

BIRTHDAYS COMING UP

ADULT BIRTHDAYS		CHILDREN / YOUTH BIRTHDAYS
10/15	Elliot Casey Katherine Lansing Davis Emily Kerrigan	10/14 Griffin Frazier (15)
10/18	Lafern Vasquez	

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

PRESBYTOPICS

Our love and prayers are with—

- † Anne Linstatter as she recovers from appendicitis.
- † Pastor Mark Jones whose much anticipated surgery is scheduled for December 11. He will be given a spinal epidural injection for potential pain relief in the interim. Prayers also for Romana Jones, his beloved caregiver.

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

WOMEN READING —THIS WEDNESDAY!



Women Reading invites you to join us on Zoom **this Wednesday, October 15 at 7:30pm** to discuss the book *Time of the Child* by Niall Williams. Set over the course of one December in a small Irish village, *Time of the Child* is a tender return to Faha for readers who know its charms from Williams’ beloved *This is Happiness*, and a heartwarming welcome to new readers entering for the very first time.

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!



This Sunday, the Flame of Unity will be at **Formosan Presbyterian Church of LA**. 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.

COMING UP

Sun. Oct. 12	WPC Worship Service— 18th Sunday after Pentecost	10:00am
	Faith Conversation with Cori Close	11:20am
Wed. Oct. 15	Women Reading	7:30pm
Sat. Oct. 18	Trunk or Treat	4:00pm
Sun. Oct. 19	WPC Worship Service— 19th Sunday after Pentecost	10:00am
	Congregational Meeting	11:00am
Tue. Oct. 21	Interfaith Community Forum for Candidates for State Senate District 24	7:30pm
Sun. Oct. 26	WPC Worship Service— Blessing of the Animals	10:00am
	Fall Vespers Service	6:30pm
Sun. Nov. 2	Daylight’s Savings Time	
	WPC Worship Service— All Saints Sunday	10:00am

WESTWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

MINISTERS All the People	SUPPORT Priscilla Glaza, Preschool Office Assistant pglaza@westwoodpres.org Linda Martinez, Administrative Assistant & Contributions Coordinator lmartinez@westwoodpres.org Heidi Rudd, Preschool Office Manager hrudd@westwoodpres.org Javier Torres, Maintenance Joshua Torres, Custodial Lourdes Torres, Custodial
PASTORAL Rev. Dr. Christine Chakoian, Pastor cchakoian@westwoodpres.org Rev. Mark S. Jones Sr., Pastor of Mission, Outreach, and Pastoral Care mjones@westwoodpres.org Rev. Paula Mann, Executive Associate Pastor pmann@westwoodpres.org	WORSHIP Abi Abanto, AV Tech JA’Michael Davis-Hoag, Sunday Receptionist Aidan Hall, AV Tech John James Hickey, AV Tech Emily Leaver, AV Tech Nick Pelayo, AV Tech Laurel Sanders, Organist lsanders@westwoodpres.org Paul Workman, Sound & Lighting Engineer
LEADERSHIP Tajmaya “Taj” Anders, Preschool Curriculum Specialist tanders@westwoodpres.org Anne Cioffi, Coordinator of Membership Ministries acioffi@westwoodpres.org Sarah Davis, Director of Operations sdavis@westwoodpres.org Farrah Mikail, Financial Manager fmikail@westwoodpres.org Marin Miller, Director of Children & Family Ministries mmiller@westwoodpres.org Brienne Naiman, Preschool Director bnaiman@westwoodpres.org Jake Putich, Director of Faith Formation & Creation Care jputich@westwoodpres.org Dan Redfeld, Director of Music dredfeld@westwoodpres.org Michelle Whelan, Interim Student Ministries Director mwhelan@westwoodpres.org	SECTION LEADERS Elias Berezin, tenor Emerson Boatwright, tenor Christina Borgioli, soprano Devon Davidson, soprano Emily Kerrigan, alto Matthew Lewis, bass



NEWS & CONCERNS
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2025

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING—*NEXT SUNDAY!*



In response to Pastor Chris’s intention to retire, next steps have been falling into place! Now the Session has called a congregational meeting for **next Sunday, October 19, immediately following worship**. There are three agenda items:

- To receive **Pastor Chris’s request to retire as Pastor/Head of Staff** of Westwood Presbyterian Church, effective June 30, 2026.
- To elect the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) to nominate a pastor for election by the congregation (Book of Order G-2.0802). Our Session asked the Nominating Committee to select seven people to serve on the PNC. Among the rich array of members you recommended, our Nominating Committee presents this slate, with the goal of representing the breadth and depth of the congregation:
 - ♦ **Nick Castellano**
 - ♦ **Gabby Esunge**
 - ♦ **M.C. Haslett**
 - ♦ **Kathryn Welch Howe**
 - ♦ **David Kadue**
 - ♦ **Robyn Paris**
 - ♦ **Michael Sohigian**
- To elect an Elder to fill the unexpired term of M.C. Haslett, who is stepping off of Session in order to serve on the PNC. **Sheila Lawrence** has accepted the Nominating Committee’s request that she serve; she has agreed to a 1 year term.

Since our Presbytery’s Commission on Ministry (COM) has already approved WPC’s request to form a Pastor Nominating Committee, WPC is free to move forward with our search! Thanks to everyone for your continued commitment to WPC, and prayers for God’s guidance.

FAITH CONVERSATION WITH CORI CLOSE —*TODAY!*



WPC is thrilled to welcome Cori Close, head coach of UCLA Women's Basketball, for a special Faith Conversation **today, following worship in the Sanctuary.**

Coach Close is the winningest coach in UCLA Women's Basketball history and was recently named the 2025 Naismith Coach of the Year after leading the Bruins to their first-ever Final Four appearance and Big 10 championship. Beyond the accolades, her deepest passion is mentoring young women—helping them grow not only as athletes, but as leaders who embrace challenges with courage and resilience.

As part of our fall theme of **Building Hope**, Coach Close will share from her journey in basketball and life, offering insights on perseverance, teamwork, and faith that inspire hope both on and off the court. This promises to be a remarkable event—join us!

TRUNK OR TREAT 2025—*THIS SATURDAY!*



Families of all ages are invited to WPC's annual Trunk or Treat **this Saturday, October 18, 4:00-7:30pm!** Join us for a fun time of games, crafts, sweet treats and this year *drumroll please* a super special screening of *K Pop Demon Hunters* in Hoffman

Hall! Treats will be handed out from trunks starting at 5:00pm. Then it's pizza, popcorn, and the movie everyone's talking about at 5:45pm. Dress up in your favorite costume!

Go to westwoodpres.org or stop by the table on the Side Porch to RSVP or volunteer to pass out candy from your trunk, donate candy, or volunteer to help. If you have any questions, please contact Marin Miller at mmiller@westwoodpres.org.

INTERFAITH COMMUNITY FORUM FOR CANDIDATES FOR STATE SENATE DISTRICT 24

With two other churches and a synagogue, WPC is co-hosting a non-partisan candidate forum for the California State Senate District 24 race **on Tuesday, October 21, 7:30pm–9:30pm** at St. Augustine-by-the-Sea Episcopal Church, 1227 Fourth Street, Santa Monica. All are invited to hear from the candidates, ask questions, and join a meet-and-greet with them afterward. The event will also be livestreamed on YouTube (@StAugustinebytheSea) if you can't make it in person. Join us in coming together as an interfaith community to stay informed and engaged in this important local election.

Donate to WPC today



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in the narthex



10822 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90024



online at
westwoodpres.org



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QR code

FAITH, SEARCH, & SUPPORT/ADULT BIBLE FORUM

These groups **will not meet today** and encourage all to join the Faith Conversation. These groups will resume next Sunday, October 19 after the Congregational meeting.

SUPPORT ANGEL CITY PIT BULLS AND KITTEN RESCUE



Join WPC's Mission & Outreach Committee in supporting Angel City Pit Bulls and Kitten Rescue. Donations will be collected **on Sundays, October 19 & 26.** Both in-kind and monetary donations are welcomed with gratitude.

Amazon wish lists for both organizations are available on at westwoodpres.org/updates.

Donate funds online by scanning the QR code below and select Help for LA's Homeless Dogs and Cats. You can also write a check to Westwood Presbyterian Church with Help for "LA's Homeless Dogs and Cats" on the memo line. The city of LA is in a crisis regarding homeless animals. We look forward to providing much-needed comfort to the homeless pets of our city.

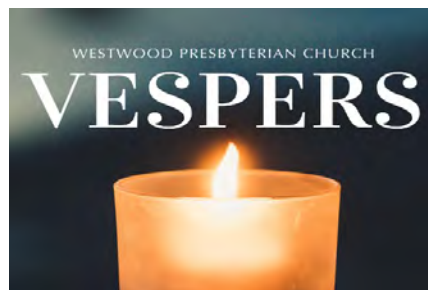
BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS—*SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26*



Saint Bonaventure wrote that "Every creature is a divine word because it proclaims God." It's in that spirit that we host a service of blessing for our animals **in worship on Sunday, October 26 at 10:00am.**

All animals are welcome, so long as they are restrained or contained, for everyone's security. This is a simplified and shortened service – both for the sake of our animals, and for our youth and children who are with us in the sanctuary. The balcony is reserved as a "pets-free" zone for anyone with allergies. May this service be a joyful celebration for all ages!

A FALL VESPERS SERVICE —*SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26*



As autumn settles in, the Spiritual Formation committee invites you to gather in the soft glow of candlelight for our **Autumn Vespers Service on Sunday, October 26 at 6:30pm.**

In this intimate evening, the beauty of fall will surround us as we weave together music, scripture, prayer, and silence—all shaped by our season's theme of Building Hope. It will be a space to rest, reflect, and be renewed by the Spirit who meets us in stillness and song. After the service, linger with us around the table for refreshments and good company, as we share fellowship and gratitude for the hope that carries us forward.

We encourage you to RSVP at westwoodpres.org but it is not required. Come, breathe deeply, and let us kindle the light of hope together!

NEW MEMBER INFO SEMINAR —*SUNDAYS, NOVEMBER 2 & 16*



It will soon be November—our traditional time for Membership & Fellowship committee to host two seminars about our church.

If you are a visitor, we encourage you to attend. These two sessions provide information to help you know WPC

and find ways to get involved. And if you are considering official membership in WPC, this is the time and place to ask your questions!

Join us on **Sundays, November 2 & 16 in Hoffman Hall after worship.** Those wishing to join will be received into membership during the service on Sunday, November 23.

Sign up on the Side Porch today, or online at westwoodpres.org/updates. Since lunch will be served, we need you to RSVP. For more information, contact Anne Cioffi at acioffi@westwoodpres.org, or reach out to any of our pastors. All are welcome!

WESTSIDE FOOD BANK HUNGER WALK —*SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2*



Westside Food Bank's (WSFB) 35th annual Hunger Walk is coming up **on Sunday, November 2, from 2:00pm-5:00pm** to raise awareness and funds toward fighting food insecurity on the Westside. Support WSFB in making a difference in our community.

Register to join WPC's team in the walk or make a donation to help them meet their

\$150k goal. **You can register on the Side Porch beginning today** or online at westwoodpres.org under team name **Westwood Presbyterian Church.**

SPIRITUAL RETREAT AT UCLA BOTANICAL GARDENS —*SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8*



You are warmly invited to join us for a morning of renewal and reflection at our Fall Spiritual Retreat, **on Saturday, November 8 at the UCLA Botanical Garden, 9:30am–12:30pm**, sponsored by the Spiritual Formation Committee and facilitated by our own Becky Crane-Okada.

Set amid the peaceful beauty of the UCLA Botanical Garden, this retreat will offer time to learn, reflect, discuss, and meditate on our shared call to build hope in our lives and in our world. Together, we'll pause from the rush of daily life to reconnect with the Spirit, one another, and the creation that sustains us.

Carpools will be available from the church parking lot, and the cost is only \$10 per person to attend. Sign-ups begin today on the Side Porch and online at westwoodpres.org.

Come, breathe deeply, and let this time of quiet and beauty nurture your hope for the season ahead.