



WESTWOOD
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025

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WPC CHURCH AND PRESCHOOL STAFF

PASTOR/HEAD OF STAFF

Rev. Dr. Christine Chakoian

EXECUTIVE ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Rev. Paula Mann

PASTOR OF MISSION, OUTREACH, & PASTORAL CARE

Rev. Mark S. Jones, Sr.

WORSHIP

JA'Michael Davis-Hoag,
Sunday Receptionist

Laurel Sanders, *Organist*

Dan Redfeld,
Director of Music

LEADERSHIP

Tajmaya "Taj" Anders,
*Preschool Curriculum
Specialist*

Anne Cioffi, *Coordinator of
Membership & Lay Ministries*

Sarah Davis,
Director of Operations

Farrah Mikail,
Financial Manager

Brianne Naiman,
Preschool Director

Marin Miller,
*Director of Children &
Family Ministries
(August, 2024 -)*

Jake Putich,
*Director of Youth, College,
& Adult Faith Formation
(July - December, 2024)
Director of Faith Formation
& Creation Care
(December, 2024—)*

Michelle Whelan,
*Interim Director of Student
Ministries
(December, 2024—)*

SUPPORT

Priscilla Glaza,
*Preschool Administrative
Assistant*

Heidi Rudd,
Preschool Office Manager

Linda Martinez
Administrative Assistant

Javier Torres, *Maintenance*

Lourdes Torres, *Custodial*

Joshua Torres, *Custodial*

DEAR WPC MEMBERS AND FRIENDS,



**Rev. Dr. Christine
Chakoian**

Dear WPC Members and Friends,

This year has been filled with many joys! We give thanks to God for our abundant blessings:

- ◇ Glorious music, like the Messiah Sing-a-Long, Easter services, the Christmas Cantata, and much more.
- ◇ Heartwarming children's programs, like their musicals, the Easter Egg Hunt, and Trunk or Treat.
- ◇ Encouraging mission opportunities, like the return of turkey box packing, Esperanza Elementary School playground days, and the new Earth Care focus.
- ◇ Enriching spiritual formation events, like day-retreats, evening Vespers services, and Compline services for Ember (College & Young Adult Ministries).
- ◇ Creative youth engagement, like collecting items for Esperanza, writing scripts for the children's musicals, and rolling up their sleeves on mission projects.
- ◇ Forward-thinking efforts, like Vision & Planning Committee's completion of its work, which led to confirmation of our core mission, concrete goals for each area of ministry, and expansive collaboration across our church.
- ◇ Tenacious commitment, like our Building Commission moving our long-awaited project forward, in spite of obstacles along the way.
- ◇ Quiet compassion, like our Deacons delivering flowers each week, and bringing home communion to our homebound members.
- ◇ Inspiring Faith Conversations, like Breen Frazier on Star Wars and Rev. Heidi Worthen Gamble on immigration.
- ◇ Just plain FUN, like Monday Nighters and our "Hatch Batch" team softball games.

And EVERY week? Every week are blessed by inspiring music, Side Porch fellowship, Sunday School for children and youth, adult education, and more.

There are so many joys to celebrate! None of it would be possible without the faithful leadership of our Session, Deacons, committees, volunteers, and staff. WPC is truly a place "Where People Count," as our Stewardship committee named so perfectly. Everyone matters; each person counts.

What is also worth celebrating is this: each person counts, not just in our successes, but in the sorrows we share too. As is true every year, we've shared heartbreaking losses of beloved members and loved ones, and walked with each other through illness and personal challenges. We've faced sad realities, like Pastor Mark's long absence due to his excruciating pain - and we pray for his return in full health! Stressful times, like ongoing delays on the building project, as well as financial challenges. And, of course, the many daunting crises near and far - the Palisades and Eaton fires, whose devastation will be with us for a long time to come ... ICE raids that have impacted our immigrant communities ... wars that rage in Ukraine and the Middle East.

This is what I give thanks for above all: God brings us TOGETHER. In our joys and our sorrows, we are not alone. God is with us - and come what may, the Lord will lead us on the way to the FUTURE still to come.

- Rev. Dr. Christine Chakoian, *Pastor/Head of Staff*

DEAR WPC MEMBERS AND FRIENDS,



Rev. Paula Mann

Another wonderful year of ministry with you has come to a conclusion and has set us up for the next year. I continue to be grateful to have been called as your Executive Associate Pastor. Your words of support and encouragement are so helpful. Working together in the different areas of ministry is a joy so that we can make a difference in the greater community that surrounds us.

I work with the Finance, Personnel, Nominating, and Vision & Planning Committees, and with the Administrative Commission. Much of the work of these committees is behind the scenes but without them, WPC could not accomplish all that it does in public and will do in the future. I also have the privilege to lead in our worship services each week. My hope is that the prayers that I lift up and the messages I share from the pulpit might help you in your faith journey.

Each of the committees and the commission have reports included in this document. I can assure you that everyone takes their roles very seriously in making sure that WPC is a good steward of all of its resources; money, personnel, future planning, and the funds for the building project. You will see the care the committees put in place to improve personnel matters, clarify the work of the Finance Committee and provide a vision for all the committees and the Session to work towards. Please take the time to read through the entire report to get a good picture of all that is happening both within the walls of WPC as well as out in the world.

The WPC church family is one that works together, challenges each other, supports one another, and cares deeply for those in need. The needs may be a prayer, help with a report or finding the solution to a problem, writing minutes to a committee meeting, helping organize a plan, or many other ways. I am grateful each day that I am able to serve in this place. You have all taught me so much.

The WPC community is healthy and has many positive attributes. We do this work both as individuals and as a community. Even those projects that are done by an individual are supported by the many. No one has to be alone in this safe place.

I look forward to the coming year. The building project has made great strides this past year and should make significant progress which will provide many opportunities for learning and for growth. Thank you for the privilege to be in this place. I am grateful beyond words.

*-Rev. Paula Mann
Executive Associate Pastor*



DEAR WPC MEMBERS AND FRIENDS,

The one constant I thank God for is the faithfulness of the officers of WPC's Ordered Ministry and the generosity of the members and friends of our church. The Deacons and Elders of one of the most resourceful congregations in the Presbytery of the Pacific are never deterred no matter the challenge. The 2024-2025 year proved to be no different.

As staff support for the Mission & Outreach Committee (M&O) and the Board of Deacons (BoD) since July 2017, mine has become a bird's eye view of what can only be described as God's Handiwork in perpetual motion! What I share with the incredible Deacons and M&O members at the beginning of each year is that my role is that of support for them as they serve the congregation and larger community with energy, intelligence, imagination and love as they carry out the mission and ministry they each committed to as they were elected to the BoD or assigned by Nominating Committee to the M&O, and they seem to have mastered the art of quick learning and execution!

One of the indicators I've come to rely on is monitoring the amount of time I am able to devote to important outside networking to the benefit of WPC members, friends and the people who show up at our door in need of assistance, without having to neglect the weekly and liturgical routines that have their own tempo and unexpected interruptions.

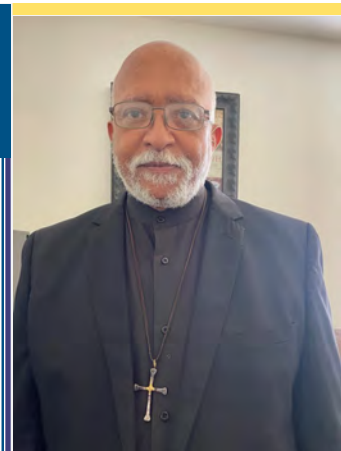
Part of the invaluable networking I refer to above involves my participation on the People Assisting The Homeless (PATH), the Westside Coalition (WC) Boards of Directors; and the LA County Mental Health Department – Clergy Roundtable (LACMHD –FBO). PATH is a familiar acronym at WPC; the WC is a conglomeration of more than 80 Supportive Services Agencies; and the LACMHD has a primary focus on Mental Health – these three organizations all focus on Health, Housing, and Hunger. Partnering with them has resulted in countless individual and family rescues and provisions of needed essentials for quality of life WPC can be proud of having a hand in providing.

A second benefit of working with the WPC BoD, M&O and Church Staff, second to none, is seeing first hand how they all pull together to fill in critical gaps like no other team I've seen. I was the main character in an unexpected medical saga that began in September 2024, the moderators, officers, and members of this incredible team have filled in the gaps I unexpectedly left in ways that for certain have made God smile on them!

So you aren't tempted to accuse me of embellishment, please be sure to carefully read the BoD and M&O Annual Reports and celebrate their accomplishments with me!

Finally, words cannot express the deep familial affection my family and I have for our sisters and brothers at WPC. It is more than as an employee and his family. It is beneficiaries of the love and caring, I believe, God intends for all families of faith to reflect. A deep caring that is capable of meeting any challenge. And we do!

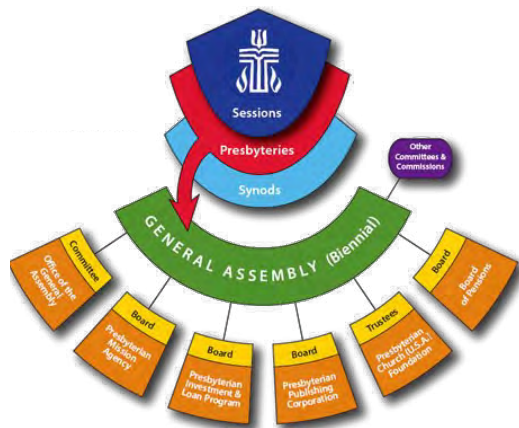
Thanks be to God! ~ Pastor Mark



Rev. Mark S. Jones, Sr.



SESSION



The governing constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA) holds Session responsible for guiding and governing the life of the congregation. Session leads the congregation in fulfilling its responsibilities for the service of all people, for the upbuilding of the whole church, and for the glory of God.

This past year, Session supported the efforts of the many committees that do the work of keeping Westwood

Presbyterian Church a vibrant Christian community. We supported the work of Finance Committee in producing a budget during challenging financial times, the work of Mission & Outreach committee representing the church in the community and the world, Personnel Committee in their role supporting Church and Preschool Staff, and Vision & Planning Committee and in their work discerning how the church can best respond to the needs of the congregation.

- Guided by the Vision & Planning Committee, Session adopted a new logo for the church and commissioned a brand new website.
- Session worked with Finance Committee to update the church's financial processes, regularizing the many clearing accounts and putting in place a regular external review process.
- On behalf of the congregation, Session voted to take the Earth Care pledge and approve plans brought by Mission & Outreach Committee to become an Earth Care congregation.
- Session supported College & Young Adult, Student, Children & Family, Spiritual Formation, Adult Education, and Membership & Fellowship Committees to create and expand programs that spiritually nourish the congregation.

Session is responsible for stewarding the church in the present, but also for ensuring stability and growth into the future. For example:

- Session supported the Administrative Commission in bringing the decade long application and planning process for the Belmont building project closer to an end, and we are looking forward to breaking ground soon.
- Session supported Personnel Committee in their restructuring of the student ministries position, hiring of Michelle Whelan as Interim Student Ministries director, and search to fill that position.

- Graham Beattie, Clerk of Session

The Presbyterian Church (USA) *Book of Order* charges,
"The Session shall have responsibility for governing the congregation and guiding its witness to the sovereign activity of God in the world, so that the congregation is and becomes a community of faith, hope, love, and witness."

[G-3.0201]



Moderator:

Rev. Dr. Christine Chakoian

Ministers of the Word and Sacrament:

Rev. Paula Mann
 Rev. Mark S. Jones, Sr.

Ruling Elders:

Breen Frazier
 Cami Hamilton
 David Hartle
 Scott Hartle
 M.C. Haslett
 Steve Hauser
 Peter Helm
 David Kadue
 Brooke Larson
 Heather Leatherwood
 Lou Moore Singleton
 Connie Price
 Emma Puglia
 Kathryn Welch Howe
 Jann Williams



BOARD OF DEACONS



Heather Leatherwood and Cindy Trangsrud

The office of Deacon is one of compassion and service after the example of Jesus Christ. The Board of Deacons ministers to those who are in need, to the sick, the friendless and to any who may be in distress within our community of faith.

We are blessed to help to fulfill WPC's calling - to pursue justice, practice kindness, and walk humbly with God. Our focus is especially in sharing kindness and compassion.

This year, our goals included reflecting on and fulfilling our current service

roles, familiarizing ourselves with WPC's new "Church Community Builder" database, and following up with "wellness checks" on those we haven't heard from in a while.

We are encouraged as we continue to provide monthly communion preparation, delivering flowers following worship, sending cards, calling and checking in to those we haven't seen for a while, visiting members and offering home communion, seeing a need and assisting to fill it, staying in touch with our homebound and online worshippers, Christmas poinsettia and Easter lily delivery and Sunday morning greeting visitors and members following worship. As Deacons, it is our great joy to be in service to our church and our sisters and brothers in Christ.



Matheus Oliveira, Madrona Casey, and Scott McDowell

Home communion continues to be a particular blessing to our homebound members and definitely to us as well. We are able to serve the member but also many times a caregiver or friend in attendance. To share holy communion this way is always a highlight. And we continue to relish in the joy of preparing communion elements every first Sunday of the month in worship.

We feel like we are the "hands and feet" of Christ and find that it is in giving that we also receive. It is a great joy and a privilege.

It is also our prayer too that you feel the love of your church through our Deacon ministry whether it be from a card, flowers, a call, email, or visit. We welcome those who feel a call to service.



Communion Set-up

Moderators:

Heather Leatherwood,
Moderator
Scott McDowell,
Co-Moderator

Deacons:

Kate Branaman
Madrona Casey
Courtney Davis
M.C. Haslett
Patricia Kurtz
Camille Morris
Matheus Oliveira
Robyn Paris
Anne Louise Rice
Cindy Trangsrud

Staff Resources

Rev. Mark S. Jones, Sr.
Rev. Dr. Christine Chakoian



- Heather Leatherwood, Moderator Board of Deacons

The Adult Education Committee offers education and feeds the life of the mind, providing regular and periodic opportunities for Christian learning that bring faith to bear on contemporary issues.



Breen Frazier



Dan Redfeld

Committee Chair

Elder Scott Hartle

Committee:

DeAnne Crossley
Celie Fischer
David Kadue
Abraham Kim
Patricia Kurtz
Leslie Owen

Staff Resource

Jake Putich



ADULT EDUCATION

This program year, Adult Education Committee presented Faith Conversations that addressed timely topics and community needs and offered paths to service during a difficult year in Los Angeles. Rev. Heidi Worthen Gamble spoke to us about the Presbytery's response to the disastrous fires in Los Angeles as well as the immigration and refugee crisis. We maintained our focus on intellectual growth and the expansion of boundaries. We looked at interpersonal relations in times of great strife. Dr. Daniel Wehrenfennig, Executive Director and Founder of the Center for International Experiential Learning, discussed conflict resolution and peacemaking.

John Phillip Newell came from Scotland to discuss the themes of his award winning book *Sacred Earth Sacred Soul*, calling us to be aware of the sacredness of the earth and every human being to transform and heal our lives and world. We delved into WPC's rich love of music. Dan Redfeld discussed the history, musical techniques and modern relevance of Handel's Messiah and Benjamin Britten's A Ceremony of Carols.



John Phillip Newell

And Breen Frazier presented The Spirituality of Star Wars on May 4th. Breen presented a thought-provoking and highly entertaining look at the often discussed spiritual aspects of this icon of cinema. These were just some of our Faith Conversation offerings this year. And Faith, Search and Support and Adult Bible Forum continued faithfully in another solid year of thoughtful discussion and study.

These were our Adult Ed goals for 2024-2025:

1. Focus on advance calendar planning to allow for stronger planning, promotion and congregational engagement.
2. Continue to look at how we can best support Faith, Search and Support (FSS) and the Adult Bible Forum (ABF) and continue to collaborate with other committees within the church.
3. Be mindful of opportunities to not have meetings, if we feel they're not necessary or could be handled via email.

We worked hard to plan ahead this year to allow time for the congregation to be aware of what events we had scheduled as well as to allow for planning time to execute the events in coordination with our speakers. We also continued to support FSS & ABF as stalwart programs at WPC.

We were constantly reminded of the thoughtfulness of our committee members as we worked to provide engaging conversations for our congregation to experience. We were also constantly reminded that our congregation is interested in and engaged in the world around us. Our congregation is enthusiastic about learning and discovering ways to be even more engaged and of service in our community and the world around us.

As we look toward the next church year, we pray to continue to be inspired by God's calling to provide stimulating and informative studies and presentations for the congregation. And we will continue to abide by our mantra "not to tell you what to think but to give you something to think about."

- Scott Hartle, Adult Education Committee Chair

The Children & Family Ministries Committee carries out the church's commitment, made in the vows of baptism, to assist parents in raising their children to a deep and loving relationship with Jesus Christ, by providing infant through elementary school age children opportunities to grow in faith.



**Easter Egg Hunt,
April 2025**

Committee Chair

Elder Brooke Larson

Committee:

Hugh Burton
Lucy Cook
Kimberly Gallant
Kristyn Humphreys
Needham
John Langfitt
Caroline Pierrepont

Staff Resource

Marin Miller
(August, 2024—)



CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRIES (CFM)



Variety Show, May 2025

The Children & Family Ministries Committee (CFM) helps to create a church home for the children in our congregation that is welcoming, loving, encouraging and accepting of children for exactly who they are. Our lessons are discovery-based to be nurturing and delivered with creativity, encouraging age-appropriate spiritual, emotional, musical and intellectual stimulation that is thought provoking and fun for all types of learners. Our classes are small so that every child can be seen—the goal for CFM is that our community will feel like another family to the children.

We welcome curious learning with all the big questions that come with

spiritual formation in a non-formal learning environment. We provide opportunities to both contribute to the social justice and Earth Care missions within the church community and discussions about why this is important as children of God. At this age, social justice is told through the lens of loving one another as God loves us, and connecting with and protecting God's creation. While much of our time together is in Sunday School, the children also have a frequent role in worship through scripture readings, children's lessons in worship, children's choir, pageants and musicals. This not only bridges the gap between young children and the church body, but brings the innocence of God's children to worship, helping the children themselves to feel more connected to worship and the space.

We have the goal of creating face-to-face workshop-style programs to encourage and guide parents. We also have plans to bring back the low-pressure, potluck Intergenerational Breakfast with grandparents (and grandparent-age) people in our church to discuss current issues in parenting and share lessons learned. Sing-a-long, picnic lunches, hiking, yard games, and other fun activities are in the pipeline.

Monthly children's Mission & Outreach side porch rotation where a family sells manna bags/promotes environmental justice effort as chosen by the Sunday School class. We have the very real goal of offering a summer or Spring Break Nature Camp for a few days in which the children learn through scripture the glory of God's kingdom and how to be better stewards of the Earth.

We pray that the children in our church will learn to know God's love. That through their understanding of bible stories, community within this church, and service projects that they can serve their community, their Lord and themselves in ways that no other relationship can. We pray that as they graduate from this age group to the next that they continue to grow in their faith and understanding of Jesus and continue to play an active roll in the church. In all of these things we work in partnership with other parts of the church to all play a role in fulfilling the baptismal vows we, as a church, made to the children God has called us to help raise. Through community formation, collective growth, supporting young families.



Palm Sunday, April 2025

- Brooke Larson, Children & Family Ministries Committee Chair

CYAM exists to provide a sanctuary for college students and young adults on the Westside. We desire to create a space for curiosity and connection, where faith can bloom into acts of justice, love, humility, and peace for the sake of our neighbors and our world.

COLLEGE & YOUNG ADULT (CYAM)



Renaissance Fair Outing

One of the most beautiful things about the College & Young Adult (CYAM) committee (and Ember itself) is its dedication to humble curiosity. As it's comprised of mainly students, its participants are eager to be challenged to grow in faith and understanding of the world around us. On the other side of the same coin, CYAM is always attempting to better understand the needs of the rising generation, who historically feel they have a smaller voice than the "adults".

This pairing reflects WPC's mission statement, as we (the CYAM committee) offer ourselves in community with those around us, whether it be Westwood, Los Angeles, or the world. We strive to arm ourselves with compassion as we discuss global dynamics and the role the church and our faith has in it. We use Ember as a safe space to have open conversations about our identities and faith, deepening our connection to each other and to Jesus.

We set the primary goals of our committee to establish a consistent ministry schedule, enhance outreach through word-of-mouth engagement, and expand service-oriented activities. With the fluctuating lifestyles of college students and young adults, we were able to provide a source of stability AND flexibility — our sense of community was strengthened with occasional spur-of-the-moment invitations for gathering, paired alongside our established routine Ember meetings and Compline services. We learned that word-of-mouth is our most effective form of outreach, and we've done so inviting friends or friends of friends to join both casual hangouts (which has proven to be the easiest form of entry) as well as worship services.

While this continues to be our committee's largest challenge, we feel that this method of outreach is correct. Meanwhile, we plan on continuing our goal of expanding service-oriented activities, and, as seen by the college and young adult participation in the homeless count, this goal is something that our members feel strongly about.



2025 Homeless Count

There's a cyclical lesson that often repeats itself in CYAM — since this is a fairly transitory time in these students' lives, people will come and go at a rate that's quicker than most other committees. The question becomes: how can we continue to show up for these young adults in the fullest, most welcoming way possible for those few years. Keeping that knowledge in mind will lead to greater faithfulness next year, as young adults embrace the unknown future of endless possibilities ahead of them, and we embrace the beauty in the fleeting.

I pray that our committee continues to be a safe place for college and young adults to land, a place where they feel encouraged to express themselves and their identity, their values, their faith, and their beliefs. I pray that those who are in need of a loving, accepting, and welcoming community find it in Ember, and in WPC. I pray our church can serve as a beacon of hope in dark times.

- Emma Puglia, College & Young Adult Committee Chair

Committee Chair

Elder Emma Puglia

Committee:

Gabby Esunge
B'Anwi Fomukong
Jim Louie
Scott McDowell

Staff Resource

Jake Putich



The Finance Committee establishes and oversees the church budget, ensuring careful, transparent management of all church funds and investments.

Committee Chair

Elder David Kadue

Committee:

Graham Beattie
Hugh Burton
Mundi Fomukong
Mary Pringle
Kelly Sheridan
Michael Sohigian

Investment Sub-Committee:

Matt Covington
Elizabeth Evans
Freeman Hall
Don Morrison
Todd Popovich

Staff Resources

Rev. Dr. Christine Chakoian
Rev. Paula Mann
Farrah Mikail

The WPC Budget is on the next page.

Detailed financial reports are always available for WPC Members.

Please contact the church office at
office@westwoodpres.org
or (310) 474-4535.



FINANCE

We took many steps (beyond meeting our annual goals) to fulfill WPC's missions:

Preschool

With Session's help, we expanded the uses and enhanced the resources of the Hein-Unruh Fund, and provided for deliberative planning on how to spend it to advance the Preschool's objectives.

Sustainable Operations

We forecasted Belmont building income and, with Session's help, initiated succession planning and a task force for WPC to address the budgetary challenges that will attend the building project. Meanwhile, we put the bulk of our recent Employee Retention Credit windfall into a conservatively managed separate account, for further use as Session may direct.

Other Business

We arranged to update clearing accounts, clarified the format of financial statements, wrote off uncollectable receivables, oversaw an accounting firm's review of our financial practices, and researched the history of our financial operations, to provide background for future operations.

The 2025-2026 Budget

We secured Session approval in a manner that comports with the rule permitting the limited use of Westwood Fund principal to cover a projected operating deficit.

We accomplished all three of our annual goals:

1. Adopt a committee mission: "Have our financial affairs done decently and in order."
2. Establish a committee work calendar, to publish in Church Community Builder.
3. Revise the Finance Manual to clarify, reform, and codify our extensive financial practices.

We benefited by convening, early in the program year, an in-person committee retreat. We distributed reading material far in advance of each meeting and distributed draft minutes promptly after each meeting.

We learned it is essential to have superb staff support: Farrah Mikail expertly keeping the books, preparing monthly financial statements, and explaining correct accounting; Sarah Davis and Linda Martinez promptly providing information; Paula Mann giving us keen insights and indispensable technical support; Chris Chakoian blessing us with overall leadership and her editorial prowess.

We pray for our committee and our church for the year ahead:

- Effective training on provisions of the revised Finance Manual.
- Greater transparency regarding financial information.
- Better collaboration among committees.
- Various further reforms, such as moving up the stewardship campaign to generate information more useful for budgeting.

- David Kadue, Finance Committee Chair

WPC OPERATING BUDGET: SOURCES AND USES OF FUNDS

	2021-2022 Fiscal Year Budget	2021-2022 Fiscal Year Actuals	2022-2023 Fiscal Year Budget	2022-2023 Fiscal Year Actuals	2023-2024 Fiscal Year Budget	2023-2024 Fiscal Year Actuals	2024-2025 Fiscal Year Budget	2024-2025 Fiscal Year Actuals	2025-2026 Fiscal Year Budget
Pledge/Non-Pledge Contributions	700,000	709,760	725,000	734,996	725,000	685,251	725,000	635,984	675,000
Other Income	11,000	11,867	11,000	7,298	10,000	8,790	11,500	9,629	11,500
Fund Income	120,000	181,691	155,000	206,697	200,000	215,417	225,000	262,223	225,000
Preschool (1)	55,500	522,113	154,948	302,730	146,095	364,967	143,049	182,099	90,058
Church Rental Income	160,250	9,075	11,000	33,890	11,000	17,253	17,600	22,644	18,600
Property-Ashton House (Net of Expenses)	23,728	66,822	51,330	51,330	51,348	1,980	65,000	64,720	14,765
Manse Rental Income (Net of Expenses)	57,268	58,539	57,700	55,862	56,190	55,512	56,175	53,629	60,675
Belmont Income	-	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	187,500	235,000
Total Income	1,127,746	1,709,865	1,315,978	1,542,804	1,349,633	1,499,170	1,393,324	1,418,426	1,330,598
Personnel	744,779	720,401	747,578	762,628	813,361	787,814	872,796	857,043	901,717
Preschool Committee	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Properties & Infrastructure	236,086	214,621	257,212	261,509	238,150	266,229	244,950	257,337	262,262
Session	12,940	13,274	15,000	15,787	15,250	16,381	16,750	17,079	17,750
Mission & Outreach	61,800	60,402	66,800	64,934	44,300	44,488	53,800	53,953	50,500
Pastoral Expenses	370,134	294,791	457,702	450,181	473,870	456,534	488,669	484,300	487,825
Staff	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Administration	74,470	73,446	60,320	59,193	59,760	55,107	81,260	73,215	80,620
Pastoral Care	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Membership & Fellowship	6,950	3,468	18,000	11,975	17,600	7,636	13,600	12,647	15,550
Nominating	-	-	150	-	-	-	-	-	-
Communications	500	-	500	669	3,000	3,004	8,260	15,604	5,300
Adult Ministries	7,200	3,798	6,700	6,455	6,800	9,349	11,200	9,825	7,150
Spiritual Formation	3,225	2,625	5,525	5,007	5,725	5,848	5,350	4,198	5,300
Student/College/Young Adult Minis- tries	4,250	3,805	12,400	7,763	10,650	6,261	10,750	6,404	8,450
Children's Ministries	12,800	6,833	5,800	6,135	6,050	6,934	7,800	4,788	7,600
Music & Worship	20,800	34,569	44,350	48,739	33,850	30,859	47,600	47,655	51,050
Miscellaneous (2)	700	910	1,200	943	750	815	900	925	800
Total Expenses	1,556,634	1,432,943	1,699,237	1,701,918	1,729,116	1,697,259	1,863,685	1,844,974	1,901,874
Net Income/Loss	(428,888)	276,922	(383,259)	(159,114)	(379,483)	(198,089)	(470,361)	(426,548)	(571,276)
Contribution from Westwood Fund (3)	428,888	-	384,359	159,114	379,483	198,089	470,361	426,548	400,467
Employment Retention Credit									170,809

(1) The Preschool figure represents income in excess of direct expenses; WPC underwrites the indirect expenses.

(2) Miscellaneous combines committee spending on Preschool, Pastoral Care, Nominating, and Vision & Planning.

(3) To support operations, Session has authorized spending \$400,467 of Westwood Fund principal (up to 4% of unrestricted assets) and ERC receipts (up to \$170,809).

MEMBERSHIP & FELLOWSHIP



Monday Nighters, 2024

The Membership & Fellowship committee has fulfilled WPC's mission by providing open fellowship opportunities, and practicing kindness by welcoming newcomers. We are happy to report that WPC was blessed with eight new members this year.

We set three goals for this year, the first two were fulfilled. The first goal was to create a more structured follow-up program by assigning each committee member to a new church member in order to develop a deeper relationship, and assist them in feeling comfortable with the church community and keep them aware and knowledgeable of events and activities. The second goal was to complete the review of membership in the new Church Community Builder system. The

third goal was to plan a special event the night before our new building groundbreaking that was originally scheduled for Summer, 2025.

Our committee has learned the power of collaboration and working well with others, as well as the value in solidifying and deepening relationships as we grow together in spirit and with Christ's love.

For our committee, I pray for continued success in providing education and relationship-building for new members and in organizing fun fellowship opportunities for all. For our church, I pray for continuing strength of a solid community as we move through the first new building phase.

- Connie Price, Membership & Fellowship Committee Chair



Thankfulness Sunday, 2024



Homecoming, 2024

The Membership & Fellowship Committee assists the congregation in being a welcoming and inviting community. They welcome newcomers, provide new member seminars and walk with new members until they are established in the ministries and fellowship circles of the church.

Committee Chair

Elder Connie Price

Committee:

Stephan Ceci
Shari Godbold
Anne Louise Rice
Marilyn Robertson
Kitty Sankey
Koorosh Yeganeh

Staff Resource

Anne Cioffi



The Mission & Outreach Committee seeks social healing and extends compassion beyond our faith community, providing opportunities for our congregation to care for the poor, the hungry, and the disenfranchised as Christ has asked us to care.

Committee Chair

Elder David Hartle

Committee:

Lara Fedoroff
Craig German
Carole Grogan
Scott Hartle
Martha Kadue
Mark Meyer
Jarrod Murray
John Shustitzky
Adam Sohigian
Michelle Whelan

Staff Resource

Rev. Mark S. Jones, Sr.



Esperanza Elementary School



MISSION & OUTREACH (M&O)

Mission and Outreach (M&O) continues to see God at work in WPC's Areas of Mission Focus: Children and Youth, Earth Care, Food Insecurity, Housing and Supportive Services, and International Mission. This was evident in both hands-on activities and financial giving thanks to the compassion and generosity of WPC.

Some of our hands-on highlights of this past year were:

- M&O's ongoing relationship with Esperanza Elementary School continues to deepen with our annual Fall and Spring Playground Mornings at Esperanza and a Back To School Drive to support its students and families. WPC Youth shared increased leadership in the Playground Morning making the activities even more special.
- Principal Brad Rumble continues to express deep appreciation for WPC and the widening impact on the Esperanza students, families and community, especially during these challenging times. Some committee members attended Esperanza's 5th Grade Culmination where WPC was honored by the school staff, students and families, a very special moment of our year.
- M&O's Spring Book Drive, led by WPC Youth leaders, demonstrated that ministries started in one committee can be continued by others.
- Team WPC, organized by M&O, returned to the Homeboy 5K in Chinatown, fundraising and fun-raising, including our annual post-race meal!
- M&O's Monthly Hunger Table collection supported the Wilshire Presbyterian Church Food Pantry and the Westside Food Bank. This mission effort continues to contribute to these worthy causes in our greater LA community and inspires mission discussion on the side porch.
- Turkey Dinner Box packing resumed in December after a several year hiatus. It was a highlight of service AND fellowship of the year.
- At Christmas, WPC generosity provided nearly 700 Christmas dinners for families in need in the LA community, a successful Toy Drive with gifts going to FosterAll, a party at a FosterAll group home with a magician, fast food cards and gift bags to SPY (Safe Place for Youth), gift cards to the St. Joseph's Center, and grocery cards to the Salvation Army Transitional Village.

While M&O continued to support International Mission efforts, in the wake of the devastating wildfires in LA this year, M&O directed more of our Mission Grant funds towards local agencies helping with the massive recovery efforts. Through the generosity of WPC's members, M&O allocated the following Mission Grants this year, totaling our budgeted amount of \$53,300:

\$11,000 PATH (People Assisting the Homeless)

\$10,000 Habitat for Humanity Greater Los Angeles

\$8,494.16 FosterAll

\$6,352.17 Esperanza Elementary (\$5k towards 28x28 Project for school greening + P layground Morning snacks and supplies)

\$5,000 Westside Food Bank

\$2,000 Door of Hope (LA Wildfire Relief)

\$2,000 to PC(USA) Mission co-workers Nancy and Shelvis Smith-Mather (South Sudan)

\$1,500 Monte Vista Grove Homes

\$1460.59 WPC Christmas Toy Drive

\$1381.31 Pacific Presbytery Food Collective Ministry

\$1000 HumanKindLA

- continued on the next page

MISSION & OUTREACH (M&O)...CONTINUED



Homeboy 5K



Turkey Dinner Box Packing



Turkey Dinner Box Packing

\$878.10 Monthly lunches throughout the year at SPY (Safe Place For Youth)

\$500 Angel City Pits

\$500 Little Tokyo Business Assoc. (party for downtown mission families)

\$500 Manna Bags

\$350 Westside Coalition (annual dues/membership)

\$300 for National Black Presbyterian Caucus (Institutional Mission Partnership)

\$93.67 Refugee Relief Support Fund

In addition to those allocations directed by M&O, the Committee encouraged and collected donations by WPC members to the Christmas Joy Offering, Christmas Dinners and Toy Drive, One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and the Wilshire Presbyterian Church Food Pantry.

The total benevolence disbursed through M&O in FY 2024 - 2025 was **\$164,165.59**.

M&O's goals for this year were the following:

Strategic Resource Allocation

- Conduct a comprehensive review of our yearly activities
- Evaluate and prioritize mission grant allocations based on measurable impact
- Continue to lean into our pod structure to diversify and increase leadership and involvement across the committee

Congregational Engagement

- Create a consistent communication strategy to inform and inspire participation
- Establish accountability measures to track and celebrate congregational involvement

The committee needs to continue its evaluation of yearly activities and grant allocations to ensure effective and impactful results. Increased communication informing the congregation of committee allocations and activities will be instrumental in terms of transparency and hopefully will encourage greater congregational engagement.

Continuing to lean into the pod structure will be a source of increased strength in empowering individual contributions as well as spreading the bandwidth needed across the committee. Each pod choosing one annual pod-specific goal in addition to the committee goals will further strengthen this structural alignment.

Pod Lead and Second assignments were:

Children and Youth: Scott Hartle, Michelle Whelan

Food Insecurity: Martha Kadue

Housing and Supportive Services: Lara Fedoroff, Craig German

International Mission: Carole Grogan, David Hartle

Earth Care: John Shustitzky

M&O continued to focus on providing hands-on mission opportunities for the WPC community. We continue to ideate on ways to increase congregational engagement in hopes that those giving voice to this interest will become active mission participants. M&O continued to foster our spirit of collaboration across committees, particularly with Deacons, Children & Family Ministries, College & Young Adult Ministries, and Adult Education. We pray for continuing fruitful efforts by the committee and the congregation in WPC's Areas of Mission Focus.

- David Hartle, Mission & Outreach Committee Chair

NOMINATING

*"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying,
'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?'
And I said, 'Here am I; send me!'" (Isaiah 6:8).*

The Nominating Committee helps put into practice the value of belonging and application of spiritual gifts. The WPC community welcomes all and the act of asking individuals to serve to whatever capacity they can affirms this value.

The goals of the Nominating Committee included:

- a. Identifying more people to serve for the first time*,
- b. Accessing more data,
- c. Expanding in thinking and practice the idea of "service" to a broader understanding of "participation",
- d. Increasing the frequency of group communications, and
- e. Communicating the Vision and Planning goals to those accepting and entering Chair positions, in the process of installation.

We were successful as a team in enlisting 13 people (among members and friends) *who have not served on a WPC committee before (or within the past 5 years). We enlisted the WPC administrative team and Membership & Fellowship committee to leverage the data in Church Community Builder. We prompted committee leadership to provide feedback about what "service" looked like for their committees. We met online and in person more frequently than our traditional 1 time a year. We communicated the Vision and Planning goals to incoming committee leaders.

None of us is alone and serving does not have to be a solo activity. Creating opportunities for co-chairing and mentoring acknowledges the feelings of burn-out and the importance of the work we do. Passing organizational knowledge and wisdom from person to person through participation will help us all move forward in God's work.

Our prayers are for the leaders to reach out when frustrated, to share their joy with others that we as a community may grow. It is exciting to witness God's presence in those around us. May we all be empowered to feel belonging and give willingly of our gifts to each other.

- Co-Chair, Cami Hamilton and Scott McDowell

The Nominating Committee serves as the church's Volunteer Resources department, inviting each member to serve in some aspect of the church's mission and ministry.

Committee Chair

Elder Cami Hamilton
Scott McDowell (Co-Chair)

Committee:

Janet Bishop
Jane Kinsey
Mundi Fomukong
Leslie Owens
Katherine Sohigian
Michael Sohigian

Staff Resource

Rev. Dr. Christine Chakoian



The Personnel Committee serves as the church's Human Resources Department, overseeing all aspects of employment, staff development, oversight and care.

Committee Chair

Elder Peter Helm, Co-Chair
Dale Larson, Co-Chair

Committee:

Barbara Allen
Freeman Hall
Callie Kramer
John Langfitt
Sheila Lawrence

Staff Resources

Rev. Dr. Christine Chakoian
Rev. Paula Mann



PERSONNEL

The Personnel Committee has sought to pursue justice most notably through our review of compensation for all staff to ensure that our employees are earning an adequate income to live in a city as expensive as Los Angeles. Additionally, we have sought to practice kindness by implementing a Healthcare Flexible Spending Account for all Church and Preschool staff, and we continue to review benefits on an ongoing basis to increase both employee retention and job satisfaction. Finally, we have endeavored to think strategically as to how best to align the church's staffing structure with the vision and mission statements and the congregation's goals.



Marin Miller

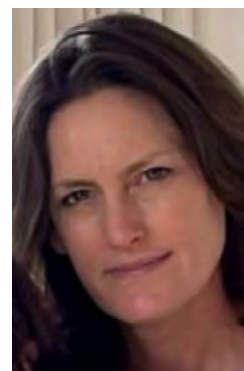
The Personnel Committee had the pleasure of onboarding Marin Miller as our new Director of Children and Family Ministries last August. She has truly excelled in this role throughout the year, much to the joy of our youngest community members.

Following this success, we worked closely with Jake Putich, formerly the Director of Youth, College, and Adult Faith Formation, as he transitioned into his new role as Director of Faith Formation and Creation Care in accordance with his

passion for Young Adult outreach through Ember and for WPC's Earth Care initiatives. As such, we began a search for a new part-time Director of Student Ministries which is ongoing. In the meantime, we have been blessed to have Michelle Whelan as an Interim Director, and her enthusiasm has kept the program going strong as we continue our search.

Following last year's update of the Personnel Manual, the committee continues to refine policies, such as the remote work policy so that we may provide flexibility while addressing the staffing needs of the church. As we look forward to the return of Pastor Mark this Autumn following his medical leave, we continue to be grateful for the support of the staff and lay leaders of the church during his absence. While we pray we do not face similar difficulties moving forward, the Personnel Committee will continue to proactively plan for any future hardships. We have spent time anticipating future staffing changes and thinking strategically as to how to handle them should they arise.

We pray for wisdom and discernment so that we may best implement the will of God and our congregation. We pray that we find the right balance between the interests of our staff trying to provide for their families in an expensive city and the needs and constraints of the church.



Michelle Whelan

- Peter Helm, Personnel Committee Co-Chair



PRESCHOOL



Preschool Director
Brienne Naiman

Curriculum Specialist
Taj Anders

Staff Resource
Marin Miller

Committee Chair
Elder M.C. Haslett

Committee:
Kim Labinger
Brooke Larson
Sheila Lawrence
LaJoie Ringquist
William Pierrepont



The Preschool Committee worked diligently to ensure that the WPC Preschool continues to align with WPC's mission, offering a warm and inclusive environment where families of all backgrounds feel welcome. The Preschool's collaboration with WPC included monthly values sessions with the Children & Family Ministries Director and regular updates in News & Concerns, along with events that were inclusive of all community members, strengthening our shared

commitment to walking humbly with God. Events like the Family Picnic, Fall Festival, Easter Egg Hunt, and Trunk or Treat, brought families together in celebration, deepening relationships and reinforcing the joy of community.

Our primary goals this year included improving visibility and communication to attract new families. The updated website reflects the preschool's evolving vision and programs. We are proud to report that enrollment reached 74% in September and 87% by the end of 2025. That success is credited to our welcoming philosophy and quality programs. Our discussion continues to prioritize staff well-being and development in the form of salary increases and opportunities for professional development. The website launch included a new logo and information about the new building and infant toddler program, along with a parent portal to streamline communication with our parents and the community.

This year, we focused on fostering the growth of the program, strengthening ties with the Church and Preschool community, and addressing the financial sustainability of the Preschool. By streamlining clearing accounts and funding sources and implementing sustainable protocols for fund usage, we are developing a more efficient and transparent financial structure. These measures ensure that critical priorities such as tuition assistance, staff salaries, and program development are fully supported without exceeding our budget.

Additionally, the potential to strategically invest donations to the program offers an opportunity to offset rising costs while providing a stable financial foundation for the Preschool's future. These improvements not only enhance stability and sustainability but position us to continue fulfilling our mission of providing high-quality, education in a nurturing environment.

We pray for continued progress in achieving our shared goals. May the monthly values sessions ignite deeper understanding of the path to care for the world and reflection within our community, while bimonthly updates in News & Concerns strengthen communication and transparency. We lift up our ongoing efforts to plan events that unite both the WPC Church and Preschool communities, celebrating our shared mission. We also give thanks for the completed website improvements, including visionary sketches of the new building, and pray it serves as a welcoming and informative resource for families. Finally, we ask for God's guidance in our role as ambassadors for the program, fostering meaningful connections with the broader community. May we remain steadfast in these efforts, walking humbly with God as we serve and grow together.

- Bri Naiman, Preschool Director

The Property Development Committee exercises stewardship of the church's properties, overseeing all aspects of upkeep, maintenance and enhancement.



Commission Chair

Con Howe

Commission

Betty Glick
Martha Kadue
Jon Stewart

Staff Resources

Rev. Paula Mann
Rev. Dr. Christine Chakoian

Consultants

Rev. Dr. Lynn Cheyney
Turner Smith



SESSION ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION (PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT)



Though it has taken many years, we are close to breaking ground on Phase 1 of our building project. When our new two-story building is completed, we will provide fresh, welcoming facilities for our mission and programs: new meeting rooms, offices, preschool, and meditation chapel.

This project will also provide significant revenue for the future, through our agreement with

Belmont Village Assisted Living for a 99-year ground lease on a portion of our property. Phase 2 includes Belmont's 12-story assisted living facility, plus a new Fellowship Hall and underground parking.

As in past years, our commission's goal was to advance our long-planned building project in spite of obstacles. This year, we successfully concluded all litigation, and submitted building plans for Phase 1 to the city for review. In addition, we sought to support the security of our church. To that end, the project continued to provide increasing revenue to WPC. We also sought to ensure that existing facilities were maintained, and essential repairs were completed.

Faith and patience helped us overcome the challenges that faced us, and we trust that God will continue to provide.

Our prayer for the year ahead is to overcome any remaining obstacles to the project. We are also eager to involve key people in completing details of the plans. And we look forward to communicating updates along the way, as God engenders excitement about our future.

- Con Howe, Administrative Commission Chair



Phase One Building Exterior

The Spiritual Formation Committee provides opportunities to nourish the life of the Spirit and deepen one's relationship with God through contemplative services and practices, and by enriching a sense of community with one another.

WESTWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AUTUMN VESPERS SERVICE

Sunday, October 20, 2024



The Mulberry Tree by Vincent van Gogh
Norton Simon Museum, Pasadena, California

Tonight's vespers service is in the style of Taizé, a worship tradition begun many years ago in an ecumenical French monastic community. We invite you to dwell deeply on Christ's presence around and within us. Hymns will be repeated, and congregational singing is encouraged, for the sounds—as well as the silences—help us to hear the still, small voice of God.

Autumn Vespers Bulletin

Committee Chair

Elder Kathryn Welch Howe
Emilie Nordhues, Co-Chair

Committee:

Ellen Caldwell
Kevin Cluss-Harmeyer
Liz Myers-Trivers
Bill Soldwisch
Claire West Orr,

Staff Resource

Jake Putich



SPIRITUAL FORMATION



Spiritual Retreat at UCLA Botanical Garden

This year, the Spiritual Formation Committee continued to live into WPC's vision of welcome, depth, and discipleship. We offered opportunities for spiritual growth, connection, and reflection, grounded in hospitality, contemplation, and faithful engagement with the world. Our Taizé-inspired Vespers services created contemplative spaces of music, silence, and prayer.

A half-day retreat at the UCLA Botanical Garden offered renewal and sacred rest. Book studies such as *I Am Not Your Enemy* by Michael T. McRay and *The Great Search* by John Philip Newell encouraged us to reflect on peacemaking and ecological stewardship.

These gatherings helped us cultivate meaningful spiritual practice in a complex world.

Our goals were three:

1. To strengthen our faith family by working together with others in the congregation and community on faith and mission programs.
2. To make faith accessible by relating faith guidance to our personal experiences and our congregation's challenges and gifts.
3. To share and help one another in our faith journey through dialogue and group discussion, recognizing that faith is challenging yet joyful.

We engaged actively with other committees several times this year - especially around the theme of peacekeeping with the small groups, helping to set the vision "More Jesus, more fun," and encouraging the wider congregational discussions around earth care through the spring small groups and assistance with the John Phillip Newell event.

Our Vespers services and retreat provided essential hope during the fall election season and throughout the year as division domestically and international wars expanded. Starting the once a month "Reflective Conversations" after Sunday service helped bring to light the role and meaning of faith in widely varying situations. Conversations fostered in the small groups also brought up both the challenges and joys of faith.

The Spiritual Formation Committee has learned that our programs resonate with those who attend. The music and meditation of the Fall, Advent, and Lenten Vespers bring joy and comfort, the dialogue associated with small groups and bible study leads to revelation and action, daily practice and the retreat and storytelling are welcome aspects of faith formation and give strength and hope in this fractious time. We fully realize that our committee and WPC must focus on broadening our outreach and appeal if we are to reach WPC members and the larger community.

We pray to be guided by Acts 14:27: *"When they arrived, they called the church together and related all that God had done with them and how he had opened a door of faith ..."*

We pray our committee can effectively tell the story of faith by continuing the compelling Spiritual Formation Vespers services, along with prayer and study programs. We want to continue to build a sense of fellowship and grow our community by reaching out more broadly in new ways with the balanced message of faith and its role in our daily lives. We pray that faith might help us be courageous, with conviction and compassion to participate in the world with justice, kindness, and humility.

- Kathryn Welch Howe, Spiritual Formation Committee Chair

STEWARDSHIP

This year, the Stewardship Committee reviewed the many ways people can give to WPC and its mission partners. Given the volume of requests, the Stewardship Committee decided to explore the idea of consolidating and/or reducing the number of asks of the congregation. Without question, all requests are important to the work of WPC, but it was felt that some could be presented differently and/or at different times.

This led to further discussions with the Mission & Outreach Committee and Music At Westwood. As a result, the Mission & Outreach Committee is working to combine some of their asks specifically for Christmas, and Music At Westwood is actively planning its fundraising strategy for the future. Chair Lou Moore also shared her fundraising strategy in structuring a building campaign with the WPC leadership to help outline a timeline and scope of asks for the campaign.

Every year the Stewardship Committee presents the Annual Pledge Campaign. This year, the Stewardship Committee's theme was

Westwood Presbyterian Church: Where People Count

The campaign exceeded expectations, and we are deeply grateful for everyone's financial support. The pledge of gifts are vital to the growth of the church, the ministries for our congregation, and to sharing God's love for the community beyond our walls.

Thanks to everyone who gave so generously to our Pledge Drive. Because of you, our community is strong – our community is where *people count*!

- Lou Moore Singleton, Stewardship Committee Chair



The Stewardship Committee challenges our church family to respond to the privilege of responsible Christian stewardship, encouraging generosity through the spring stewardship drive and year-round stewardship education plan.

Committee Chair

Elder Lou Moore Singleton

Committee:

Don Morrison

Staff Resource

Rev. Dr. Christine Chakoian



STUDENT MINISTRIES



**PATH Garden Project,
May 2025**

We fulfilled our mission by providing outreach opportunities for our teens and pre-teens with the following activities:

- Multi-Church Lock-In: an all night event for teens across several Presbyterian churches.
- PATH Garden Project: a garden planting for one of our PATH locations.
- Esperanza Playground Morning: helping restore the playground for the school we are in partnership with, Esperanza Elementary School.
- Westside Food Bank summer food drive and packing of boxes.

Our biggest goal was to find a new Director of Student Ministries. As Jake Putich took on new responsibilities as Director of Faith Formation and Creation Care, we welcomed Michelle Whelan as our Interim Director. She has taken on this new role with enthusiasm, good humor and thorough dedication.

Students continued to explore their faith and their roles in their community and are actively supporting one another in Sunday school.

As our teens continue to grow, question and sometimes pull away as part of their faith journey, our biggest challenge is to find activities that meet them where they are. Events can't be too "adult" because they get bored. But events can't be too "young" either, because then our teens feel condescended to.



Michelle Whelan



Multi-Church Lock-In

Finding that balance continues to be a moving target as the culture itself changes. But when we find that perfect opportunity, such as a book drive organized by the middle schoolers and high schoolers themselves, we feel like we are helping cement the bond between WPC and our students.

We pray for continued participation in our ministry, including the students we serve, the parents we help and the committee members who are over-committed.

- Breen Frazier, Chair of Student Ministries

The Student Ministries Committee carries out the church's commitment, made in the vows of baptism, to assist in raising the young people of the church to a deep and abiding faith in Jesus Christ, overseeing all aspects of the church's ministry with middle-schoolers and high-schoolers.

Committee Chair

Elder Breen Frazier

Committee:

Celie Fischer
Laurie Flenner
Peter Helm
Robyn Paris
Laura Scott
Alisa Stewart

Staff Resources

Jake Putich
(July—December, 2024)
Michelle Whelan
(December, 2024—)



VISION & PLANNING

The WPC mission has been energized and enriched by this committee's work. For the past three years, our engaging and comprehensive discussions with every WPC committee chair and staff member have resulted in effective recommendations. These have become the headspring for improved communication, new collaboration and strengthened the church leadership's sense of purpose. The significant work and leadership of this committee has prompted the fresh organization of Mission & Outreach, the ongoing work on the newly launched WPC website, a finer awareness of welcoming visitors, a revised awareness of participation with planned events, a renewed committee structure which includes the committee of Membership & Fellowship and the Preschool Committee.

The Session meeting led by Vision & Planning which directed each Committee Chair to share their goals, created a fresh sense of community with one common purpose. Each church leader, as they listened to each other, felt connected to the greater community of faith and support. This sharing will be included in the yearly calendar for Session. All the recommendations were distributed to all of the Committee Chairs.

The goals for Vision & Planning were set three years ago. Our intent was to strengthen our congregation's commitment to Micah 6:8 and connect the church committees to each other to form an energetic and connected community of faith dedicated to discerning and following God's will. As we witness the stories of success and perceive the energy and joy shared at Session, it is clear the work of Vision & Planning has made a terrific difference.

Vision & Planning has completed its three year term and every member of this committee will be a member or chair of another committee. The understanding and wisdom each one of us has gained after three years of thought and discussion, will go with us as we participate in our new roles. One of our favorite phrases from our conversations was "More Jesus, more fun" The deep commitment and joy we have will be shared with every committee.

My prayers include gratitude for the members of Vision and Planning. I pray that their inspired work imbedded in 'More Jesus, more fun', extends to every person in our church the presence of God's love and the joy of being in this community.

- Jann Williams, Vision & Planning Committee Chair

VISION STATEMENT

We are a community that welcomes everyone to grow in faith and care for the world God loves.

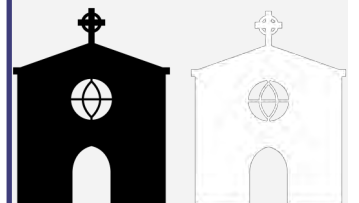
Join us as we seek to pursue justice, practice kindness, and walk humbly with God.

MISSION STATEMENT

We are called to

- Walk humbly with God through inspired worship, impactful service, open fellowship, and curious learning for all ages.
- Practice kindness through welcoming and including all of God's people, as we grow in faith and friendship, and share the grace we receive in Jesus Christ.
- Pursue justice through our collective and individual relationship with neighbors in L.A. and the world, and care for the earth God gave us.

The Vision & Planning Committee seeks to discern and manifest God's call for WPC and design a plan for action.



Committee Chair

Elder Jann Williams
Caryl Carothers, Co-Chair

Committee:

Ellen Caldwell
Lara Fedoroff
Scott Hartle
Peter Helm
Kathryn Welch Howe
Anne Mathews
Brad Paris
Brett Whelan

Staff Resources

Rev. Dr. Christine Chakoian
Rev. Paula Mann



WORSHIP & MUSIC



Pride Sunday, June 2025

For the past nearly 78 years, WPC has organized meaningful worship services. Sunday morning worship refreshes us with hope and challenges us for action. We grow closer to God, one another, and the world through awe-inspiring, traditional music, and relevant, Biblically-based preaching, and prayers.

WPC continues to have a quality choir, presenting beautiful and inspiring music in each worship service. Our goal of continuing to provide

inspiring music has been met. The goal of having the Messiah Sing-Along in the annual budget has been met. An unmet goal is providing financing for an orchestra for major works concerts.

We learned that we are doing something right, as favorable comments continue to come forth after each service. The last Messiah Sing-Along was well attended and we hope to have even more singers/listeners this year.

We pray for continued quality output of music. We also pray that our organ will last long enough for us to decide if we need a new one.

- Steve Hauser, *Worship & Music Committee Chair*



The WPC Choir, June 2025

The Worship and Music Committee cares for all aspects of worship, providing excellent Sunday morning and special services, and guides the church's music ministry.

Committee Chair:

Elder Steve Hauser

Committee:

Andy Beer
Ralph Cato
Stephen Dawson
Cami Hamilton
Kathy Schreiner
Ken Williams

Staff Resources

Rev. Dr. Christine Chakoian
Dan Redfeld



Easter Sunrise Service, 2025

