

The Westminster Presbyterian Church
Communicant
November 2017



New Beginnings

"See, I am making all things new." Revelation 12:5

What an exciting time this is at Westminster Presbyterian Church! We often think of life with Jesus as a journey; we are disciples traveling the road with him, both in our personal lives and in this community of faith.

Looking at the next few months, we see so many important things on the horizon: a new pastor; an all-church mission emphasis; new music personnel and programs; anticipating the birth of our Savior during Advent; celebrating his birth at Christmas; and beginning a new year. Our staff is energized, our elders and deacons are working hard, and our congregation is enthusiastic!

Where do you see yourself contributing to the work of the Kingdom? We often talk about dedicating three things to the Lord: our time, our talents and our treasure. Ministry and service opportunities abound at WPC, not only on Sundays but throughout the week. Have you ever thought about singing in the choir or with the praise team? Helping with a children's class or program? Using your handyman skills around the campus? Greeting people with a smiling face at the church door? Helping prepare a meal? Talk to a staff member about using your time and talents!

In the past few weeks, you have received a letter and pledge card for 2018. You have heard from the pulpit inspirational stories of why we give, and how important it is. This is part of a new beginning – using our treasure to support our ministries as we journey into a new year. November 12 is Commitment Sunday; we celebrate 49 years of ministry on this corner in Westlake Village, and make our pledge to support our 50th year, 2018. On November 12 we will bring forward our pledge cards during the services as we dedicate ourselves, our time, our talent and our treasure.

During November, we also think about serving the needy in our community during the holiday season. We will all give of our time on Sunday, November 19, as we worship at one service at 10 am and pack Thanksgiving Baskets together (there's a job for everyone!) This is a morning you will not want to miss!

Please enjoy perusing this issue of the *Communicant*. Pay particular attention to the upcoming events, services and class listed on page three in "Plan on These Dates." Mark your calendars now for those holiday special times here at WPC. We thank God for making all things new!



November Highlights...

- Pastoral Transitions
- ACF: Where In The World Is WPC?
- Advent Devotional: Season of Hope
- Plan on These Dates
- Library Lines
- Adult Fellowship: Pathfinders, Bookworms, Taco Tuesday, All-Church Bible Study
- Thanksgiving Baskets: All church event!
- New WPC Members
- Family Ministry: Family Advent Celebration, Kids Fellowship Club, Children's Christmas Pageant, Bible Presentation Sunday

Pastoral Transitions

At a farewell luncheon on October 29, we thanked Pastor Charles Svendsen for his two years of interim ministry among us. We wish him all God's blessings as he moves on to the Presbyterian Church of the Covenant in Costa Mesa. A photo of his last meeting with Seesion is on page 6!

Pastor Dave Rohde's first day here at WPC will be Monday, November 27. Welcome, Pastor Dave and Hailey, and Ella, Thomas and Piper!

Parish Associate Pastor John Burnett has graciously agreed to be Acting Pastor/ Head of Staff from November 1 through 26.

Sermons will be preached by Pastor Kristy LaBarge, our Committee on Ministry liaison (November 5), Rev. Burnett (November 12) and Executive Presbyter Ken Baker (November 26). On November 19 we will have a different format (one service at 10 am) as we assemble Thanksgiving Baskets for local families (for more details please see page 5).

To contact Pastor John Burnett during this transition time, please email him (john@wpcwestlake.org) or call him at 818.889-1491 extension 121.

ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Where In The World Is WPC?

November's Adult "Sunday School" series started in October!

We hope you already attended that session and heard the Rev James Milley speak about his experiences as a missionary with the Presbyterian Church (USA) in Africa, Ethiopia to be exact, and where our denomination is witnessing world-wide to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The rest of the month we will hear where else WPC is at work, in several ways and places:

- November 5, we will hear about "Westminster Free Clinic: What's New?" (I'll tell you a secret: they're still in the Conejo Valley.)
- November 12, people in our congregation will explain "Who Are the Deacons and What is the Stephen Ministry?"
- November 19, all of us will be sending forth Thanksgiving Boxes during the Combined Worship Service at 10:00 am.
- November 26, in Haiti, "The Clinic and Beyond". We've been there for a while now, so how is the work expanding?

Watch for more information as the weeks arrive.

A Season of Hope

Creating Our Advent Devotional

Each year the people of WPC create a day-by-day devotional for Advent, the season of anticipation as we wait for the birth of Jesus. It's like an Advent calendar, only better! This devotional is distributed to the congregation on the first Sunday in Advent for your use in personal or family devotional time, to give as a gift to friends, family and neighbors, or just to provide some holiday inspiration. We need YOU to write a page!

Theme: Season of Hope

Due date: November 14, 2017 (early submissions are appreciated)

Stories: We are looking for Advent or Christmas faith stories that show how you have experienced hope; or share thoughts on how we might experience hope this Advent season. (If you have an idea but would rather tell it to someone rather than write it out, let us know and we will find a way to record it or

assist in the writing.)

Submissions are welcome from all: children, students, adults

Style: narrative writing, poetry or original art. are all welcome

Word count: 300-350 for prose, not including scripture and prayer

Line count for poetry: 37 lines including lines between stanzas

Art should be able to be reproduced on a 8 1/2" x 5 1/2" page

Scripture and prayer: please choose a Scripture verse and short prayer, or you can ask the committee for suggestions

Email your copy to and/or ask questions of Jo Zimmerman or Ruth Grey by November 14 or earlier. (Ask in the office or check this article in your printed copy of the *Communicant* for email addresses.)

Look for the ACF Advent table on the courtyard for samples of previous writings and booklets.



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 – 7:30 pm, Youth Center

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
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

“Where in the World Is WPC?”

Adult Christian formation class series on WPC missions
Sundays, 10:45 am

Kids Fellowship Club

Tuesdays, 4:30 – 6 pm

Bookworms

November 9, 2 pm

Commitment Sunday

November 12

Taco Tuesday

November 14

Meeting of the Session

Wednesday, November 15, 7 pm

Pathfinders

November 18, Saturday, 9 to 10:30 am, WPC Library, see more on page 4

One Worship Service

Congregation-wide Mission Opportunity
Help pack Thanksgiving boxes
November 19, 10 am

Pastor Dave Arrives at WPC

Monday, November 27

Alternative Christmas Market

Sunday, September 3, all morning on the Courtyard

Meeting of the Presbytery (at WPC)

November 28

Family Advent Celebration

Sunday, December 3, 5 pm

Service of Hope and Remembrance

Wednesday, December 6, 7 pm

All-Church Christmas Dinner

Wednesday, December 13, 6 pm

Festival of Lessons and Carols

Wednesday, December 13, 7 pm

Evensong Service

Wednesday, December 20, 7 pm

Schedule for Sunday, December 24

Services at:

10 am (traditional), 5:30 pm, 8 pm, and at 10 pm, see service details in December *Communicant*

Schedule for Sunday, December 31

One service, 10 am (contemporary)

Communion

November 5, December 3,

December 24 (at the 10 pm service)

Library Lines

Over the summer a number of us gathered to study "Rising Strong" by Brene Brown and really enjoyed the sharing of her suggestions for how to be all we can be. You might enjoy some of her titles, which are now in the church library collection. These are in the 152 and 159 non-fiction categories to the left of the window on the west wall. Observe the publication dates, and you will be able to read them in

sequence.

We try to make things available to everyone whether they can participate in small groups or not. If you have enjoyed a special title during your walk in faith, consider putting a copy on the shelves for everyone else to read, or let me know to add it when I order new books. Contact Ruth Grey for further information.

Pathfinders

"Indeed, the word of God is living and active... it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart."
Hebrews 4:12

How reassuring is this message from the New Testament. This time we use material from both the Old and New Testaments to share about community with the Living Word. It's always good to know that we can learn more about the relevance of God's message when we spend time together in prayer and discussion. Some things never change.

The Pathfinders meet the third Saturday of each month. Join us November 18, Saturday, from 9 to 10:30 am, in the WPC Library. Contact Ruth Grey for further information.

All-Church Book Study **Grace and Gratitude**

Tuesday Evenings, 6:30 – 8 pm
Shared meal, shared discussion

Recognizing the importance of gratitude and grace and the way they express the rhythms of our Christian lives can be a renewing, revitalizing experience. Seeing ourselves as receivers of grace, daily---and expressing gratitude to God for this grace in Christ by our

actions and commitments—brings meaning and significance to all we receive and do. Grace and gratitude energizes us to receive God's love and express that love continually, in worship, work, family and service to Jesus Christ.

Come be a part of this study. Materials available in the Family Life Office upstairs or on the courtyard on Sunday mornings. Contact Julie Beth Martin, 818.889-1491 extension 128.

Bookworms

Love to read? You are invited to the November meeting of the Bookworms on Thursday, November 9 at 2 pm in the WPC Library. Discussion will be on *Girl in Disguise* by Greer McAllister.

Blessing of the Animals

*WPC Prayer Garden
October 3, 2017*



Thanksgiving Baskets

An All-Church Project!

The joy of giving a happy Thanksgiving Basket full of food to our local needy families is fast approaching. Each year we assemble and deliver 100 Thanksgiving Baskets to Lutheran Social Services in Thousand Oaks, where they are given out. Baskets contain everything needed for a traditional Thanksgiving meal.

A Thanksgiving Basket donation table is on the courtyard every Sunday between services. In addition, special offering envelopes are in the pew racks during the month of November. A donation of \$40 will help fund a Thanksgiving Basket full of food for one family.

We are also asking for empty copy-paper boxes (with lids) for the food. Our children decorate the boxes before they are filled. You may drop off paper boxes in the church office.

This year, everyone will be a part of filling baskets! Come to our combined service at 10 am on November 19. We will give praise to the Lord for the bounties we enjoy, and work together to share that bounty with others. There are jobs for everyone. It will be a great, family-friendly time!

Volunteers are also needed to pick up the ordered food at the grocery store (it's a lot of food!), and drive filled baskets to Lutheran Social Services. If you have questions and/or would like to sign up to volunteer, please contact Lynn Jacobsen (818.970-4891 or lynnjacobsen@hotmail.com). Thank you for being part of this joyful and satisfying ministry!

Welcome to Our Newest WPC Members

We are so excited to welcome seven new WPC members! Below are pictures and bios. Be sure to introduce yourself when you see them!

Mike and Katelin Blum—Mike and Katelin met and married in San Diego. Their two daughters are Olivia (5-1/2 and Abby (2-1/2). They moved to Agoura Hills five years ago to be closer to Katelin's parents, Wes and Suzy Barrow, WPC members and awesome grandparents! Mike and Katelin are excited to be joining WPC; they feel it is a great place for their young family to grow in faith with a great community supporting them.

On the weekends the family enjoys going to the park, swimming, and occasional trips to the happiest place on earth, Disneyland!

Juan Carlos and Paola (Montealegre) Gonzalez—Juan Carlos and Paola were married in 2006 and moved to this area that same year. They have four children; two from Paola's previous marriage, Sabrina (22) and Sebastian (17). They began coming to WPC because their younger children, Nicolas (9) and Sofia (8), have attended our WPC preschool from the time they were in the Mommy & Me program. The kids love church and the children's programming; Juan Carlos and Paola are excited to have God in their lives and in their family.

Juan Carlos is an attorney, and Paola works for a property management company they own. Their hobbies are exercising and sharing their free time with their kids.

Kerby Langendorf—Kerby moved to California in 1985 from Long Island, New York (town of Stonybrook). He has worked for the LA Department of Water & Power since 1987. He married Catherine Ann Slack in 1995 at the Arcutt Ranch in West Hills; they were married

for 21 years. Kerby was widowed in October 2016. During the time his wife was ill, he walked on occasion for exercise and space during the caregiving and often stopped at the local Starbucks, where he met John & Pat Burnett. He mentioned to them that he was thinking of attending a Presbyterian church, and they invited him to WPC. He decided to come by and check it out, not having any idea how involved John and Pat really were! Kerby felt a rich peace come over him as he attended the services, and knew this would be a positive environment for him during a very difficult time.

Kerby's hobbies are golf, home improvement, off and on road motorcycle riding, playing guitar and attending classical music concerts. He also enjoys hiking the local trails in the beautiful Santa Monica Mountains.

Tom and Leslie Robison—Tom and Leslie have been married for 36 years. Tom was raised in West Los Angeles, and Leslie grew up in the San Fernando Valley. They moved to Thousand Oaks in 1982. Tom's career has been with GTE and Verizon. After retiring, he has continued consulting with Verizon and Frontier Communications. Leslie is an accounts payable supervisor at Cheesecake Factory, where she has worked for 20 years.

They attended a number of churches in the area before deciding on a Presbyterian church, and have been attending WPC semi-regularly for several years.

Tom enjoys fly-fishing and music (he used to play banjo in a bluegrass band), and Leslie finds satisfaction in helping others and experiencing different cultures. They enjoy golfing and traveling together, and look forward to being WPC members.



Sunday, December 3

Family Advent Celebration

Advent, the four weeks before Christmas, is marked by a spirit of anticipation, preparation, longing and hope, culminating on Christmas Day when we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Come and prepare your heart with songs, traditions, fellowship, food and fun!

- 4 pm—Wreathmaking, \$20 for Advent Wreath Supplies and Greens
- 5 pm—Lively Worship in the Sanctuary ending with the 12 Days of Christmas
- Simple Family Supper to follow in the Fellowship Center

RSVP: julie@wpcwestlake.org

Children's Christmas Pageant

Children ages 4 years through 5th grade are encouraged to be a part of the Christmas Eve Pageant. Children will bring the Gospel story of Christ's birth to life in our 5:30 Christmas Eve worship.

We will have four Tuesday afternoon rehearsals, 4:30 – 5:30 pm on November 28, December 5, December 12, December 19, and a dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 23. Children will arrive on Christmas Eve at 3:30.

Please contact Julie Beth Martin, Director of Family Ministries for more information (818 889-1491 ext. 128 or julie@wpcwestlake.org).

We need youth leaders and adults to assist with staging, costumes, directing, and/or fun control.

Call us!! We would love to have you be part of the joy!

Thank You, Pastor Charles

On October 25, at Pastor Charles' last meeting with the WPC Session, the elders all wore plaid shirts in his honor!



Taco Tuesday!

NOVEMBER 14, 5:30

\$5/PERSON

Come for the tacos, stay for the fun. Bring your friends, bring your family! Hosted by Kids Fellowship Club.



Bible Presentation Sunday

Bibles were presented to our WPC 2nd graders on September 24.



The
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A NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS & FRIENDS
OF WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

November 2017

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Material for the December 2017 issue needs to be in the WPC office or sent by November 10 to

Kathy@wpcwestlake.org

To submit late photos call Kathy Dahms.