at 6 pm for art with Bob Smedley.** Bob is an artist who ‘paints’ with paper. In the theme of Lent, we’ll be working with greys and black and white paper. Details? helenparklake@gmail.com

*Potter’s Hand refers to Jeremiah 18:1-11, where we see the image of God the potter working in and through us.



A Devotional Guide for Lent

The 40 days of Lent poetically evoke the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness being “tested by the devil” – and in one of his most beloved works of fiction, “The Screwtape Letters”, C.S. Lewis turned a satirical eye on the idea of such “testing.”

Grab a booklet* and walk with C.S. Lewis, leaning into the power of literature to provoke thought and action. With humor and wit, Lewis explores familiar, everyday struggles – and helps us chart a way forward, into the delight and renewal of Easter morning and beyond. Details? Email helenparklake@gmail.com .

*booklets available in hard copy or digital link.

MISSION AND OUTREACH

5 CENTS A MEAL OFFERING Sundays, February 4 and March 3



Each month, Park Lake participates in an offering to support the **Presbyterians' Answer to Hunger Program (PATH)**. The first Sunday of each month, Park Lake asks members to contribute 5 cents for each meal during the month on Communion Sundays. This is a reminder that as we have been fed at the Lord's table we are called to feed others.

We encourage you to continue to send your 5 cents per meal offering to the church during this time.

One day = 15 cents
One week = \$1.05
One month = \$4.20

To learn more about 5 Cents a meal go to:
cfpresbytery.org

SERVING AT THE CHRISTIAN SERVICE CENTER

10:45 am, 4th Tuesday, February 27 and March 26

Park Lake continues to help serve lunch the **4th Tuesday each month** at Daily Bread at the Christian Service Center. We fill about 250 or so Styrofoam clamshells with the food that is already prepared. It takes about an hour and a half, **10:45 am to 12:30 pm**, and it's easy and rewarding.



Please consider helping a few times a year. See John Bowers or email **jbowers4@cfl.rr.com** for all the details.

The Christian Service Center

If you have new or clean used blankets or men's clothing item that you can donate please bring them to the sanctuary before or after worship on Sundays. Please keep these needs in mind and put items in the back pews in the west transept. We will deliver them!

For more information go to: **<https://www.christianservicecenter.org/donatingclothesandmore>**

FOOD COLLECTION for WASHINGTON SHORES PRESBYTERIAN FOOD PANTRY Tuesdays, February 13th and 27th and March 12th and 26th.

Food and hygiene donations for Washington Shores Presbyterian continues, their need is very great. We are the only church that donates on a regular basis.



Please check expiration dates on food items before donating.

Hygiene items:

Soap
Deodorant
Disposable razors
Socks (men's socks)
Toilet paper
Toothbrushes
Toothpaste
Dental floss
Shampoo
Sanitary supplies
Women's Incontinence items

Food items:

Fruits and vegetables (other than corn) with pop tops: peas, carrots, peaches, beans, etc.
Jelly
Cereal
Rice
Crackers
(low stock items in bold)

Please pick up a blessing bag or two to give to those in need in our community.

Clothing items in great need:

- Men's belts
- Men's jeans
- Men's black pants
- Men's new socks & underwear
- Men's shoes (casual, athletic/tennis, work shoes & construction boots)
- Men's work clothes



UPCOMING EVENTS



**ART EXHIBITS AT FAVO
(FAITH ARTS VILLAGE ORLANDO)**
FIRST FRIDAYS AND FIRST SATURDAYS
5:00 PM - 9:00 PM

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2 AND SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3
AND
FRIDAY, MARCH 1 AND SATURDAY, MARCH 2**



Leadership Training for Church Officers, Committee Chairs and Members, Pastors, Commissioned Pastors, Educators, and Youth Leaders

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10th
8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Presbyterian Church of the Lakes
4700 Lincoln Avenue, Orlando

In Person or a Hybrid Option via Zoom

Go to: www.cfpresbytery.org/equip.html to register.



Congregational Meeting

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, AFTER WORSHIP

The purpose is to approve Trustees, Congregation Nominating Committee and Pastors terms of call.

The **GAYSTRAIGHT@PARK LAKE group** invites their friends and allies to our monthly luncheon at Panera Bread, 3643 East Colonial Drive, in the Orlando Fashion Square Mall. This event is a ten-minute drive from the church. The next two meetings will be **Sundays, February 18 and March 17**, 12:30-1:30 PM. We hope to see you there! For more information, please email John Jenkins at gaystraightatparklake@gmail.com.



STORIES TO TELL, will meet **Monday, February 19 and Monday, March 18, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm in the church conference room**. Please email Meg Lelvis at meglelvis@yahoo.com or Nancy Warlick at dadab12@att.net for further information.



PAGE TURNERS BOOK CLUB

10:00 am

Koinonia Room, downstairs in the Sanctuary building.

- **February 22, we will discuss The Bluest Eye**, by Toni Morrison.
- **March 28, our book will be Angel City**, by Patrick Smith.

For more information, email Anne Gardepe at annegard64@gmail.com.



FEBRUARY

Anniversaries

02 Alice and Dana Schmidt

Birthdays

01 Glenda Jo LeFever
01 Sierra Vickers
01 Jensen Bertram Connolly
02 Nancy Jones
02 Casey Cox
02 Sarah Walker
03 Sarah Huff
04 Frank Kaney
07 Betty Highsmith Miller
07 Savanna Boatman
08 Elaine Szymankiewicz
11 Robert Hamilton
13 Kwame Aniapam, Jr.
13 Mark Beaty
16 Knox Bertam
18 Gayle Schmidt
19 Sara Abel
22 Eric Simmons
26 Karen Cox
26 Will DiSalvo
28 Bill Warlick
28 David Gaboriault
29 Vic Evans



MARCH

Anniversaries

06 Patti and Pete Denniston
10 Nancy and John Hunter
12 Dawn and Guy Neff
19 Anne and John Gardepe

Birthdays

02 Jim Bogner
03 John Rachey
04 Marian Saxton
04 Nancy Hunter
05 Norma Knight
05 Michael Draper
06 Rebecca Johnson
08 Dorothy Godbee
08 Daniel Peasah
11 Anne Gardepe
14 Dorothy Mitchell
15 Jane Callahan
16 Chelsea Gabrielson
17 John Patterson
17 Carla Edwards
19 John Walker
20 John Daniel DeBevoise
22 Phillip Kelley
24 Robert Saxton
24 John Hunter
24 Guy Neff
24 Victoria Boatman
26 Julie Estill
28 David Simmons
28 Ray Wesley Burris
29 Pamela Coburn
31 Richard Abel
31 Allison Siwica
31 Rachel Callahan

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF PARK LAKE

PW Circle Members and those interested in participating in a PW Bible Study Circle, please contact a Circle Representative or go to: plpc.org for more information. Circle meetings are on the first Monday, or first Tuesday of each month from September—May.



- ♦ **Dorcas:** Monday, February 5 and March 4
1:30 pm, Koinonia Sunday school room (located downstairs, Sanctuary building)
Circle Representative
Anne Gardepe, annegard64@gmail.com
Bible Moderator
Sandy Bogner, sandybogner@cfl.rr.com
- ♦ **Sarah:** Monday, February 5 and March 4
2:00 pm, Westminster Towers, Town Center
Circle Representative & Bible Moderator
Marian Price, marian66@cfl.rr.com
- ♦ **Joanna:** Monday, February 5 and March 4
7:00 pm, Koinonia Sunday school room (located downstairs, Sanctuary building)
Circle Representative
Sherry Riley, sheray27@gmail.com
Bible Moderator
Helen DeBevoise, helenparklake@gmail.com
- ♦ **Esther:** Tuesday, February 6 and March 5
7:00 pm, Koinonia Sunday school room (located downstairs, Sanctuary building)
Circle Representative
Erin Cook, erincook987@gmail.com
Bible Moderator
Anne Vercheski, avercheski@cfl.rr.com

PW Moderators in February/March:

Will be meeting on Monday, **February 26, 9:45 am** and **March 25, 9:45 am**, in the Conference room.

PW coordinating team in February:

Will be meeting on **February 15, 10:30 am**, in the Koinonia Room, downstairs in the Sanctuary building.

PARK LAKE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
309 East Colonial Drive
Orlando, Florida 32801

Return Service Requested

DATED MATERIAL

Rev. Dr. Helen M. DeBevoise, Co-pastor
Rev. Dr. Dan M. DeBevoise, Co-pastor

FEBRUARY - MARCH

2024

Park Lake Church Library Selections

Check out the church library in February and March!

Books for the Lenten season are in section 263.2 on the south wall of the library. For teaching children about Lent, consider, Speaking with Signs: Children's Object Lesson for Lent and Easter, by Wesley Runk, (263.2RUN). It has 6 object lessons of a story from scripture with an object from that story. The objects include a lantern, a rope, dice and a robe, a stepladder and a sponge.

For adults consider Meeting Jesus at the Table: A Lenten Study, by Cynthia Campbell, (263.2CAM). The lessons in this book discuss the various tables where Jesus met others. The Feeding of the Multitudes; He Eats with Tax Collectors; Empty Chairs at the Table; and after Jesus' resurrection, Breaking of Bread. There are 8 Lessons.

Were You There?: Lenten Reflections on the Spirituals, by Luke Powery (263.2POW). These are meditations from Ash Wednesday through to Holy Saturday, each one with a collection of scriptures, a spiritual and a meditation.

For example, on Week 3, Day 5 "Somebody's Knocking at Your Door", the meditation starts: Knock, knock. Who's there? Jesus, Jesus who? I hear this isn't your answer for why you don't answer the door, the door of your heart. Can't you hear him? "Behold I stand a the door and knock." (Revelations 3:20). What prevents you from answering the door? It could be many things. But one thing is certain—Jesus calls you.



Visit Park Lake's Little Free Library, take a book and leave a book!



Located at the Highland Education building entrance.