

BIRTHDAYS COMING UP

1/6 Kevin Glynn
Marilyn Robertson
1/7 Anne Egerton
1/8 Leland Price
Barbara Vash
1/11 Rita Ries



PRESBYTOPICS

Our love and prayers are with—

- † Linda Spitser following the death of her husband, Jim Spitser, on Sunday, December 21.
- † Rita Ries, who has been hospitalized last week.
- † Pastor Mark Jones as he continues to recover from his lumbar laminectomy on Thursday, December 11.

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

DAN REDFELD'S MUSICAL, *Jo*, PREMIERES IN LONDON!



Dan Redfeld's musical, *Jo - The Little Women* Musical, will premiere in a semi-staged concert on **Sunday, January 25, 2026 at London's Theatre Royal Drury Lane**. Directed by JoAnn Hunter and musically directed by our very own Music Director, Dan Redfeld, the show will feature the majority of the album cast. Tickets can be purchased on the Jo website at jothemusical.com. For more information or updates please follow at @jothemusical on Instagram and Facebook.

BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE



WPC's Building Project is still in the works! After much prayer, discernment, and careful planning, this project was approved at our congregational meeting on November 15, 2015. We have not given up on this significant step toward the future.

- **Phase 1** involves construction of a new two-story building on the south end of our property. The first floor will provide new, fresh space for our Preschool, and a wonderful playground out back. The second floor will include a meditation chapel, church offices, meeting rooms, and classrooms, supporting WPC's daily life and ministry. Groundbreaking is planned for Spring of 2026, with construction expected to take about 12 months.
- **Phase 2** launches a 12-story Belmont Village Senior Living building. This phase will also provide underground parking and a Fellowship Hall shared with the church, as well as a new church lobby and choir room. Although this requires the rest of our current buildings to be removed, we will continue to worship in our beautiful sanctuary!

The cost of our construction is covered through the ground lease agreement with Belmont Village, allowing the church to expand our facilities while maintaining long-term financial sustainability. As we look ahead, this project represents an investment in ministry, community, and the future God is calling us to build together.

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

SUNDAYS, JANUARY 4, 2026

THANK YOU FOR HELPING 700 FAMILIES HAVE A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS!

You assembled the Christmas turkey dinner boxes. Then you packed them with all the grocery items for a special Christmas dinner for 700 families. And, if that wasn't enough, through your generous donations, WPC was able to continue this 30+ year tradition. THANK YOU for all you did! You have touched the lives of 700 Los Angeles families. Plus, our partner organizations (Community Presbyterian Church, PATH, Esperanza Elementary School, St. Joseph's and Wilshire Presbyterian Church) also want to thank you for making a difference for so many families. You have brought love and joy to many during this wonderful Christmas season.



WPC ESPERANZA FALL PLAYGROUND MORNING

A sincere and heartfelt thank you to those who joined the Mission & Outreach Committee at their Fall Playground morning at Esperanza Elementary School on December 20. Join us again, next time!



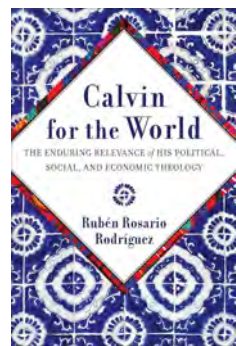
WPC MONTHLY HUNGER APPEAL —*TODAY*



Every first Sunday of the month, when we celebrate the Lord's Supper, our Hunger Offering helps those who are food insecure. Two mission partners benefit from your generosity: Westside Food Bank and Wilshire Presbyterian Church Food Pantry. We encourage you to contribute:

- **Donate in person on the Side Porch today after worship.**
- **Donate online** by scanning the QR code below and **select Hunger** (for Westside Food Bank) or **Food Pantry** (for Wilshire PC Food Pantry).
- **Donate by check** made to Westwood Presbyterian Church (by mail or in the offering plate) with "Hunger Offering" or "Food Pantry" on the memo line.

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



Starting Sunday, January 18, 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, beginning January 18! **Books will be available for purchase starting today 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!

WOMEN READING —*WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21*



Women Reading invites you to join us on Zoom on **Wednesday, January 21 at 7:30pm** to discuss the book *The Last Fire Season: A Personal and Pyronatural History* by Manjula Martin. Both a love letter to the forests of the West and an interrogation of the colonialist practices that led to their current dilemma, *The Last Fire Season*, follows Manjula as she seeks shelter, bears witness to the devastation, and tries to better understand fire's role in the ecology of the West.

Newcomers are always welcome—contact the church at office@westwoodpres.org if you would like to receive the Zoom link to join our thoughtful community of women readers!

BAPTISM OF THE LORD —*NEXT SUNDAY!*



Next Sunday, January 11, the Christian calendar celebrates the Baptism of our Lord. But it is more than Jesus' baptism in the River Jordan that we celebrate! As the New Year unfolds, we also take this opportunity to recommit our own lives to following him. Whether or not you have been baptized, we hope you will find this service an encouraging way to refresh your faith and renew your intentions for the year ahead.

SALVATION ARMY CLOTHING DRIVE —*SUNDAY, JANUARY 18*



On Sunday, January 18, donate your gently used clothes and household items (infant/toddler clothes and toys included) for a Salvation Army Pick-Up at the church. 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. All donations must be brought to the church on January 18 as there is no room to store items for early drop offs. Spread the word and start collecting your items now! Recycle and Reuse to care for God's good earth.

WELCOME BACK DR. JEANNIE COBB!



Music Director, Dan Redfeld, will be in London for three weeks this month, **beginning January 11**. In his place, we welcome back Jeannie Cobb, who stepped in for Dan last year. Dr. Jeannie Cobb served as a Minister of Music & Worship at St Peter's by the Sea Presbyterian Church in Rancho Palos Verdes (1995-2012) and Director of Music at St Francis Episcopal Church in Palos Verdes Estates (2012-2020), Jeannie led multiple choirs in worship as well as concert performances of major works. Jeannie currently lives at Monte Vista Grove Homes in Pasadena and sings at All Saints Episcopal Church. Welcome Jeannie!

CONNECT WITH WPC!



New-ish to our church? Curious about ways to be involved? Please take a moment to fill out the "Connect" card in the pew rack – then return it to a pastor, the offering plate, or an usher. Let us know what you'd like to know more about, if you have a prayer request, if you'd like to receive WPC emails, and more. We are so very glad you're here!

HOMELESS COUNT —*THURSDAY, JANUARY 22*



On Thursday, January 22 from **10:00pm-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.

Like we did in past years, WPC is also organizing a volunteer team of high schoolers and young adults. If you would like to join our WPC Youth & Young Adult team, please be sure to contact Jake Putich at jputich@westwoodpres.org and he will follow-up with more information!

LET'S TALK ABOUT IMMIGRATION SERIES



On Wednesday, January 28, WPC will launch a four-week series, "Let's Talk About Immigration." Sponsored by the Mission & Outreach and Adult Education Committees, this timely conversation invites us to engage thoughtfully with an issue that elicits strong, diverse convictions.

Our meetings (in-person + Zoom on Wednesdays at 7pm) will include prayer, reflection, and discussion facilitated by Pastor Chris and Jake Putich. We'll use the *Doing Justice* online curriculum from Fuller Seminary's Brehm Preaching, a Lloyd John Ogilvie initiative. The program reviews key concepts and history around immigration and then presents four different Christian responses. As we grow to understand why some hold differing positions, we hope this series will be more honest and go deeper than many of us have experienced. We also hope we develop a renewed, clarified passion that reflects God's heart for justice and mercy around this complex topic.

Preparation includes readings, online videos, and reflection questions. **The cost is \$10 per person; scholarships are available.** Sign up on the Side Porch or online at westwoodpres.org.

Donate to WPC today

