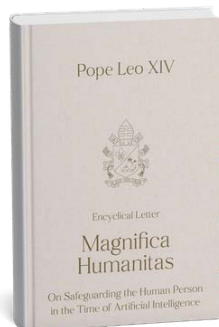


Adult Education

Faith, Search, & Support (FSS)

New Study on Artificial Intelligence



How should people of faith respond to the rise of artificial intelligence? **Beginning Sunday, October 18**, Faith, Search, & Support turns to Pope Leo XIV's *Magnifica Humanitas*. In this sweeping encyclical, Leo considers the promise and peril of AI, asking how emerging technologies might serve rather than diminish human dignity, work, freedom, truth, and the common good. FSS meets Sundays after worship, both in person and online.

Whether you are a longtime participant or simply curious, you are invited! Books are available on the Side Porch for \$15. Join us for a conversation about one of the defining questions of our time.

Check Out Faith Conversation Videos Online!

Whether you missed a conversation or would like to revisit one that stayed with you, we invite you to watch them in our Faith Conversations playlist on our YouTube channel! **Scan the QR Code** for more information!



College & Young Adults

Thursday, October 1 at 7:00pm

Join us for our monthly Ember Contemplative Service in the style of Compline, an ancient monastic prayer service that has marked the end of the day for Christian monks since the fourth century CE. The service will be a beautiful, 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.

SAVE THE DATES

Scan the QR Code for more info in the coming weeks or to RSVP!

Faith Conversation	Sun. October 11	
Choir Retreat	Sun. October 11	
Preschool Fall Festival	Sat. October 17	
Fall Vespers Service	Sun. October 18	
Trunk or Treat	Sat. October 24	

Westwood Presbyterian Church Staff

Ministers: All the People

Pastoral

Rev. Dr. Mike Morgan,
Pastor/Head of Staff
Rev. Mark S. Jones Sr., *Pastor of*
Mission, Outreach, & Pastoral Care
Rev. Paula Mann,
Executive Associate Pastor

Management and Support

Sarah Davis, *Director of Operations*
Farrah Mikail, *Financial Manager*
Linda Martinez, *Administrative Assistant*
& *Contributions Coordinator*
Javier, Lourdes, and Joshua Torres,
Maintenance and Custodial

Program Leadership and Management

Anne Cioffi, *Director of Membership*
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

Preschool

Bri Naimain, *Preschool Director*
Taj Anders, *Curriculum Specialist*

Worship Leadership

Abi Abanto, JJ Hickey, Nick Pelayo,
Vincent Purcell, and Levi Yin, *AV Techs*
Laurel Sanders, *Organist*
Dakota Hodge and Logan Eiselt,
Sound Engineers

Section Leaders:

Elias Berezin and Emerson Boatwright,
tenors
Christina Borgioli and Devon Davidson,
sopranos
Emily Kerrigan, *alto*
Matthew Lewis, *bass*

September

2026

September Newsletter



On Sunday, July 19 Westwood Presbyterian Church members voted in an overwhelming majority to call WPC's next pastor! We are pleased to welcome the Rev. Dr. Mike Morgan to serve as WPC's new Pastor/Head of Staff starting September 28. **His first Sunday will be October 4.**

After worship join us for our annual Homecoming Celebration in Hoffman Hall to celebrate! Check out the next page for more information and go to westwoodpres.org/updates to access the brochure to learn more about Pastor Mike.

Sunday, September 13



Join us for our brief annual meeting of the congregation **Sunday, September 13** following the 10:00am worship service. All WPC members are asked to be present – and if you can only attend online, you can participate through live chat on our YouTube page.

And even though non-members cannot vote, they are encouraged to attend! The meeting will focus on:

- the 2025-2026 Annual Report
- update on the building project
- reception of the 2026-2027 budget adopted by the Session
- approval of terms of call for the pastors
- elect Kelly Sheridan to the Board of Deacons

Westwood Presbyterian Church

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PresbyterianChurch
YouTube

Fellowship



Homecoming Sunday, October 4

Celebrate Homecoming on **Sunday, October 4!** Our gathering begins with worship at 10:00am as we welcome our new Pastor, Rev. Dr. Mike Morgan. Then stay for lunch, games, and fellowship as we kick off the new program year and

celebrate our new start. There will be lots of fun for children, too, including a water slide and bouncy house! Welcome home WPC!

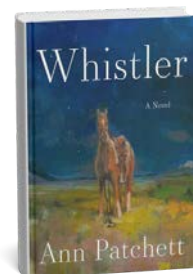
Women's Ministries

All women are invited to our annual women's retreat, *Women at the River* – **Fri., Sept. 25- Sun., Sept. 27.** This year's theme will explore the female archetypes and sacred callings found in Exodus 2. Our guest speaker is Marin Miller, The Director of Children & Family Ministries at WPC. **RSVPs close on September 13.**



Women Reading

Join us on **Wednesday, September 16 at 7:30pm** on Zoom as we discuss *Whistler* by Ann Patchett. Email the church office at office@westwoodpres.org to be added to the guest list and receive the Zoom link and book selection every month. Happy reading!



Student Ministries



Join Westside youth groups for a big beach party on **Sun., Sept. 20 from 5:00-7:00 p.m.** Join First Pres Santa Monica, Culver City Pres, Brentwood Pres, Pali Pres, Westwood Pres, and more!

Expect big youth group games, swimming, prizes, pizza, snacks and an incredible sunset. Bring a baked good or your favorite store-bought baked treat to share for a chance to win a prize! See you there!

Mission & Outreach

Saturday, September 19 8:00am-11:00am

Please join us **Saturday, September 19** in downtown Los Angeles at the front of Homeboy Industries' Chinatown headquarters. To sign up, check out the table on the Side Porch, or go to westwoodpres.org/updates and be sure to join the Westwood Presbyterian Church team. We meet at 8:00am in front of Homeboy Café before the race and then get together afterwards at a local lunch spot. Every dollar from your registration goes straight to Homeboy to support their global mission.



Help for Nepal



Since the 2015 Nepal earthquake, the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) has worked with Nepali partners in support of long-term recovery and livelihood projects. With the recent catastrophic glacier collapse that triggered severe flash floods and killed thousands, PDA is still there on the ground providing medical kits, food supplies, and shelter. Nepal and the PDA need our help. Please **contribute on the Side Porch** or online at westwoodpres.org/updates.



Thursday, September 24

Join us on **Thursday, September 24** from 5:00-8:00 p.m. as the Little Tokyo Business Association and the Little Tokyo Legacy Foundation host a downtown party for unhoused children and their parents. In conjunction with *Worthy of Love-LA* children

from two Union Rescue Mission facilities, Salvation Army's Westwood Transitional Village, Hope Gardens in Sun Valley and Inglewood are invited to enjoy an evening of music and fun. If you're interested in attending and helping contact office@westwoodpres.org.

Esperanza Playground Morning Saturday, October 3 | 8:30-11:30am

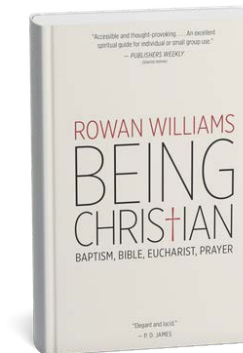
Come join the fun from 8:30-11:30am at Esperanza Elementary School on **Sat., October 3** at 680 Little St., Los Angeles, CA. 90017. There will be games, crafts, and a kickball challenge with Esperanza 4th and 5th graders and their parents- all on their newly greened playground. Sign up on the Side Porch on Sundays or online at westwoodpres.org/updates! Please RSVP!



We need all participants names **by Wednesday, September 30.**

Spiritual Formation

Fall Small Groups - *Renewing Our Vision*



Our fall theme, *Renewing Our Vision*, invites us to look again at the practices that shape our faith and our life together. Familiar practices can sometimes fade into the background, but when we give them renewed attention, we may be surprised to discover new depth and meaning within them.

This fall, our small groups will read Rowan Williams's *Being Christian*, a brief and thoughtful exploration of the foundational practices of Christian life: baptism, scripture, eucharist, and prayer. Williams helps us consider how these practices continue to shape the way we understand God, ourselves, and one another.

Books (\$10 each) and sign-ups will be available in September both on the Side Porch and online at westwoodpres.org/updates. Groups will meet throughout October - for more details see the table on the Side Porch.

WPC Community Fun and Outreach from August



Esperanza Elementary
Back-to-School Drive



Esperanza Elementary
Ribbon Cutting



Ice Cream Social

