

BIRTHDAYS COMING UP

- 9/15 Suzann Hall  
Claire Orr
- 9/16 Graham Beattie  
Carole Grogan
- 9/17 Maia Lazor
- 9/18 Grace Smith
- 9/19 Marie Lewis
- 9/20 Eva Hrachovec
- 9/21 Ida King



PRESBYTOPICS

Our love and prayers are with—

- + Roger Brown as he recovers from hip replacement surgery, and his spouse, Heather Leatherwood, as she cares for him.
- + Pastor Mark Jones as he continues to endure excruciating back pain, awaits his surgery, and now, in addition, fights the difficulty of cellulitis. Pastor Mark & Romana remain in good spirits and continue to wait until his surgery can be scheduled.
- + Sara Walsh as she recovers from her much-needed and successful back surgery.

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

- |                   |                      |                  |
|-------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Rubina Andonian   | Eva Hrachovec        | Rita Ries        |
| Polly Berger      | Ian Hrachovec        | Linda S. Spitzer |
| 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       |



This Sunday, the Flame of Unity will be at **Palms Westminster Presbyterian 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.

COMING UP

- |                  |   |         |
|------------------|---|---------|
| Sun. Sept. 14    | WPC Worship Service—<br>14th Sunday after Pentecost | 10:00am |
| Wed. Sept. 17    | Women Reading                                       | 7:30pm  |
| Sat. Sept. 20    | Homeboy 5k Walk/Run                                 | 8:30am  |
| Sun. Sept. 21    | WPC Worship Service—<br>15th Sunday after Pentecost | 10:00am |
| Sun. Sept. 28    | WPC Worship Service—<br>16th Sunday after Pentecost | 10:00am |
| Thurs. Oct. 2    | Ember Contemplative Service                         | 7:00pm  |
| Fri-Sun Oct. 3-5 | Women’s Retreat                                     |         |
| Sun. Oct. 5      | WPC Worship Service—<br>World Communion Sunday      | 10:00am |

WESTWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

MINISTERS

All the People

PASTORAL

- Rev. Dr. Christine Chakoian, Pastor  
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Rev. Mark S. Jones Sr., Pastor of Mission, Outreach, and Pastoral Care  
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Rev. Paula Mann, Executive Associate Pastor  
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LEADERSHIP

- Tajmaya “Taj” Anders, Preschool Curriculum Specialist  
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Javier Torres, Maintenance  
Joshua Torres, Custodial  
Lourdes Torres, Custodial

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](mailto:lsanders@westwoodpres.org)  
Paul Workman, Sound & Lighting Engineer

SECTION LEADERS

- Elias Berezin, tenor  
Emerson Boatwright, tenor  
Christina Borgioli, soprano  
Devon Davidson, soprano  
Emily Kerrigan, alto  
Matthew Lewis, bass



NEWS & CONCERNS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

BUILDING HOPE TOGETHER AT WPC

FALL SMALL GROUPS BEGIN IN OCTOBER



Hope is not simply a feeling we wait for—it is something we practice, day by day, as we live with faith, care for our neighbors, and labor for the healing of the world God so loves. It is something we build together.

This fall at WPC, we'll center our worship and programs on the theme **Building Hope**, including a small group study of Luther E. Smith, Jr.’s *Hope Is Here!* Smith reminds us that hope is not abstract or

distant, but rooted in God’s presence among us, taking shape in our choices and the communities we build. Groups will meet for four weeks in October, offering conversation, prayer, and encouragement as we learn to embody hope. **Books are available on the Side Porch for \$15. Sign up for a group on the Side Porch and online at [westwoodpres.org/updates](https://westwoodpres.org/updates).**

We invite you to join in—pick up a book, sign up for a group, and step into this season of Building Hope with open hearts and willing hands!



## HOMEBOY 5K —*THIS SATURDAY!*



Join us this Saturday, September 20, along with 5,000+ runners, walkers, volunteers, and families for our 16th Annual Homeboy 5K Run/Walk through historic Downtown Los Angeles! We'll begin the morning filled with energetic vibes, joy, and laughter outside our Chinatown headquarters at 130 W. Bruno Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012. We will end with a street celebration featuring artists, partners, and vendors from across the city.

Your partnership with the Homeboy 5K Run/Walk supports the work of Homeboy to continue their mission to provide training and support to formerly gang-involved and previously incarcerated people, allowing them to redirect their lives and become contributing members of our community. You can register online at [westwoodpres.org](http://westwoodpres.org).

## FAITH, SEARCH, & SUPPORT NEW STUDY —*BEGINS NEXT SUNDAY!*



Starting next Sunday, September 21, our Faith, Search & Support class will dive into *Blessed One: Protestant Perspectives on Mary*, an engaging collection of essays edited by Beverly Roberts Gaventa and Cynthia L. Rigby. This study invites us to revisit the figure of Mary not as a distant icon, but as a vibrant theological presence whose witness speaks powerfully into questions of faith, discipleship, and embodiment.

Books are available for purchase on the Side Porch for \$20. All are warmly welcome to join the conversation. Join us weekly in the Brides' Room (located in the narthex) with curiosity and an open heart!

## A FALL INTERNSHIP AT WPC!



Our Director of Children & Family Ministries, Marin Miller, will be taking on some added responsibilities as she begins an internship with Westwood Presbyterian Church, fulfilling Field Education requirements for seminary. Women's Retreat facilitation, prayer writing, and a potential collaboration with Spiritual Formation Committee on an Advent devotional will round out this semester's efforts as an intern. Marin says, "I'm so excited to grow and expand in this vibrant and beloved faith community, to connect with more

of our members, forge deeper relationships and stretch into new areas of ministry."

## Donate to WPC today



offering baskets  
in the narthex



10822 Wilshire Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90024



online at  
[westwoodpres.org](http://westwoodpres.org)



Scan our  
QR code

## WOMEN'S RETREAT—*REGISTRATION DEADLINE TODAY!*



All women are invited to our annual Women's Retreat at Serra Retreat Center in Malibu October 3-5. Join us for a weekend of friendship and centering in Spirit as we explore deeper connection through both community and solitude.

This year's retreat theme is **Breathe. Belong. Build hope.** Our featured speaker- the Rev. Heidi Worthen Gamble, Mission Catalyst for the Pacific Presbytery- will draw from her experience leading justice and relief efforts as well as retreats, guiding us in the ways of creating and sustaining hope and giving us tools for tending our own flames as women called to a life of compassionate service. We hope to share this wonderful weekend of renewal with you.

Today is the deadline to register online at [westwoodpres.org](http://westwoodpres.org) or sign up on the Side Porch after worship. Scholarships are available to ensure that no one is left out.

If you'd like to volunteer to help with the retreat, contact Marin Miller at [mmiller@westwoodpres.org](mailto:mmiller@westwoodpres.org).



## HOMECOMING!

Our theme: **Building Hope** is a chance to think about the congregation during a busy time. The word Hope was prominent this past Sunday as a reminder for our daily lives and church involvement. The Membership & Fellowship Committee thanks everyone who attended Homecoming.



## FREE PARKING AVAILABLE NEXT DOOR



Each Sunday morning we encourage all who are able to park next door at the AVCO / iPic to ensure that those who need to use a closer spot are able to park here at WPC. Feel free to use the top lot. If you arrive after 9:30am, the lower levels are available. If you parked next door this morning, be sure to pick up a **FREE** validation ticket (valid until 5pm) from an usher before leaving worship. Upon leaving the lot, insert original ticket in the machine, followed by the validation.

## PRESCHOOL FALL FESTIVAL—*SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11*



Why are we so excited for the Fall Festival here at WPC on Saturday, October 11, 1:00-4:00pm? This event brings our whole young community together for a day of food, drink, games and fun! The Ashton Lot is completely transformed into a family-focused carnival, where you and your children and grandchildren can play and mingle.

Feel free to invite friends and neighbors with children for this not-to-be-missed event. In addition to creative game booths and activities, there will be a number of interactive, scheduled classes led by our beloved enrichment teachers.

**Entry Fee:** \$10/child entry (adults and children over 12 & under 2 are free)  
**Presale tickets for activities:** 30 for \$25  
**Day-of tickets for activities:** \$1 per ticket  
**"Unlimited" Wristband** (All Day Train, Zoo & Bounce House plus entry): \$45

All proceeds will go directly to fund school initiatives that benefit the Westwood Presbyterian Church Preschool's children. To learn more, visit [wpcpreschool@westwoodpres.org](mailto:wpcpreschool@westwoodpres.org).

## FAITH CONVERSATION WITH CORI CLOSE —*SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12*



WPC is thrilled to welcome Cori Close, head coach of UCLA Women's Basketball, for a special Faith Conversation on Sunday, October 12, following worship.

Coach Close is the winningest coach in UCLA Women's Basketball history and was recently named the 2025 Naismith Coach of the Year after leading the Bruins to their first-ever Final Four appearance and Big 10 championship. Beyond the accolades, her deepest passion is mentoring young women—helping them grow not only as athletes, but as leaders who embrace challenges with courage and resilience.

As part of our fall theme of **Building Hope**, Coach Close will share from her journey in basketball and life, offering insights on perseverance, teamwork, and faith that inspire hope both on and off the court. This promises to be a remarkable event—join us!

## TRUNK OR TREAT 2025—*SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18*



Families of all ages are invited to WPC's annual Trunk or Treat on Saturday, October 18, from 4:00-7:30pm! Dress up in your favorite costume and join us for a fun time of games, crafts, sweet treats, then pizza and a screening of *K Pop*

*Demon Hunters* in Hoffman Hall!

Go to [westwoodpres.org](http://westwoodpres.org) to RSVP or volunteer to pass out candy from your trunk, donate candy, or volunteer to help. If you have any questions, please contact Marin Miller at [mmiller@westwoodpres.org](mailto:mmiller@westwoodpres.org).