



**oak park**  
CHURCH OF CHRIST



Volume 9 Issue 4 May 2022

## Pine Lake Christian Camp

Hi there! My name is Janessa Parker and this year I am the Summer Program Director at Pine Lake Christian Camp (PLCC). I'd love to tell you a bit about the camp, why it is important to me and to so many other families, and what our plan is for this summer's camp season!

I have attended camps at PLCC since I was going into grade seven at Junior High camp. The experiences I've had and the relationships I've created with leaders and other campers have been foundational and essential in my development throughout my life, both in my faith and also as a person as a whole. It is where I grew to make my faith my own, and found value in taking what I've experienced and learned at PLCC and applying it back home. This happened through many deep conversations with my cabin leaders, the time devoted to worship, being in Christian community, and also the fact that camp is so much fun!

I had the opportunity to attend our Leaders-In-Training camp for two years when I was in high school, and was able to spend those entire summers at PLCC learning about leadership by volunteering at younger camps. When I graduated high school



I was hired to be on the summer team and I've had the privilege over the years to be a kitchen assistant, cabin counsellor, and now Summer Program Director. I am going on my sixth year as a part of the summer team!

All of this is to say that there is nowhere else I would rather be. I love being with campers and other leaders as we work and live in community, and I really appreciate the fact that it takes many different people coming together to make camp possible: the individuals who work in the kitchen, our camp managers and those who help maintain the facility, cabin counsellors, speakers, worship leaders, lifeguards, people to lead activities, games, crafts, archery, the campers themselves... the list goes on and on! We have the opportunity at PLCC to do things that we often don't do in our busy day-to-day lives, and take a moment to rest, refill, and focus our attention on Jesus and one another.

I am SO excited that we are able to run regular camp programming this summer for youth and children. We have week-long camps for various age groups, as well as other retreats and weekend family camps. I know many people from Oak Park are regular campers at PLCC and I can't wait to see you again, and meet some new faces as well!

If you have any questions please email [info@pinelakechristiancamp.com](mailto:info@pinelakechristiancamp.com) and someone from our team will get back to you! You also can check out our website for more information about camp dates and to register ([www.pinelakechristiancamp.com](http://www.pinelakechristiancamp.com)). I'm so excited to see you this summer and for all of the amazing things that are in store!

By Janessa Parker





May Family Camp - May 20-23

Ladies Retreat - June 10-12

High School Camp (entering Grade 10 - 2022 Grade 12 graduates) - July 3 - 8

Leaders in Training (entering Grade 10 - 2022 Grade 12 graduates) - July 12 - 15

Rookie Camp (entering Grade 1 - 3) - July 12 - 15

Junior High (entering Grades 7 - 9) - July 17 - 22

Junior Camp (entering Grades 4 - 6) - July 24 - 29

Deeper Life (Young Adults; Graduated Grade 12's and up) - August 26 - 28

September Family Camp - September 2 - 5

Mens Retreat - September 23 - 25

Snow Camp (Grades 7-12) - December 27 - 30

Register for Camp at [pinelakechristiancamp.com](http://pinelakechristiancamp.com)



## Send a kid to camp!

Did you know?

We provide bursaries to families whose children want to go to camp but cannot afford it!

If you would like to contribute to the Next Gen Fund where the bursaries come from, you can do so by marking your donation "Camp Bursary".

# SHALOM

LADIES' RETREAT - JUNE 10-12, 2022

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.

I do not give to you as the world gives.

Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

John 14:27



\$110 Full Weekend

\$95 Seniors 60+

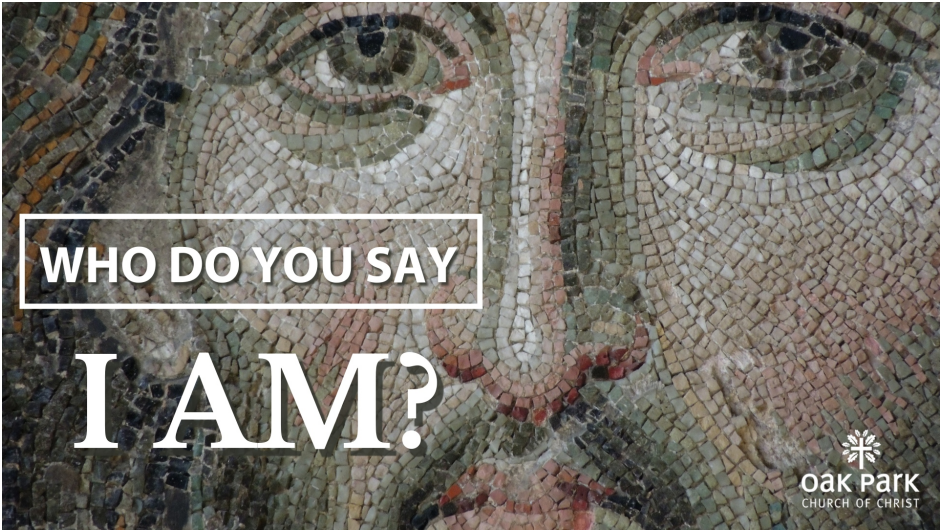
\$75 Saturday only

Please register by May 25:

[www.pinelakechristiancamp.com](http://www.pinelakechristiancamp.com)

pinelake  
christian camp





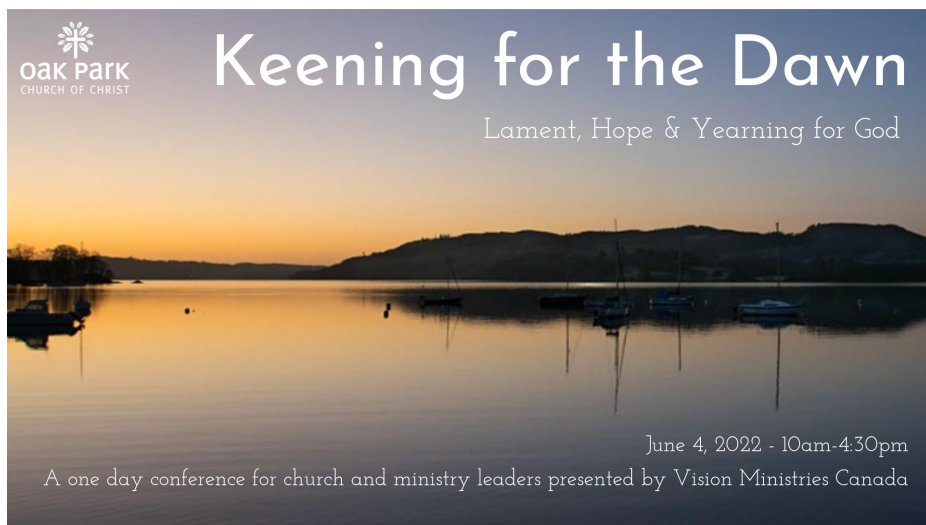
## New Series starting June 12th

"And how about you? Who do you say that I am?" These are the words with which Jesus is pressing his disciples in Matthew 16. In many ways, it is the very same question the Church has been wrestling with for its entire existence. This spring, like we do each spring at Oak Park, we'll spend a few weeks looking at a doctrine of the Christian faith. Over the three weeks of this series, we'll ask this same question: "Who is this guy?" Is he God; is he sort-of God; is he merely a wise teacher; is he really human? Come and wrestle with us as we explore the biblical and historical teaching about Jesus of Nazareth.

## Appreciation Potluck Lunch for Pastor Martin



May 29th after service  
Bring your favourite dish.



## **Thinking Shrewdly Conference - Keening for the Dawn** **Saturday June 4th, 2022**

Given our current cultural moment of social upheaval, increased secularity and a prolonged pandemic, many of the faithful feel a sense of spiritual desolation and are questioning their ongoing participation in church. Leaders seem disheartened, disoriented and are wearied from struggling to chart a path forward for their congregations.

'Keening' is an ancient Celtic practice, a primal wail that expresses the inconsolable longing of the human heart. Perhaps this aptly describes the soul-cry of pastor and parishioner alike, a yearning for divine consolation in these times.

Vision Ministries Canada is hosting a one day conference in six regions across Canada for pastors, planters, elders, evangelists, emerging leaders and other church influencers. Join with other leaders to lament our shared loss, draw on spiritual resources for inner vitality and seek God for his renewing work in our midst.

Presenters include Julie Kerr, Jay Gurnett and Mike Stone. Registration deadline is Saturday, May 28th. Please contact the church office if you wish to register.

# Computer Volunteers Needed



**We are in need of volunteers to run our computer for Sunday services. If you are interested please contact [shelley@oakpark.ca](mailto:shelley@oakpark.ca)**

**Women's Morning of  
Worship & Prayer**

**Saturday, June 25th  
10:00 - 11:30am**





## Oak Park Missions Update

### Lifeline - Ricot and Mandy

Ricot and Mandy have been blessed with a new vehicle. Thanks to a financial donation from Canada they were able to purchase a Toyota Landcruiser from a missionary family who are leaving Haiti. The purchase was just in time as Port Salut received very heavy rains in April making road travel very difficult. The road into Decision Church was badly damaged due to the large amount of water draining through the property, over the sides of the drainage canal, and down their road. However when the rain stops it's a joy to walk to one of the rural churches as long as you don't slip on the wet rocks while you are dressed in your Sunday best.





## Graceland Ministries - Jay and Colette

You won't want to miss this! Jay and Colette, our missionaries in Poland, will be speaking at Oak Park Church on Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup>. They will spend most of June in Canada, speaking at 13 different churches and travelling from the Atlantic to the Rockies. Please pray for them. They will need lots of stamina! Colette completed five weeks of rehabilitation and has since received a new, much improved leg brace but she still finds walking very challenging. She recently celebrated her 60<sup>th</sup> birthday with lots of special gifts and visits from her students.

The war taking place in Ukraine has meant they have become very involved with supporting refugees in many different ways including rent, clothing, food, financial and emotional support, etc. When they visit they will share first hand stories of the opportunities God has given them to care. This picture is a 'thank you' from one of the children. In the picture, his father's car is on the Ukrainian side of the border, the air-raid siren blaring. The Polish flag on this side of the border. His mom, with one suitcase for all three of them, and his little brother crying a river of tears. If you would like to support their work with refugees, you can go to their website (<https://www.gracelandministries.com>) and donate to the special fund they have set up called "Project 94."

Jay and Colette have been very pleased to be back to face to face meetings in the classroom. As always, they continue to look for ways to improve the curriculum while presenting the Gospel in relevant ways that really speak to the needs of the students. They will be writing a curriculum to go with the TV series, "The Chosen," which they know will start lots of interesting discussions about the life of Christ. So many younger people seem to have no purpose in life, just entertaining themselves, hoping to get good jobs and good money so they can continue to entertain themselves. Please pray the Lord gives them the wisdom they need to plan and teach.





*Eat Well. Spend Less.*



2021

**Any one can order one or more Good Food Boxes.**

Boxes must be pre-ordered and paid for in cash (exact change) on or before the order by date. You can pre-purchase your next box when you pick up your order. Boxes must be picked up, before 6pm. (Note: Boxes not picked up will be donated - no refunds will be given.)

Good Food Boxes come in the following sizes:

<b>LARGE</b>	40 lbs	\$35.00
<b>MEDIUM</b>	30 lbs	\$30.00
<b>SMALL</b>	20 lbs	\$25.00

ORDER BY	DELIVERY DATE
January 18	January 27
February 15	February 24
March 8	March 17
April 12	April 21
May 3	May 12
May 31	June 9
September 6	September 15
September 27	October 6
October 25	November 3
November 29	December 8

For information call Oak Park Church office at (403) 251-5150 or email [office@oakpark.ca](mailto:office@oakpark.ca)

## LOT Ministry

My name is Stephanie and I'm from LOT ministry. A few months ago God was really prompting some friends and I to start a street ministry downtown, where we bring food such as snacks and sandwiches, as well as clothing items for people at the Drop In Center every Friday night. It all started one Thursday morning. I wrote in our FaceBook chat group: "Praying for an unexpected donation today." About 20 minutes later my friend Chanelle picked me up from work and we drove past Oak Park Church of Christ and outside there was a sign saying, "Free bread and clothing." Absolutely shocked and giggling with excitement, we pulled into the parking lot. Once we were parked, we prayed to God that when we went in He would give us the words to correctly explain what we wanted to do.

We were very new at this and it was nerve wracking going in to ask for things. We had no idea what to expect or how they would receive what we were saying. However, as soon as we walked through the door we were warmly greeted by a couple of kind ladies and gentlemen. I explained what we were doing, and soon they were loading us up with more donations than we knew what to do with! Not only that but one of the gentlemen handed me money from his own pocket to put towards some of the other things we needed to buy. We left their so excited we could hardly contain ourselves. It was a true answer to prayer.

The following week we went back. The kind ladies and gentlemen working greeted us with the same excitement we had about being there. We were also given a cash donation from the church alongside the large amount of clothing, bread and other food donations. Oak Park Church of Christ and these donations have been absolutely key in helping us grow our street ministry. We couldn't be more thankful for this wonderful answer to prayer.

If anyone would like to see what we have been up to or learn more about us, feel free to follow us on Instagram at @lot\_ministry or on FaceBook at @LOTministry.

## What Your Giving Can Do - Estate Gifts

I once had the opportunity to be a Teaching Assistant for the principal of Wycliffe College, George Sumner. George is a great professor, a brilliant writer, and an exceptional leader. The class went well, but what I really remember most was spending time with George talking about institutional leadership. During our conversations, I asked how he had managed to take over leadership in a struggling college and turn it into a thriving one. He could have mentioned his leadership gifts or the faculty's hard work or even the renewed emphasis on student recruitment. Instead, he told me about an elderly lady who gave \$10 each month to the college. The year George became principal, she passed away, and in her estate she left \$1 million to the college. The chain of events that generous gift set off left a legacy of missional growth and gospel ministry that she likely never could have imagined!

We don't talk about legacy giving in the church very often. Perhaps we think it's morbid or unpleasant to address anything surrounding death (surely the church is one place we ought to be able to speak openly about death!); or perhaps we think it's presumptuous or rude; or perhaps we just don't really think about it – out of sight, out of mind. Well, I'm asking you to consider it now, for the future of our congregation. Legacy gifts don't have to be \$1 million dollars to be transformative!

If you have questions about how this works or want to find someone who could guide you through these decisions, please reach out and I'll help you make the connection you are looking for.

Pastor Lane  
lane@oakpark.ca



Did you know Oak Park has an app? Download to your smartphone to access online sermons & event information. You can also follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

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