


BIRTHDAYS COMING UP

ADULT BIRTHDAYS		CHILDREN / YOUTH BIRTHDAYS
5/19	Matthew Gallant Jake Putich John Shustitzky	5/22 Ronin Moriarty (12)
5/20	Jan Brzeski Rebecca Crane-Okada Natalie Reinert	
5/23	Ann May Schloss Shaun Singleton	
5/24	Sarah Peter	
5/25	Kelly Sheridan	

PRESBYTOPICS

Our love and prayers are with—

- † The Bell-Ventura family who welcomed a new baby, Benjamin Austin Bell-Ventura, on March 6, 2025. Benjamin is the son of Anna and Gabriel Bell-Ventura.

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

Benjamin Alanis	Earl Ellis	Rita Ries
Rubina Andonian	Eva Hrachovec	Linda S. Spitzer
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
	Queen Esther Rankins	

WPC SOFTBALL —TOMORROW!



Help cheer our team on **Monday evenings; next game will be tomorrow, at Cheviot Hills Rec Center – at 7:15pm, Diamond #4.** It's a lot of fun and a great way to get to know people from WPC and other similar faith communities! If you are interested in joining the team this year, email us at

office@westwoodpres.org.



This Sunday, the Flame of Unity will be at **Church of the Redeemer**. 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. May. 18	WPC Worship Service— 5th Sunday of Easter Congregational Meeting New Membership Seminar	10:00am 11:00am 11:30am
Mon. May. 19	WPC Softball Game	7:15pm
Wed. May. 21	Women Reading	7:30pm
Sun. May. 25	WPC Worship Service— 6th Sunday of Easter	10:00am
Mon. May. 26	Memorial Day / Church Office Closed	
Sat. May. 31	PATH Garden Project	10:00am
Sun. Jun. 1	WPC Worship Service— Graduation / Move-Up Sunday New Membership Seminar	10:00am 11:30am

WESTWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

MINISTERS All the People	SUPPORT Priscilla Glaza, Preschool Office Assistant pglaza@westwoodpres.org Linda Martinez, Administrative Assistant & Contributions Coordinator lmartinez@westwoodpres.org Heidi Rudd, Preschool Office Manager hrudd@westwoodpres.org Javier Torres, Maintenance Joshua Torres, Custodial Lourdes Torres, Custodial
PASTORAL Rev. Dr. Christine Chakoian, Pastor cchakoian@westwoodpres.org Rev. Mark S. Jones Sr., Pastor of Mission, Outreach, and Pastoral Care mjones@westwoodpres.org Rev. Paula Mann, Executive Associate Pastor pmann@westwoodpres.org	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 Paul Workman, Sound & Lighting Engineer
LEADERSHIP Tajmaya “Taj” Anders, Preschool Curriculum Specialist tanders@westwoodpres.org Anne Cioffi, Coordinator of Membership Ministries acioffi@westwoodpres.org Sarah Davis, Director of Operations sdavis@westwoodpres.org Farrah Mikail, Financial Manager fmikail@westwoodpres.org Marin Miller, Director of Children & Family Ministries mmiller@westwoodpres.org Brianne Naiman, Preschool Director bnaiman@westwoodpres.org Jake Putich, Director of Faith Formation & Creation Care jputich@westwoodpres.org Dan Redfeld, Director of Music dredfeld@westwoodpres.org Michelle Whelan, Interim Student Ministries Director mwhelan@westwoodpres.org	SECTION LEADERS Elias Berezin, tenor Emerson Boatwright, tenor Christina Borgioli, soprano Devon Davidson, soprano Emily Kerrigan, alto Matthew Lewis, bass



NEWS & CONCERNS
SUNDAY, MAY 18, 2025

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING —*TODAY!*



Today, following the worship service, we will convene a congregational meeting to elect new members to the Session, the Board of Deacons, and the Nominating Committee. Nominations can be taken from the floor, provided the member who is nominated is present and agrees to serve, if elected.

There will also be an update on our Building Project and we will be reviewing WPC’s new website! All are encouraged to stay for the meeting. While only members can vote, all are welcome to attend.

Session

Class of 2027-2028:

Tracy Cluss-Harmeyer, Scott Hartle, Ken Williams, Brett Whelan, Anne Louise Rice, Lucy Cook, and Dale Larson

Class of 2026-2027: Kelly Sheridan

Class of 2025-2026: Ellen Caldwell

Deacons

Class of 2027-2028:

Peumi Jayassurya, Gabby Esunge, Jann Williams, Kate Branaman, Sara Walsh, and Tom Clark

Class of 2025-2026: Camille Morris

Nominating Committee

Class of 2027-2028:

Brooke Larson, Connie Price, Jim Lawson, and Leslie Owens

WPC MEMBERSHIP SEMINAR —*TODAY & JUNE 1*



Interested in finding out more about Westwood Presbyterian Church? Beginning to explore a sense of belonging? Considering joining our congregation? Explore with us in a two-part seminar **today and June 1**, after worship. **Join us today in Hoffman Hall** for a light lunch with our Pastors, staff, and the membership team. We will discuss opportunities for nurture and service here at WPC along with information about our faith, governance, and more.

For more information stop by the Side Porch today. If you have any questions please contact Pastor Chris Chakoian at cchakoian@westwoodpres.org or Anne Cioffi, Director of Membership at acioffi@westwoodpres.org.

SUMMER FOOD DRIVE FOR CHILDREN IN NEED



Help feed kids this summer! The Mission & Outreach Committee, Children & Family Ministries, and Student Ministries are partnering with Westside Food Bank's Summer Children's Nutrition Program to provide meals when school is out. **Please bring your donations to the Side Porch**

today, next Sunday, and on June 1. Your generosity makes a difference in a child's summer!

Needed items: *peanut butter, pasta, cereal, canned soup, canned vegetables or fruit, canned meat or fish, and protein bars*

Special thanks and huge shout out to Josephine Gallant, who kicked off our food drive with an amazing donation! For her 7th birthday, Josephine asked friends and family to bring food for the drive instead of gifts. What an incredible success and inspiring example!

PATH GARDEN PROJECT —*VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!*



On **Saturday, May 31, from 10:00am-1:00pm**, join WPC's Earth Care Team as we partner with PATH to help refresh and renew the outdoor space at their Interim Family Housing Facility near Griffith Park. This hands-on project will

include building outdoor furniture, establishing a raised-bed garden, and creating a more beautiful, welcoming space for families and children as they journey from homelessness toward stability and hope.

We need volunteers who are willing to get their hands dirty for a good cause. This is an intergenerational event, so all ages are welcome! Sign up on the Side Porch following worship today or online at westwoodpres.org. For more information, please reach out to Jake Putich at jputich@westwoodpres.org.

Let's plant something beautiful - together!

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY—*JUNE 8*



As part of WPC, we know how special our church is: where everyone matters, where everyone belongs, **where everyone counts.**

There's a place for each of us. Whether we worship in person or online, sing in the choir or serve on committees, volunteer with a mission partner or bringing flowers to someone who's sick – it all matters.

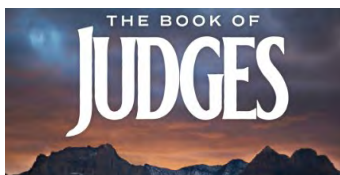
And our financial support matters too. In the next few weeks, we'll hear testimony from some members. On **Sunday, June 8**, we will dedicate our pledges for the fiscal year ahead. Return your pledge card in worship, by mail, or make your pledge online at westwoodpres.org. Every gift counts!

JO-THE LITTLE WOMEN ALBUM RELEASE!



The studio cast album of *Jo - The Little Women* will be released **worldwide on May 23**, from Center Stage Records. WPC's Director of Music Dan Redfeld composed, orchestrated and conducted his score with book & lyrics by Christina Harding and John Koladziej. The album is produced by Dan and legendary producer Nigel Wright. It was recorded this past January and February at Abbey Road Studios in London and features an all-star international cast, 16 voice choir and 29 piece orchestra. And the best part, it's almost the complete musical clocking in at 2 hours and 15 minutes! The album will be available on Apple Music, Spotify, Amazon Music with the CD coming in early June and vinyl later this year.

ADULT BIBLE FORUM (ABF) BEGINS ITS STUDY OF THE BOOK OF JUDGES



Have you heard the names of Gideon, Deborah/Barak, and Samson, but you are not sure exactly why they are in the bible? Did you ever wonder what happened to the Israelites between the time they arrive in the Land of Milk and Honey and the time of David? **ABF begins its study of the Book of Judges today** and will discuss those issues. Bring your Bible (any translation is welcome) and join the fun. **We meet in the Conference Room after Side Porch fellowship at 11:15am.** Everyone is invited and questions are always welcome!



GRADUATION / MOVE-UP SUNDAY —*JUNE 1*



Please join us in worship on **Sunday, June 1**, for our recognition of students transitioning to bigger and better things! We recognize every student moving on, so please let us know if your household is celebrating a student completing elementary school, middle school, high school, college, or graduate school!

Please contact our Interim Student Ministries Director, Michelle Whelan, at mwhelan@westwoodpres.org, our Director of Children & Family Ministries, Marin Miller, at mmiller@westwoodpres.org, or Director of Faith Formation & Creation Care, Jake Putich, at jputich@westwoodpres.org with the name and degree of any student deserving recognition **by Wednesday, May 28**, and we'll be sure to honor them alongside all of our 2025 graduates.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SPRING VARIETY SHOW

Children *and* youth gave amazing performances at their Spring Variety Show last Sunday! What a **MARVEL** the show was!



MANNA BAGS — *NEXT SUNDAY!*



The Children & Family Ministries will be putting together Manna Bags today during Sunday School with the help of our little ones. **For a small donation of \$5 each, you can pick up a few Manna Bags next Sunday on the Side Porch.** Please remember those who are in need among us in Los Angeles. Pick up a few Manna Bags to hand out to those you might come across.