

BIRTHDAYS COMING UP

ADULT BIRTHDAYS

5/6 Gabrielle Price
 5/7 Kevin Cluss-Harmeyer
 M.C. Haslett
 5/8 Ali Maghsoudi
 5/9 Dianne Berman
 Michele Hauser
 John Lewis
 Anna Winkenbach

CHILDREN / YOUTH BIRTHDAYS

5/4 Paloma Kimura (16)
 5/7 Clark Dzuban (8)
 5/9 Elizabeth Reinert (10)



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 Spitzer who is battling shingles.
- † Scott McDowell whose father, Bill McDowell, was hospitalized with health challenges in Chicago.
- † Theresa Stewart, daughter of Alisa & Jonathan Stewart who is combating an illness.
- † David Hartle & Carole Grogan in their joy and their sorrow, and for God's gifts of love in many forms. We celebrate their marriage on April 18 – and we grieve the loss of their beloved dog Napoleon that very morning.
- † Elizabeth Evans who is recovering from recent foot surgery.

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

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



This Sunday, the Flame of Unity will be at **Presbyterian Church of Hawthorne**. 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. 3	WPC Worship Service— New Members Received in Worship Congregational Meeting Westwood Greenway Field Trip	10:00am 11:00am 12:00pm
Mon. May. 4	Monday Nighters—in Hoffman Hall	6:30pm
Sat. May. 9	CFM Movie Night— <i>The Wild Robot</i>	5:00pm
Sun. May. 10	WPC Worship Service— 6th Sunday of Easter Faith Conversation	10:00am 11:20am
Sat. May. 16	Esperanza Spring Playground Morning Ember's Ren Faire Trip	8:30am 9:00am

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.

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
 Brianne Naiman, Preschool Director
 Heidi Rudd, Preschool Office Manager



NEWS & CONCERNS

SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2026

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING — TODAY



Following worship, we will convene a congregational meeting for two purposes. First, we will 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.

Session

Class of 2028-2029: Margaret Inglis, Brooke Larson, Emilie Nordhues, Matheus Oliveira, and Michael Sohigian
Class of 2026-2027: Ellen Caldwell and Heather Leatherwood

Deacons

Class of 2028-2029: Mundi Fomukong, Matheus Oliveira, Robyn Paris, Anne Louise Rice, and Cindy Trangsrud

Nominating Committee

Class of 2028-2029: Breen Frazier, David Hartle, Connie Price, Kitty Sankey, and Michael Sohigian

Second, we will vote to delay Rev. Dr. Christine Chakoian's retirement date to July 31, 2026 at the request of the Pastor Nominating Committee. (The search process is going very well, but it is just taking a bit longer than originally anticipated.)

All members are encouraged to attend the meeting. And though they cannot vote, non-members are very welcome to attend!

WPC MONTHLY HUNGER APPEAL —*TODAY*



Today as we celebrate the Lord's Supper, we will take our Hunger Offering to help those who are food insecure. Two mission partners benefit from your generosity: Westside Food Bank and Wilshire Presbyterian Church Food Pantry. We encourage you to contribute:

- **Donate in person on the Side Porch today after worship.**
- **Donate online** by scanning the QR code below and **select Hunger** (for Westside Food Bank) or **Food Pantry** (for Wilshire PC Food Pantry).
- **Donate by check** to Westwood Presbyterian Church with "Hunger Offering" or "Food Pantry" on the memo line.

Check out the new Mission & Outreach Calendar on the Side Porch today and sign up for volunteer opportunities in the month of May.

MONDAY NIGHTERS —*TOMORROW NIGHT!* *SPRING INTO CHANGE!*



Our Spring Monday Nighters will be in Hoffman Hall tomorrow night at 6:30pm. 6:30pm. Please bring your favorite picnic food to share. For extra fun, dress in your overalls and gingham dresses. Come and celebrate WPC's upcoming changes— and then head to the softball field if you can.

Please sign up on the Side Porch today or online at westwoodpres.org to let us know what food or drink you will be bringing.

WPC SOFTBALL!



After Monday Nighters, help cheer our team on at the LA Interfaith Softball League. Game starts tomorrow at Cheviot Hills Rec Center – at 8:30pm, Diamond #3. If you are interested in joining the team, email us at office@westwoodpres.org.

FAITH CONVERSATION —*ON CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM*



Join us for a Faith Conversation on one of the most pressing challenges facing the church in America today **next Sunday, 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.

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 Sunday, May 17.** 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!

ESPERANZA SPRING PLAYGROUND MORNING —SATURDAY, MAY 16



The Mission & Outreach Committee invites the congregation to join us for our Spring Playground morning at Esperanza Elementary School on Saturday, May 16, 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 —SATURDAY, MAY 16



Hear ye, hear ye! On Saturday, May 16, 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!

If you'd like to join in the medieval festivities, pray send word to Jake Putich at jputich@westwoodpres.org by Saturday, May 9. Carpools will depart from WPC around 9am, and we'll do our best to accommodate all who wish to come, so sign up soon!

Donate to WPC today



CREATION SEASON AT WPC!

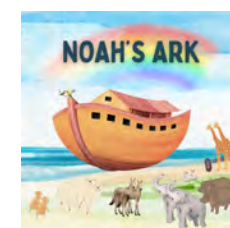


As we explore opportunities this Spring to consider our calling to cultivate new life in this world, we're excited about our field trip today to Westwood Greenway at 12:00pm. This local natural preserve highlights the beauty and life-giving power of native plants.

Our regular worship gatherings will continue focus on our Christian calling to tend and to keep God's world and deepen our understanding of what it means to be caretakers in the garden of creation.

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.



CFM Movie Night this Saturday featuring *The Wild Robot* celebrates mothers, Mother Earth, and its wild ones! We're inviting fellow westside PCUSA K-5ers over for a movie night. (WPC youth are welcome, too!) Marin and her fellow CFM Directors will provide adult supervision. Parents can stay for the show or drop children off and go treat Mom this Mother's Day Eve.



Nature Vacation Bible School will be a Forest School meets Christian Contemplation where we will share a sacred space and time to explore 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.