

BIRTHDAYS COMING UP

ADULT BIRTHDAYS

12/22 Matheus Oliveira
12/23 B'Anwi Fomukong
12/24 Leighton Brzeski
12/29 Marin Miller
12/31 Kenneth Williams
1/1 Mimi Hart
Liese Neelin
Brittany Singleton

CHILDREN / YOUTH BIRTHDAYS

12/26 Robert Daly (12)
1/2 Nafas Maghsoudi Namini (9)



PRESBYTOPICS

Our love and prayers are with—

- † Please be in prayer for Jim Spitser who has been placed in hospice care.
 - † Pastor Mark Jones as he recovers at home from his lumbar laminectomy last week.
- Pastor Mark had hoped to deliver the meditation in next week's service but that will not be possible.

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

Rubina Andonian	Eva Hrachovec	Jim Spitser
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
	Rita Ries	



This Sunday, the Flame of Unity will be at **United University 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.

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, DECEMBER 21 & 28, 2025

ADVENT SEASON AT WPC!



So many people are looking for a place to be together, for song and joy and fellowship. Invite your friends; reach out to those who have been missing; and if you have not come for a while, "come home for the holidays!"

DECEMBER 21

4th Sunday of Advent— 10:00am
Christmas Cantata
The WPC Chancel Choir presents Camille Saint-Saëns' Oratorio de Noël. A special morning of beautiful Advent music!

Advent Vespers Service 6:30pm
This contemplative service is an evening of candlelight, quiet beauty, and unhurried prayer.

DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve Family Service 4:00pm
Marvel with childlike awe Christmas Eve, including a participatory Nativity story for all ages. In this family-friendly service, children are welcome to sit with their parents and get involved in the telling of the Christmas Story. (Childcare will be available for nursery-age children.)

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

7:00pm & 9:30pm
Celebrate Jesus' birth in this moving candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols. (Childcare and Livestream are available for the 7:00pm service only.)

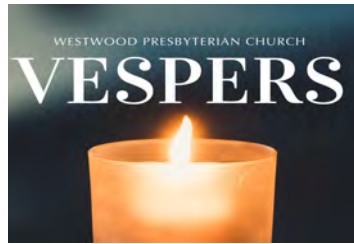
DECEMBER 28

Jazz Sunday Worship 10:00am
We welcome the beloved Bevan Manson Trio to lead us in worship with a different beat, celebrating our 1st Sunday of Christmas.

FAITH, SEARCH, & SUPPORT / ADULT BIBLE FORUM

Faith, Search, & Support will be **meeting in the Conference Room today** and then be on a hiatus till January 18. **Adult Bible Forum will not meet today or next Sunday.**

ADVENT VESPERS SERVICE —*TONIGHT!*



All are warmly invited to our annual Advent Vespers service **tonight at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary** – an evening of candlelight, quiet beauty, and unhurried prayer. In the midst of a season that can feel both joyful and overwhelming, this contemplative service offers room to breathe and space to honor the full range of emotions the holidays can bring. Come settle into the stillness, rest in the music and readings, and let the gentle light of Advent guide you toward hope. Please see Jake Putich, Director of Faith Formation & Creation Care., for questions.

TODAY IS THE LAST DAY TO ORDER POINSETTIAS!



The Deacon Board invites you to purchase poinsettias to decorate the chancel for Christmas Eve. **Today is the last day to place your orders on the Side Porch for \$15 each.** You can also order online at westwoodpres.org/updates.

Include your dedication in honor or memory of a loved one to be printed in the Christmas Eve bulletin. You may pick up your poinsettias on Christmas Eve or donate your plant purchase to be delivered by the Deacons to church members. Thank you for your support of this long-standing WPC tradition of cheer and love!

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The Westwood Presbyterian Church Office will be closed:

- This **Thursday, December 25 & Friday, December 26** for Christmas.
- On **Thursday, January 1 & Friday, January 2** for the New Year.

FAITH CONVERSATION VIDEO RECORDINGS



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


offering baskets
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westwoodpres.org


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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/updates.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING



Join in our annual Christmas Joy Offering! **One half** will be shared among three vital mission endeavors: our denomination’s Assistance Program supports retired pastors and missionaries... our Presbyterian racial-ethnic schools help students discover their gifts and calling.... and locally, because of the impact of restrictions on SNAP, the Westside Food Bank which distributes food for more than 500 households each week, in addition to its work with veterans, homebound seniors, and families with children in school. **The other half** will help ensure that all of WPC's ministries continue to flourish. **Contribute in worship or mail** your check to the church office and write “Christmas Joy” in the memo, or scan our QR code below (select the field “Christmas Joy”).

YEAR-END GIFTS

As 2025 draws to a close, we encourage you to contribute what you can to WPC. Your gifts make our mission outreach and ministry programs the blessing that they are! Beyond our annual budget, we invite you to consider an additional gift to our Westwood Fund, which provides a strong foundation for generations to come. Gifts of securities, cash, or annuities are welcome.

As you consider your final donations for the 2025 tax year, please make your donations **by December 31, 2025**. All online donations made by December 31, 2025, checks that are mailed and postmarked before January 1, 2026 will be recorded in the 2025 tax year. Thank you for giving so faithfully all year long!

"THE FRIENDLY BEASTS" WARMED HEARTS

AND WOWED!

What a spectacular gift our children gave God and the congregation last Sunday during worship with their Children's Pageant offering, "The Friendly Beasts!" Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the singing and the story. Our hearts are full and happy. Thanks to all, young and old, who made it possible!



CHRISTMAS TURKEY DINNER BOX EVENT



WPC has provided Christmas turkey dinners to 700 underserved families in L.A. Each family-sized meal costs **\$38.00**. So far, we have raised approximately **\$21,800** towards this amazing cause. You can still help us reach our goal by making your donation **on the Side Porch today**.

You can also scan the QR code and select “Christmas Turkey Dinners” or write a check to Westwood

Presbyterian Church with “Christmas Turkey Dinners” in the memo line.



MONDAY NIGHTER—A JOYFUL CELEBRATION!

Thanks to all who made last week’s “Monday Nighter” fellowship so wonderful! Special thanks to Jann and Ken Williams for hosting in their Christmas-adorned home; to Membership & Fellowship Committee members and staff for organizing the event and greeting everyone; to Dan Redfeld and Elizabeth Hedman for their inspiring Christmas carol accompaniment; Javier and Joshua Torres for bringing tables and chairs; and to ALL who came bringing food and drink, and an appetite for a joyous time together.

