

MEET MIKE MORGAN CONTINUED...

Mike believes Christian life begins not with what we do for God, but with receiving God's love made known in Jesus Christ. Mike views the Church as reflecting the heart of God when people of various generations, backgrounds, and identities find belonging around Christ's table, grow together as disciples of Jesus, and joyfully serve alongside one another in God's renewing work. Mike's calling is to help people experience God's love, follow the way of Jesus, and be transformed by the Holy Spirit for the sake of the world.

Mike and his wife, Rebecca, have been married for more than seventeen years and have devoted their lives to pastoral ministry. They live just a few miles from Westwood with their nine-year-old son, Benedict ("Benny"), and Brody, their English Cream Golden Retriever.

As a family, they enjoy spending time outdoors, gathering around the table with friends, and exploring the beauty of God's good creation. They are grateful for God's call to Westwood and look forward to following Jesus with the congregation as they participate in God's work of renewal in their community and beyond.



From Left: Rebecca Morgan, Rev. Dr. Mike Morgan, Brody, and Benedict Morgan

MEET MIKE'S SPOUSE,
REBECCA BURCHETT MORGAN

Rebecca is a Southern California native who has called Los Angeles home for almost 25 years. She is passionate about helping people encounter God's love and grow more deeply in their relationship with Christ. A trained Spiritual Director, Rebecca has spent over 18 years serving the Church through spiritual formation, soul care, congregational care, women's ministry, leadership development, and preaching.

She earned her Master of Divinity from Fuller Theological Seminary, where she received the Hooper/Keefe Preaching Award and the Parish Pulpit Fellowship Award, both recognizing outstanding promise in preaching and pastoral ministry. Rebecca is currently under care as a Candidate for Ministry in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Together, Mike and Rebecca bring more than 43 years of full-time ministry experience. As a family, they love spending time at the beach, traveling, cheering on their favorite sports teams (go Dodgers!), dancing in the kitchen, and enjoying donuts with strong coffee (Benny and Brody happily stick to the donuts).

Welcome to WPC, Morgan Family!



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welcomes

REV. DR. MIKE MORGAN



A PERSONAL NOTE FROM
REV. DR. MIKE MORGAN

Over the past several months, it has been a genuine joy to get to know your Pastor Nominating Committee and to learn more about your life together as the people of Westwood Presbyterian Church. I have been deeply impressed by their wisdom, integrity, prayerfulness, and care. More than anything, they have demonstrated a profound love for you and for the ministry you’ve entrusted them to represent.

The more I've learned about your life together, the more encouraged I've become by your love for Jesus, your welcoming and inclusive community, and your hope for what God is doing among you. I have also learned of the faithful ministry of Pastor Chris Chakoian, and I am deeply grateful for her joyful spirit, wonder, and deep trust in God, which have helped shape this congregation in beautiful ways.

One of my greatest joys as a pastor is helping people discover that God loves them more deeply than they ever imagined and watching that love shape every part of their lives. My calling is to help cultivate a community where we encounter God's love, are transformed by it, and are enlivened by God’s work in us, through us, and all around us every day.

Should the congregation affirm the call, as your pastor, I would seek to lead with humility, listen well, and learn your stories. I want to celebrate what God has already been up to and faithfully discern alongside you where the Holy Spirit might be leading us next.

Rebecca, Benedict, Brody (our Golden Retriever), and I are genuinely looking forward to getting to know you. Thank you for the warmth and kindness you have already shown our family. We are excited for the opportunity to serve with you as we embody God’s love in Westwood and beyond.

–Rev. Dr. Mike Morgan

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PNC

When our Pastor Nominating Committee formed last October 19, we faced a daunting challenge: to find a new Senior Pastor and Head of Staff by the time Pastor Chris Chakoian officially retired in mid-2026. We prepared a Ministry Discernment Profile (MDP) to educate potential applicants about who we are as a church and what we represent as a church body. We described WPC as a strong, faithful congregation whose missions are guided by Micah 6:8 and our identity as a Matthew 25 Church, with lively engagement and faith in the future, an upcoming Church Building Project, and a welcoming, inclusive vision statement of “More Jesus, More Fun.”

We reviewed the PDPs (resumes) of almost 90 applicants, watched sermons online and asked candidates questions in writing and via extensive Zoom and in-person interviews. We also observed candidates deliver sermons in person and participated in candidate-led Bible studies on Micah 6:8 and Matthew 25:31-46. Lastly, we shared a dinner with candidates and their spouses. We met weekly and prayed regularly with the goal of finding a pastor and head of staff who would embrace the faith and gifts of our congregation and inspire us to fully engage with WPC’s ministry, with our community, and with our God.

We looked for an outstanding preacher, well-educated in biblical studies and the Reformed tradition, and for a head of staff with proven leadership and organization skills to develop, communicate, and implement the church’s mission.

We met such a person in Mike Morgan. Mike stood out for his relevant pastoral experience, his humility and organizational leadership, his belief in an “alive” church such as WPC, and his ability to bring people together and get things done. Most importantly, throughout our personal interactions, Mike displayed a strong sense of empathy and intelligence. After prayerful deliberation, the PNC emerged from our process with the consensus that God is calling Mike to be WPC’s next Senior Pastor and Head of Staff.

Our Committee found Mike to be a genuine, passionate follower of Jesus Christ and an inspiring visionary with the dynamism WPC will need as it enters the next stage of its journey. Mike met every desired qualification, both on paper and in person.

We are grateful to God for bringing us together. Special thanks to the Session and the congregation for supporting our work, to prior PNCs for their files and advice, and to Rev. Dr. Dave Worth (our liaison with the Presbytery’s Commission on Ministry) for his guidance during a demanding process. The PNC unanimously supports presenting Rev. Dr. Michael Morgan for the congregation’s call to be Westwood Presbyterian Church’s next Senior Pastor and Head of Staff.

–Nick Castellano, Gabby Esunge, M.C. Haslett, Kathryn Welch Howe, David Kadue, Robyn Paris, Mike Sohigian

MEET MIKE MORGAN



A Southern California native, Rev. Dr. Michael Morgan served for the past twelve years on the pastoral staff at Bel Air Church in Los Angeles. As a member of the church's senior leadership team, he helped shape the congregation's vision for discipleship and spiritual formation while serving across the full spectrum of church ministries, including preaching, congregational care, leadership development, and strategic leadership. He is also the creator of Equip, an eight-volume curriculum described as a discipleship journey designed to help people connect faith to their everyday life.

Mike earned his Doctor of Ministry from Portland Seminary, where his research explored cross-denominational discipleship. He also holds a Masters of Divinity from Fuller Theological Seminary and is a Certified Spiritual Director. Mike has served 25+ years in ministry, including his time at Bel Air Church, a 1500-person congregation, and prior years at four other churches. Whether preaching, mentoring leaders, or walking alongside people through seasons of joy and sorrow, Mike loves helping people discover the abundant "with God" life that Jesus invites us to share.

Beyond pastoral ministry, Mike founded CaliSwim, a swim school that helps children and families build confidence and life-saving water safety skills. He believes that caring for people extends beyond the walls of the church and into the everyday places where children, families, and communities flourish.