

## BIRTHDAYS COMING UP

5/18	Steve Hauser	5/18	Fiona Grace Wood (10)
5/19	Matthew Gallant	5/22	Ronin Moriarty (13)
	Jake Putich		
	John Shustitzky		
5/20	Jan Brzeski		
	Becky Crane-Okada		
	Natalie Reinert		
5/23	Ann May Schloss		
	Shaun Singleton		
5/24	Sarah Peter		



## PRESBYTOPICS

### Our love and prayers are with—

† The family of Charles West, long time member of WPC, who died on Tuesday, May 5, in Houston. Memorial Service arrangements will be shared when they become available.

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

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



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

## BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE



We are grateful to share a positive update on our building project. Construction drawings for Phase 1 have been completed and detailed costs are being finalized. Groundbreaking for Phase 1 is anticipated near the

end of this calendar year. More detailed design work on Phase 2 is also nearing completion, based on the City approved plans, and there will be opportunities for the congregation to review those plans. A video presentation that explains the overall project and the facilities that are contained in each phase is available on our church's website by visiting [westwoodpres.org/updates](http://westwoodpres.org/updates).

This project is designed to be self-funded, through our long-term ground lease with Belmont Village Assisted Living. Their ground lease payments will cover the cost of the church's portion of the project over approximately 30 years. During that time, the church will continue to receive a portion of the lease income. Once that obligation is met, full lease payments will come directly to the church for the remainder of the 99-year lease, providing a long-term source of financial support for ministry. A YouTube video of the Faith Conversation from October 16, 2022 where our architect spoke about the sustainability of the project is also available on our church website at [westwoodpres.org/updates](http://westwoodpres.org/updates).

## 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, Vincent Purcell, and Levi Yin, AV Techs  
Laurel Sanders, Organist  
Dakota Hodge and Cole Hershon, Sound & Lighting Engineers

#### 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  
Brianna Naiman, Preschool Director  
Heidi Rudd, Preschool Office Manager



## NEWS & CONCERNS

SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2026

### STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY—*TODAY!* *DEDICATION OF OUR GIFTS*

Today, on Stewardship Sunday, we are called to respond to God's call to dedicate our gifts to the Lord. However you are called – to pledge financially, to share your skills, to serve with compassion – your call matters.

**Your financial commitment makes a difference, and it is not too late to pledge for this 2026-2027 pledge season.** Pledge cards are available in the pew racks. You can also pledge online with the QR code on your pledge card. Your contributions can be paid through whatever installments work best for you.

During worship we will all be asked to come forward to commit ourselves to God's calling to us. Because all of us are called to help fulfill Christ's care for our world!



### PENTECOST —*NEXT SUNDAY!*

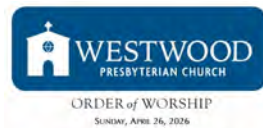
As we honor the gift of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, **everyone is encouraged to wear red** to celebrate the Spirit's presence, energy, and the burning love of God.

## SUMMER MUSICAL REHEARSALS CONTINUE



This year we're telling a big story on a big boat and there is absolutely room for everyone aboard NOAH'S ARK! *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. (So save those empty paper towel rolls—we need them!) 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. Please see or email Marin at [mmiller@westwoodpres.org](mailto:mmiller@westwoodpres.org) for any questions.

## BULLETIN AVAILABLE ONLINE—JUNE 1



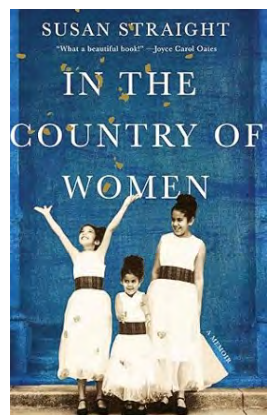
We like to say that all are welcome here at WPC—and that means in our online ministry too! Our services have been livestreamed since COVID hit, providing access to worship for people who could not otherwise join. We have heard from many of you how much it matters, especially for those who are homebound, caregiving, traveling, or living far away.



We are glad to announce that as of June 1, we will be updating our livestream worship. Each Saturday we will be emailing the worship bulletin so

everyone has the same service details. We will also be offering a free hymnal to anyone who regularly worships online. This hands-on, familiar way of worship will replace the words to prayers and hymns printed in "lower thirds" on your screen. In addition to a more "real" sense of worship, this change will also provide better stewardship of our staff and financial resources!

## WOMEN READING —THIS WEDNESDAY!



Women Reading invites you to join us on Zoom **this Wednesday, 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](mailto:office@westwoodpres.org).

## FOSTERALL GALA



A big shoutout to Devon Davidson and Dan Redfeld for their show-stopping performances, with youth singers, to benefit FosterAll (which WPC has long supported) in their immensely successful Gala Fundraiser this past Saturday in downtown LA! And kudos to Lou Moore Singleton for leading FosterAll so faithfully. Bravo!



## CHILDREN & FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT FUN

On Saturday, May 9, our *Wild Robot* Movie Night for kids and youth was so much fun! There was popcorn, pizza, and new friends. Some Westside PCUSA K-5ers joined WPC and gave our moms a much-deserved break on Mother's Day Eve.

## WPC SOFTBALL!



Join us to cheer WPC's Hatch Batch team on Monday evenings at the L.A. Interfaith Softball League. Next game is **tomorrow at Cheviot Hills Rec Center – at 8:30pm, Diamond #2.** The season lasts until late July, if you are interested in joining the team, email us at [office@westwoodpres.org](mailto:office@westwoodpres.org).

## WESTSIDE FOOD BANK SORTING DAY —SATURDAY, MAY 30



We need you!

Please join our volunteer team at Westside Food Bank on **Saturday, May 30, 9am-12pm**, at their warehouse located at 1710 22nd St., Santa Monica. We will sort and pack nutritious food for distribution to individuals and families in need. Sign up online at [westwoodpres.org](http://westwoodpres.org) or at the Mission & Outreach volunteer signup sheet

## Donate to WPC today



## GRADUATION / MOVE-UP SUNDAY —JUNE 7



Please join us in worship on **Sunday, June 7**, for our recognition of students transitioning to bigger and better things! We recognize every student moving on, so please let us know if your household is celebrating a student completing pre-k, elementary school, middle school, high school, college, or graduate school!

Please contact our the church office at [office@westwoodpres.org](mailto:office@westwoodpres.org) with the name and degree of any student deserving recognition by **Wednesday, June 3**, and we'll be sure to honor them alongside all of our 2026 graduates. You can also see our Director of Children & Family Ministries, Marin Miller (grades pre-k - 5), our Interim Student Ministries Director, Michelle Whelan (grades 6 - 12), or Director of Faith Formation & Creation Care, Jake Putich (college and beyond) for any questions.

## NATURE VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL —JUNE 17-19



It's Forest School meets Christian Contemplation! We'll share sacred space and time, exploring 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](http://westwoodpres.org/updates) online or by reaching out to Director of CFM, Marin Miller at [mmiller@westwoodpres.org](mailto:mmiller@westwoodpres.org) to reserve your child's spot today.

## PRIDE SUNDAY —JUNE 14



Join us in worship on **Sunday, June 14**, for a service celebrating **LGBTQ Pride!** We will remember those saints, past and present, who have dedicated their lives to liberation for all of God's children, including our lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer

siblings, express our thankfulness to God for the diversity of human expression, and explore how we can better follow Jesus's path of radical love and inclusion.