

BIRTHDAYS COMING UP

| ADULT BIRTHDAYS |                                            | CHILDREN / YOUTH BIRTHDAYS |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 9/8             | Griffin Deary<br>William Bryant Pierrepont | 9/10 Micah Farrell (9)     |
| 9/10            | Katherine Sohigian                         |                            |
| 9/12            | Farrah Mikail                              |                            |



PRESBYTOPICS

Our love and prayers are with—

- + 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 with 16 days to go until his surgery can be scheduled.
- + Sara Walsh as she recovers from her much-needed and successful back surgery.
- + Jim Spitsner who is in the hospital for an infection.

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 **Beverly Hills 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. 7  | WPC Worship Service—<br>Congregational Meeting<br>Homecoming<br>Last Day for Church Directory Photos and Updates | 10:00am<br>11:00am<br>11:20am |
| 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                                                                                                            | 7:00pm                        |

WESTWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

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



NEWS & CONCERNS  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AND HOMECOMING  
—*TODAY!*



Join our brief congregational meeting **today following worship**. We will receive the 2025-2026 budget, an update on the building project, and approve terms of call for Revs. Paula Mann and Christine Chakoian. Our annual meeting is open to all (though only members may vote).



**Then stay for Homecoming fun and fellowship!** Join us for lunch, games, and conversation as we kick off the new program year. There will be lots of fun for children, too - including a water slide!

FAITH, SEARCH, & SUPPORT/ADULT BIBLE FORUM

These groups **will not meet today and will resume next Sunday**. We encourage everyone to join us today for Homecoming in Hoffman Hall.

BUILDING HOPE TOGETHER AT WPC



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 beginning today on the Side Porch for \$15.**

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!

WPC MONTHLY HUNGER APPEAL —*TODAY*



Our support for those in need continues! **Every first Sunday of the month**, when we celebrate the Lord's Supper, our Hunger Offering helps 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 online or on the Side Porch following worship today.**

**Donate online** by scanning the QR code below and **select Hunger** (for Westside Food Bank) **or Food Pantry** (for Wilshire PC Food Pantry). You can also write a check to Westwood Presbyterian Church (by mail or in the offering plate) with Hunger Offering or Food Pantry on the memo line.

WPC CHURCH DIRECTORY PHOTO AND UPDATE —*TODAY!*



**Today is the last day to update our church directory** with the help of WPC staff and volunteers, including photos and contact information! Volunteers and staff will be **in Hoffman Hall today after worship** to assist you with providing updated contact information (including emergency contacts).

You will also have the opportunity to have a new photo taken for the online church directory! You may also update your Church Directory profile, contact information, and even your picture online! Go to [westwoodpres.org](http://westwoodpres.org) and click "Members" to log into Church Community Builder today and get started!

WOMEN'S RETREAT —*OCTOBER 3-5*



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.

To register online go to [westwoodpres.org](http://westwoodpres.org) or sign up on the Side Porch after worship. Please note next week is the deadline to sign up. 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).



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."

FREE PARKING AVAILABLE NEXT DOOR



Each Sunday morning we encourage all who are able to park next door at the AVCO / iPic upstairs lot to ensure that those who need to use a closer spot are able to park here at WPC. 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.

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 READING —*WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17*



Women Reading invites you to join us on Zoom on **Wednesday, September 17 at 7:30pm** to discuss the book *Raising Hare* by Chloe Dalton. This book was on the New York Times Bestseller List for a number of weeks and was a finalist for the 2025 Women's Prize. *Raising Hare* tells the author's story of saving a wild baby hare in the English countryside and then raising it, while allowing it to run free.

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

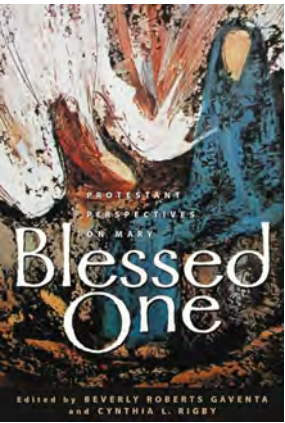
HOMEBOY 5K —*SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20*



Join us on **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 our 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 SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21*



Starting **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!