

Worship and Work

100th Anniversary
A Century of Community in Christ
1925—2025



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

December 2025

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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



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. Park Lake will hold a Longest Night Service on **December 21 at 5:00 pm** in the sanctuary. All are welcome. Bring a friend.

FROM THE DEACON DESK

As you know, Park Lake reinstituted its Deaconate a few years ago. The deacons are here to support the congregation in your time of need and in your time of celebration. The deacons monitor the Prayer Chain for members in need of prayer and support, and follow the Birthday and Anniversary list to remember you on your special day. Of course, sometimes we miss things.



Please reach out to the deacons if you are in need of care. If you are unsure of who your deacon is, the Church Directory has their name by your Directory entry. All deacons are listed on the church website, <http://www.plpc.org/about-us/deacons/>.

Angela Chesser and Anne Vercheski will be rotating off after their two-year term ends this year. Billie Jo Elliott is continuing on for another year. New deacons, Mary Daly and Susan Frith, will be rotating on in January. We hope for a seamless transition. Park Lake has just celebrated a Century of Community in Christ. The deacons want to remind the congregation that Park Lake is a community and that the deacons are here for you, for companionship and for community.

Board of Deacons: Angela Chesser, Billie Jo Elliott, Anne Vercheski, John Hunter, Barbara Martin and Cindy Schmidt.

Church Holiday Office Hours



Holiday Hours

- ◆ Wednesday, December 24 - 9:00 am—12noon
- ◆ Thursday, December 25 - Church office closed
- ◆ Wednesday, December 31 - 9:00 am—12noon
- ◆ Thursday, January 1 - Church office closed

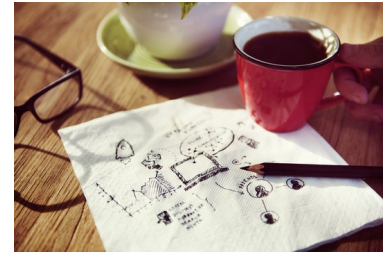
Park Lake Child Care Center

- ◆ Closed December 23, 2025 - January 2, 2026

WHAT'S INSIDE....?

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MORE THAN VISIONS OF SUGAR PLUMS



Friends,

Just six weeks ago we culminated our year long approach to Park Lake's 100th Anniversary with a weekend including a wonderful dinner gathering and worship. Thank you again to the many organizers whose energy pushed concepts into reality - It was a year for the history books!

To culminate dinner speeches, I reminded all of us that now it was time for VISION. Scripture says that "Without a vision, the people are perishing." Put positively, A Vision gives life to the NOW. I pointed out napkins and pens on each table, "I read that great ideas," I said, "begin on a napkin. Share your vision for Park Lake on a napkin." Here's an article about napkin visioning: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/carminnegallo/2023/04/25/why-the-best-ideas-fit-on-a-napkin/>

You got to work writing your visions. Below are some of your ideas. They are visions for discipleship, for mission, for stewardship of our property, for providing leadership and faith development of our children and youth. I'm excited for the energy that these small napkins hold. I hope you'll enjoy reading them and perhaps you'll have your own visions you'd like to share? Time to get to work. I've got more napkins.

Helen DeBevoise, Co-Pastor

NAPKIN IDEAS

MISSION and HOTEL PROPERTY

- A church that serves the poor among us with housing in a town and time where shelter and public transport are so important and government cannot do it without our help and Lobbying.
- Continue to build beachheads in the greater community. Places to meet people's needs.
- Idea: Use the front part of the hotel building to provide low income housing.
- Shelters for homeless.
- Convert Motel property fronting on Colonial Drive.
- Convert Motel property fronting on Colonial Drive into housing for homeless, including Zebra Youth.
- PLPC can partner with Zebra Youth and the Homeless Services Network to bring motel rooms up to code to house homeless youth. \$\$\$
- Turn the Hotel into Housing for Foster Kids who have aged out of foster care. (Bob Blue's idea.)
- Could we do more with, for the unhoused? What about these buses the city is getting that folks will sleep in? Can they park in our parking lot at night?
- Orlando will have the lowest inequality of any metro area in the USA.

THE CHURCH BEING CHURCH

- Greetings from Paul.
- Park Lake Presbyterian Church will be with me in my eternal life. I will forever look down and worship along with thee.
- Hold the teachings of Christ near to the heart and not stray from His word.
- Commitment to random acts of kindness... to see, to care, to respond. Always caring.
- Traditional structure, Progressive thought, radical acceptance!
- Neighborhood small groups.
- Fellowship Dinners every quarter.
- PLPC as a point of the light of Christ in the area - Peace, Love, Community, Encouragement.
- Bring back Mission Fair and Wednesday Night Dinner.

SPECIAL THANKS

to Rev. Dr. Linda Wright Simmons

Since 2002, the Reverend Dr. Linda Wright Simmons has served as Parish Associate at Park Lake Presbyterian Church. A Parish Associate is an ordained pastor who is engaged in validated ministry outside of the local church, in Linda's case she has been a hospital chaplain with the Advent Health system. Our presbytery encourages ordained pastors to also connect with and be active in a local church, even as they continue to serve the community through their validated ministries.



Twenty-three years ago, Dan and I asked Linda if she would be Park Lake's Parish Associate. As Parish Associate, Linda has richly blessed our own ministry as a cherished colleague, wise support, trusted preacher and teacher. She has led worship several times each year, most notably when we were out of town during the Pulse tragedy, and when we were incapacitated by the Covid19 virus - on an Easter Sunday, of all things. Over the years, Linda has stepped in to provide pastoral care in many instances. Linda always brings thoughtful and compassionate leadership, and never more than in times of great need.

Linda is an active member of the Central Florida Presbytery, and over the years has served in many capacities within the presbytery as pastor, associate pastor, committee leader, supply preacher, and teacher. At Park Lake she has facilitated creative projects such as the Park Lake Page Turners book group, VBS Mission Offerings, the knitting group, and the Blessing of Pets. Linda has provided guidance and support for GayStraight@ParkLake. She has taught in education circles of all ages, with adult education being her great love. Linda's bright, compassionate, pastoral, creative and very capable ministry style makes her an outstanding servant leader of our Lord. Now, her ministry has been honed by her counseling skills. Completing another Master's Degree, this time in counseling, Linda is in active ministry as a licensed mental health counselor.

We want to thank Linda for her dedication to the ministry of Park Lake. She is not going far, just stepping down from official duties as Parish Associate so that she can be fully freed to concentrate her ministry efforts in new areas.

Thank you, Linda. The Lord has blessed you and you have been a rich blessing to many here at Park Lake. We are confident we share this sentiment with all at Park Lake.

Helen and Dan DeBevoise, Co-Pastors

MORE NAPKIN IDEAS....

MUSIC and CHOIR

- Choir room extension.
- Sing for a Vision.
- Youth Choir.
- Children's choir/youth.
- A children's music program.
- Contemporary or something to bring in our H.S Youth.
- Create outreach opportunities for Park Lake Presbyterian youth to work together with youth from other Presbyterian Churches.

YOUTH and CHILDREN

- Awareness of neurodivergence in our community (church) how to LOVE and MINISTER to them and their families. (I have ideas)
- Children
- Create more opportunities for Park Lake children to fellowship, work with and interact with children of diverse backgrounds. This will be fundamental to who Park Lake children will grow up to be.
- Condoned to welcome all children of God, but with more outreach. Focus: teach the children in School and CCC and some other outreach too. Honor the past and strive for the future.



The Church Life Committee hosted a New Member Luncheon on Sunday, November 30th in Struble Fellowship Hall. We welcomed our newest members who joined in



2024 and 2025. Thank you to the Church Life Committee team for putting together the luncheon and presentation. We welcome 2024 New Members: Zach Monahan, Leigh and Roger Nofsinger, Faith Graves, Jessica Lemons, Tanner Mewborn, Julie Paset, Renee Riegler, Gayle Sherrod, Amanda and Scott Trauger and 2025 New Members: Laurie Bookhardt, Elizabeth Collins, Eden and Jim McEwen, Donna Peral, Jamila and Ademide Malabu.



Jamila and Ademide Malabu with Grandmother Junie.



Tanner Mewborn with Delaney Bookhardt (current member)



Elizabeth Collins



Jim and Eden McEwen

Annual Nativity Pageant Sunday, December 21st

**Calling all angels,
shepherds, Magi and
sheep...**

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



Please email **Helen
DeBevoise** at
helenparklake@gmail.com
if your children or youth
are able to participate.

THANK YOU FROM THE PARK LAKE YOUTH!

The Park Lake Middle and High school Youth group would like to thank you for your support and attending the Annual Park Lake Thanksgiving Fundraiser lunch! The youth and leaders are grateful for our Park Lake families continued prayers, support and encouragement throughout the year. Donations collected totaled over \$2100 to help fund the High school Montreat Youth conference trip, the Middle school Mission trip to Camp Cedarkirk "Challenge to Change", Cedarkirk Fusion weekend and other local mission activities.



A delicious Thanksgiving lunch was served by our youth! Turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, green beans, corn and pie, pie, pie! All proceeds benefit the youth's 2026 summer trips. Thank you for your support!



The angel tree stocking for Grace Medical Home pediatric patients includes a Christian Christmas book, quality candy, kids' toiletries, small toys and games and a Wild Republic lovey.

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 Dec. 14.**

Donations may be sent to the church office, placed in the collection plate, made online at the [plpc.org Giving Page](#), see the Angel Tree option, or given to Anne Vercheski or Leesa Bainbridge.



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)**. The offering is collected on the 1st Sunday of each month on Communion Sundays, as a reminder that as we have been fed at the Lord's table we are called to feed others.

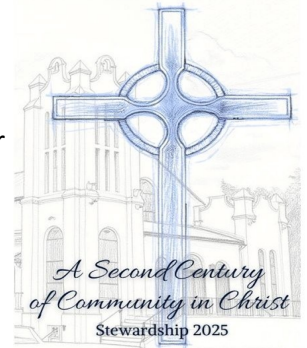
To learn more about 5 Cents a meal go to:
cfpresbytery.org/path.html



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

The Stewardship and Finance Committee wants

to express its gratitude to the church members who have submitted pledges for 2026. Your generosity is deeply appreciated. We also want to encourage those who have not yet pledged to do so as soon as possible. The church depends upon our pledges in order to plan financially for the year ahead.



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.



***please check expiration dates on food items before donating.**

UPCOMING EVENTS



First Fridays and First Saturdays
ART EXHIBITS AT FAVO
(Faith Arts Village Orlando)
 Friday, December 5 and
 Saturday, December 6
 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm



Come stroll through the artist studios, listen to live music and enjoy a relaxing evening with friends.

PAGE TURNERS BOOK CLUB, meet at the home of Carol Fisher on **Thursday, December 4, 11:00 am**, for a covered dish luncheon. We will be sharing titles of books for possible reading next year. Contact Sherry Riley at sheray27@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 info.

THE POTTER'S HAND: COMBINING ART AND FAITH
Wednesday, December 10
6:00 pm



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



Anniversaries

- 1 Rose and Camden Jones
- 11 Maria and Robert Larr
- 29 Carol and Larry Fisher
- 29 Karen and Jason Lowdermilk

Birthdays

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Cheryl Woods | 16 Ron Hummert |
| 1 Aaron Sanchez | 17 Gayle Sherrod |
| 2 Clay Shropshire | 17 Kyle Butler |
| 3 Kristine Fluker | 19 Stacia Hujik |
| 4 Camden Jones | 24 Delaney Bookhardt |
| 4 Andrew Jones | 26 Madison Cox |
| 6 Pete Denniston | 27 Phyllis Dotherow |
| 8 Laura Moloney | 27 Florence Baadu |
| 8 Thomas Poore | 28 Ademide Malabu |
| 9 Mike Bookhardt | 29 Cindy Schmidt |
| 12 Gwyneth Ingram | 29 Christopher Gantt |
| 13 Doug Lawton | 30 Tatumn Bertram Connolly |
| 15 Melahn Murphy | 31 David Foley, Jr. |
| 15 Linda Shrieves | |

We are grateful for any year end donations you are able to make to Park Lake Presbyterian Church. Many people also make special year end gifts as a part of their financial plans.



- ◆ Place in the offering plate, **on or before Sunday, December 28, 2025.**
- ◆ If mailing, **donations must be postmarked by Wednesday, December 31, 2025.**
- ◆ You may also give through **Wednesday, December 31, 2025** via "Online Giving" on our website, plpc.org.
- ◆ If you wish to drop your donation off at the church office, **received in the church office by 12:00 pm on Tuesday, December 30, 2025.**



Gingerbread Hosts Esther Circle: Jane Callahan, Bille jo Elliott, Nancy DiSalvo, Alice Fortunato, Anne Vercheski, Nancy Jones, Erin Cook.

**Join Us for a Festive afternoon
by Building Your Own
Gingerbread House**
Sponsored by Esther Circle
Sunday, December 7, 11:45 a.m.
Struble Fellowship Hall

Children and Adults of all ages
Lunch: \$5 per person
Gingerbread House: \$10 per kit

**Please R.S.V.P. email erincook987@gmail.com
by December 4, 2025**

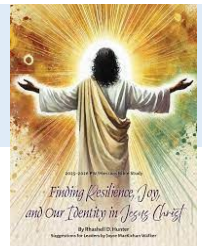
**ALL MONEY COLLECTED WILL GO TO
FAMILY PROMISE OF GREATER ORLANDO**

Family Promise of Greater Orlando helps families facing homelessness achieve sustainable housing and self-sufficiency through a community based response. Creating a future in Central Florida where all families have stable housing and no child experiences homelessness.

**Include: Name, Number of Adults/Children and
Number of Gingerbread House kits (\$5 per person
for lunch; \$10 per Gingerbread House kit)**

****If you would like to donate money for candy for
the Gingerbread House toppings, please contact
Anne Vercheski***

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, December 1
1:00 pm, Westminster Winter Park
Circle Representative & Bible Moderator,
Sandy Bogner, sandybogner@cfl.rr.com

Sarah: Monday, December 1
2:00 pm, Westminster Towers,
Town Square
Circle Representative &
Bible Moderator, Marian Price,
marian@tompricearchitects.com

Joanna: Monday, December 1
at the home of Carol Fisher, 6:00 pm
Circle Representative, Sherry Riley,
shera27@gmail.com
Bible Moderator Helen DeBevoise,
helenparklake@gmail.com

Esther: Tuesday, December 2
6:30 pm, at the home of Anne Vercheski
Circle Representative, Erin Cook,
erincook987@gmail.com
Bible Moderator, Anne Vercheski,
avercheski@cfl.rr.com

UPDATE YOUR
CONTACT
INFORMATION



- **Have you recently moved?**
- **Do we have your updated mailing address?**

Please check your address in the online Church Directory to update your mailing address and contact information. Go to Instant Church Directory.com

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

Return Service Requested

DATED MATERIAL

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



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

At Park Lake, we encourage you to give generously and directly to social service agencies that we support. Go to the websites of these Park Lake's ministry partners to find out how to help.



The Christian Service Center
christianservicecenter.org



Society of St. Andrew
GLEANNING AMERICA'S FIELDS
FEEDING AMERICA'S HUNGRY
EndHunger.org

Society of St. Andrew
endhunger.org



Grace Medical Home
gracemedicalhome.org



United Against Poverty
unitedagainstopoverty.org



COALITION
FOR THE HOMELESS
OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

**Coalition for the Homeless of
Central Florida**
centralfloridahomeless.org



Zebra Youth
www.zebrayouth.org