


BIRTHDAYS COMING UP

| ADULT BIRTHDAYS | | CHILDREN / YOUTH BIRTHDAYS | |
|-----------------|---------------------|---|--------------------------|
| 9/29 | Stephen Dawson | 10/2 | Behleu Fomukong (15) |
| | Gabby Esunge | | TifuhAngob Fomukong (15) |
| | Michael Kim | 10/3 | Henry Larson (14) |
| 9/30 | Al Smith |  | |
| 10/1 | Kerry Jensen Neelin | | |
| 10/3 | Kim Labinger | | |
| 10/4 | Linda Spitsner | | |
| 10/5 | Caroline Pierrepont | | |

PRESBYTOPICS

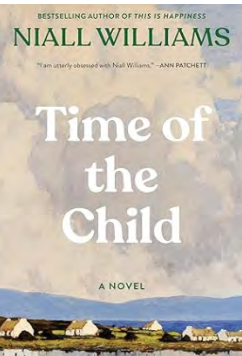
Our love and prayers are with—

- + Caryl Carothers who is recovering from hip surgery.
- + Rita Ries, who has been hospitalized this last week for breathing problems. Prayers for her treatment and recovery.
- + 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.

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 |

WOMEN READING — WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15



Women Reading invites you to join us on Zoom on **Wednesday, October 15 at 7:30pm** to discuss the book *Time of the Child* by Niall Williams. Set over the course of one December in a small Irish village, *Time of the Child* is a tender return to Faha for readers who know its charms from Williams’ beloved *This is Happiness*, and a heartwarming welcome to new readers entering for the very first time.

Newcomers are always welcome—contact the church at office@westwoodpres.org if you would like to receive the Zoom link to join our thoughtful community of women readers!

COMING UP

| | | |
|------------------|---|---------|
| 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 |



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

WESTWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

MINISTERS
All the People

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

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
Brienne Naiman, Preschool Director
bnaiman@westwoodpres.org
Jake Putich, Director of Faith Formation & Creation Care
jputich@westwoodpres.org
Dan Redfield, Director of Music
dredfeld@westwoodpres.org
Michelle Whelan, Interim Student Ministries Director
mwhelan@westwoodpres.org

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

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

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



NEWS & CONCERNS
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2025

HOMEBOY 5K 2025



We appreciate everyone who participated in the 16th Annual Homeboy 5K Run/Walk last Saturday! Your involvement, whether through donations or by running/walking, aids the mission of Homeboy Industries. Homeboy is dedicated to educating and supporting those previously involved in gangs or incarcerated, empowering them to transform their lives and positively impact our community. Many thanks to WPC for your support!



ADULT BIBLE FORUM

Adult Bible Forum **will not meet today** while Elizabeth Evans is away. This group will resume next Sunday, October 5.

BUILDING HOPE TOGETHER AT WPC FALL SMALL GROUPS BEGIN IN OCTOBER



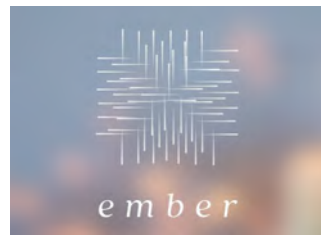
This fall at WPC, we'll center our worship and programs on the theme **Building Hope**, including a small group study of Luther E. Smith, Jr.'s *Hope Is Here!* Smith reminds us that hope is not abstract or distant, but rooted in God's presence among us, taking shape in our choices and the communities 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!

NO CHOIR REHEARSAL—THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2

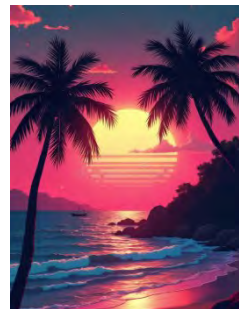
The WPC Chancel Choir will **not** have rehearsal on Thursday, October 2. Rehearsals will resume on Thursday, October 9.

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.

TEEN BEACH HANGOUT —NEXT SUNDAY!



Get ready for an epic Beach Hangout **next Sunday, October 5, 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.

A MESSAGE FROM THE WESTWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION



Since the summer of 2019, we have been fortunate to have Rev. Dr. Christine Chakoian lead our community. She joined us ready to guide WPC through an ambitious construction project. Instead, not even one year into her call, Pastor Chris was instrumental in leading the staff and congregation through the pandemic and the challenges it presented to run and operate our church. It is a credit to her ability as a leader how quickly WPC pivoted during those difficult times.

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 our WPC family into the future, and to offer your prayers and congratulations as she embraces her new calling.

With the blessing of the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry, the Session has directed the Nominating Committee to prepare a slate of seven (7) WPC members to serve on the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). The PNC is called to prayerfully discern whom God is calling to serve as our next Pastor; their recommendation will be voted on by the congregation. This process includes preparing a narrative for our church, a job description for the Pastor/Head of Staff, advertising the position, reviewing applicants, 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 personal 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—including yourself—please submit your nominations by today at 11:30am on the Side Porch or by sending an email to PNC@westwoodpres.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 represent the diversity of our church, and carry out this important responsibility.

PRESCHOOL FALL FESTIVAL—SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11



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.

In addition to creative game booths and activities, there will be a number of interactive, scheduled classes led by our beloved enrichment teachers. All proceeds will go directly to fund school initiatives that benefit the Westwood Presbyterian Church Preschool's children. **For pricing or to learn more,** visit wpcpreschool.com.

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!

TRUNK OR TREAT 2025—SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18



Families of all ages are invited to WPC's annual Trunk or Treat **on Saturday, October 18, 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 or stop by the table on the Side Porch 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.

Donate to WPC today

