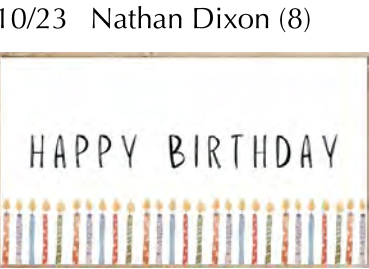


BIRTHDAYS COMING UP

ADULT BIRTHDAYS

10/20 Trevor Davis  
Emma Polhemus  
10/21 Christopher Richard  
10/22 Rubina Andonian  
10/23 Con Howe  
10/25 E.J. Schloss  
10/26 Shane Needham

CHILDREN / YOUTH BIRTHDAYS



PRESBYTOPICS

Our love and prayers are with—

- † Karen Bortolini, who had surgery for a broken hip. She will spend a few days in the hospital for rehabilitation and then be recovering at home.
- † Emily Leaver who serves on our AV team. She is experiencing severe pain from pancreatitis, and is awaiting clarity for treatment.
- † Chris Richard, who is home recovering from a recent Lumbar Laminectomy surgery.

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       |

FAITH, SEARCH, & SUPPORT —NOW ALSO ON ZOOM

Our Faith, Search, & Support class is now meeting in a hybrid format, with both in-person and Zoom participation available! All are welcome as we continue our study of *Blessed One: Protestant Perspectives on Mary*, exploring themes of faith, embodiment, and hope. Join us **Sundays at 11:20am in the Bride’s Room or online**—just email Jake Putich at [jputich@westwoodpres.org](mailto:jputich@westwoodpres.org) if you’d like to receive the Zoom link. Come be part of the conversation wherever you are!



This Sunday, the Flame of Unity will be at **Korean Hosana Presbyterian Church**. 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. 19 | WPC Worship Service—<br>19th Sunday after Pentecost                       | 10:00am |
|              | Congregational Meeting                                                    | 11:00am |
| Tue. Oct. 21 | Interfaith Community Forum<br>for Candidates for State Senate District 24 | 7:30pm  |
| Sun. Oct. 26 | WPC Worship Service—<br>Blessing of the Animals                           | 10:00am |
|              | Fall Vespers Service                                                      | 6:30pm  |
| Sun. Nov. 2  | Daylight’s Savings Time                                                   |         |
|              | WPC Worship Service—<br>All Saints Sunday                                 | 10:00am |
|              | New Member Info Seminar Pt. 1                                             | 11:00am |
|              | Westside Food Bank Hunger Walk                                            | 2:00pm  |
| Sat. Nov. 8  | Spiritual Retreat at UCLA                                                 | 9:30am  |

WESTWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

MINISTERS

All the People

PASTORAL

Rev. Dr. Christine Chakoian, Pastor  
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Rev. Mark S. Jones Sr., Pastor of Mission,  
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Rev. Paula Mann, Executive Associate  
Pastor  
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LEADERSHIP

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Dan Redfeld, Director of Music  
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Michelle Whelan, Interim Student  
Ministries Director  
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Javier Torres, Maintenance  
Joshua Torres, Custodial  
Lourdes Torres, Custodial

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](mailto:lsanders@westwoodpres.org)  
Paul Workman, Sound & Lighting Engineer

SECTION LEADERS

Elias Berezin, tenor  
Emerson Boatwright, tenor  
Christina Borgioli, soprano  
Devon Davidson, soprano  
Emily Kerrigan, alto  
Matthew Lewis, bass



NEWS & CONCERNS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2025

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING—*TODAY!*



In response to Pastor Chris’s intention to retire, next steps are falling into place! The Session has called a congregational meeting **today, 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    | ◇ David Kadue      |
| ◇ Gabby Esunge       | ◇ Robyn Paris      |
| ◇ M.C. Haslett       | ◇ Michael Sohigian |
| ◇ Kathryn Welch Howe |                    |

*Nominations will also be taken from the floor.*

- 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.



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 **today and Sunday, October 26**. Both in-kind and monetary donations are welcomed with gratitude on the Side Porch as well as online. Amazon wish lists for both organizations are available on at [westwoodpres.org/updates](http://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—*NEXT SUNDAY*



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 next Sunday 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 —*NEXT SUNDAY!*



As autumn settles in, the Spiritual Formation committee invites you to gather in the soft glow of candlelight for our **Autumn Vespers Service next Sunday 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](http://westwoodpres.org) but it is not required. Come, breathe deeply, and let us kindle the light of hope together!

FAITH CONVERSATION VIDEO RECORDINGS



If you missed the Faith Conversation with Cori Close last Sunday, the recording is available to view on our YouTube channel! Please go to [youtube.com/@WestwoodPresbyterianChurch](http://youtube.com/@WestwoodPresbyterianChurch) and look for the Faith Conversations playlist to view any of our videos!

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS:  
THANKSGIVING PERFORMANCE!



WPC and Jane Kinsey are calling all youth and young adults to participate in a special Thanksgiving celebration **on Thursday, November 23 at 9:15am**. All levels welcome! We'll perform one song together accompanied by two amazing guitarists, Gerard San Geminio and Dale Larson.

Rehearsals will be held after worship in the Choir Room on **Sundays, October 26 and November 2 & 16**. To sign up or for any questions contact Michelle Whelan at [mwhelan@westwoodpres.org](mailto:mwhelan@westwoodpres.org). We'd love to have you be part of this celebration!

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 **this 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.

SPIRITUAL RETREAT AT UCLA BOTANICAL GARDENS  
—*SATURDAY, 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](http://westwoodpres.org).

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



ALL SAINTS SUNDAY —*NOVEMBER 2*



On Sunday, November 2 in worship, we will celebrate the lives of those who have died and entered into their eternal fellowship with God. Before the closing hymn, “For All the Saints,” we will remember members of our WPC family who died in this last year. We will offer a prayer of thanksgiving, and for all the saints who have blessed us with their presence, and encourage us still. Please contact us at [office@westwoodpres.org](mailto:office@westwoodpres.org) if there is someone you would like to include in the memorial: a parent, child, grandparent, grandchild, uncle/aunt, nephew/niece, or cousin whom you have lost in this last year.

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



It will soon be November—and we are hosting seminars to get to know WPC. If you are a visitor, we encourage you to attend! These two sessions help you get to know WPC (including our Presbyterian tradition), ask questions, and find ways to get involved. Though these seminars are required for those interested in official membership here, they are open to ALL!

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

Sign up on the Side Porch today, or online at [westwoodpres.org/updates](http://westwoodpres.org/updates). Please RSVP – and for more information, contact Anne Cioffi at [acioffi@westwoodpres.org](mailto: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 or online at [westwoodpres.org](http://westwoodpres.org) under team name **Westwood Presbyterian Church**.

CHOIR RETREAT—*SUNDAYS, NOVEMBER 9 & 23*



The WPC Chancel Choir will have its retreat **on Sundays, November 9 & 23 in the Choir Room** and will concentrate on the Oratorio de Noël (Cantata Sunday) and the Messiah Sing-A-Long. Lunch will be provided. Please contact Music Director Dan Redfeld with questions or for the address at [dredfeld@westwoodpres.org](mailto:dredfeld@westwoodpres.org).