

BIRTHDAYS COMING UP

ADULT BIRTHDAYS

10/27 Jane Jonaitis
10/28 Cindy Trangsrud
Stephy Yu
10/29 Heather Leatherwood
Nancy Youngblood
10/31 Charles Cioffi
David Neelin
11/1 Kofi Siabi
11/2 John Caldwell
Nancy J. Smith
Michelle Whelan

CHILDREN / YOUTH BIRTHDAYS

10/29 Ethan Cohen-Gonzalez (6)
10/31 William Needham (6)



PRESBYTOPICS

Our love and prayers are with—

- † Jim Spitser who is hospitalized once again. Cards can be sent to
- † Karen Bortolini, who had surgery for a broken hip and is recovering at home.
- † 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	Ian Hrachovec	Linda S. Spitser
Polly Berger	Nancy Immel	Kuki Sullam
Susan Chapman	Mark S. Jones Sr.	Amy Tan
Aiden Cohen Davis	Nina Louie	Ron Tranquilla
Christopher Davis	Queen Esther Rankins	Wes Truitt
Earl Ellis	Rita Ries	
Eva Hrachovec	Jim Spitser	

ADULT BIBLE FORUM (ABF)—*TODAY!*

Having completed Adult Bible Forum's study of Colossians and Philemon, ABF returns "back to the beginning." Adult Bible Forum will start with Genesis 1:1 and go through 11:9. We will study some of the foundational stories of humanity and take a fresh look at subjects that have been with us since childhood. Consider: Do we have one story of creation or two? What happened to Cain in the end? **ABF meets in the Conference Room after worship at 11:15am in person or by Zoom.** Please contact the church office at office@westwoodpres.org to for the Zoom link. All Bible translations are welcome. Even if you can't come every week, you will still be able to learn a great deal. We look forward to meeting new friends!



CHILDREN'S HOPE ART INSTALLATION —*TODAY!*

The WPC Sunday School class has created a new Hope-themed art installation for the breezeway. Breeze by and check it out!

PLEASE RECYCLE —A MESSAGE FROM MISSION & OUTREACH COMMITTEE



PLEASE RECYCLE- don't throw those bags away! WPC needs paper or plastic bags for weekly food distribution. Please deposit them in the marked receptacle located by the Visitor's Table on the side porch. THANK YOU!



This Sunday, the Flame of Unity will be at **Wilshire Presbyterian Church/ First Progressive 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.

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

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



NEWS & CONCERNS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2025

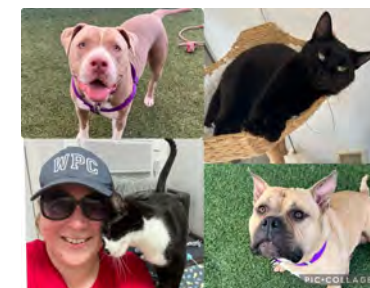
BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS—*TODAY*



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 today**.

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!

SUPPORT ANGEL CITY PIT BULLS AND KITTEN RESCUE



Join our Mission & Outreach Committee in supporting Angel City Pit Bulls and Kitten Rescue. Donations will be collected **today on the Side Porch and online**. Amazon wish lists for both organizations are on westwoodpres.org/updates. To donate funds: scan the QR code; select Help for LA's Homeless Dogs and Cats. You can also write a check to Westwood

Presbyterian Church with "LA's Homeless Dogs and Cats" on the memo line. The city of LA is in crisis regarding homeless animals. We look forward to providing much-needed comfort to the homeless pets of our city.

DAYLIGHT'S SAVINGS TIME—*NEXT SUNDAY*



Daylight Saving Time begins **next Sunday, November 2, at 2:00am**. Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed this Saturday!

A FALL VESPERS SERVICE —TONIGHT!



As autumn settles in, we invite you to gather in the soft glow of candlelight for our Vespers Service **tonight at 6:30pm**. In this intimate evening, shaped by our season's theme of Building Hope, the beauty of fall surrounds us through music, scripture, prayer, and silence. Come rest, reflect, and be renewed

by the Spirit who meets us in stillness and song. After the service, linger together around the table for refreshments and good company, as we share gratitude for the hope carries us forward. Come, breathe deeply, and let us kindle the light of hope together!

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY —NEXT SUNDAY!



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 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 —NEXT SUNDAY & NOVEMBER 16



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

Join us Sundays November 2 & 16 at 11:30am in Hoffman Hall. Those wishing to join will be received into membership during worship Sunday, November 23. Sign up today on the Side Porch or online at westwoodpres.org/updates. For more information, contact Anne Cioffi at acioffi@westwoodpres.org, or reach out to any of our pastors. All are welcome!

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT REHEARSALS



Rehearsals for our Children's Christmas Pageant, "The Friendly Beasts," **begin next Sunday after worship, 11:30am-12:30pm in the Sanctuary**. We will also use time in Sunday School to rehearse each week. All children are welcome! If you would like to join the cast or if you have any questions, reach

out to Marin Miller at mmiller@westwoodpres.org.

TRUNK OR TREAT 2025

Plentiful candy, pizza, and spooky costumes and trunks. Trunk or Treat 2025 was a blast! Thank you to all who joined us for this delightful time and a special thanks to the amazing volunteers!



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

FAITH CONVERSATION—MISSION SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9



Please join us **on Mission Sunday, November 9, in Hoffman Hall following worship** as the Mission & Outreach and Adult Education Committees are pleased to present a powerful Faith Conversation with Rev. Shelvis Smith-Mather. Rev. Shelvis, alongside his wife Rev. Nancy, have spent nearly two decades serving in one of East Africa's most challenging contexts.

Through stories of resilience and hope from South Sudan, they will share how faith communities are transforming trauma into healing and conflict into peace—even amid civil war and the world's fastest-growing refugee crisis. Hear how Westwood's faithful partnership has empowered survivors to become peacemakers, and discover how the church continues to serve as a sanctuary of hope. Rev. Shelvis will highlight the impact of WPC's support and invite us to build upon this legacy—deepening our commitment to sustainable peace and reconciliation.

Come be inspired by the extraordinary resilience evident in this peacemaking partnership, and gain new insight on how to remain faithful amidst national division and turmoil.

WESTSIDE FOOD BANK HUNGER WALK —NEXT SUNDAY!



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 under team name Westwood Presbyterian Church.

YOUTH 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 Gemino and Dale Larson.

Rehearsals will be held after worship in the Choir Room today and on November 2 & 16. To sign up or for any questions contact Michelle Whelan at mwhelan@westwoodpres.org. We'd love to have you be part of this celebration!

WPC ESPERANZA FALL PLAYGROUND MORNING —SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15



The Mission & Outreach Committee invites the congregation to join us for our Fall Playground morning at Esperanza Elementary School **on Saturday, November 15, 8:360am-11:30am at 680 Little St, Los Angeles, CA 90017**. Please join us for a very fun morning. We'll participate in activities with students and their

families. There are many ways to be involved: games, arts and crafts, snacks, and lots of pizza! No skills required. We'd love to have you there! Sign up online at westwoodpres.org. We need all participants' names by **Wednesday, November 13**.

CHOIR RETREAT—SUNDAYS, NOVEMBER 9 & 23



Interested in joining our Chancel Choir? Be part of our retreats **on Sundays, November 9 & 23** in the Choir Room, focusing on the Oratorio de Noël (Cantata Sunday) and the Messiah Sing-A-Long. Lunch will be provided. Please contact Music Director Dan Redfeld to sign up or if you have questions; dredfeld@westwoodpres.org.

Donate to WPC today

