

The Westminster Presbyterian Church  
*Communicant*  
May 2018



## *God has been faithful, and God continues to be faithful...*

*F*riends,  
Boxes. Boxes everywhere! Over the last few weeks my family and I have been packing and purging, collecting and cleaning, and deciding what really needs to come to our new home and what can stay behind. We're looking forward to the new season—to moving, to planting roots in the Conejo Valley, and to having the entire family fully plug in the life and ministry at WPC.

Before Hailey and I moved to Orange County seven years ago, everything we owned was neatly packed inside a 10' x 10' storage unit. We didn't have kids, and we wondered what we were going to do with "all the space" at the townhouse we were going to rent. Now the house is full — toys spill out of the kid's rooms, the shoe basket at the front door is overflowing, and crafts created on the dining room table line the walls. All kinds of memories were created in this place. An empty house became a home.



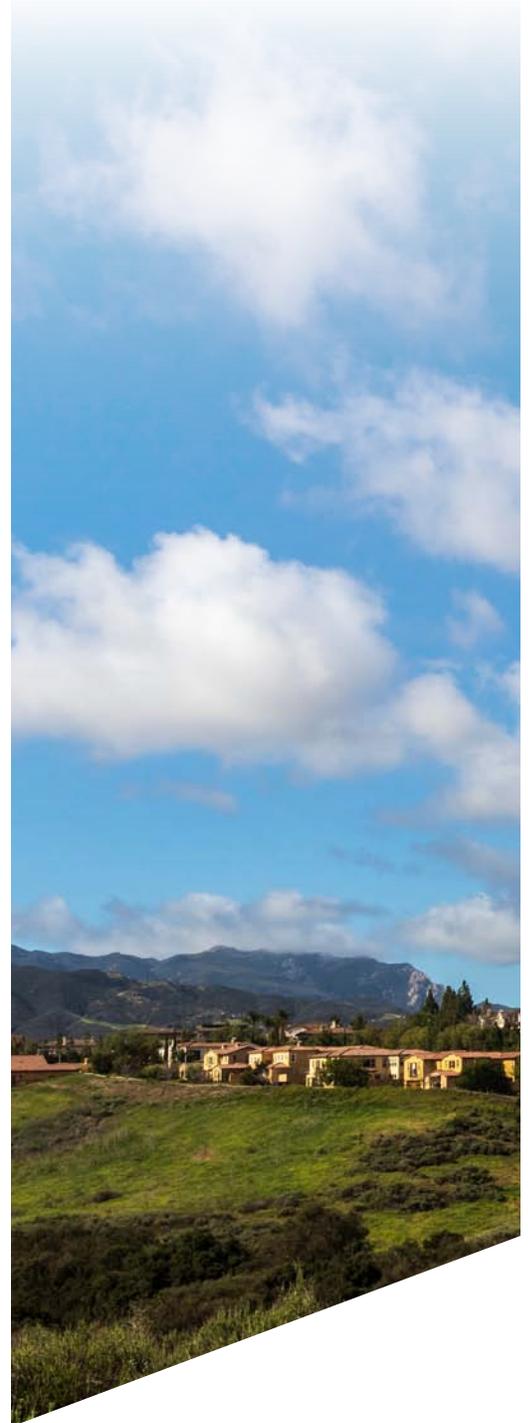
I've experienced a surprising amount of gratitude while I've packed. Pictures from my childhood sitting right next to photos of my children, mementos from my grandparents reminding me that their legacy continues to mold our family today, and notes that Hailey and I wrote to one another while in high school. Every box is a reminder of how God has been faithful. And of

how God continues to be faithful today.

In the last few months I've heard quite a few stories from some of you about our church. Some of you have pulled out pictures, others have written notes, and I've had quite a few meals in some of your homes (this church is full of GREAT cooks!). As we prepare for our 50th anniversary, and as you share stories about how WPC has shown God's love to this community in tangible ways, I can't help but feel the same sort of gratitude that I do while packing our house.

God has used this community to do mighty things. In the past, God's been faithful. Today, God IS faithful to our church. And tomorrow, God will continue to use us for His purpose in this world. I'm looking forward to celebrating fifty years of ministry later this year, and I also can't wait to step into tomorrow with you all.

With Gratitude,  
Pastor Dave



## Manna Event

Please join us Saturday, May 5, from 6 - 8 pm at the NEW location, 95 Oakview, Thousand Oaks, to hear about our local food pantry's plans and their upcoming move. Please sign up on the courtyard for this FREE event. The Mission Committee looks forward to hosting you and getting closer to our pledged commitment to Manna. For more information, see Sheryl Brownfield or Carol Spiegel.



## Senior Youth Fellowship

This summer our senior high students will be traveling to Houston Texas to serve the needs of the inner city population. We will be departing on Sunday, July 29 and returning Sunday, August 5. The trip is for incoming 9th grade through 12th grade students. These trips are an excellent way to make new friends, while serving the needs of others as we are all called to do.

For more information about the trip please visit the WPC website and check out the youth section and forms. Sign ups are first come, first served. I encourage you to visit our youth center and see some of the memories from previous trips. I would love to answer any questions you might have.

Blessings, J.R. Robertson

▽ Congratulations to 2018 Confirmation Class



## We are getting the WPC Fix-It Crew back together!

We have the brawn but we need the brains. Your brains! We are looking for a Fix-It Crew Leader Team to organize projects, pick up supplies and schedule and host the Fix-It Crew once a month. If you enjoy DIY projects and paintbrush fellowship contact our Property Committee Elder, Bill Amador, (please see print version or call church office for contact info).



## 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.

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:Lisarush3@gmail.com)

#### Senior High Ministry, Grades 9-12

Contact John (JR) Robertson  
[JR@wpcwestlake.org](mailto: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  
 Everyone is 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

### YMCA Prayer Breakfast

Thursday, May 3, 7 am  
 Contact the church office for tickets

### Manna Cinco de Mayo Event

Saturday, May 5  
 See page 2

### Women on Wednesday

Bible Study  
 Every Wednesday, 6:30 pm, WPC Library

### Bookworms

May 10 at 1:30 pm

### ACTION Serve Day

Saturday, May 12  
 See page 4

### Mother's Day

May 13  
 Bring framed pictures of mom to decorate the Sanctuary!

### Pathfinders

May 19  
 Third Saturdays, from 9 to 10:30 in the church library, more on page 4

### Pentecost

May 20  
 Pentecost Offering received (see page 5)

### Music Sunday

Come celebrate our music ministry!  
 June 3

### Youth Sunday

June 10

### Youth Leader Training

Wednesday, June 20  
 See page 6

### Vacation Bible Camp

Ain't No Mountain High Enough!  
 June 25—28  
 (see page 6)

### SYF Summer Worktrip

July 29—August 5  
 Stay tuned for ways to support our youth mission trip!

## Communion

May 6, June 10, and July 1

# ACTION Serve Day

## Coming Saturday, May 12

WPC is again offering the most rewarding Saturday morning of the year with hands-on outreach in our community. We will be painting, cleaning, gardening and touching lives of folks in need. Battered women's shelters, mobile home parks; God's hands at work. Ask any of the folks who do this every year with us. Join us! Newcomers welcome!

Contact Bill Evarts, (please call office for contact info).

▽ ACTION Serve Day, June 2017



## Library Lines

As we browsed through Gary Pate's shelves of books left behind, we found collections on literature, music, history, and most of all religion. What a privilege to be invited to choose titles to add to our own library collection. He leaves a legacy that reveals his passion for the faith, learning, and all that he shared with his many students over the years of his too short life. It shows us how being generous with our gifts can make a difference that can last. Next time you have a chance to browse our own library shelves, remember that others have read and enjoyed and learned from much of

what is there.

Did you know that this is our second location on this campus? We first had shelves in what is now the toddler care room. The "Fireside Room" was dark with a fireplace that sometimes we used to warm ourselves during deacon, Bible Study, and committee meetings. Those shelves were put up by members who had time and skills for "church improvement." Treasure the time you have to grow in your faith, and pass it along to others as you journey together with all those you know and love.

Contact Ruth Grey for further information.

## Pathfinders

Our trio of studies on Past, Present, and Future has taken more time than we expected, and so we are now just starting the Present study which has its focus upon suffering. We so take for granted that this is not our cup to drink from, yet experience tells us that this is so seldom true. The Future study encompasses faith, hope, and Sabbath rest. Wow, what an inspiring setting for us to start our season of celebration during year number fifty! May we approach these lessons with compassion and gain understanding as always.

Join us any third Saturday, from 9 to 10:30 in the church library for discussion and prayer. Contact Ruth Grey for further information.

## Bookworms

The WPC Bookworms will meet May 10 at 1:30 pm in the church library. Our book selection is *The Unexpected Mrs. Polifax* by Dorothy Gilman. We are always hoping for new members—come join us!

# Adult Christian Formation

As a congregation we explored a daily devotional focusing on the Gospel of Mark by N.T. Wright through the period of Lent and Easter week. Should you be looking for more devotional options, here are a few gleaned from the ACF committee members to carry you through the rest of 2018 and beyond. *Electronically inclined?*

Savvy with a smart phone? Try the app BiOY (Bible in one year) from Nicky Gumbel who is the pioneer of Alpha, a series of interactive sessions that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith. The app includes an Old Testament, New Testament and psalm or proverb each day with short commentary/reflection.

Two e-mail options direct to your phone or computer: Daily Gospel Reflection email from *faith@nd.edu* (Notre Dame), or Daily Focus Photographs by Beth Olin with an appropriate scripture for meditation, *beth.olin@sbcglobal.net*.

## Prefer a book?

In our Library are the following titles available for check-out:

- Opening Windows – Spiritual Refreshment for Your Walk with Christ* selected by Howard Brooks
- A Year With Jesus* by Eugene H. Peterson
- The Wisdom of Jesus* selected by A. Boyd Luter
- Beloved: From God's Heart to Yours* by Kay Arthur
- A Year with C. S. Lewis: Daily Readings from His Classic Works* by C. S. Lewis
- More Precious Than Silver* by Joni Eareckson Tada
- Streams in the Desert* by L.B. Cowman
- Devotional Classics* by Richard J. Foster

(Note the Dewey decimal numbers are in the 242 area. Contact Ruth Grey for information.)

AND, don't forget the *Daily Family Devotions*, a weekly devotional handout from the ushers each Sunday; or the little quarterly magazine in the narthex and at the Deacon's cart called *These Days: Daily Devotions for Living in Faith*,

## Women on Wednesday (WOW) Bible Study

Now that we have concluded our Lenten journey (if ever a journey can be concluded), please consider visiting (and hopefully joining) our Wednesday evening Women on Wednesday Bible Study in the WPC Library. We gather together at 6:30 pm every Wednesday. At this time we are further reviewing the Gospel of Mark. We meet in fellowship and faith every week and trust that you can be with us soon! Contact Sue Minihan, (please call office for contact info).

## Pentecost Offering: May 20

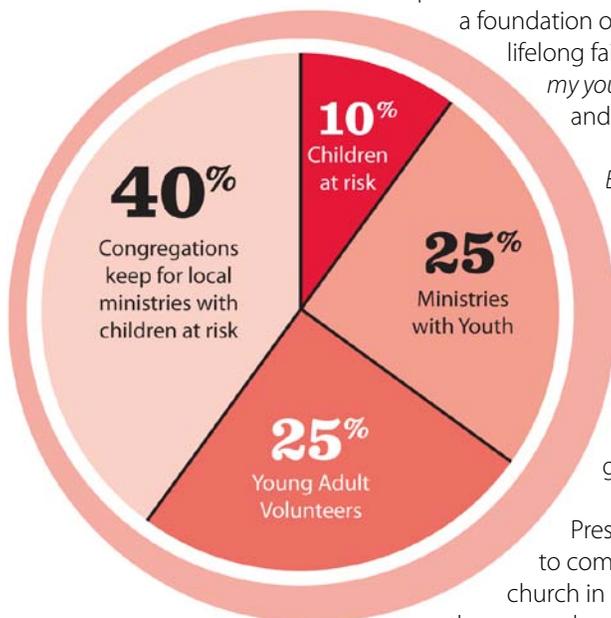
Each year on Pentecost Sunday, we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the church. The Holy Spirit remains with us still, connecting us with the church of the past, continuing to inspire the church of today, and pointing us to the church of the future.

The Pentecost Offering unites us in a churchwide effort to support young people in Christ and inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world. Studies show a foundation of faith established during childhood through young adulthood, helps ensure lifelong faith and service. Psalm 71 testifies to this same truth. Verse 17 says "O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds." The patterns and lessons established during early years bear fruit throughout a person's life.

These lessons might be taught through a congregation's commitment to *Educate a Child, Transform the World* in ministries that shape a child's academic achievement, setting them on a path toward a stable future. They might be taught through youth events sponsored by Ministries with Youth at the national church that brings together young people from all over the country to share their faith with one another. Or our young adults may be guided through a year of intentional service where they discern God's call upon their lives by our Young Adult Volunteer Program.

And there is more—Presbyterian congregations are finding new ways to minister to children at-risk in their own communities. General Assembly programs advocate for children and developing youth and young adult leaders.

By giving to the Pentecost Offering, one of the four Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), we are nurturing the faith of those who are the church to come; children, youth, and young adults. We invite you to join with the worldwide church in building for our future, in building individual lives of faith. Envelopes will be in the pew racks on May 20. Thank you.



*Ain't No Mountain High Enough!*  
**Vacation Bible Camp**



**JUNE 25—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

**P**ut 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 forms (both sides) for each child and return with payment to Children's & Family Ministries at WPC. Forms are on [www.wpcwestlake.org](http://www.wpcwestlake.org) or on the Courtyard or in the church office.

*Registration Begins May 1*

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

**JUNE 20, 10 AM—3 PM**

**Youth Leader Training**  
*6th through 8th graders: Learn to be a Westminister Youth Leader*

**A**re 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.

**EARLY REGISTRATION** by June 1, save \$10.

**WPC Preschool Spotlight**

**W**e are so proud to have partnered with Ashley Webb (daughter of our own Heidi Webb, Preschool Administrative Assistant) in her achieving her goal of completing the Girl Scout Gold Award. The Gold Award is the highest achievement in Girl Scouts. Ashley chose to reinvent the Secret Garden part of our Outdoor Classroom. Earning the Gold Award requires spending at least 80 hours of planning and carrying out the challenge. During the planning Ashley met with teachers and watched how the children used the area to see where her enhancements would have purpose and lasting impacts. She constructed a garden where children can explore nature through art, music, math, science and expand their imagination. The Secret Garden now includes a cactus condo, herb garden, a music wall, balancing scale, sorting table and worm and fairy gardens.

Since Ashley completed her project, the local Acorn newspaper had an article saluting her as an Ambassador Girl Scout. The City of Thousand Oaks recognized her accomplishments in leadership, community service career planning and personal development.

Ashley also attended WPCP as a preschooler...her roots at WPC run deep.



*The*  
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Material for the Summer 2018 issue needs to be in the WPC office or sent by June 15 to [Kathy@wpcwestlake.org](mailto:Kathy@wpcwestlake.org). To submit late photos call Kathy Dahms.