

The Westminster Presbyterian Church
Communicant

May 2017



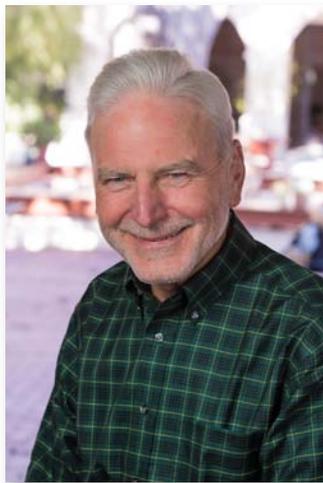
“Ascension Day” Transitions

“When Jesus had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.”

*C*n May 25, 2017, the Church worldwide will celebrate Ascension Day. The story of Jesus’ ascension is told by Luke in the second volume (Acts) of his Gospel book series. Ascension was a transition point between glorious Easter and boisterous Pentecost. It is an interim time—much like Advent—between promise and fulfillment.

The disciples had gathered for the final time with the risen Christ. They asked him a question about when the Kingdom would be restored to Israel. It’s hard to know the meaning of that query. Was it, “When will we have it like the good old days under the great King David?” or “When will Rome get off our backs and out of our pocketbooks?”

Jesus dodges the disciples’ question. “That’s the Father’s domain.” Then Jesus went on with the main business ahead of the infant church. “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Luke then described the unexplainable. Jesus passed from this world back to the world of his Father. It’s a wondrous and wild story!



Interim Pastor Charles Svendsen

Like the Church in many times and places, Westminster is living through months of Ascension Day transition. We are doing ministry and mission between called pastors. This can be unsettling for some, but I believe our transitional time together is a brilliant opportunity to be the risen Christ’s witnesses to Jerusalem, Samaria, Westlake Village and to the ends of the earth.

To be sure, transition results in change. We are saying a beloved goodbye to Pastor Steve, Mende, Josh and Hannah. As the Millers move on to Steve’s new call as Associate Pastor for Care Ministries at Trinity Community Presbyterian Church on June 1, we will experience loss and adjustment. So did those disciples when Jesus departed. But the opportunity for them and for us in these interim days is to be faithful witnesses...and we are.

Currently, we are in the midst of a mission opportunity with the Manna Food Pantry. Our goal is to raise \$75,000 over the next three years to build extensive cupboards and stock food in Manna’s new location on Oakview Drive in Thousand Oaks. Also, Children’s & Family Ministries are gearing up for Vacation Bible Camp here at WPC, June 26-29. Stop by and see the amazing spirit and numbers of students and adults enjoying this year’s theme, “Creature Care Corps.”

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May Highlights...

- Godspeed, Pastor Steve
- PNC Update
- Plan on These Dates
- Library Lines
- Adult Fellowship: Pathfinders, Bookworms, Women’s Bible Study, Ladies’ Tea
- Ministry and Mission: Egg Hunt for Free Clinic is a Hit, ACTION Serve Day 2017, Community Partners
- New WPC Members
- For Children and Youth: Kid’s Fellowship, JYF Fun, Vacation Bible Camp, JYF Summer Camp

Transitions

(continued from page 1)

Better still, see Julie Martin and get involved. The WBC family dinner is June 29 at 5:30 pm. JYF and SYF are looking forward to JYF Summer Camp at Forest Home, July 9—14, and SYF Mission Trip back to West Virginia, July 29—August 5.

These are just a few among many opportunities to be ministry and missional witnesses to Jesus Christ in our transitional time. We are called to live faithful and joyful lives, remembering the wonder of God’s love and presence in the cross and empty tomb.

You see, Easter points to Pentecost. They are the church’s “High Holy Days.” But let’s not forget Ascension Day. Some of God’s best work is accomplished in these weeks of transition! Enjoy the journey.

Charles Svendsen
Interim Pastor

Pastor Steve Moving to New Ministry

Whether putting on his tool belt for Habitat for Humanity workdays, riding his bike to work so Josh or Hannah can use the family car, visiting people in the hospital, or leading worship on Sundays, Pastor Steve Miller has been a smiling face at WPC for the last 6½ years. So it is with sadness that we bid goodbye as Pastor Steve moves on to a new ministry call as Associate Pastor for Care Ministries at Trinity United Presbyterian Church, Santa Ana.

During his tenure with us, Steve has taken on many different areas, guiding Small Group Ministry, Prayer Team, Social Ministry & Mission, Adult Christian Formation, and most recently Student Ministries, not to mention “other duties as assigned!” He has done all of this with a servant heart and a sincere desire to further the work of Christ’s kingdom.

We wish all of God’s best to Steve, Mende, Josh and Hannah on their move, and we are grateful that Santa Ana is within easy visiting distance.

Godspeed, Pastor Steve!



Adult Christian Formation

On Sundays at 10:45 am in the Fellowship Center. Please come!
The Book of Jeremiah (through May 28)

Pastor Nominating Committee Update

Recently, your PNC placed 3x5 cards in the pew racks, asking you to describe your ideal next pastor in three sentences or less. We received a lot of good input—thank you for submitting your cards and emails. We are still eager to hear from you. Our email is below and there is a “PNC Comment Box” in the Narthex.

The PNC has reviewed over 54 pastor information forms. We are interviewing pastors and are encouraged by the talented people that we have met. Please continue to pray for our work and for the next pastor. Divine guidance is welcome!



Every third Sunday the PNC provides additional updates as a Moment for Mission. On those Sundays, the PNC also has a Listening Table on the courtyard between services.

Please share your thoughts with us! WPCWestlakePNC@gmail.com



Plan on These Dates

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.

Adult Christian Formation

Sundays, 10:45 am, Fellowship Center

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, 7 pm, Library, contact Sue Minihan

Student Ministries**Junior High Ministry, Grades 6-8**

Contact Matt Pardee
Matt@wpcwestlake.org

Sunday School, 9:30 am, Youth Lounge
JYF (Middle School Youth Group),
Tuesdays, 6 pm, Youth Center

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

Rehearsals Thursday evenings, 7:30 pm
Everyone with a voice is invited!

Wednesday Koffee Klatch

For adults, Oakside Room, 9:30 am,
conversation & sermon text preview,
more!

Weekly Community Outreach

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

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

Upcoming Events

Kids Fellowship Club

Begins May 2

National Day of Prayer

Thursday, May 4

Saturday Supper

Cinco de Mayo Fiesta theme
Saturday, May 6

JYF Laser Tag

May 9, see "JYF Fun" on page 5

Bookworms

May 11, 2 pm
see article page 4

Ladies' Tea

May 13, 4 pm (see page 5)

Third Thursday

May 18, 9:30 am

Pathfinders

May 20
More about Pathfinders on page 4.

ACTION Serve Day

Saturday, June 3
Ventura County-wide event, please see-
more information on page 5

Pentecost

Special Pentecost Offering Received
Sunday, June 4

Youth Sunday

Sunday, June 11

Music Appreciation Sunday

Sunday, June 18

Vacation Bible Camp

June 26—29 (Monday through Thursday)

Junior High Summer Camp

July 9—14

High School Youth Mission Trip

Watch for fundraisers to help support the
youth, coming soon
July 29—August 5

Communion

May 7, June 11, July 2

Watch for Summer Concerts and Events!

Each year, we sponsor a few trips
to events in Los Angeles. Watch for
Hollywood Bowl sign-ups on the
Courtyard this month!!

NEXT MEETING: MAY 18

Bookworms

The Bookworms had a great time discussing *Rosemary: The Hidden Kennedy Daughter* by Kate Larson in April, and have decided to expand the discussion at the May meeting. Also on the agenda is choosing a summer book to read and discuss. Please join us on Thursday, May 18, at 2 pm in the WPC Library.

Saturday Suppers

If you enjoy good food and meeting new friends, Saturday Suppers are for you! These themed meals take place on the first Saturday of the month. To participate, please contact Julie Martin (julie@wpcwestlake.org or 818.889-1491 extension 28).

May 6 - Mexican Madness: Cinco de Mayo Fare

Library Lines

The WPC librarians are searching for our commentaries on the Book of Mark. If you have borrowed any of these, please consider returning them. Those who need to borrow something for a long-term study are welcome to check out one favorite. This will allow others to find something for the short term. And don't forget the Internet, which may help you with preparation for classes as well. Using a study Bible is another source of information that will enrich discussion and explain some sections which may be unfamiliar.

Each style of resource will have a different emphasis, so remember to choose that which works best for you or your group. We have a number of them in our Bible section. Comments from those who meet in the church library are always welcome. The cupboard below the varied Bible selections has a number of similar Bibles that can be pulled for your use. It will save pulling those from the Sanctuary or Fellowship Hall. Contact Ruth Grey for further information.



Pathfinders (a small group for women)

Join Us May 20

We now come back to our study with new eyes after celebrating Holy Week and Easter. Hebrews gives us assurance that Jesus is indeed greater than any other figure in their tradition and is the reflection of God's glory. Come and join us as we continue to share this lens that clarifies the nature of Jesus for us even more. We meet in our church library from 8:30 to 10:30 on the third Saturday of each month. May 20 and June 17 are the next two dates for your calendar. Contact Ruth Grey for additional information.

Bread for the Journey

There are BIG THINGS going on at Manna, our Conejo Valley Food Bank! There is still an opportunity to be part of these big things! We have been hearing a sermon series called: *Bread for the Journey: Restoration, Road, Riches*. Join us May 7th for the last in this series. You won't want to miss your opportunity to participate.

More information? Contact Sheryl Brownfield.



ACTION Serve Day 2017

Coming Saturday, June 3

Serve Day is our most participatory outreach program for ages 5 to 85! It's a morning that lets a lot of folks who live in Ventura County know that God cares and reaches out to everyone. We paint battered women's shelters, help seniors with yard work, visit folks who are glad for company, and we are all done by noontime. Yes, we even have lunch afterward. Hard to pass up!

It's easy to contact Bill Evarts on the courtyard or by email (bill@wmetek.com). Come along and see the folks who are glad God sent us. You will feel the excitement and have a great story to tell at dinner.

Women on Wednesday

Ladies of Westminster! Please consider joining our Women on Wednesday evening Bible study. We meet every Wednesday evening in the WPC Library at 7 pm. After an incredibly interesting and thoughtful review of the Gospel of John, we are now discussing the Book of Revelation. Join us!

Ladies' Spring Tea

MAY 13, 4:00 PM, FELLOWSHIP CENTER

Women and girls are invited to an afternoon tea on Saturday, May 13, at 4 pm in the Fellowship Center. Bring mothers, daughters and friends!

The cost for the tea is \$20 per person. A portion of the proceeds will benefit VC Kids Foster Care.

Westminster Presbyterian Church is a "Faith in Motion" congregation! Contact Valerie Consolo to sign up (818.889-1491 ext. 39 or Valerie@wpcwestlake.org)

JYF Fun

Last month our JYF (Middle School Fellowship) students had a blast trying out a new Escape Room in Thousand Oaks (see photo). On Tuesday, May 9th from 6 to 7:30 pm they will be going to The Stadium in Westlake to play laser tag.

For more information please contact Matt Pardee (matt@wpcwestlake.org).



Welcome to New WPC Members

Five people were welcomed into membership on Palm Sunday, April 9. We are happy to introduce Fletcher Manning & Kristina Virtue with their daughters Hailey and Katherine, Peter Huffaker and Kate Anderson with their daughters Darby and Emeline, and Barbara Artinian. A warm welcome to WPC!



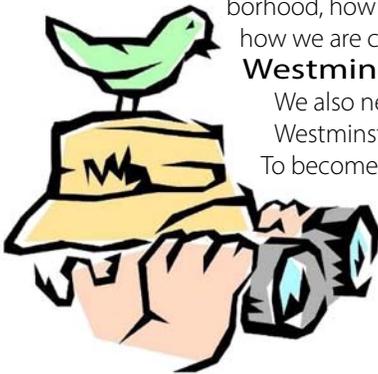
Vacation Bible Camp Join the CCC!

MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY, JUNE 26—29

Children pre-school to 5th Grade: This summer... pull on your hiking boots, grab your binoculars and get ready to become an official member of the CCC—Creature Care Corps. Learn about God's creatures living in your neighborhood, how your choices have an effect on their habitat and how we are called to care for, protect and love them.

Westminster Youth Leaders

We also need leaders, age 6th grade through adult. Westminster Youth Leaders serve as leaders in our program. To become a leader, Youth Leader Training is required. Our training session will be held on Wednesday, June 21. You may register online at www.wpcwestlake.org, or contact the C&FM team at 818.889-1491, extension 39 or 28. Please contact us with any questions.



WPC's Community Partners Continue to Donate

Our Thanksgiving Baskets back in November were a great success due to our WPC members who contributed donations to help pay for the food, and also our community grocery stores !!! Help WPC thank RALPHS and SMART & FINAL Grocery Stores by visiting their locations and purchasing goods. These two local stores donated money to help purchase food for our Thanksgiving Baskets.

Please take time to register with RALPHS' REWARDS. They are the only grocery store that is continuing to donate to WPC. Give the cashier your home phone number (after registering) and RALPHS' REWARDS will donate directly to our church.

Register at Ralphs.com, Ralphs Community Contribution Program

Don't forget AMAZONSMILE.com. Please register with Amazon Smile and they will also donate a percentage of your purchases to our church.

Free Clinic Egg Hunt a Huge Success!

A few weeks before Easter, we were made aware of a need at the Westminster Free Clinic. An organization which had always sponsored an egg hunt for the children coming to the clinic had had to pull away, at very short notice. Our Children's & Family Ministries team jumped in to fill the gap, with your help! Donations were solicited on the Courtyard one Sunday morning, plastic eggs were purchased and filled, and a group of volunteers hosted the egg hunt at the Free Clinic location (United Methodist Church of Thousand Oaks).

Here is a thank you note from one of the Clinic Directors:

"A million thanks for your amazing Egg Hunt last night! The children were so happy and excited and parents so grateful that their kids had the chance to receive something for Easter. As you know, these families struggle to pay for food and rent and to keep one vehicle running—most months there is literally nothing left after that, so what you provided was really a big deal for all of them. You should have seen the kids after they went back to Clinic Kid's Club, endlessly comparing their eggs and being delighted with all their goodies for the rest of the evening!

All of us at clinic are so grateful, most specially because we know how much time, money and effort go into making an event like this happen. Your kindness, love and concern are so much appreciated—God bless you for everything you did and for being such a wonderful example to all the young people present!"



Junior High Summer Camp

Summer camp registration is now open. We will be enjoying six fun-filled days in the San Bernardino Mountains at Forest Home.

*J*unior High Camp is the place for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students to get away from the academic and social pressures of middle school and focus on their identity in Christ and place in God's family of believers. During a week of camp, students will engage in deep conversations and times of prayer and worship. They'll be challenged with sound biblical teaching and authentic relationships.

Of course, no summer camp is complete without the fun! Creative games and interactive team challenges ensure there is never a dull moment. Campers have the freedom to explore the many recreation options at Forest Home all week long. (And with a Blob, Zip Line, kayaks, Sky Trail, Olympic-sized pool, GaGa pit, archery, laser tag, and lake, there is lots for them to do!)

Campers will enjoy living in community, making new friends, and creating memories that will give them confidence as they navigate the changes and challenges that junior high so often brings.

Below are the camp dates and cost. We want everyone to come; if finances are an issue please let us know. The registration deadline is May 31.

Dates: 7/9 - 7/14

Cost: \$550

For more information about camp please contact Paula Kissell (paula@wpcwestlake.org) or Matt Pardee (matt@wpcwestlake.org)

*The Conejo Valley Youth
Orchestras would like to extend
our deepest
gratitude to the
Westminster Presbyterian
Church
for your continued support!
Without the rehearsal space
you provide every week, over
250 student
musicians would not have a
program where they can grow,
make friends and be inspired by
classical
symphonic music.
BRAVO!*



*We would love for you
to join us on June 4th
for our upcoming
concert "Pillars III-
Into the Future"
Just email us for the
details at
contact@cvyo.org.*



The
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A NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS & FRIENDS
OF WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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office or sent by May 12 to
Kathy@wpcwestlake.org
To submit late photos call Kathy Dahms.