

BIRTHDAYS COMING UP

ADULT BIRTHDAYS		CHILDREN / YOUTH BIRTHDAYS	
9/22	Anna McDowell	9/23	Parker Dixon (10)
9/23	Wenona Davis-Hoag		
	Alexander Loos		
9/24	Carlton Bailey		
	Rev. Paula Mann		
9/25	Elizabeth Nordquist		
9/26	Rachel Brown		
	Lise Deary		

PRESBYTOPICS

Our love and prayers are with—

- + Pastor Mark Jones who is moving forward with plans for his much anticipated surgery. His surgical consult is on September 30, 2025, after which an update will be forthcoming.
- + Jim Spitsner following a two week hospitalization. Jim is now in rehab at Berkeley West Rehabilitation Center.
- + Roger Brown as he recovers from hip replacement surgery, and his spouse, Heather Leatherwood, as she cares for him.

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. Spitsner
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 **St. Paul’s 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. 21	WPC Worship Service— 15th Sunday after Pentecost	10:00am
Sun. Sept. 28	WPC Worship Service— 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— World Communion Sunday	10:00am
	Teen Beach Hangout	3:30pm
Sat. Oct. 11	Preschool Fall Festival	1:00pm
Sun. Oct. 12	WPC Worship Service— 18th Sunday after Pentecost	10:00am
	Faith Conversation with Cori Close	11:20am

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, SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

A MESSAGE FROM THE WESTWOOD
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION

Dear Westwood Presbyterian Church Community,

Since the summer of 2019, we have been exceptionally fortunate to have Pastor Christine Chakoian lead our community. She joined us ready to guide us through our ambitious construction project. None of us knew what awaited the world just months later, and it is a credit to her ability as a leader how quickly she helped us pivot to keep our community together during those difficult times. Leading the congregation through the pandemic was a far more difficult and ultimately more important calling than overseeing the anticipated challenges of construction in our backyard. While her retirement is bittersweet, we now have the opportunity to build on all of her hard work as we call a new Pastor.

Session has asked for permission from the Presbytery’s Commission on Ministry for the congregation to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) to conduct the search for a called Pastor/Head of Staff. The WPC Nominating Committee will prepare a PNC slate of nominees for the congregation to elect. (See inside for more information) Once approved, the PNC will begin the process of developing a Ministry Discernment Profile, reviewing candidates, and extending a call to a new pastor.

Thankfully, Pastor Chris will remain through June 30, 2026, as committed to shepherding WPC as she has over the last 6 years. During this time, we will also have ample opportunities to celebrate her incredible leadership of our community. For the moment, please join us in thanking Chris for all she has done to guide the Westwood Presbyterian Church family into the future, and to offer your prayers and congratulations as she embraces her new calling.



ADULT BIBLE FORUM

Adult Bible Forum will not meet today or Sunday, September 28 while Elizabeth Evans is away. They will resume on October 5.

PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE (PNC)

With Pastor Chris's retirement planned for the summer of 2026, the Session has asked the Presbytery's Commission on Ministry to grant permission to form a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC).

In anticipation of this approval, the Session has directed the Nominating Committee to prepare a slate of seven (7) WPC members who reflect the diversity of our congregation. The work of the PNC is to prayerfully and carefully discern whom God is calling to serve as our next Pastor. This process includes preparing a description of our church, creating a written job description for the Pastor / Head of Staff role, advertising the position, reviewing applications, and interviewing candidates.

When considering nominees for the PNC, the congregation is encouraged to recommend members who are:

- able to make a significant commitment of their time, energy, and wisdom;
- willing to treat this work as spiritual discernment, listening for the voice of God rather than persona agendas or congregational politics;
- committed to honoring confidentiality;
- knowledgeable about the church and community, Presbyterian theology, and government.

If you would like to recommend someone for consideration, **please submit your nominations by Sunday, September 28, 11:30am**. You can submit by sending an email to PNC@westwoodpresbyterian.org. A congregational meeting will be called when the slate of nominees is finalized.

Please keep our Nominating Committee in your prayers as they seek the right "mix" of members to carry out this important responsibility on behalf of the congregation.

FAITH, SEARCH, & SUPPORT NEW STUDY —BEGINS TODAY!



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

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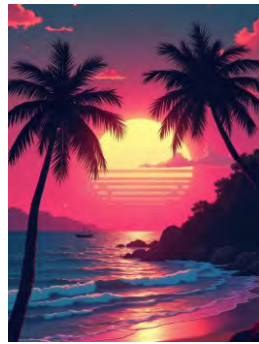


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TEEN BEACH HANGOUT —SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5



Get ready for an epic Beach Hangout on Sunday, October 5 from 3:30–6:30pm at Will Rogers State Beach (Lifeguard Station 15)! Hosted by seven Westside churches, this afternoon is all about fun, friends, and the ultimate beach vibes. We'll have games, prizes, pizza, snacks, and music—plus plenty of time to chill in the sand and socialize with your peers. Bring your squad, meet new people, and get ready to laugh, compete, and make memories. And don't leave early—the night wraps up with a killer sunset over the Pacific that you'll want in your camera roll.

This event is free and open to all youth ministry, middle, and high school students. For more information, contact Michelle Whelan at mwhelan@westwoodpres.org.

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 wpcpreschoo.com.

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 and this year *drumroll please* a super special screening of *K Pop Demon Hunters* in

Hoffman Hall! Treats will be handed out from trunks starting at 5:00pm. Then it's pizza, popcorn and the movie everyone's talking about at 5:45pm.

Go to 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.

BUILDING HOPE TOGETHER AT WPC FALL SMALL GROUPS BEGIN IN OCTOBER



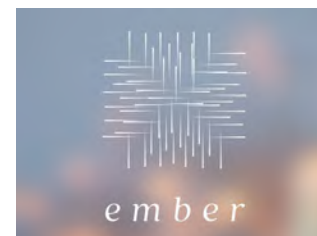
Hope is not simply a feeling we wait for—it is something we practice, day by day, as we live with faith, care for our neighbors, and labor for the healing of the world God so loves. It is something we build together.

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.**

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!

EMBER RETURNS —THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2



Ember returns on Thursday, October 2 at 7:00pm for our first compline service of the program year! The service will be a beautiful, contemplative gathering in the WPC sanctuary—a half hour of quiet music, prayer, and rest for the soul, followed by food and fellowship. It's one of our most beloved

rhythms, and all are welcome! Our College & Young Adult ministry exists to create spaces for curiosity and connection, where faith can bloom into acts of justice, love, humility, and peace for the sake of our neighbors and our world. If you'd like to connect with this affirming, vibrant community—at our monthly candlelit contemplative service or other social gatherings—please reach out to Jake Putich at jputich@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 in the Sanctuary.

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!