

WORSHIP & WORK

Park Lake Presbyterian Church
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www.plpc.org

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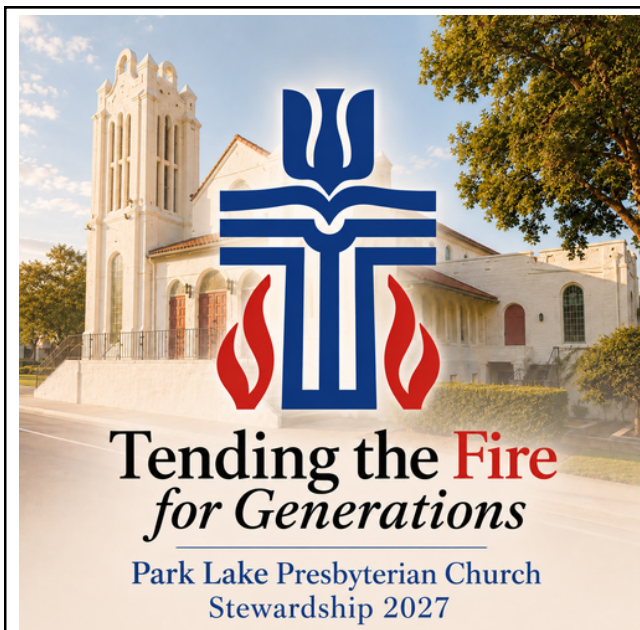
**2026 PCUSA General Assembly
Meeting Update and Dinner
Wednesday, September 16
6:00 pm
(STRUBLE FELLOWSHIP HALL)**

Let's talk about what happened at PCUSA General Assembly this Summer!

The General Assembly is our denomination's church wide gathering that takes place every 2 years to worship, discern and do mission together. Representatives are chosen from all over the Presbyterian Church USA to meet together to talk, share and pray for what God would have us to be and do. This year, the assembly met in June in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. And now we get a chance to hear all about it.

Come meet, eat and mingle with some of our Central Florida Presbytery leadership who had an up close view, serving as commissioners and representatives to the GA.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Concepcion GA commissioner, The Rev. Dr. Geoff McLean (new Central Florida Presbytery Executive) and our own pastors will lead the discussion.



Join us **Sunday, October 18**, following worship for our **Stewardship Lunch** and 101 church birthday. The Stewardship theme this year is "Tending the Fire for Generations".

Stewardship Dedication Sunday will be **Sunday, November 15**. Stewardship materials will be distributed in October.

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TENDING THE FIRE

Rally Day debuted the Spark Plugs, a quickly assembled guitar ensemble, who led us in singing rousing campfire songs about light and fire, like “Give Me Oil in My Lamp”, and “Light the Fire”, and Amy Grant’s “Thy Word is a Lamp Unto My Feet.” Can you think of others?

I sang these in my childhood Sunday school class and as a teen around church retreat campfires and as a young adult leading youth retreats. These days my voice feels more warbly, but I was grateful when the Rally Day group rallied to sing these campfire songs with gusto.



Our theme was Tending the Fire. We will build upon this theme throughout the fall and into the Advent season, as we consider a plethora of Fire of God stories in scripture and how we are called to tend that fire of faith within our own lives and in the life of the body of the church.

From beginning to end, light bookends and travels through the Bible. Genesis begins with God shouting out “LIGHT!” against the chaos of the darkness, and what begins is a beautiful coming together of our world. At the end, is John’s Revelation of the new heaven and the new earth, a holy city, which has no need of earthly light because “the Glory of God is its light and the lamp is the Lamb.” The story of God is held in Light and Fire.

In worship recently, we read the story of the Burning Bush in Exodus, the call story of the prophet Moses who will bring God’s people out of slavery in Egypt and into a new land and a new relationship with God. God got Moses’ attention by calling out from a bush on fire out in the middle of nowhere. Sometimes God does that, winks at you where you least expect to see God. Look over here.

The light of God continues as the Hebrew exiles fled from Egypt into the desert and wandered for generations following God to the promised land. God led them in a cloud by day and a pillar of light by night. And when they came to places of rest, the presence of God was marked by the perpetually burning light of a lamp. God called up the priest Aaron (brother of Moses) and Aaron's priestly sons to oversee tending the light. This was what scripture calls “a perpetual ordinance” to be observed for generations. This practice would be central to their identity as God’s people: Don’t forget. Tend the light.

This is our inheritance. Your inheritance, for we are indeed the priesthood of all believers. Scripture will go on to provide examples of lights waning and wavering, and calls from prophets to remember that we are light bearers for God. “You are the light of the world,” Jesus said to crowds of people who said they would follow Him. Remember - YOU are light that the world needs. Paul will say to young Timothy, “Rekindle the flame that is within you!” Don’t forget. Tend the light.

How do we do that? How do we tend the light? First I would offer that we must be aware of our proximity to God. The closer we are to God’s light, the brighter our flame will burn. Spend intentional time with God. That’s how the flame is ignited. And then be a light to someone else. You know how: acts of kindness; generosity; seeing the need in the world; being a voice for the voiceless. Find ways that those things become tangible acts for you. And let’s be light. God knows that the world needs it.

Helen DeBevoise, Co-pastor





YOUTH SPAGHETTI DINNER



Thank you to our Park Lake Family for joining us for a delicious spaghetti dinner on August 12 and being our audience (your Energizer moves are amazing!) as we talked about our Youth activities and adventures from the past year! We have really enjoyed gleaning, playing games and connecting at Friday Night Live and of course, attending the Montreat Youth Conference! A year of great connections with each other and in our community!

You donated \$480 to our youth program and we are grateful as it will help as some of our youth will be attending the Cedarkirk Fusion weekend November 6 -8!



**You are invited
to the Park Lake
Trunk or Treat**

Date: Saturday, October 24

Time: 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Where: Park Lake Parking lot

Who: Children

(ages infant to 5th grade)

Families and Friends of Park Lake!

**Children are welcome to wear their
non-scary costumes!**

**Candy, allergy free treats, non-food treats,
crafts and games!**

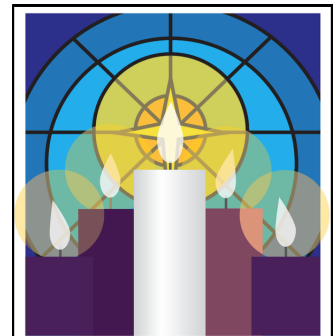
FOLLOWING LIGHT THROUGH THE DARKNESS

Advent Devotional writers needed!

Light features brightly throughout the Christmas story beginning with the prophetic word of Isaiah who attests that the beleaguered and beaten down people of Israel will indeed see the light and return from far away places. And then there are the magi, foreigners and outsiders to the promise, who from a distant country see the light of God beckoning them to come and make a witness to the new thing that the God of the covenant promise is doing for His people. The gospel of John does not have a traditional Christmas story but instead reaches all the way back to the beginning of God's story to say that Light is how God is entering the world through the Messiah.

So with great intention, we embrace light in the Advent and Christmas seasons.

Our Advent Devotion Book is about "Following Light through the Darkness." This annual daily devotion guide is written by members and friends of Park Lake Presbyterian Church. It follows the format of assigned scripture. Personal reflection or story (around 300 words). Closing prayer. Let me know if you're inspired to write something. You do not need to have experience writing! There may simply be a story that "dawns" on you. We'd love to hear it. Email Helen DeBevoise at helenparklake@gmail.com to sign up to be a writer.



*Following the Light
Through Darkness*

MISSION AND OUTREACH

MISSION UPDATE PRESENTATION

Park Lake Mission Partners

Elizabeth and Dan Turk

Wednesday, September 30

7:00 pm

(Struble Fellowship Hall)

You are invited to hear from our missionary partners Dan and Elizabeth Turk at **7:00 p.m. September 30** in Struble Fellowship Hall. They will share about the exciting work that Park Lake is helping to support in Madagascar, including training farmers in growing fruit trees, fighting the spread of HIV/AIDS and much more. We'll serve dessert and refreshments.



PERU MISSION PRESENTATIONS

In Central Florida

September 25-October 12

Central Florida Presbytery has been taking mission teams to various Scripture Union Ministry locations throughout Peru since 1997. Since 2019 Barbara Sayles has been taking teams to Kusi Village near the town of Yungay, Peru deep in the Andes mountains. Kusi Village was the brainchild of long time missionary, Paul Clark. In 2019 Paul made the difficult decision to handoff the baton from his 60 year ministry with Scripture Union, Peru to daughter Janie Mach and grand-daughter Phoebe Clark Drew-Bell who will be in the states visiting some of our churches in September/October. Janie serves as Director of Kusi, Phoebe lives on sight in Kusi Village as Project Manager.

Phoebe will be giving a presentation at **Park Lake Presbyterian Church on Wednesday, October 7 at 7pm.** Please bring a dessert and come hear about the recent mission trip, upcoming mission opportunities, and the exciting things happening in Kusi Village, Peru.

If you are unable to attend on October 7, below are some additional dates/churches you are welcome to attend :

Wednesday, September 30 - 5:30pm Family Night Dinner, Oakland Presbyterian Church.

Sunday, October 4 - 9:30am Winter Park Presbyterian, room 301; Minute for Mission in the 10:45 Service

October 11 - 10am First Presbyterian, DeLand.

Barbara Sayles, Hunger Action Advocate
Central Florida Presbytery
cfpresbytery.org/

CHRISTIAN SERVICE CENTER UPDATE



The Christian Service Awards and Annual Banquet is **Friday, October 9, 2026 at First Baptist Orlando, 8:00 am -10:00 am.** Both Leesa Bainbridge and John Bowers are table hosts, and we would be thrilled to have Park Lakers attend with us. Our church is well known to the CSC because we have supported it so faithfully over the years. It's free of course, and the CSC does ask all of us to give any amount of money that you feel comfortable with. The annual banquet is the primary fundraising event for the CSC. Please see Leesa or John so we can know who'll be there and get you registered.

MISSION AND OUTREACH

LITTLE FREE LIBRARY RENOVATION

Please visit our newly renovated Little Free Library
"Take a book. Share a book"

Thank you to Larry Fisher, Mike Woods, Keith Bridges and Scott Peterson for refurbishing and installing our "Little free Library" (LFL).

Larry Fisher says, "It was a blessing to have the expertise of Mike Woods to help with the 4 x 4 post and the roof attachments. Thanks to Keith for helping me to install the LFL and for all he does for PLPC".

Our LFL was originally built by Stix Cook and installed February of 2019. It is located outside the Education Building off of Highland. Thank you to Alice Schmidt, for initiating the project to organize the building of the LFL and registering it as an official "Little Free Library".

Thank you for keeping it full of books for all to enjoy!

To learn more about Little Free Libraries around the world, go to:
littlefreelibrary.org



NEW HYMN BOOKS FOR WESTMINSTER TOWERS

We at Westminster Towers would like to thank Park Lake Presbyterian Church for purchasing and delivering 20 Glory to God hymn books for our Sunday live Youtube services. They make our services more like a 'real' church service, which of course they are, with seeing and hearing the services live with you all in the sanctuary. Our congregation here consists of Park Lake members plus regular attendees who live here, occasional drop-ins, family members and friends of residents.

Thank you,
Alice Schmidt
Westminster Towers, Orlando



WASHINGTON SHORES PRESBYTERIAN FOOD PANTRY

The Food Bank at Washington Shores Presbyterian Church continues to be in great need of items.

Updated request: canned green beans, corn and sweet peas, deodorant, toothpaste and other toiletries. Please check Expiration Dates! Cash donations are also appreciated to purchase needed items. y. Thank you for helping your neighbor!



At Rally day we enjoyed a scrumptious breakfast together. Pastor Helen led us in a discussion about "Tending the Fire" and reigniting our faith.

Thank you to all who brought breakfast casseroles, quiches and other delights!



Camp fires were made by each table and presented after our discussion.



**WORLD COMMUNION
SUNDAY
OCTOBER 4, 2026**

UPCOMING EVENTS

First Fridays and First Saturdays ART EXHIBITS

AT FAVO (Faith Arts Village Orlando)

Friday, September 4

and Saturday,

September 5

5:00 pm - 9:00 pm

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



FAVO GIVES BACK!

On Friday, August 7 and Saturday, August 8 the FAVO community including Park Lakers, FAVO artists and friends pulled together and donated shoes, socks and gift cards for Matthew's Hope of Central Florida.

Thank you to all who gave!



THE POTTER'S HAND:

A Conversation between Art and Faith

Saturday, September 19, 10 - 11:30 a.m.

Do You have something to say? How can art help you say it? September's PH art group will explore these questions. Join us! Contact Pastor Helen at Helenparklake@gmail.com



ANNIVERSARIES

- 01 Laura and Shawn Moloney
- 08 Erin and Matt Cook
- 20 Susan Frith and John Walker
- 22 Anne Vercheski and Dan Johnson

BIRTHDAYS

- 01 Charlotte Branstetter
- 03 Ruth Fiji
- 04 Justina Aniamam
- 05 Josephine Patterson
- 08 Tucker Hampton
- 09 Barbara Palmer
- 10 Alex Schelle
- 11 Kwabena Aniamam
- 13 Howard Vincent Kurtz
- 16 Ellie Callahan
- 20 Scott Trauger
- 22 Alex Aniamam
- 23 Julie Krasno
- 24 Meg Elvis
- 25 Karen Pinnel
- 26 Larry Fortunato
- 27 Donald Palmer
- 27 Andrea Choquette
- 28 Billie Jo Elliott
- 29 Lauren Poore



GAYSTRAIGHT@PARKLAKE Sunday, September 20

Our September gathering will be **Sunday, September 20** after worship at Panera Bread, 3463 E. Colonial Dr, Orlando. Come break bread with us and learn more about supporting Gay/Straight@ParkLake and the LGBTQ+ community as an ally or LGBTQ+ orientation.

To learn more about supporting Gay/Straight@ParkLake and the LGBTQ+ community as an ally or LGBTQ+ orientation contact John Jenkins or use the QR code to view our page on the plpc.org website.



PAGE TURNERS BOOK CLUB Thursday, September 24 10:00 am

Downstairs Koinonia Room,
Sanctuary Building.

Our September book is "The God of Small Things", by Arundhati Roy. For more information, contact Sherry Riley.





**PARK LAKE PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN
HORIZONS BIBLE STUDY 2026-2027**

**United Through Christ,
Bound to Each Other:
Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians
by Rhonda Mawhood Lee**

Paul wrote at a time when Christians expected Jesus' imminent return; he challenged his friends to be ready when that day came. Two thousand years later, the church is still waiting, still affirming that Jesus will return, and still proclaiming that this world has already been transformed by God's life-giving love. Our challenge remains to live in ways that demonstrate our trust in the resurrection.

Many of the questions asked by our earliest siblings in faith remain ours, too. How can our lives demonstrate our trust in Jesus Christ's victory over death? What do we do when different understandings of the gospel undermine church unity? How can Christians understand gender and sexuality? When conflict arises, how do we deal with it?

**For more information about Presbyterian Women,
go to: <https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/>**

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.

Esther: Tuesday, September 1

6:30 pm, Struble Fellowship Hall

Circle Representative, Erin Cook

Bible Moderator, Anne Vercheski

Joanna: Monday, September 14

7:00 pm, Parlor

Circle Representative, Sherry Riley

Bible Moderator, Helen DeBevoise

Dorcas: Monday, September 14

1:00 pm, Westminster Winter Park

Circle Representative and Bible Moderator

Sandy Bogner

Sarah: Monday, September 14

2:00 pm, Westminster Towers, Town Square

Circle Representative and

Bible Moderator

Marian Price



Lee Bessonette, Rosalyn Russell, Helen Potter, Bonnie McKnight, Forrest Cheek, Mary Bookhardt, the families of John Patterson, Stephen Gaboriault, Matilda Peasah and Marie Butler.

If you would like to receive the prayer chain emails to join others in prayer, please contact Helen DeBevoise.

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


September
2026



COME WORSHIP WITH US!
ALL ARE WELCOME

9:00 AM—10:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL

From Infants - Adults
(Education building)

10:00 AM—10:30 AM COFFEE FELLOWSHIP
(Struble Fellowship Hall)

10:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE
(Sanctuary)