

BIRTHDAYS COMING UP

5/11 Marianne Truitt
 5/13 Caroline Rakness
 5/14 Marsha Hunt
 Jane Kinsey
 John Nordquist
 Ron Tranquilla
 5/15 Bill Doak
 5/17 Pam Karten
 Callie Kramer



PRESBYTOPICS

Our love and prayers are with—

- † Brooke Larson, her mother, Gretchen, and family following the death of Brooke's father, Sandy Prater on Monday, April 27.
- † Linda Spitsner who is battling shingles.
- † Scott McDowell whose father, Bill McDowell, was hospitalized with health challenges in Chicago.

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

Rubina Andonian	Ian Hrachovec	Linda S. Spitsner
Polly Berger	Mark S. Jones Sr.	Kuki Sullam
Susan Chapman	Nina Louie	Amy Tan
Aiden Cohen Davis	Queen Esther Rankins	Wes Truitt
Earl Ellis	Rita Ries	Preston Walsh
Eva Hrachovec		



This Sunday, the Flame of Unity will be at **Korean Presbyterian Church of South Bay**. 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.

BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE



We are grateful to share a positive update on our building project. Construction drawings for Phase 1 have been completed and detailed costs are being finalized. Groundbreaking for Phase 1 is anticipated near the

end of this calendar year. More detailed design work on Phase 2 is also nearing completion, based on the City approved plans, and there will be opportunities for the congregation to review those plans. A video presentation that explains the overall project and the facilities that are contained in each phase is available on our church's website by visiting westwoodpres.org/updates/wpc-building-project.

This project is designed to be self-funded, through our long-term ground lease with Belmont Village Assisted Living. Their ground lease payments will cover the cost of the church's portion of the project over approximately 30 years. During that time, the church will continue to receive a portion of the lease income. Once that obligation is met, full lease payments will come directly to the church for the remainder of the 99-year lease, providing a long-term source of financial support for ministry.

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, and Levi Yin, AV Techs
 Laurel Sanders, Organist
 Dakota Hodge, 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
 Brianna Naiman, Preschool Director
 Heidi Rudd, Preschool Office Manager



NEWS & CONCERNS

SUNDAY, MAY 10, 2026

FAITH CONVERSATION —ON CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM, TODAY AFTER WORSHIP



Join us for a Faith Conversation on one of the most pressing challenges facing the church in America today **today, in the Sanctuary after worship**. Christian Nationalism corrupts Christian witness by blessing exclusion, elevating power, and weakening our commitment to the dignity and flourishing of our neighbors. As the church continues to reckon with these realities, we are grateful to welcome back Dr. Reinhard Krauss, Executive Director of the Academy for Judaic, Christian, and Islamic Studies.

A Germany-born Bonhoeffer scholar with a Ph.D. from the University of St Andrews, Dr. Krauss brings rare insight into what can happen when the church becomes entangled with nationalism. He has studied these dynamics in history and recognizes troubling echoes in our own time. The Adult Education Committee is grateful to have him again for what will be an illuminating conversation.

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY —NEXT WEEK! WPC 2026-2027 PLEDGE SEASON

WPC
Where People
are Called

Your financial commitment makes a difference. We will be dedicating our annual financial pledges on Stewardship next Sunday. Please see the article inside for more details.

**ESPERANZA SPRING PLAYGROUND MORNING
—THIS SATURDAY!**



The Mission & Outreach Committee invites the congregation to join us for our Spring Playground morning at Esperanza Elementary School on **this Saturday, 8:30am-11:30am at 680 Little St, Los Angeles, CA 90017**. We'll participate in fun 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 by Wednesday, May 13 at westwoodpres.org/updates.**

EMBER HEADS TO REN FAIRE —THIS SATURDAY!



Hear ye, hear ye! **This Saturday**, Ember is venturing forth to the LA Renaissance Faire—huzzah!—and we would fain have you join us! If you're a college student or young adult seeking a place to connect, Ember is a joyful community in which to learn, grow, and serve together!

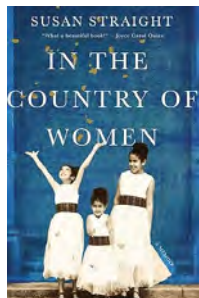
Carpools will depart from WPC around 9am, and we'll do our best to accommodate all who wish to come, so sign up with Jake Putich at jputich@westwoodpres.org.

WPC SOFTBALL!



The Hatch Batch prevailed in a real thriller game last night 16-15 over the fighting Methodists! Join us to cheer our team on Monday evenings at the L.A. Interfaith Softball League. Next game is **tomorrow at Cheviot Hills Rec Center – at 7:15pm, Diamond #2**. The season lasts until late July, if you are interested in joining the team, email us at office@westwoodpres.org.

WOMEN READING —WEDNESDAY, MAY 20



Women Reading invites you to join us on Zoom on **Wednesday, May 20, at 7:30pm** to discuss the book *In the Company of Women* by Susan Straight. This memoir provides background about ancestors of herself and her ex-husband, as well as telling her own story. I am really enjoying this memoir and recommend it to those of you who would like to learn more about the context of Susan Straight's writing. Newcomers are always welcome—if you would like to receive the Zoom link to join our thoughtful community of women readers please contact the church office at office@westwoodpres.org.

WPC—WHERE PEOPLE ARE CALLED!



Many of us come to WPC to be refreshed and restored – but guess what? We can all make a difference too – because God calls each of us to do what we can to make this world a better place.

However you are called to roll up your sleeves, it matters – in mission projects like Esperanza School play-dates, in compassionate outreach like visiting our homebound, in the spiritual encouragement of music, adult ed, Ember, and more.

Your financial commitment makes a difference too. **We will be dedicating our annual financial pledges on Stewardship next Sunday.** Your contributions can be paid through whatever installments work best for you. Pledge cards were mailed last week and are available in the pew racks. You can pledge online with the QR code on your pledge card.

Whatever your level of commitment, please know that it matters. Because all of us are called to help fulfill Christ's care for our world!

**WESTSIDE FOOD BANK SORTING DAY
—SATURDAY, MAY 30**



Please join our volunteer team at Westside Food Bank on **Saturday, May 30, 9am-12pm**, at their warehouse located at **1710 22nd St., Santa Monica**. We will sort and pack nutritious food for distribution to individuals and families in need. Sign up online at westwoodpres.org or at the Mission & Outreach volunteer

signup sheet on the Side Porch after worship. We need you!

HABITAT REBUILD LA

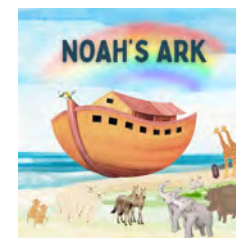


Support Habitat for Humanity's REBUILD LA work in Pacific Palisades. An information gathering is taking place **this Saturday at Calvary Church at 10:30am**. This gathering is for anyone interested in learning about Habitat ReBUILD LA opportunities and disaster relief services. A benefit concert helping those impacted by the wildfires will be held **on Thursday, May 28, 6:30-9:00 at First Presbyterian**

Church located at 1220 2nd St. Santa Monica, CA. 90401. To purchase tickets or more information please use the links in our email version of News & Concerns.

**CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRIES' (CFM)
IMPACT ON EARTH CARE**

The Children & Youth are participating in this year's Creation Season! CFM offers programming rich with environmental themes encouraging a r/evolution of empathy and right action in covenantal kinship with God's creatures. Our prayer is that these experiences support our children's sense of joyful belonging to our natural world and God.



Noah's Ark in Concert is a Children & Youth Summer Musical performed in worship on **Sunday, June 7**, with DIY sets and props the children are creating entirely of reclaimed/recycled/recyclable materials. **Rehearsals are every Sunday during Sunday School and after fellowship in the Sanctuary, 11:30am-12:30pm.** A mandatory Dress Rehearsal will be on **Saturday, June 6, 9:00am-12:00pm.**



Nature Vacation Bible School It's Forest School meets Christian Contemplation! We'll share sacred space and time, exploring God and self in nature through embodied prayer, crafts, story time, and lots of playing in the creek. What a way to kick off the summer! Join us as we heed Job's advice: *"Speak to the earth, and it will teach you."* (Job 12:8)

WHEN: June 17-19, 10am-2pm each day, or 9am-3pm if opting for van transportation to and from the WPC parking lot.

WHERE: Malibu Creek State Park

COST: \$100 per child. Scholarships are available!

SIGN UP: By visiting westwoodpres.org/updates online or by reaching out to Director of CFM, Marin Miller at mmiller@westwoodpres.org to reserve your child's spot today.



MONDAY NIGHTERS

A small but lively group gathered in Hoffman Hall on Monday, May 4, to enjoy the fellowship of each other at our picnic-themed event. Conversation revolved around springing into change, recognizing all the emotions that change can bring. It was a lovely time at WPC.

Donate to WPC today

