

## BIRTHDAYS COMING UP

1/20 Jerry Condit  
Laura Scott  
1/21 Sandy Kramer  
1/24 Pastor Mark Jones  
Barry Jo Sims  
1/25 Linda Martinez



## WPC'S PRESCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE



With groundbreaking just around the corner, we are excited to share more about our new Preschool facilities and the opportunities they bring. The new space will include four thoughtfully designed classrooms and, for the first time, dedicated Infant and Toddler Rooms. This expansion allows us to offer extended care for the youngest members of our community, furthering our mission to nurture children at every stage of early development.

Each classroom is intentionally designed to reflect our belief that children are capable and competent. Child-level sinks encourage independence, while open, inviting spaces foster exploration and discovery. Outdoor learning areas connect directly to the classrooms and include sand and water features, a magical garden, and gross motor spaces—creating environments that inspire curiosity, movement, and joy.

Our Preschool Director, Brianne Naman, is currently pursuing a RIE® (Resources for Infant Educators®) certification, strengthening our commitment to respectful, relationship-based care for children and families.

We look forward to the learning, laughter, and memories these spaces will hold for years to come. Learn more at [wpcpreschool.com](http://wpcpreschool.com) and follow us on Instagram and Facebook.

## PRESBYTOPICS

Our love and prayers are with—

- † Christiane Hogbonouto & Gabby Esunge on the birth of their child, Julius-Coffi Eyole Esunge.
- † Sally Evans who fell and broke her hip and is in a rehabilitation center.
- † Pastor Mark Jones as he continues to heal from his lumbar laminectomy a month ago. He is focusing on his recovery now, but looks forward to returning to work when the time is right.

Our prayers continue for those of our faith family in need of God's healing touch:

Rubina Andonian	Eva Hrachovec	Rita Ries
Polly Berger	Ian Hrachovec	Linda S. Spitser
Susan Chapman	Nancy Immel	Kuki Sullam
Aiden Cohen Davis	Mark S. Jones Sr.	Amy Tan
Christopher Davis	Nina Louie	Ron Tranquilla
Earl Ellis	Queen Esther Rankins	Wes Truitt



This Sunday, the Flame of Unity will be at **Taiwanese Presbyterian Church in Hawaii**. We pray for these congregations as others pray for us when the flame is here. The **Flame of Unity** is a symbol of our shared mission and service in Christ, appearing each week at one of the congregations of the Presbytery of the Pacific.

## WESTWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

### MINISTERS All the People

#### PASTORAL

Rev. Dr. Christine Chakoian, Pastor  
Rev. Mark S. Jones Sr., Pastor of Mission, Outreach, and Pastoral Care  
Rev. Paula Mann, Executive Associate Pastor

#### PROGRAM LEADERSHIP

Anne Cioffi, Coordinator of Membership Ministries  
Marin Miller, Director of Children & Family Ministries  
Jake Putich, Director of Faith Formation & Creation Care  
Dan Redfeld, Director of Music  
Michelle Whelan, Interim Student Ministries Director

#### MANAGEMENT & SUPPORT

Sarah Davis, Director of Operations  
Farrah Mikail, Financial Manager  
Linda Martinez, Administrative Assistant & Contributions Coordinator  
Javier Torres, Maintenance  
Lourdes Torres and Joshua Torres, Custodial

#### WORSHIP

Abi Abanto, Aidan Hall, JJ Hickey, Emily Leaver, Nick Pelayo, AV Tech JA'Michael Davis-Hoag, Sunday Receptionist  
Laurel Sanders, Organist  
Paul Workman, Sound & Lighting Engineer

#### SECTION LEADERS

Elias Berezin and Emerson Boatwright, tenors  
Christina Borgioli and Devon Davidson, sopranos  
Emily Kerrigan, alto  
Matthew Lewis, bass

#### PRESCHOOL

Tajmaya "Taj" Anders, Preschool Curriculum Specialist  
Priscilla Glaza, Preschool Office Assistant  
Brienne Naiman, Preschool Director  
Heidi Rudd, Preschool Office Manager



## NEWS & CONCERNS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2026

### USHER RECOGNITION SUNDAY



We wish to recognize today the valuable and long running service of the Usher team!

Our ministry involves community knowledge, safety at the sanctuary, keeping an overview of the church, and welcoming visitors. On top of our Sunday morning services, Ushers serve at Vespers, Christmas Eve, Holy Week, concerts, and the occasional wedding or memorial service.

Thank you to our intrepid greeter, Katie Mahler and to our ushers who serve in pairs each

Sunday. They are: Stephan Ceci and Scott McDowell, Anna Clara Galdino and Matheus Oliveira, Tracy Cluss-Harmeyer and Mathew Thompson, Breen Frazier and Jonathan Stewart.

Each quarter on the fifth Sunday of the month, we were served by Jim Spitser who joined Peter Helm and Anne Cioffi to welcome you. Jim, a longtime member of WPC, passed away on Sunday, December 21 and will be missed.

### SALVATION ARMY CLOTHING DRIVE —TODAY!



Today after worship, donate your gently used clothes and household items (infant/toddler clothes and toys included) for a Salvation Army Pick-up at the church. The Salvation Army will also accept books, accessories, purses, small electronics, housewares, and small

furniture! Bring all items that you wish to donate, and a Salvation Army truck will accept them in the front parking lot from 11:00am - 3:00pm. Recycle and Reuse to care for God's good earth.

## MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY



WPC joins the rest of America in honoring the life and ministry of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who brought great hope and healing to our nation. We celebrate his spirit of love, forgiveness, and nonviolence, and we pray his example will continue to inspire and challenge us all.

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that."

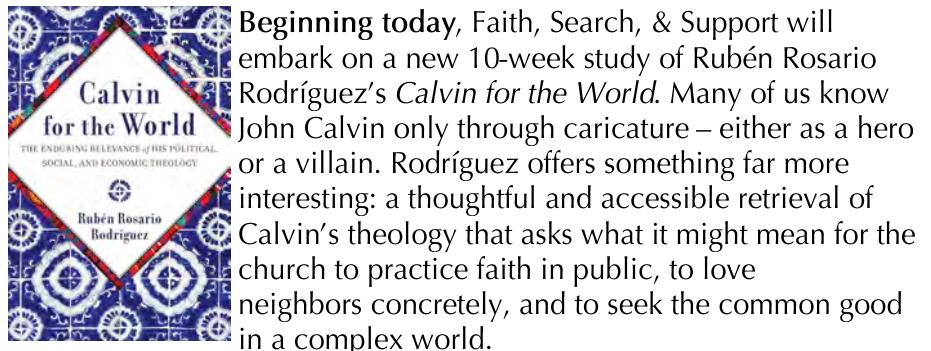
– Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in Strength to Love

### REMINDER

#### CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The Westwood Presbyterian Church Office will be closed this **Monday, January 19** for Martin Luther King Jr. Day. We will resume regular office hours on **Tuesday, January 20**.

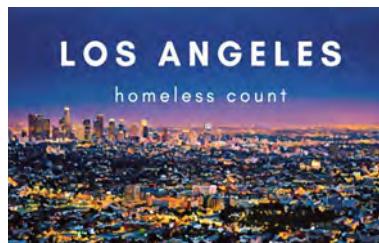
#### FAITH, SEARCH, & SUPPORT'S NEW WINTER STUDY — CALVIN FOR THE WORLD



Beginning today, Faith, Search, & Support will embark on a new 10-week study of Rubén Rosario Rodríguez's *Calvin for the World*. Many of us know John Calvin only through caricature – either as a hero or a villain. Rodríguez offers something far more interesting: a thoughtful and accessible retrieval of Calvin's theology that asks what it might mean for the church to practice faith in public, to love neighbors concretely, and to seek the common good in a complex world.

Join us Sundays after worship at 11:30am, either in person or on Zoom! Books are available for purchase on the Side Porch for \$15. Whether you're a longtime Calvin-curious Presbyterian or simply hungry for thoughtful, grounded conversation, you're warmly invited!

#### HOMELESS COUNT — THIS THURSDAY!



This Thursday from 9:30pm-1:30am, thousands of volunteers will take to the streets to count our unhoused neighbors for the 2026 Los Angeles Homeless Count. This year, WPC will once again serve as a deployment site for all volunteers in the Westwood area.

We encourage our faith community to take part in this vitally important event. The data that is collected by volunteers will help direct funding and resources to alleviate the needs of our unhoused neighbors in the year ahead. You can volunteer as an individual or as a group online at [westwoodpres.org](http://westwoodpres.org).

## PIZZA ON THE PLAYGROUND — TODAY!



Children and youth, grab your parents and **join us today on the playground at 11:00am**, immediately following Sunday School, for some fun, some fellowship, and some delicious pizza! On the way to the playground, you can swing by the Salvation Army truck and drop off those gently-used clothes you've outgrown. We can't wait to see you there!

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING — NEXT SUNDAY!



The Session has called for a congregational meeting **next Sunday, January 25**, following worship for the purpose of electing Deacons to add to the board. The nominees are Connie Price, Alisa Stewart, and Erin Zemet. Though only active members of WPC can vote, all are welcome to attend. Those who are worshiping online are welcome to participate in the meeting as well.

## WHY IS PER CAPITA IMPORTANT?



One of the blessings of being Presbyterian is being connected with other churches: through worship services, youth gatherings, and mission priorities – including fire relief, immigration issues, and earth care. We also support our denomination's important work that equips congregations across the country. To keep the Presbyterian Church (USA) faithful and healthy, this year each church

is contributing \$56 per member on the active roll. To support our efforts, we ask that each member please give \$56 towards 2026 Per Capita to help offset the total out of our own tight church budget. Scan our QR code below and select Per Capita to give today.

## 2025 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

The annual 2025 Charitable Contribution Statements will be mailed to you by January 31, 2026. Please notify Linda Martinez at [lmartinez@westwoodpres.org](mailto:lmartinez@westwoodpres.org) if your mailing address has changed in the past year. This will help us ensure that you receive your statement. If other contact information has changed (e.g., your email address), please send us any updates.

## OFFERING ENVELOPES

If you pledged for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, your complimentary 2026 offering envelopes (alphabetized by last name) are available in the narthex this month. Please pick up the envelope box with your name on the top after worship this month. Please contact Linda Martinez at [lmartinez@westwoodpres.org](mailto:lmartinez@westwoodpres.org) if you have questions.

## Donate to WPC today



offering baskets  
in the narthex



10822 Wilshire Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90024



online at  
[westwoodpres.org](http://westwoodpres.org)



Scan our  
QR code