

BIRTHDAYS COMING UP

ADULT BIRTHDAYS

2/10 David Bunker
Betty Glick
Addy Olivier
2/11 Marsha Collins
2/12 Jerry Berman
Richter Brzeski
Esther Rankins
2/13 Romana Jones
Greta Larson
2/15 Claire Stewart

CHILDREN / YOUTH BIRTHDAYS

2/12 Pilot Kan-Kai Moriarty (10)
2/13 Luke Schimke (8)



PRESBYTOPICS

Our love and prayers are with—

- † Rose Helm that she has a smooth recovery from breast surgery on February 12.
- † Linda Spitsers healing. She has been hospitalized for broken ribs after falling.
- † Pastor Mark Jones as he continues to recover from surgery and gain strength through physical therapy.

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

Rubina Andonian	Eva Hrachovec	Linda S. Spitsers
Polly Berger	Ian Hrachovec	Kuki Sullam
Susan Chapman	Nancy Immel	Amy Tan
Aiden Cohen Davis	Mark S. Jones Sr.	Ron Tranquilla
Christopher Davis	Nina Louie	Wes Truitt
Earl Ellis	Queen Esther Rankins	
Rose Helm	Rita Ries	

YOUTH LOCK-IN —FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27



Get ready for an epic night at the 8 Church Youth Lock-In on Friday, February 27 at 7:00pm at First Presbyterian Santa Monica! Join us for tons of fun, games, music, and good vibes all night long. This is the perfect

chance to hang out, make new friends, and just be yourself. Go to westwoodpres.org for the link to sign up at Eventbrite. Don't miss out on this awesome in-person event where memories are made and laughs never end. Grab your crew and come through!

COMING UP

Sun. Feb. 8 WPC Worship Service—
5th Sunday after Epiphany 10:00am
Faith Conversation Movie Screening 11:20am
Sun. Feb. 15 WPC Worship Service—
Transfiguration of the Lord 10:00am
Pancake Breakfast 11:00am
Mon. Feb. 16 Presidents' Day/Church Office Closed
Wed. Feb. 18 Ash Wednesday 7:00pm
(Immigration Series Class will Not Meet)
Women Reading
Sun. Feb. 22 WPC Worship Service—
1st Sunday in Lent 10:00am
Scout Sunday



This Sunday, the Flame of Unity will be at Eden Presbyterian Church of Honolulu. 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, JJ Hickey, Nick Pelayo, Levi Yin, 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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2026

FAITH CONVERSATION MOVIE SCREENING: WHICH WAY HOME —TODAY!



All are warmly invited to join Adult Education in Hoffman Hall today after worship, at 11:20am for a screening of the acclaimed documentary *Which Way Home*. The film follows unaccompanied children from Central America as they journey through Mexico toward the United States – often alone, exposed to grave danger, and sustained by fierce hope for safety, family, and a future with possibility.

Told in the children's own voices, the film bears witness to suffering, hope, and profound vulnerability, inviting us beyond headlines

and abstractions into lived human reality. Widely praised for its compassion, restraint, and moral clarity, *Which Way Home* was nominated for an Academy Award and recognized for bringing rare visibility to the human cost of migration.

This screening is free, includes lunch, and offers a powerful opportunity to consider the story of migration from the perspective of "the least of these."

WPC PANCAKE BREAKFAST —NEXT SUNDAY!



To prepare for the season of Lent starting on Ash Wednesday, we could all use an energy boost! At WPC we do not have a Fat Tuesday (Mardi Gras) - but we do have a Fat Sunday Pancake Breakfast next Sunday, in Hoffman Hall after worship. We need more

volunteers! To sign up to help please see Scott McDowell or email Pastor Chris at cchokoian@westwoodpres.org.

NOMINATING SEASON IS OPEN



WPC needs your gifts and talents! WPC's events, programs, teaching, mission and fellowship only happen when we serve together. Teams of individuals work side-by-side with church staff, pastors and elders to plan and put into action all the areas of our church's ministry. Now is your time to get involved! Where are you being called to serve? Which committee aligns to your particular interests? Have you taken a year off after serving many years on a committee and are looking forward to serving again? Are you a new member and curious to dive in? Please visit the Narthex to check out the WPC Annual Report for more information about the work of each committee. All are welcome!

Please prayerfully consider where the Spirit calls you or others to participate, and fill out the form for nominations. There are many ways to submit your nomination form. You can email nominations to wpcnominating@westwoodpres.org. You can also fill out and return the paper form available on the Side Porch and Narthex to the church office in person, by mail, or fill out the form online at westwoodpres.org/updates. But act now! **Nominations are only being accepted through Thursday, February 26.**

MANNA BAGS



Since 2012, the children of WPC have assembled Manna bags designed to provide immediate relief to our unhoused neighbors. Bags contain necessary supplies like personal hygiene items, granola bars, new socks and an up-to-date laminated resource guide to help those in need find assistance and long-term care. Manna Bags can be kept readily accessible in your car, so you can offer them easily when you encounter someone in need.

Please be sure to stop by the children's Manna Bag Shop in Hoffman Hall during the Pancake breakfast next Sunday. You can greet the children who worked so hard to assemble the bags, and of course, purchase a few to have on hand! This year, **the cost is \$10 a bag**—to cover increased supply cost and allow us to continue this ministry to the needy of Los Angeles indefinitely. As always, Manna Bags are also available for purchase in the Narthex by specially-marked envelopes provided and online by scanning the QR code below and selecting "Manna Bags".

WPC PRESCHOOL LOVERAISER —ALL FEBRUARY!



Our annual Westwood Presbyterian Church Preschool LOVERaiser is taking place all February long! Your generous contributions allow us to create an optimal learning environment for our students and families, support our teachers and their ongoing professional development, equip them with the latest educational tools and techniques, help us update and maintain school equipment and supplies, and provide funds for our student tuition assistance program.

We've been committed to quality education for over 65 years, and with your help, we can continue this legacy. The LOVERaiser runs until February 28. **Donations can be made online by scanning the QR code below and selecting "Preschool LOVERaiser".** You can also donate by writing a check to Westwood Presbyterian Church with "Preschool LOVERaiser" in the memo line.

AN UPDATE FROM THE PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Your Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) is busy searching for a new Pastor/Head of Staff to lead Westwood Presbyterian Church into the future. We have completed a Ministry Discernment Profile (MDP), which has been approved by Session and the Presbytery Commission on Ministry (COM), and is now posted to the Church Leadership Connection (CLC) website.

CLC matches our MDP with applicants throughout the denomination and across the nation, and the PNC is sorting through those matches. But there's also a link to the MDP on our own church website at westwoodpres.org/updates. Check it out!

And the Committee is posting the MDP elsewhere on online job forums, as well as using our clergy and lay networks to spread the word that our wonderful church is offering the opportunity to shepherd a vibrant and caring congregation in the service of Christ. Tell a friend! And feel free to approach any member of the Committee – Mike Sohigian, Robyn Paris, Kathryn Howe, David Kadue, MC Haslett, Gabby Esunge, and Nick Castellano – with your questions, suggestions, encouragement or prayers.

BUILDING PROJECT—OUR SECOND FLOOR

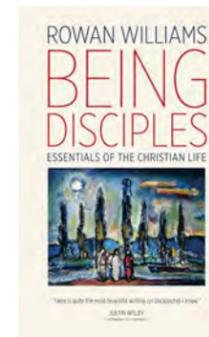


The second story of our new building is designed to support the life of the church throughout the week, offering spaces that are both welcoming and highly adaptable. At its heart will be a quiet meditation chapel, a place set apart for prayer, reflection, and small gatherings.

This level will also bring all church staff offices together in one place, strengthening collaboration and making it easier for members and families to connect with staff. For our children and youth, the second floor includes a large Sunday School space for fifth grade and younger, a dedicated youth room, and generous education and meeting rooms that can be configured for classes, rehearsals, meetings, and events.

An elevator ensures full accessibility for all ages and abilities. With multiple spaces designed for varied uses, the second story greatly expands our flexibility—allowing the building to adapt to changing needs while supporting ministry, learning, and community every day of the week.

LENT SMALL GROUPS BEGIN —SUNDAY, MARCH 1



Our Lenten theme this year is called *Seeking Transformation*. Beginning in March, we'll gather in small groups for four sessions to read Rowan Williams' powerful little book, *Being Disciples: Essentials of the Christian Life*. It's under 100 pages, but it packs a punch—enlightening, rich, and accessible.

As we consider the changes and challenges facing our congregation in the year ahead, this is an opportune moment to return to the basics of our faith: to remember who we're called to be, and to welcome – even to seek! – the transformation that carries us deeper into lives of grace. Williams frames discipleship as a posture of openness to God's renewing work in our lives and our world, and this Lent, that's exactly what we're practicing together.

Groups will meet at various days and times throughout the week (online and in-person). **Books are available for \$10 and you can sign up online at westwoodpres.org or on the Side Porch today!**

LENT BEGINS ON ASH WEDNESDAY —FEBRUARY 18



We invite everyone to engage in the beautiful spiritual practice of Lent this year at WPC, beginning with our Ash Wednesday service on **February 18, at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary**. This will be a sacred and solemn moment to reflect on our mortality through the imposition of ashes, and to remind ourselves that God breathes new life everywhere... even into dust. This service will not be livestreamed; please join us in person.

SCOUT SUNDAY —FEBRUARY 22



On Sunday, February 22, we will recognize those in our faith community who participate in a scouting program. We are grateful for all the programs like Scouting America, Girl Scouts, and Campfire that nurture character traits like being truthful, dependable, respectful, and faithful. We are very proud of our children and youth, who will serve that Sunday as greeters and readers. We encourage you to congratulate them on being involved in scouting. We are also proud of the adults in our congregation who take the additional time to be troop or den leaders and assistants.

MARATHON SUNDAY —MARCH 8



The L.A. Marathon is taking place on **Sunday, March 8**. Because of road closures, we will not be holding morning worship. Please save the date, more details about will follow soon about an evening worship service and a simple supper in Hoffman Hall.

Donate to WPC today

