

**PARK LAKE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

309 East Colonial Dr., Orlando, FL 32801

PLPC.org 407-841-6550

*A Century of Community in Christ
1925-2025*



December 7, 2025

Order of Worship

Welcome and Announcements

Minute for Mission

Christmas Caroling

Time of Silence

Prelude

Le Coin des Enfants (The Little Shepherd) Claude Debussy - arr. Gilbert

Choral Introit

Come, Come Emmanuel

(GTG 91)

Call to worship (based on Isaiah 11: 1-10)

A shoot shall come forth from Jesse's stump,

And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him.

He will judge the poor with righteousness, and the meek with equity;

He will be clothed with righteousness and faithfulness.

The wolf and the lamb will live peacefully together,

The leopard and the kid will lie down side by side.

The cow and the bear will graze together; the lion will eat straw like the ox,

And a little child will lead them all.

They will neither hurt nor destroy on God's holy mountain,

For the earth will be full of the knowledge of God, as the waters fill the sea.

Prayer of Praise and Adoration

*Hymn of Praise No. 137

He Came Down

Scripture Reading

Matthew 3:1-12

pew Bible NT, pg. 2

Call to Confession

We hear the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord and make God's paths straight." Let us prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ as we confess our sin together:

Unison Prayer of Confession

God of Grace, we confess that we are not ready for You to come into our world — not quite yet. We cling to the known and familiar, afraid of the transformation Your grace will bring. Yet You are always a step ahead of us, a voice crying out in the wilderness, inviting us into bold new ways of being disciples. Humble us, O God, and teach us to do the work of repentance, fully reliant on Your grace, so that we may know the richness of being restored with You and one another.
(time of silent prayer)

Declaration of Forgiveness

Friends, hear the good news: God's mercy is from everlasting to everlasting. Before we repent and change our ways, God's love has already claimed us as God's own. Proclaim with me the good news of the gospel:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

*Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Welcome New Members

Hymn No. 85 (v.2) Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

Lighting of the Advent Candles Peace

THE WORD

Welcoming the Children

Following the time on the steps, children are invited to PRAYground located in the east transept to work on an activity. A PRAYground "host teacher" will be available to help answer questions and provide needed supplies. Children may stay in PRAYground quietly working on their projects or take supplies and return to sit with their families.

Hymn No. 114 Away in a Manger

**(v.1) Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.**

Scripture Reading

Romans 15:1-7

pew Bible, N.T. page 153

Sermon

Pursuing Peace

Rev. Helen DeBevoise

*Affirmation of Faith pg. 17

The Apostle's Creed (ecumenical)

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead;
On the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

My Heart, Your Bethlehem
Chancel Choir

Ruth Elaine Schram

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

The Invitation

Sharing of Bread and Cup

The Words of Institution

Prayer after Communion

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

SENDING

*Hymn No. 93

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Charge and Benediction

Choral Benediction

This is the Savior of the World

(GTG 545)

Postlude

Postlude

William Mathias

Will Benton, organist

**Please stand as you are able in body or in spirit.*



The Sanctuary flowers this day, are given to the glory of God by Marie Butler and Kyle Butler in loving memory of Marie's daughter and Kyle's mother, Lori Anne Butler, who joined the church triumphant, on December 1, 1991.

COOKIES AND HOT CHOCOLATE

Sunday, December 14, after worship

Please join us in the courtyard, after worship for Cookies and hot Chocolate. Hosted by the Deacons of Park Lake.



Worship Leaders today are:

Rev. Dr. Helen DeBevoise and Rev. Dr. Dan DeBevoise, co-pastors
Robb Ross, choir director; Will Benton, organist/pianist

December Ushers: Pam Coburn, Andre Davis, Aaron Hull, John Hunter, Doug Lawton, Barbara Martin, Scott Peterson, John Rogers, Cindy Schmidt.

Deacon at the Door: John Hunter

5 CENTS A MEAL OFFERING , Sunday, December 7

Each month, Park Lake participates in an offering to support the **Presbyterians' Answer to Hunger Program (PATH)**. *To learn more about 5 Cents a meal go to: cfpresbytery.org.*



Pledged Income Y.T.D. Thru October 31, 2025		Non Pledged Income Y.T.D.	
Budget	\$279,463	Budget	\$34,869
Actual	\$275,804	Actual	\$51,402
Difference	(\$3,659)	Difference	\$16,533
Park Lake Operating Budget Thru October 31, 2025			
	Income	Expenses	Difference
Budget	\$447,416	\$472,588	(\$25,172)
Actual	\$492,833	\$461,021	\$31,812

Church Staff

Co-pastors	Rev. Dr. Helen DeBevoise Rev. Dr. Dan DeBevoise
Parish Associate	Rev. Dr. Linda Wright Simmons
Organist, Director FAVO	Will Benton
Choir Director	Robb Ross
Child Care Center Director	Karen Abell
Financial Administrator	Linda Castle
Church Secretary	Carol Bookhardt
Maintenance	Keith Bridges
Librarian	Alice Schmidt
Nursery Staff	Barbara Boyce

Church Missionaries

Madagascar	Dan and Elizabeth Turk
Mozambique	Sebber Banda
	Rev. Carlos Faquione

ANGEL STOCKING TREE



During this Advent Season, Park Lake Presbyterian is sponsoring Christmas gifts for children at two nonprofits, [Grace Medical Home](#) and [Hope CommUnity Center](#).

Donations are being accepted to provide Christmas stockings and Christmas books to the pediatric patients at Grace Medical Home, one of Park Lake's mission partners. Grace reflects the heart of Christ by offering the highest level of health care to the low-income, uninsured in Orange County, including immigrant families.

Donations are also being accepted to sponsor toys for the children served at the Hope CommUnity Center in Apopka. Hope is a service learning community dedicated to the empowerment of Central Florida's immigrant and working poor communities through education, advocacy, and spiritual growth.

Please find the "Angel Tree" in the west transept and choose how you can help bless a child this Christmas. We hope you feel led to help as the stockings cost \$60 this year, a good \$10 more than last year, and we depend on your donations, **which we'll accept through December 14**. Donations may be sent to the church office, placed in the collection plate, made online at the [plpc.org Giving Page](http://plpc.org/GivingPage), see the Angel Tree option, or given to Anne Vercheski or Leesa Bainbridge.

Thank you for helping make a child's Christmas special and giving them the blessing of feeling Christian care.



CALLING ALL ANGELS, SHEPHERDS, MAGI AND SHEEP...

ANNUAL NATIVITY PAGEANT, Sunday, December 21st

All children and youth, are invited to participate. No experience necessary.

◆ **Our Park Lake Children and Youth will present the Annual Nativity Pageant**

(costumes are provided) during worship on **Sunday, December 21, 10:30 am.**

- ◆ **Nativity Pageant practice will be on Saturday, December 20, 9:30 am** in the Sanctuary. Please email **Helen DeBevoise at helenparklake@gmail.com**

UPCOMING *Events* IN DECEMBER

Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 14, 5:30 pm



Meet for pizza dinner at 5:30 pm in Struble Fellowship Hall, then we will caravan/carpool to carol to homebound members. Please R.S.V.P. to **Erin Cook at erincook987@gmail.com** so we know how much pizza to order and if you need gluten free pizza.

THE LONGEST NIGHT PRAYER AND REFLECTION:

Prayer and Readings Service

Sunday, December 21, 5:00 pm (Sanctuary)



When Christmas feels heavy, the church can offer a place to rest.

For many, Advent and Christmas are seasons of joy — family gatherings, celebrations, carols, and feasting. But for those experiencing grief, illness, loneliness, anxiety, or major life transitions, this time of year can stir up feelings that don't fit the season's script.

WEEK OF CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

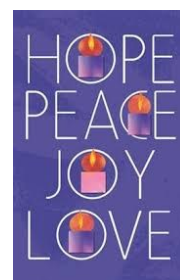
♦ **Sunday, December 21 - Poinsettia Sunday**

10:30 am Children's Nativity Christmas Pageant (Sanctuary)

5:00 pm Longest Night Prayer service (Sanctuary)

♦ **Wednesday, December 24, Christmas Eve**

5:30 pm – Christmas Eve Carols and Candlelight Service (Sanctuary)



BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Cheryl Woods
- 1 Aaron Sanchez
- 2 Clay Shropshire
- 3 Kristine Fluker
- 4 Camden Jones
- 4 Andrew Jones
- 6 Pete Denniston

ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Rose and Camden



THE POTTER'S HAND: COMBINING ART AND FAITH

Wednesday, December 10, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

(Struble Fellowship Hall)

Contact Helen DeBevoise for more information at
helenparklake@gmail.com.



GAY/STRAIGHT@ PARK LAKE GROUP

No meeting in December, the meeting in January is to be announced.

Please contact John Jenkins at gaystraightatparklake@gmail.com for more



WASHINGTON SHORES PRESBYTERIAN FOOD PANTRY

Update from the Park Lake Mission Committee

Washington Shores Presbyterian is in need of food and hygiene items for their food pantry. We've been very faithful at Park Lake over the years, and the Mission Committee reminds everyone to please continue giving. Canned items such as tuna, corn, fruit, and sweet peas are needed, also cereal, peanut butter, jelly, and crackers. Hygiene items needed: bar soap, toothpaste and brushes, deodorant, etc. Their goal is 40 bags of food items and 40 of hygiene items once a month, every third Wednesday at Washington Shores.



STOCK THE NIGHT FOOD DRIVE

Please continue to support **The Christian Service Center**. Their "Stock The Night" food drive continues now until **December 31st**. We will have a large box or two in the west transept for donations. The needs continue to grow.



FOOD DRIVE NEEDS

Canned or Boxed Goods: Chicken, Tuna, Soups, Fruits, Vegetables, Beans, Powdered or Boxed Milk.

Dry Goods: Instant Potatoes, Pasta and Pasta Sauce, Rice, Oatmeal, Bottled Water, Juice, Cereal.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support Washington Shores Presbyterian Church and the through your pantry **Christian Service Center donations.**

Thank You for your Support!!



Poinsettia Dedications

To dedicate a Poinsettia plant(s), please complete the form below, **place check and form in Sunday Offering plate**. You may also mail your check with the form, to the church office by **Monday, December 15th** at 309 E. Colonial Dr., Orlando, FL 32801.

You may also email your dedication to carolparklake@gmail.com

Cost - \$10.00 per plant

I/We will give _____ plants

() I will pick them up following Christmas Eve worship.

() I will not pick up plants.

Please word memorial or honorarium as you would like it to appear in the bulletin.
Dedications will be printed in the December 21st bulletin.

PLEASE PRINT:

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

OR IN LIEU OF PLANTS,

I make a memorial designated for one of the following:

() Building Fund () PATH (Presbyterian Answer to Hunger)

MY NAME _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

Plants will be in the Sanctuary on Sunday, December 21, through Christmas Eve, and can be picked up following the 5:30 pm Christmas Eve service.

