

Worship and Work

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

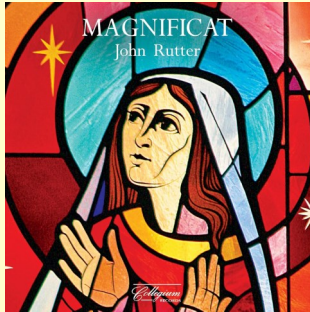
www.plpc.org

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



December 2024

Vol. 49 No. 12



John Rutter's Magnificat
Sunday, December 8, 2024
6:00 pm, Park Lake Sanctuary

- Park Lake Chancel Choir
- Guest soloist, Elizabeth Ingram
- Robb Ross, Director
- Will Benton, organ/piano
- Chamber Orchestra



**Join Us for a Festive Afternoon
of Building Your Own
Gingerbread House**

Sponsored by Esther Circle
Sunday, December 8, 2024
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. to erincook987@gmail.com
by December 4, 2024

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

**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.

****If you would like to donate money for candy for the
Gingerbread House toppings, please contact Anne
Vercheski at avercheski@cfl.rr.com.***

**100th Anniversary
Architectural Tour
January 18, 2025**



Please mark your
calendars for
Saturday,

January 18th, 2025, at 2:00pm as we explore
the origins and meanings of the architectural
design of our Spanish Mission style Sanctuary
Building. A fun children's activity will be
available, so they can follow along and enjoy
the tour too.

We will review the original floor plan, along
with later additions that we see today. The
placement of various elements used to inspire
the congregation in worship, such as the
stained-glass windows, organ and organ pipes,
elevated choir loft and chancel area and
chapel will also be discussed.

Please look to future Bulletin Announcements
and ParkLakeUp2Date emails to R.S.V.P.
Come learn how God has blessed this
campus!

**Park Lake Presbyterian Church
turns 100 in October 2025!**
**A Century of
Community in Christ!**

WHAT'S INSIDE....?

- ◆ Co-pastor's Corner **Page 2**
- ◆ Park Lake Family News **Page 3-4**
- ◆ Mission and Outreach **Page 5**
- ◆ Upcoming Events **Page 6-7**

For many years, one of my favorite professors in seminary, John H. Leith, would send out a Christmas letter to former students. I looked forward to getting Dr. Leith's Christmas letter, because he had the ability to articulate the Christian faith with clarity and precision. His Christmas letters were always a helpful reminder of the meaning of Christmas and its importance to our faith. Plus, they were filled with Dr. Leith's characteristic irascible opinions, which made an interesting contrast to his Christmas cheer. Dr. Leith died in 2002, and I've missed his Christmas letters. But each year since, I review one of the ones I've filed away, and decided to share a few quotes with you.

I can remember at least 70 Christmases. My earliest memories include my mother hanging a picture of Jesus and a picture of Santa Claus in our home, decorating the Christmas tree and hanging the stockings, and the Christmas play at the church...In good years and bad, Christmas has always meant wonder, awe, joy and human happiness. Singing the Christmas carols has without exception been a powerful means of grace. Can we not limit "Advent" to one Sunday? (Christmas 1993)

Christmas means that the created world is good. In the birth of Jesus, creation became the habitation of the Creator Himself. Let us rejoice and be glad in it. Joy and human exuberance is as much a part of the Christian life as soberness and sorrow. At Christmas time we greet each other in a friendly way; we send Christmas cards; we give gifts to those who are near and dear to us; we are compassionate and help those in need. All this is the wonder of Christmas. (Christmas 2001)

Last Christmas, I wrote that the really great question facing human beings is death and the end of history. I know this on a personal level now even better than a year ago. The problem of guilt does not arise until we have some word to speak over against death and the end of history, over against the fragileness and certain doom, not only of human persons but also of institutions and communities, over against the terrible aloneness in a world without a God who knows us by name.

Christmas means that God is personal and personally active in the created order of nature and history. Augustine said, "We worship not the sun, but the Son of righteousness who created the sun". Christmas means that the God who created the world has become embodied, in so far as God can become embodied, in a human life in Jesus of Nazareth. We therefore call him the Son of God. God did personally enter our human condition, was crucified and buried. The climax of our faith is the affirmation that Jesus of Nazareth was raised from the dead by God. We proclaim this gospel of a God who is active in human history and who is more powerful than death. (Christmas 2000)

Christmas Eve has always been an awesome time for me, especially as I remember my experiences as a boy. Now in old age, we experience the awesomeness of what happened in the birth as well as the mystery and wonder of human existence itself...Many of you have heard me say that I would never send out a Christmas card unless I could address it. I take that back this year, as my hands are in such a situation that I cannot address many letters. I shall, however sign my name. Have a merry and blessed Christmas and the best New Year ever! (Christmas 2001)



Merry Christmas, Dan DeBevoise

**“A Century of Community in Christ”
100th ANNIVERSARY HISTORY OF PARK LAKE
FUN FACTS**

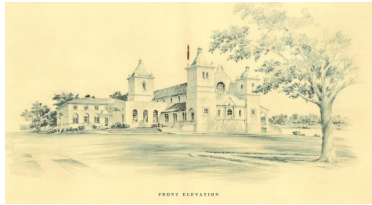
CHURCH MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

Rosalyn Russell’s mother joined Park Lake in 1945 when Roz was 3 years old. Roz has attended Sunday School since then, and she sang in the Children’s Choir, the Youth Choir and the Chancel Choir. Roz was also a youth leader for a number of years.



ARCHITECTURAL FACTS

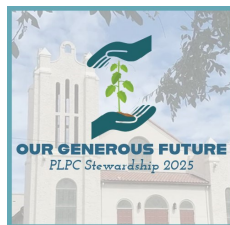
There have been several design alternatives proposed for Park Lake Presbyterian Church after the original Spanish Mission Style church was constructed. One such design modification was proposed for the church’s 1950 Silver Anniversary Building Program. It would have added a 3rd tower to the sanctuary building next to a new west transept, and changed the look of the other two towers. The transepts were built, but not the 3rd tower.



If you would like to help with any of the Events celebrating Park Lake’s centennial, please contact co-chairs, Erin Cook at erincook987@gmail.com or Susan Gantt, sgantt2@cfl.rr.com.

The Stewardship and Finance

Committee wants to express its gratitude to the church members who have submitted pledges for 2025. 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, when we will celebrate the 100th anniversary of Park Lake’s ministry and service to our local and global communities.



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 22, 10:30 am.**

Nativity Pageant practice will be on **Saturday, December 21, 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.



The **2024 Advent Devotional** will be available to pick up in the West Transept, in the Sanctuary, on the First Sunday of Advent, Sunday, **December 1** and will be emailed daily. If you would like to receive the email version of the Advent Devotional, and are not currently on our Park Lake Up2Date weekly email list, please contact Carol Bookhardt at carolparklake@gmail.com to be added.

We have a collection of past Advent Devotion booklets in the church library you can check out! All are welcome to visit the library, located downstairs in the Sanctuary building.

THE LONGEST NIGHT PRAYER AND REFLECTION

Prayer and Readings Service
Saturday, December 21
5:30 pm



For many people, the approaching Christmas holiday does not bring with it the joy and happiness that is advertised. We may be facing a holiday after the death of a loved one or after a relationship crumbles. We may be in the midst of devastating loss or the upheaval of life’s transitions. Perhaps, we simply feel pressured and overwhelmed by holiday preparations. For anyone who is grieving or who is in pain, **The Longest Night service** provides a sacred place for grieving and a word of hope. Join us at **5:30 pm on Saturday, December 21**, in the Sanctuary for a time of readings and quiet reflection.



This year, Park Lake 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.

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

Please have your donation in by December 8. Thank you for showing the love of Christ to these children!

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.



5 CENTS A MEAL OFFERING

Sunday, December 1

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.



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

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

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
- ◆ **Coalition for the Homeless of Central Florida**
centralfloridahomeless.org
- ◆ **Grace Medical Home**
gracemedicalhome.org
- ◆ **Society of St. Andrew**
endhunger.org
- ◆ **United Against Poverty**
unitedagainstpoverty.org
- ◆ **Zebra Youth**
www.zebrayouth.org

Gifts Given in Memory of

*Don LeFever
 (Building Fund)
 by*

*Margaret Donelson
 Lori Anne Sims
 Robert & Trya Miller
 Keith and Tamy Lent
 Jeff Harris (Kith Kitchens)*

SERVING AT THE CHRISTIAN SERVICE CENTER



CHRISTIAN SERVICE CENTER
 40 years of faithful hands

We will not be serving at the CSC in the month of December. We will resume in the new year! See updates in the bulletin announcements, Park Lake up2date weekly emails and the church calendar at plpc.org.

See John Bowers or email jbowers4@cfl.rr.com for all the details.



FOOD COLLECTION for WASHINGTON SHORES PRESBYTERIAN FOOD PANTRY

Please bring non-perishable donations to the West transept entrance of the Sanctuary on Sundays before or after worship. **We are no longer collecting donations on Tuesdays.**



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 check expiration dates on food items before donating.*

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

UPCOMING EVENTS



First Fridays and First Saturdays ART EXHIBITS AT FAVO (Faith Arts Village Orlando)

Friday, December 6 and
Saturday, December 7
5:00 pm - 9:00 pm



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

PAGE TURNERS BOOK CLUB, meet at the home of Lynda Hinckley on **Friday, December 13, 11:00 am**, for a covered dish luncheon. We will be sharing titles of books for possible reading next year.



For more details, email Anne Gardepe, annegard64@gmail.com.

GAY/STRAIGHT@ PARK LAKE GROUP CHRISTMAS GATHERING



Our December meeting will be a **Christmas Gathering on Friday, December 13**, hosted by **Sandy and Jim Bogner. 5:30 pm**. Please contact John Jenkins at gaystraightatparklake@gmail.com for more info.

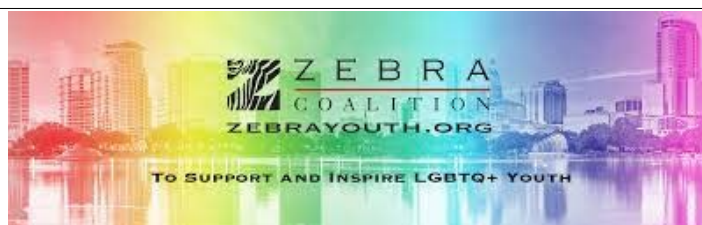
THE POTTER'S HAND: COMBINING ART AND FAITH

Stress and the Arts

Wednesday, December 18, 6:00 pm

(Struble Fellowship Hall)

Too much to do? Don't have time to take a creative moment during the holiday season? Think again. We will explore the practice of recognizing and relieving stress through expressive art and transforming how stress affects us so that we can release it. You are always welcome! Contact Helen DeBevoise for more information, helenparklake@gmail.com.



In previous years, the **GayStraight@Park Lake group** collected gift cards and monetary contributions for the Zebra Youth during the month of December. Since December is such a busy month for charitable giving, the group decided last year, to move their collection month from December to **February**.

We will give a "gift of love" to the Zebra Coalition for Valentine's Day 2025. The Zebra Coalition is an organization that provides services to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender youth (LGBTQ+) from the ages of 13 through 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.

Look for details in upcoming publications in 2025. Contact John Jenkins at gaystraightatparklake@gmail.com

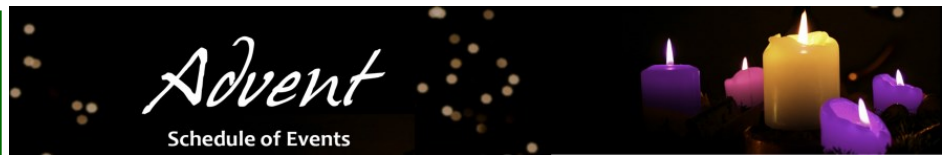
UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

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



First Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 1

9:00 am Sunday School
10:00 am Fellowship
10:30 am Worship

Friday, December 6 and Saturday, December 7

5:00 pm – 9:00 pm FAVO (Faith Arts Village Orlando)

Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 8

9:00 am Sunday School
10:00 am Fellowship
10:30 am Worship
11:45 am Esther Circle, Gingerbread House Event (Struble Fellowship Hall)
6:00 pm Rutter's Magnificat, presented by Park Lake Chancel Choir (Sanctuary)

Friday, December 13

6:00 pm Youth Group—Friday Night Live

Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 15

9:00 am Sunday School
10:00 am Fellowship
10:30 am Worship
Time tba—Christmas Caroling/pizza

Wednesday, December 18

6:00 pm The Potter's Hand: Stress and the Arts

Saturday, December 21

9:30 am Nativity Pageant rehearsal, Children and Youth (Sanctuary)
5:30 pm Longest Night Prayer service (Sanctuary)

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Poinsettia Sunday

Sunday, December 22

9:00 am Sunday School
10:00 am Fellowship
10:30 am Children's Nativity Christmas Pageant (Sanctuary)

Tuesday, December 24 Christmas Eve

9:00 pm—12noon - Church Office Hours
5:30 pm – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (Sanctuary)

Wednesday, December 25, Christmas Day

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Church Office and Child Care Center closed

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](http://InstantChurchDirectory.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



2024