

The Westminster Presbyterian Church
Communicant
June 2018



An Israeli Adventure

*D*riends,
A little less than a year ago my uncle walked into my office in Huntington Beach and said, "Dave, I want to take you to Israel." I wasn't sure if I heard him correctly, so he repeated himself, "the company I work for did well this year. They've given me two tickets anywhere I want to go, and I want you to come be my guide in Israel."

I laughed. I haven't been to Israel. I mean, sure, I've studied all about the Holy Land. But, be a guide? I told him I'd love to go, but there was no way we were just renting a car and driving around. He came to visit us in Malawi and we drove around the African countryside in a truck. I wanted to make sure he wasn't having visions of the same sort of adventure.

I'm named after my uncle. My nieces call him "Old Uncle Dave" and me, "Young Uncle Dave." When I was young, he was the one who'd always get the best gifts — a police car with a siren and flashing lights or a ball that make all kinds of sounds when it hits a wall (he gets my kids the same type of gifts, and now I know why batteries "mysteriously" disappeared from Uncle Dave's presents... thanks, mom). He also sent a card every birthday, always with a stick of gum. Now, my kids get the gum too.

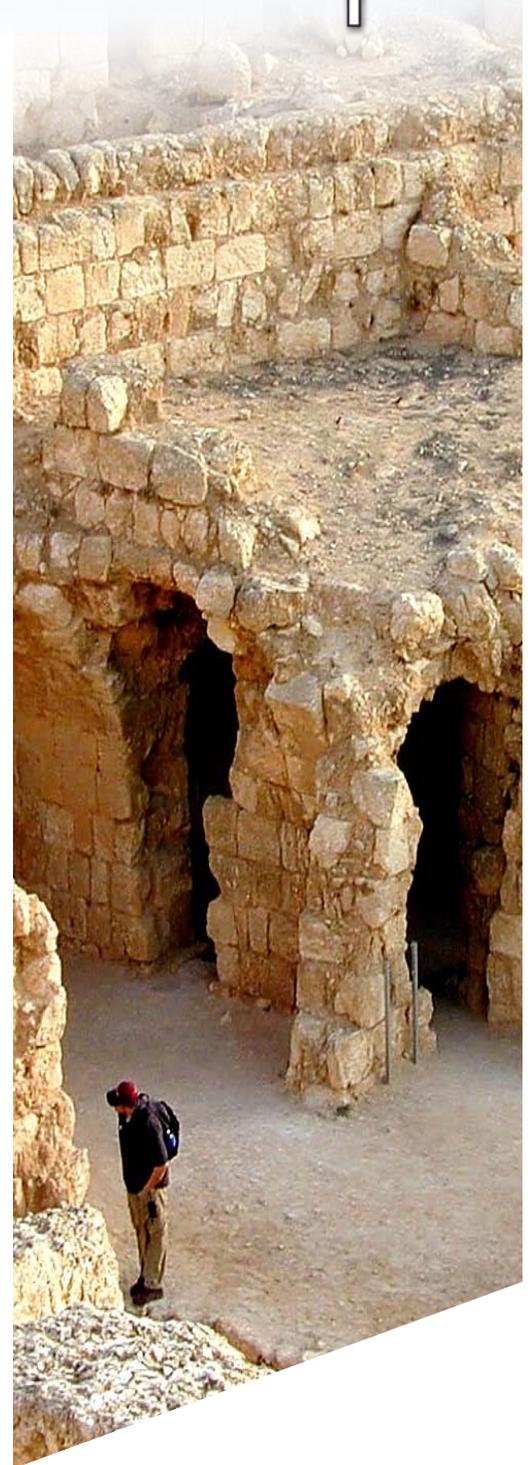
Uncle Dave is in his seventies and works two demanding jobs. He's the longest tenured employee in the Hyatt organization, and also works for an airline company on the tarmac at John Wayne Airport. The only thing that matches his generosity is his work ethic.

After months of trying to find the best time in our schedules and talking with a few friends and travel agents, we decided we'd go for a few weeks in June. So, next week we're getting on a plane. We'll be in Athens, Greece for a few days and will tour the Holy Land for almost two weeks. I'm still laughing about how the whole thing came together. Please pray for us.

I'm disappointed I'll be missing Youth Sunday on June 10 and Father's Day on June 17. I'll be back just in time to join in on the fun of Vacation

Bible Camp the last week of June. This month we have an opportunity to celebrate what God is doing through the amazing young people of our church. Listen to their stories, laugh with them, and learn from their perspective. I am looking forward to our summer together at WPC!

With Gratitude,
Pastor Dave

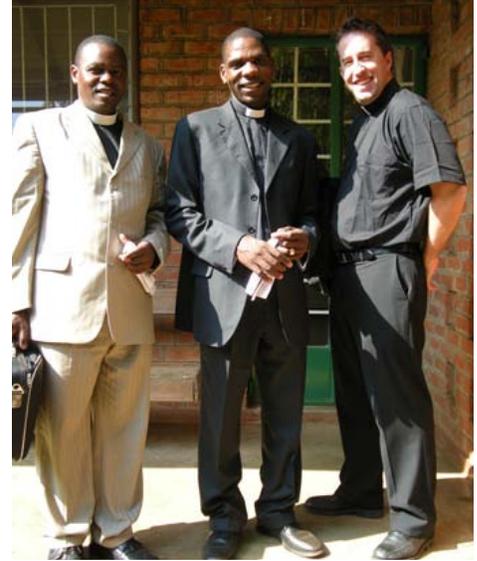


Save the Date!

Service of Installation for Pastor Dave

August 19 will be a special day at WPC, one that has been a long time coming! We will have one worship service, at 10 am, to install Rev. David Rohde as Pastor/Head of Staff. An installation is an act of the presbytery, officially establishing the pastoral relationship, in the context of a worship service. Our service will include officials from our Presbytery, a sermon by visiting Malawian pastor Vasco Kachipapa (see next article and picture), and lots of inspirational music. Everyone is invited to stay after the service for a celebration on the courtyard. You won't want to miss it!

► Rev. Vasco Kachipapa (center) is the General Secretary of the CCAP Synod of Nkhoma, in Malawi. He will be in the United States as the keynote speaker for the annual conference of the Malawi Mission Network of the PC(USA), and will be visiting with us for a few days following the conference. He and Pastor Dave have been friends for over ten years, and he is largely responsible for the year that Dave and Hailey spent in Malawi.



Summer Choir

Love to sing, but can't commit to choir year-round? Come sing with WPC's Summer Choir! We will meet on Thursday, August 2, at 7:30, and sing at the 9:30 services on August 5, 12, and 26. No special music training needed. Come be a part of any or all of these dates. Contact Ed Smart (Edsmart@wpcwestlake.org) for more details, or just come!

Adult Christian Formation

June Series: *Who Runneth the Church?*

SUNDAY MORNINGS, JUNE 3, 10 AND 17, IN THE LIBRARY
SUNDAY DESSERT EVENING JUNE 24

Join us Sunday mornings, June 3 at 11:30 am and June 10 and 17 at 11:00 am in the Library and on Sunday evening June 24 on the courtyard at 6:30 pm for dessert, fellowship and a panel discussion in the sanctuary. The topics will include:

June 3: What are the main features of the Presbyterian form of church government? What is Ordination? What is the basis of it all?

June 10: What are elders, deacons and a presbytery? What do they do and how do they fit together?

June 17: What is a General Assembly and what does it do? What is church discipline and why is it important?

June 24: So, what occurred at the 223rd General Assembly, June 16–23? A panel of G.A. attendees will enlighten us.

Join us for a quick review of these items (which were probably covered long ago in your new members class), and learn where and how you fit into the picture.

Messages for Dad

Before Father's Day, stop by the chalkboard on the Courtyard and leave a message for your dad. Example: "Thank you, God, for my dad's sense of humor" (be sure to include your dad's name). Then bring Dad to the board on Father's Day to read his personal message!



Plan on These Dates

Communion

May 6, June 10, and July 1

Sunday Worship Services

- 9:30 Traditional Service
- 11:15 Contemporary Service

For Children on Sundays

- 9:30 & 11:15 am
Children age 3 through 8th grade begin in worship with their families and are dismissed to Sunday School after the Children's Message.
Childcare is available for children from birth to 3 years from 9:30 to 12:30 each Sunday morning.

Weekly Bible Studies:

- ❖ **Monday Bible Study**, Mondays, 1 pm, WPC Library, contact Aubrey Grey
- ❖ **Wednesday Study**, 2:30 pm, WPC Library, contact Jim Mulick
- ❖ **Women on Wednesday**, Wednesdays, 6:30 pm, Library, contact Sue Minihan

Student Ministries

Junior High Ministry, Grades 6-8

Contact Matt Pardee
Matt@wpcwestlake.org
JYF (Middle School Youth Group), Tuesdays, 6 – 7:30 pm, Youth Center
JCrew, (Jr. High boys), Sundays 5 pm at Sharky's in Westlake Village
Girls4God, (Jr. High girls), Sundays, 4:30 pm, Youth Lounge. Contact Lisa Rush:
Lisarush3@gmail.com

Senior High Ministry, Grades 9-12

Contact John (JR) Robertson
JR@wpcwestlake.org
SYF (High School Youth Group): Sundays, 6:00 pm, Youth Center
CNA (Christians Non-Anonymous Midweek Bible Study) Wednesdays, 7:30 pm, off site

Chancel Choir

Thursdays, 7:30 pm, you're invited!

Weekly Wednesday Koffee Klatch

For adults 50+, Oakside Room, 9:30 am, conversation & sermon text preview

Weekly Community Outreach

❖ WPC Winter Shelter, Wednesdays in the Community Outreach Center: overnight shelter (December–March), year-round dinner, showers, health care

❖ **Westminster Free Clinic**: Wednesdays, 5-10 pm, United Methodist Church, TO, contact Cindy Vinson

Upcoming Events

Adult Christian Formation Class Series:

Who Runneth the Church?
 June 3 at 11:30 am, June 10 and 17 at 11 am (see page 2)

Youth Sunday

June 10
 Services at 9:30 and 11:15 led by our students; Communion served

CPK Restaurant Day to benefit Manna

Monday, June 11

Bookworms

Thursday, June 14, 1:30 pm

Pathfinders

Saturday, June 16, 8:30 am

Father's Day

Sunday, June 17

Youth Leader Training

Wednesday, June 20 (see page 4)

Meeting of the Congregation

Sunday, June 24, 10:30 am
 (Election of youth elder and youth deacon)

SYF Car Wash

Raising money for Youth Mission Trip
 Sunday, June 24, noon – 3 pm

General Assembly Evening

Sunday, June 24
 6:30 Dessert on the Courtyard
 Followed by a panel of G. A. attendees, in the Sanctuary

Vacation Bible Camp

Ain't No Mountain High Enough!
 June 25-28

Parents Night Out

Saturday, June 30, 6 – 9 pm

SYF Summer Mission Trip

July 29 – August 5

Summer Choir Rehearsal

August 2, 7:30 pm

Installation Service for Pastor Dave

August 19, one service at 10 am
 Followed by celebration on the courtyard

Summer Fun for Families

- ▶ **Terrific Tuesdays**
Games, water activities, food and fun
Tuesday afternoons in July, 4:30 – 6 pm
- ▶ **Art Cart**
Come create!
Fridays, 9—noon, Art Room (upstairs)
For Kindergartens through 5th graders
- ▶ **Taco Tuesdays**
2nd Tuesday of each month
5:30 - 6:30 pm, WPC Courtyard
Everyone invited!
- ▶ **Parent's Time Out**
Fridays beginning July 13, 9 - 11:30 am
Child care for infants and toddlers
Advance registration required

Pathfinders: Thinking About Our History



Our history goes back years to the time when we gathered at local restaurants for breakfast and had a discussion about what we had read in *Life Keys*, our first book study. Polly Derr and Mary Gulbrandsen come to mind as our faithful facilitators and hosts. A dozen would willingly come early on a Saturday morning once a month to share and enjoy. As we moved on, the church became our location for morning meetings without the feast. In the choir room, we had as many as thirty, which meant we needed to form small groups for serious discussion.

Over the years we saw people come and go. Bobbie Baugh was one, who now lives alone in her Irvine retirement community, yet she continues her journey by facilitating a Bible study with a small group every week.

And as always, we have our favorite books and studies. I remember *Soul Feast* by Marjorie Thompson and *Space for God* by Postema. Some of the wonderful people who helped us make our selections were Norita Erickson, who was then a missionary in Turkey and Jennifer Witten who is now with Lightshine, our newest local church.

We now meet in the WPC Library and have switched to using the Horizons Bible Study, which is published every year with a different theme, author, and artist. As women, we reach far and wide and certainly appreciate the support of all who mentor us. Currently, we meet every third Saturday, when possible, from 9 to 10:30 in our church library. Contact Ruth Grey for further information.

Library Lines: what is the *Book of Order*?

History and law are certainly dry subjects, yet when you need to answer a question, these disciplines are of value, especially when it comes to details about polity in our church.

In our WPC Library we have copies of the *Book of Order*, which you may use for browsing at any time. (Note that the most current information will only be available online; however, much of the book remains the same and so it's quite useful.) The *Book of Order* constitutes part II of our constitution, part I is the *Book of Confessions* and only changes as we add a confession (a statement of our faith's beliefs). These are also on the library shelves for you to check out and read.

Questions answered in the *Book of Order* include: what does it take to become a minister of the Word and Sacrament? Who needs to be ordained? What elements are required during worship? And it includes material about the church's rules of discipline, and everything regarding Presbyterian governance like the functions of the General Assembly, the synod, and the presbytery. All these items and more are easy to locate in the detailed table of contents.

History is included in each of these books, as well as the actual content. If you are curious about anything Presbyterian, stop by and search these out. Contact Ruth Grey for further information.

Manna, Our Conejo Valley Food Bank

Restaurant Day June 11

Looking for an easy way to support Manna? Join us at CPK at The Lakes for a meal ALL DAY LONG on June 11. Watch for flyers distributed on Sunday, June 10 or see Sheryl Brownfield for more information.



WYL: Westminster Youth Leaders

Youth Leadership Training for 6th through 8th graders, June 20, 10 am to 3 pm

Are you looking for a way to develop leadership skills and serve others at the same time? We have just the place for you. Children's and Family Ministries will be offering a leadership camp on June 20. We will spend time learning leadership skills, First Aid, and other techniques that you will need to work with young children. Upon completion you will be trained and qualified to work with and lead children at Vacation Bible Camp and in other areas of ministry to younger children at WPC.

To register for WYL Leadership Training you will need to complete an application and medical release form, and submit with payment to Children's & Family Ministries by June 15. Program fee: \$50.

The Spirituality of Fly Fishing

It's back! After taking last year off, the "Spirituality of Fly Fishing" class returns, and this year the former "for men only" program is open to everyone (16 and under must be accompanied by an adult). The classroom dates are Sunday, September 2 and Sunday, September 9 (both 3—5 pm), and the field trip is Thursday and Friday, September 13–14.

You do not need your own equipment; everything is provided except waders and boots, which must be rented. Estimated cost per person is \$200, which includes all equipment, supplies, meals, and the hotel in Bishop. Join us in experiencing the beauty, solitude, and wonder of God's creation through fly fishing in the gorgeous eastern Sierras!

With only 12 slots, this class fills fast, on a strict first come, first served basis: email Jody Martin at jmartin.nhm@gmail.com



Taste and See the Goodness of God

Really, come and TASTE the goodness of God's creation in the form of delicious organic strawberries, sweet organic orange carrots, luscious organic greens and much, much more. The Abundant Table Farm, located in Camarillo just off the 101 Freeway at the Central Avenue exit, is your farm! The Farm Store is currently open from 10 am-6 pm every day of the week.

While strawberries are in season (at least through the end of June) you can opt for the "U-Pick" experience. Fill a basket with strawberries you choose for yourselves while you enjoy time together on a small farm brimming with diverse crops. The farm also offers "Open Farm" on the first Saturday of the month from 10 am-12 pm. Individuals, families and church groups receive a tour of the farm and have an opportunity to try their hand at farm work.

We invite you to taste the goodness of God and be refreshed by connecting with your farmers and your food. When you visit the farm and purchase our produce, you support young adult ministry, the care of creation, and a healthy local food system. This joyful, vibrant ministry began as an Episcopal/Lutheran Campus Ministry at California State University Channel Islands and blossomed into an organic farm project in 2009.

For more information about the Abundant Table, go to www.theabundanttable.org and visit The Abundant Table Farm Store on Facebook. To reach our Farm Store directly, call 805-983-0333. The farm is located at 1012 W. Ventura Blvd. in Camarillo.



Bethlehem Experience 2018

Let's think about Christmas. It is a bit early, but 2018 is a Bethlehem Experience year. This will be WPC's 21st Bethlehem Experience! BethEx is a drive-thru nativity scene in our parking lot featuring a camel, goats, Romans, shepherds, merchants, villagers, and angels, all leading up to Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus in a stable. Everyone gets involved. In two nights we have 1,200 cars with 3,000 people driving through!

Open your calendar and note these dates:

- ▶ Saturday, December 1, build material pull-out
- ▶ Saturday, December 8, "Blitz Build" the village
- ▶ Friday & Saturday, December 14 and 15, present the Bethlehem Experience

- ▶ Sunday, December 16, one service followed by BethEx put-away celebration

We are looking for some team leaders in these areas to join the planning group:

- Village Decoration
- Builder Foreman
- Public Relations
- Costumes
- Catering

Visit the new www.gotobethlehem.com.

Planning has started, and it won't be long until we start putting it all together for Christmas. Please look for the Congregational Life table on the courtyard or email jeff.covert@gmail.com for more information.

Bookworms

The book we are discussing in June is *Maisie Dobbs* by Jacqueline Winspear. Our next meeting is Thursday, June 14 at 1:30 pm in the WPC Library. We may also begin discussing books to read next fall. Hope to see you there. Sharon Dyer, 818-991-0689

Pizza with a purpose

Bring in this flyer, present it to your server and we'll donate 20% of your check to the organization listed below. Purchases include dine-in, takeout, catering and all beverages.

Fundraiser in support of:

Westminster Presbyterian Church SYF Wednesday, June 27, 2018

Lunch – Dinner – Take Out

Valid at the following location:

California Pizza Kitchen

The Lakes @ Thousand Oaks
2200 E. Thousand Oaks Blvd
Thousand Oaks, CA
805-777-1778

Join the **Pizza Dough® Rewards** program and receive a **free Small Plate** on your next visit after registering. Register today at cpk.com or download our new app today!



california
PIZZA KITCHEN

Fundraiser offer valid only on the date(s) and at the CPK location identified on the flyer. Only 501c organizations and non-profit schools are eligible to participate in CPK's fundraiser program. CPK will donate 20% (twenty percent) of all food and beverage sales to the organization. Tax, gratuity, gift card and retail sales are excluded from the donation. Offer valid for dine-in, takeout, online, catering, curbside or delivery orders placed directly with CPK. Not valid for third-party delivery. Offer void if flyer is distributed in or near restaurant. For more information about the 501c organization participating in the fundraiser, please contact the organization directly.



Women's Retreat 2018

Faria Beach and Montecito: WPC women meet, retreat and help remove mud at a Montecito home.



Come Worship on Youth Sunday, June 10

Senior Youth Fellowship Update

EXCITING SUMMER PLANS FOR THE SYF

The senior youth fellowship, (grades 9-12), is preparing for a very busy and exciting summer. We begin with Youth Sunday services on June 10. The youth will be leading us in worship as well as assisting with serving communion at both services. A special offering will be taken to help with scholarships for this year's mission trip to Houston, Texas. Between services you will have an opportunity to participate in our annual bake sale on the courtyard. This day will be full of food: for both your soul and your body!

Car Wash—June 24

On Sunday, June 24, we will have a car wash in the parking lot from 12 noon to 3 pm. This fundraiser will help students raise money for their own mission trip accounts.

Parents Night Out—June 30

Saturday June 30, from 6 – 9 pm, we will be providing childcare for kids 3 years and older so parents can enjoy a night out featuring big people conversations exclusively!

Welcoming New 9th Graders

Summer is all about welcoming new 9th graders to our program as well as helping to prepare our college-bound students for the next part of their faith journey. Please keep us in your prayers.

Blessings, J.R. Robertson



Ain't No Mountain High Enough! Vacation Bible Camp

JUNE 25 THROUGH 28, 9:00—12:00

Neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:39

Put on your hiking boots and join us this summer as we ascend the mountains and encounter God! Mountains are mentioned over 500 times in the Bible. Their majesty can stir the soul of any one who sees them. When religious experiences are called mountaintop experiences, it is no cliché.

In the Bible, mountains are often the places where God encounters people, changes their lives and sends them back down to spread the word and offer hope to the world. Children will experience mountain top stories, mountain inspired music, art, games, snacks and activities.

All Children 4 years to 5th Grade are invited to join Vacation Bible Camp.

To register, please complete registration and medical release forms (both sides) for each child and return with payment to Children's & Family Ministries at WPC. Forms are on www.wpcwestlake.org or on the Courtyard or in the church office.

Registration: \$40 per child (save \$10 with registration by June 1, early registration only \$30 per child)



The
Communicant

A NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS & FRIENDS
OF WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

June 2018

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Material for the Summer 2018 issue needs to be in the
WPC office or sent by July 20 to

Kathy@wpcwestlake.org

To submit late photos call Kathy Dahms.