

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WPC Westlake

THE COMMUNICANT

GROWING INTO OUR FUTURE

“It’s hard to believe that summer is nearly over and fall is only a few weeks away. While I’m excited about what’s on the horizon, I’m also thrilled with the ways God moved through our community over the last few months.

June was our “appreciation month” where we celebrated the family, student, and music ministries of WPC. We launched a “Step Up” campaign, aiming to close a deficit in our budget, and many of you stepped up to help close that gap. THANK YOU!

The month of June ended with an exciting week of Vacation Bible School, an impactful week for well over a hundred elementary school aged kids and their families. The energy created around VBS spilled into the rest of the month of July. Tacos and waterslides on Tuesdays, Art Cart on Fridays, daily laughter on the yard from preschool Sumer Camp, Summer Book Study, Sunday school...there’s too much to list! The buzz around the church campus in July was palpable. And, it extended beyond the Conejo Valley as well. At the end of the month JYF sent a group of middle school boys to Forest Home, and SYF sent a team to West Virginia for the annual mission trip.

As August arrived, much of the summer programming gave way to preparation for what is coming. Our Vision2020 team

continues to work toward articulating the direction for our future together. If you are interested in what the Vision2020 team has been doing, you’re invited to the Fellowship Center on September 4, from 7 - 8 pm, to hear about both the progress and the process we’ve followed. The goal is to have something concrete by November.

On September 8, we’ll begin a new series of sermons titled, “This is Church.” We’ll have one service at 10 am, followed by the beloved annual Flapjack Festival. Fall programs will launch that week, which include our children and student ministry programs, and some exciting new growth opportunities for adults.

Whether it’s on Sunday or during the week, my hope is that we’d continue to grow into a community that seeks Christ and serves the community in a tangible way. If you have any questions, and want to talk—about WPC, faith, theology, anything really!—please don’t hesitate to reach out. It’s a blessing to be WPC’s pastor and to be in community with you all.”

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Dave



Fall 2019

WPC Westlake Calendar

- **September 4:** Leadership Gathering – 7 pm
- **September 8:** Fall Kickoff
One service at 10 am
Flapjack Festival
New sermon series begins— *This Is Church: Selections from the Book of Acts*
- **September 8:** Special Adult Christian Formation Evening Series
“Loving our Muslim Neighbors”
- **September 15:** Childrens’ Sunday School begins
Every Sunday at 9:30 and 11:15 am
Adult class 11 am on the Book of Acts
- **September 16:** Restaurant Night at Sea Casa
Take along a flyer, available online or on Sunday from the Youth Ministry table
- **September 17:** Kids Fellowship Club begins
- **September 29:** Bible Presentation Sunday
- **October 6:** World Communion Sunday (*Peace & Global Witness Offering received*)
- **October 13:** Pie and Bingo Night
- **October 29:** Trunk or Treat
costume event for WPC kids and neighbors in the church parking lot
- **November 3:** Fifty One-Derful Anniversary Celebration
- **November 5:** Blessing of the Animals
in the WPC Prayer Garden
- **November 15:** Deadline for Advent Devotional stories
- **December 15:** Choral Christmas Concert

Pie and Bingo!

Join the Deacons on Sunday, October 13 for an evening of pie and bingo as we raise funds for the Deacon Emergency Assistance Fund.

The Deacons rely on your much-appreciated donations to help those in need in our WPC and surrounding communities. Please help us continue to support Lutheran Social Services and the Wednesday Shelter.



MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

EAT AT SEA CASA

Support our Senior Youth Ministry

Help kick off a new school year and join the youth for a delicious evening of food and fellowship!

A flyer, either electronic or printed, available online or at the Youth Ministry table on Sundays, must be presented when you order. Then 40% of your (before tax) sale will be donated to WPC Youth Ministry. Both for eat in and take out customers. And it doesn't cost you anything over your usual fish tacos (or beef burritos or salads or whatever you like)!

So head over to Sea Casa Fresh Mexican Grill, 1014 S. Westlake Blvd (at the corner of Westlake and Agoura Road) from 5 to 9 pm on Monday, September 16 to support SYF and have a great dinner.

SAVE THE DATE!
Sunday, December 15
Chancel Choir Christmas Concert
featuring the Conejo Valley Youth Orchestra's
Virtuosi

51ST ANNIVERSARY EXTRAVAGANZA

Why celebrate Fifty when you can celebrate Fifty-One-Derful!

Please mark your calendar to help celebrate our FIFTY-FIRST Anniversary Extravaganza on Sunday, November 3. We'll have just one service at 10 am and head out to the front lawn for food trucks, games, and good ol' fashioned fun.

We hope the whole community will join in and celebrate God's grace and provisions for 51 years on our little corner of the world. This is the time to tell your friends and neighbors to also mark their calendars. Stay tuned for details! (above: Fall Festival 1998)



THIS IS CHURCH: SELECTIONS FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS

Our Fall 2019 Sermon Series

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|----------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| • September 8 | Acts 2:1-41 | <i>"Everyone Listens"</i> |
| • September 15 | Acts 2:42-47, 6:1-7 | <i>"Everyone Has a Role"</i> |
| • September 22 | Acts 4:1-31 | <i>"Everyone Prays"</i> |
| • September 29 | Acts 4:32 – 5:11 | <i>"Everyone Gives"</i> |
| • October 6 | Acts 8:28-40; 10:9-23 | <i>"Everyone Is Welcome"</i> |
| • October 13 | Acts 9:1-22 | <i>"Everyone Is Changed"</i> |

DISCUSSION CLASS ON THE BOOK OF ACTS

A special discussion class will be offered at 11am every Sunday, September 15 through October 15. This will be a companion class to Pastor Dave's sermons on Acts; discussing his points, takeaways, the original setting, and what was going on in the ancient world. Our focus will be on learning more about the Bible and how it applies to our lives today.

Dr. Daryl Fisher-Ogden will be leading us. She brings a wealth of knowledge, having both an M.Div. and Ph.D. in historical theology. Plan on coming to the Sanctuary (the section nearest the drums). Bring your thoughts, questions, and a friend!

WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER

Our Women on Wednesday Bible Study begins anew in September! We gather together in friendly fellowship every Wednesday evening at 7pm in the Church Library. We begin a new Biblical study of Psalms and Proverbs on Wednesday, September 4th, at 7pm. Our evening meeting time hopefully makes it possible for more of you to join us!

Fall is often a time of new beginnings—begin a new journey with a contemplative Bible study and discussion group with thoughtful and caring women. We hope you can join us and bring your friends, and they don't have to be members!

Contact Sue Minihan (*for contact info see printed version or contact office*)



Fall Kickoff—September 8

You won't want to miss church on September 8! Schedule is as follows:

- 10 am – One service in the Sanctuary
- 11 am – Fall Flapjack Festival - Come hungry! Pancakes, sausages, eggs, YUM!
- Family Friendly – All Ages
- Pastor Dave will introduce a new sermon series called "This Is Church": Selections from the Book of Acts, the schedule and scripture references are above.

We will enjoy meeting up again after summer vacations, and making new friends as well. Y'all come!

SPECIAL ACF SERIES

Loving Our Muslim Neighbors

AS A CHURCH WE STRIVE TO LIVE THE GOSPEL

...in every area of our lives, including our relationships with people from other religious traditions. We live in a wonderfully diverse area of Southern California with ethnic, cultural, and religious pluralism. Unfortunately, people from other religious traditions often seem strange or intimidating to many. This is especially the case with our Muslim neighbors.

To begin remedying this situation, our church is offering a five week class entitled "Loving Our Muslim Neighbors." This course is in the spirit of Jesus's parable of the good Samaritan, that everyone is our neighbor to whom we should show love and hospitality. The goal of this course is not only to learn more about Muslim life and the Islamic tradition, but also to deepen the participants' life in God and engagement with our community.

This course will consist of five classes.

Each class will cover an aspect of the Islamic tradition, a relative aspect of the Christian tradition, and a comparison of the two in order to stimulate a love for God's work in the world and an appreciation of the diversity and vitality of the Islamic and Christian traditions. The motivation for this class is a pursuit of God's love for the world by seeking to better love our Muslim neighbors.

Alexander Massad, presenter, is an Adjunct Professor in Religious Studies at California Lutheran University and is finishing his PhD at Fuller Theological Seminary in Muslim-Christian Relations. He has lived and worked in the Middle East and has previously taught this course to churches in Virginia and Washington D.C. He is a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church and has worked with churches in the Reformed tradition on Christian-Muslim relations over the past five years.

This fall's Sunday Evening Series will be held at Westminster Presbyterian Church on the five Sundays of September 8 through October 6 in the Fellowship Center. Refreshments/dessert will be served at 6:30, followed by the class from 7 – 8 pm. The invitation is open to the public.

BETHLEHEM EXPERIENCE 2020 BEGINS NOW

Imagine experiencing a bustling Bethlehem Village, in Judea, December 25, 1 AD. The Village is alive with Roman Centurions, artisans, dancers, animals, a Census Taker and local citizens selling their wares. As you enter the Village, nomads are encamped just outside the Entrance Gate, as are three kings coming from afar seeking to understand why a star shines constantly over a lowly manger



at the end of the market street. Two new parents and their newborn son are encamped there because there is no room at any inn. That is exactly where you, family and friends can be on either of two nights on a weekend in December 2020, when WPC again presents the "Bethlehem Experience."

The 2020 Bethlehem Experience Leadership Team has met twice. We are planning now to fashion two Village streets with a whole new look. The 2020 Bethlehem Experience will be created over the next 16 months, using an elongated preparation schedule that will permit more opportunities for participation, with a more convenient and minimally interruptive "build" schedule.

More folks means minimal time commitments for all!

HERE IS WHERE WE ARE NOW:

- We are starting to form all our committees, with each responsible for only one aspect of re-creating the Village.
- You can join in on the good times and plan your own schedules.
- There are tasks for everyone and always a lot of laughter and excitement.
- All are welcome at our next general meeting on **October 8, 2019 at 7 pm.**

Join us for fellowship, fun and friendship by contacting Michelle Nash (*for contact info see printed version or contact office*).

Library Lines

A small group of us met this summer to share and discuss some amazing ideas in *Holy Envy* by Barbara Brown Taylor, author and teacher of religion courses at Piedmont College not long ago. Being an Episcopal Priest gave her insight that made for an interesting perspective and a solid faith base for study of the basic World Religions that she shared with her students. Taking time to actually visit places of worship gave all a better view of what it means to be Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, or Muslim. She tells of the wonder and common themes and how we encounter "difference" and "others."

If you missed this time of discussion and sharing, you might want to read our own library copy that is now available for checkout on the large courtyard cart. Any time we find a worthwhile selection to share, it's always important to have a copy for those who would like to take one more step on their faith journey with the rest of us. Contact Ruth Grey for further information.

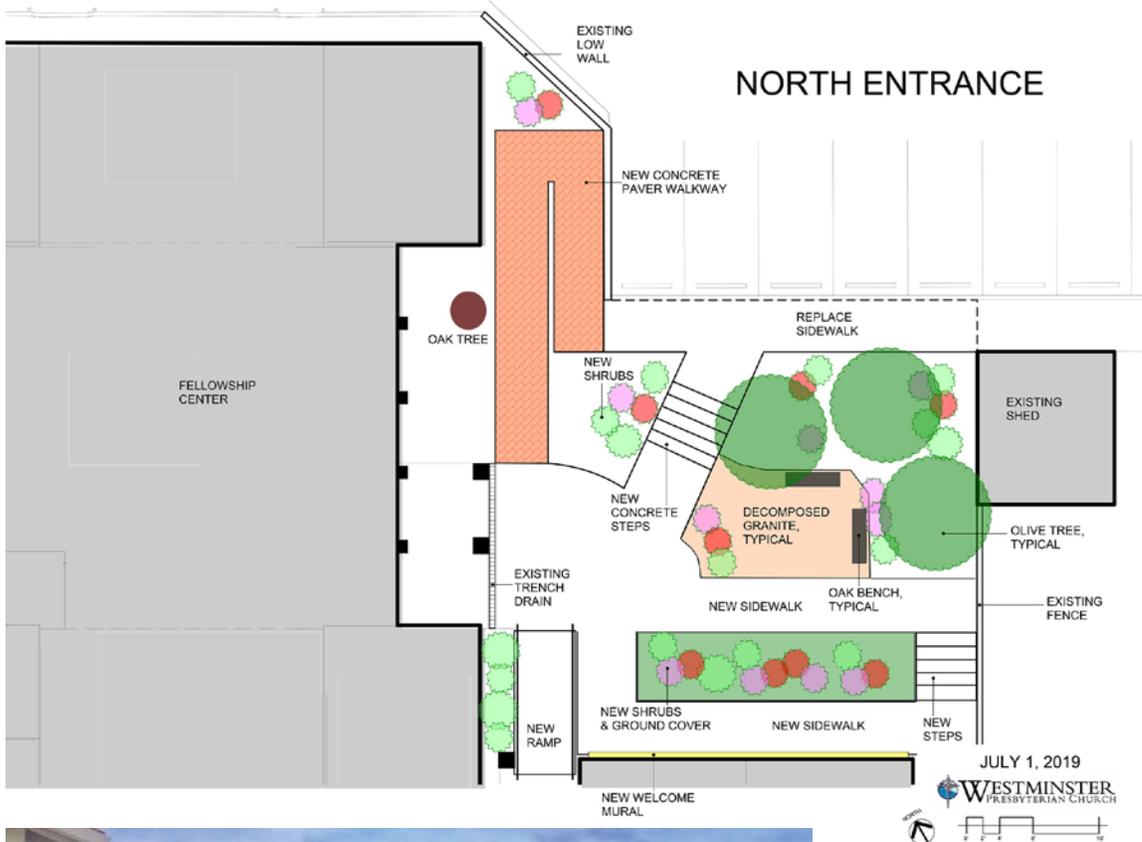


The Future of our Outdoor Spaces, Coming Attractions!

The property committee has completed the first phase of our Outdoor Spaces Improvement Program. The preliminary plans and renderings are complete. We have forwarded our preliminary cost estimates to the Stewardship Committee for our fundraising effort.

Thanks to all the members and friends that gave us great insights during the process.

Contact Property Elder Bill Amador (for contact info see printed version or office)



◀ North Entrance - The north entry will be reconfigured to provide wheelchair access from the parking lot to the courtyard and pre-school. A shady sitting area can be used by preschool parents for gathering and waiting.



▲ Watergate Entrance - The improvements include new paving, landscaping, seating and shade outside of the main doors to the Narthex. The new features will make our church more inviting and support our many outdoor activities on the front lawn.

▼ Courtyard - Our courtyard remodel will feature new shade trees, restored brick paving, trellis shade structures and a central fountain. The new courtyard will offer many ways to gather, meet, rest and visit.



FROM THE PRESCHOOL POINT OF VIEW

Our summer was alive with the sounds of laughing children and our version of a water slide. The mud kitchen was actively cooking up mud pies. Now that preschool summer camp is concluded, we springboard immediately into "new school year mode".

Our campus will soon be filled once again with families whose members have been born and raised in this community and call WPCP home. We are entering the 49th year that the preschool has been a mission of WPC as an outreach to the entire community! Our Outdoor Classroom continues to be



a place of awe and wonder for children and their parents as it continues to build and hold memories of childhood. The longevity of many of our teachers, plus the fresh faces of new teachers, continues to ensure the high caliber of professionals who care deeply about the early years of children.



We are currently celebrating a full enrollment and the opportunity to welcome new and returning families. Our Parent Advisory Board has met and is very excited to partner with the church on the ongoing mission outreach programs.

If you have never had an opportunity to see the preschool in action, please feel free to contact Heidi@wpcwestlake.org or Judy@wpcwestlake.org. We would love to show you around... you will see firsthand what the talk around town is all about!

Judy Hightower, Preschool Director

Bible Presentation

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29: For children entering second grade

When a young child is baptized in our church, we vow to be supportive of the child and their family as they strive to guide their child on their faith journey. Bible presentation affirms that vow. We want to be sure every child at WPC has a Bible of their own. We encourage them to read their Bible at home and bring it to Sunday school. We encourage children to ask questions, to wonder and explore the faith stories.

If you have a child entering second grade, please fill out a Bible Presentation Card with your child's name as you wish it to appear in their Bible and designate which service you will be attending. Contact Julie@wpcwestlake.org or Valerie@wpcwestlake.org



MUSIC APPRECIATION

June 23rd was a special time of worship at WPC, as we combined in a single service to honor and show appreciation to all those who make our worship music possible, including our Chancel Choir, Praise Team, instrumentalists, and Audio Visual team. Under Director Ed Smart's leadership, both the Choir and Praise Team led worship through sharing songs that had ministered to our congregation throughout the year. A wonderful time of making music for the Lord!



THE COMMUNICANT IS PUBLISHED BY
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3RD ANNUAL TRUNK OR TREAT

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29TH

Come join in the fun at our 3rd annual Trunk or Treat. Trunk or Treat is a safe, fun, Halloween themed evening filled with fun, treats and friends.

Members and friends, come be a part of Trunk or Treat. We need volunteers willing to bring their vehicle to our north facing parking lot, decorated and filled with Halloween treats to share with children. Sign ups are required for adults decorating their cars. Contact WPC Children's and Family Ministry Director Julie Martin (Julie@wpcwestlake.org).

Kids Fellowship Club

- ▷ Every Tuesday, September 17 to October 15
- ▷ 4:30 to 6 pm
- ▷ For children 4yrs old through 5th Grade

Registration required
Contact Julie@wpcwestlake.org or Valerie@wpcwestlake.org

WPC Summer 2019





Youth Ministry Summer 2019

WPC's Senior Youth Fellowship (SYF) recently returned from our summer mission trip to Philippi, West Virginia, where we partnered with New Vision Renewable Energy to help complete many needed projects. We celebrated our seventh trip to Philippi since first going in 2003! This ongoing ministry commitment has allowed us to see progress being made in the community of Chestnut Ridge.

One of the goals of New Vision Renewable Energy is to provide safe places for young kids to hang out. We helped turn an old barn into a gymnasium with a basketball court lit by LED lights and powered by solar energy. The lower level of the gym will have a study area and a computer lab for the kids to use.

Other projects included working a saw mill, lots of painting, completing a retaining wall, constructing a framework to receive solar panels, clearing out an old airplane hanger, and helping run a special Olympics for special needs children.

We took nine adult leaders and 24 students. Seven of those students are incoming 9th graders. This was the first mission trip for many of the students and they all did an amazing job working hard, stepping out of their comfort zones, and serving others.

We want to thank the Church for your support and prayers. It was a trip that will be remembered for a long time!

Blessings, J.R. Robertson, SYF Coordinator

