



## A New Thing

*“Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”*

*Isaiah 43:18, 19*

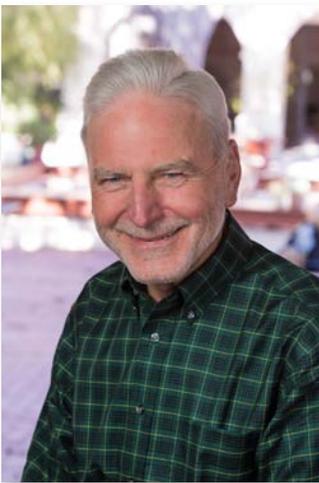
*“For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things will not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight.”*

*Isaiah 65:17, 18*

*“See, I am making all things new.”*

*Revelation 21:5*

The Scriptures of Isaiah and Revelation offer us a relevant and remarkable insight as we enter the fall season at WPC. And that is this: the future reflects God’s presence and promises more than the past. Both Isaiah the Prophet and John the Seer seem to say so.



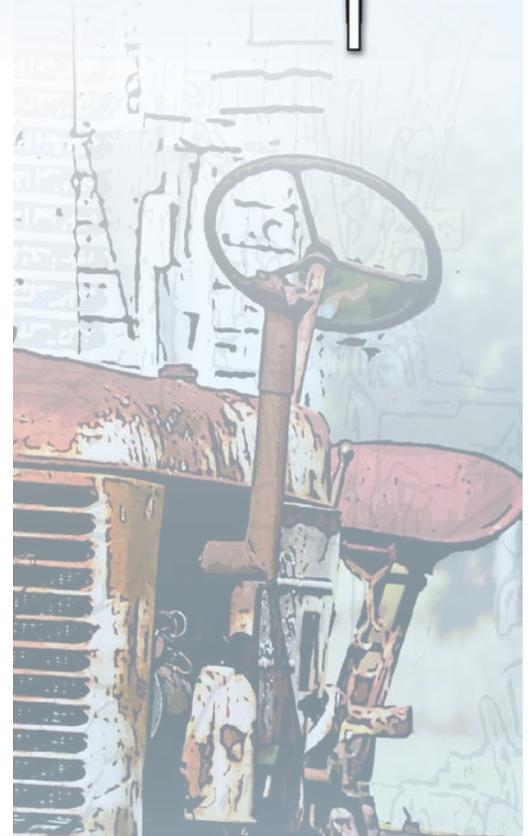
*Interim Pastor Charles Svendsen*

As Isaiah writes in Chapters 43 and 65, the people of Israel are trudging back from their 70 years in captivity in Babylon to rebuild their devastated city of Jerusalem. The date is 520 B.C. God speaks through Isaiah a word of future things. For two generations the writer of Psalm 137 described the Jews as those who, “By the rivers of Babylon—there we sat down and there we wept when we remembered Zion.” We would imagine that seeing fallen Jerusalem upon their return, the flood of tears would flow again. But Isaiah writes the opposite. He said, “Do not consider the things of old” nor even “remember the former things.” Just when Israel was tempted to drown their emotions in a sea of sadness, God reminds them through Isaiah that, “I am about to do a

new thing. I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” That’s my work, says God. And your response, Israel? You are to “be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating.” This new Jerusalem is described by God through Isaiah in one word: “joy.” And God’s new people, about to restore the city, are also given a one-word picture: “delight.”

We are entering the autumn season in the life of our beloved church and God is also doing a “new thing” among us. We are facing infinitesimal change compared to what returning Israel endured. Yet change for us is real and sometimes painful. I would encourage us to take Isaiah’s ancient word to heart. God is by grace doing a “new thing” among us. Rivers will appear making “a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” And our response? We, like Israel of old, will “be

*(continued page 2)*



## September Highlights...

- Back to School Month at Sunday School
- Welcoming Ed Smart
- Plan on These Dates
- Amor Trip: build a house in Mexico!
- Women: WoW and Pathfinders
- Prayer Shawl Ministry
- Library Lines
- Taco Tuesdays
- Thanks to Ed Lojeski
- World Communion Sunday Offering
- WPC Campus Cleanup
- 500 Years Later: Adult Christian Formation
- Kids Fellowship Capers

## “A New Thing”

(continued from page 1)

glad and rejoice in what I (God) am creating.” WPC is to be our “joy” and we will be God’s “delight.”

As you read through this September Communicant, please find where you may engage in the life of “joyful” WPC and our “delightful” people. The Flapjack Festival on September 10 would be an excellent starting place. On that day we welcome back our choir under the direction of Ed Smart. Our children, families and returning travellers will be enjoying conversation, coffee and (fat-free?) flapjacks. Taco Tuesdays begin on September 12 at 5:45 and the second Tuesday of the month thereafter. Kids Fellowship Club also begins on September 12, as our elementary children learn about hospitality while cooking and baking delicious treats. SYF on Sundays, 6—8 pm, and JYF on Tuesdays, 6—7:30 pm, will also begin a “new thing.”

Our new member class, on September 17 and 24, is filling up fast. We will welcome new members on October 1, World Communion Sunday. We will hear “Moments for Mission” in each Sunday service. I am more excited than ever about the “new things” God will be doing here this fall.

Finally, John writes something stunning in Revelation 21. And that is that if we really wish to see the hand of God in the new heavens and new earth, we look to the future! My dad used to say to us all the time, even when he was about to meet God in the next life, “The best days are yet to come.” I look forward to serving WPC’s “best days yet to come.”

Christ’s blessings,

Charles Svendsen, Interim Pastor

## Back to Sunday School for Children

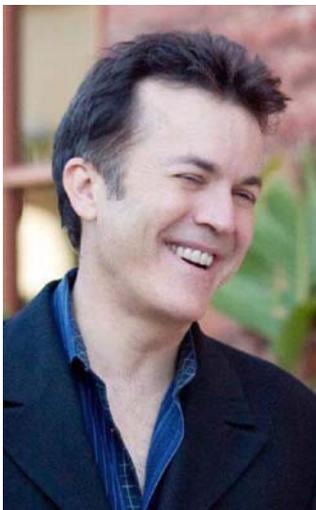
*Beginning September 17*

**O**n September 17 we resume our normal Sunday schedule and Sunday School will be offered at both the 9:30 and 11:15 services. Children begin in worship with their families. Classes are divided by age and grade.

We would love to have you join the Children’s & Family Ministries Team. We need volunteers in the Infant/Toddler Room and in Sunday School. The ministries’ success depend on the members of WPC who step in and share God’s love with the little ones that join us here on Sunday mornings. If you are willing and able, we would love to speak with you.

Please contact Julie Beth Martin (818.889-1491 ext. 28 or [julie@wpcwestlake.org](mailto:julie@wpcwestlake.org)).

## We Welcome Ed Smart as Director of Music Ministries



**E**d Smart, our new Director of Music Ministries, is a professional composer, conductor/arranger, multi-instrumentalist and vocalist. A native of Houston, Texas and the son of a church architect and life-long church choir members, Ed grew up in a rich choral tradition, performing in choirs and orchestras under the direction of John Rutter, Jester Hairston, and Buryl Red. He also had the honor of composing original choral music that premiered alongside the music of famed choral composer John Ness Beck, as well as frequently singing with the Houston Symphony as a boy soprano.

Holding both bachelor’s and master’s degrees in music from the University of Miami, Ed has led worship in various styles at several churches nationwide, including nine years at Hollywood Presbyterian.

During his professional career, Ed has worked as

a woodwindist, keyboardist, arranger, vocalist, and conductor with many award-winning artists in sacred and secular music, including Amy Grant, Michael W. Smith, Beyonce, Kirk Franklin, Jewel, Jennifer Hudson, Pat Boone, Debbie Reynolds, and on American Idol. As a composer, Ed has written themes and scores for award-winning television series on HBO, CBS, Nickelodeon and Discovery, for an off-Broadway play, and for the Oscar-nominated documentary feature film Hank Aaron: Chasing the Dream, produced by Denzel Washington. Currently, he is composing music for two weekly television series on TLC and the Velocity Channel seen worldwide, and for the Christian children’s series *lesodo*, for which he has received both the Telly and Accolade awards.

Having served as Worship Leader of our contemporary service for the past six years, Ed is excited to now be leading in all of the styles of worship offered by the music ministries at Westminster. Ed, his wife Patricia, and daughters Katie and Samantha live in Thousand Oaks and are active members of WPC and the community.

## 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 (begins September 17)

### 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](mailto: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](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, starts September 7  
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

### Kids Fellowship Club

Begins September 12

### Fall All-Church Book Study

Begins September 12

### Taco Tuesdays

Begin September 12

### Bookworms

September 14, 2 pm

### Pathfinders

September 16, 8:30 am  
(more on page 4)

### The Reformation: 500 Years Later

Adult Christian Formation at 10:45 am  
Begins September 17

### “Where in the World Is WPC?”

Adult Christian Formation class series on WPC missions  
Begins October 29

## Upcoming Events

### Evening at the Hollywood Bowl

September 6

### Sunday School

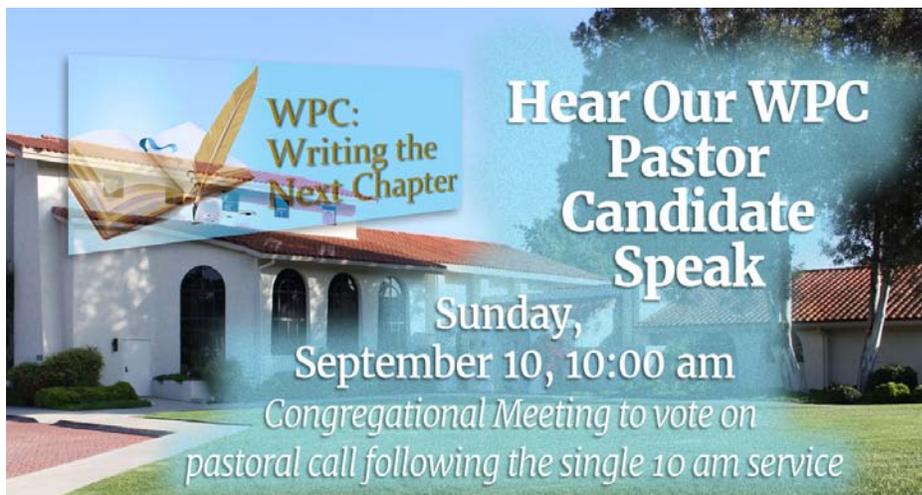
Begins September 17

### Special Service Schedule and Congregational Meeting

Sunday, September 10  
On September 10 there will be a single worship service at 10:00 am, with a congregational meeting to vote on a call to a new head pastor to follow. Come hear WPC's future begin!

## Communion

September 3, October 1 (World Communion Sunday)



## Women on Wednesday

Calling all Westminster ladies and lady friends!! We hope you will consider joining us every Wednesday evening at 7 pm in the Library for our Women on Wednesday Bible Study. It is very thoughtful, interesting and offers pleasant fellowship! Hope to see you soon!

## Library Lines

Summer had us making sure that the shelves and cupboards would be ready for everyone to browse and find just what they might need for the next study or time spent in meditation. We've tried to make it easier to find the family relationship titles as well as all the small sections for those wanting

to read items outside the 200 categories. You will find the overflow of children's holiday books in the bottom cupboard below the shelf with some of these titles, all in alphabetical order by author.

Did you know that we also have a complete collection of Horizons magazines and associated Bible Study resources? These are on the courtyard book cart, in files on the desk, and in the cupboards below the fiction and misc. non-fiction sections.

You are welcome to borrow any of these materials on the honor system and return them to the location you found them.

Our library also houses an assortment of support materials for study and discussion groups. These have all been used in the past and are available to those who might like to pursue them again or anew. You will recognize materials from the times of Bob Bos, to Dale Ridenour, to Rob Douglas, to Steve Miller. Just as we study the Word over and over, many of these courses can warrant a second look.

Contact Ruth Grey for further information.

## Pathfinders

Starting a new season means a new study from Horizons, this time titled Cloud of Witnesses, The Community of Christ in Hebrews by Melissa Bane Sevier. Support material by Sung Hee Chang and art by Irene Kordalis Pedersen make this a trio of wins for all women who are ready to study the word and share their experiences. We plan to meet the third Saturday of each month, starting with September 16, October 21, and November 18. Our times will change to meditation at nine and ending with prayer at 10:30 am in our church library. If you can come early, please take the time to walk the labyrinth or simply pray in that outdoor sanctuary. The lesson booklet is available from [www.presbyterianwomen.org](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org). Or you may contact Ruth Grey for further information.

Booklets may be available in the library.



## AMOR Mission Trip to Tijuana

OCTOBER 13 — 15

An entire ministry in one weekend—that is what is accomplished on an Amor trip. Be part of a team that shares God's love by building a home for a family, and get to know the family at the same time! All skill levels welcome.

Cost of \$300/person includes building materials, camping and some meals. Participants must be at least 12 years old with an accompanying parent/responsible adult, or 18 without a parent. Contact Paul Harris.

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will start back in September after taking a break from meeting but not from knitting. We meet the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month in the WPC Library, 9:30-11:00. Come join us!

Over the centuries, shawls have come to symbolize shelter, peace, and spiritual sustenance. Since the inception of our Prayer Shawl Ministry, the members have donated their time and talents by creating hand-knitted and crocheted shawls for those in need.

Our prayer is:

Heavenly Father, open our eyes to the needs of others so that we may serve them in your name. Through our small efforts, help us to demonstrate your love. We ask that you grant divine healing to the sick, comfort to the bereaved, friendship to the lonely, and abundance to those in need. We thank you for your blessings and for mercies you show to us all. Amen.

Thanks to all of our faithful members for their hours of work.



*Beginning September 12*  
**Taco Tuesdays**

It's time to enjoy some good old-fashioned fellowship time, SoCal Style! Come to WPC at 5:45 pm every second Tuesday this fall for a casual taco dinner. There will be great conversation, good food, and perhaps even some mariachi music! Hang out with old friends, meet new ones, or join the all-church book study which will also begin on September 12. Dates will coincide with Kids Fellowship Club, so the whole family can get involved. Sign up on the Courtyard or contact Julie Martin. Invite friends!



**Many Thanks to Ed Lojeski!**

We extend our heartfelt thanks and warm wishes to outgoing Director of Music Ministries Ed Lojeski. Ed, who led WPC's traditional service music for many years, also brought us choir presentations on special occasions and during the Christmas and Advent seasons. He led the Chancel Choir on tours to Hawaii, Australia, Carnegie Hall in New York, and various destinations in Europe. We have benefitted from his compositions and arrangements, especially his *Missa Americana* and *Psalms of the Passover*. We have been so lucky to have a person of his great talent leading our choir.

Thank you, Ed, for your passionate commitment to the Chancel Choir and to our traditional service.

**World Communion Day Offering**

Each year on World Communion Sunday, a special denominational offering is received. This year, on October 1, we will again receive the Peace and Global Witness offering of the PC(USA). A gift to this offering enables the entire church to collaborate in our proclamation of Christ's peace. Congregations keep 25% to engage in peacemaking and build ministries of reconciliation in their own context or around the world. Some wonderful examples of how the funds raised are used around the world:

- ▷ Transitioning young people out of prison or homelessness
- ▷ Funding HIV education/prevention programs

- ▷ Funding educational assistance for veterans
  - ▷ Training peer counselors in peacebuilding in refugee camps in war-torn countries
  - ▷ Supporting programs aimed at ending human trafficking.
- Please support this annual special offering. Envelopes will be in the pew racks on October 1.

**WPC Campus Cleanup: Under Construction!**

The lazy, hazy days of summer have gone... and it's time to spruce up for fall! By the time you are reading this, WPC buildings and grounds cleanup will be well underway.

- The oak trees have been properly trimmed
- The pergolas in the Preschool playground has been repainted and received a new top: thanks to Pieter DeVries and Jonathan Christie for their hard work in the hot sun, and a shout-out thanks to the C&FM summer interns for their cleanup labor during demolition.
- Floors and windows and walls have received a deep cleaning – especially Preschool classroom areas, so we are ready to welcome students and parents back-to- school, and everyone back-to-church for Flapjack Sunday.

Do take time to notice, and thank those who have given of their time. And if you'd like to volunteer regularly or once in a while, the Property Committee is happy to have you. See Pieter DeVries or John Kayton to learn more.

The next projects will take a bit longer and are very important. Session has authorized the release of some designated funds

specifically for capital improvements, and Property and Finance Committees have agreed on three of the highest priority projects from a long list:

1. Repairing the roof and gutters, with special attention to the Sanctuary and Narthex roofs that leaked in multiple places during last winter's storms.
2. Renovation of the two bathrooms located in the Narthex. This project has been under discussion for 10 years and is critical to bring them up to code: one will be ADA compliant and the other will be family friendly.
3. The electric panel that contains the circuitry for the main building and Sanctuary needs to be upgraded and expanded, especially as our needs in the Sanctuary and main office have changed over time.

Kids' Fellowship Club

# Kitchen Capers: Learning to Serve Others

*Begins September 12*

**K**ids Fellowship Club begins this fall in the kitchen! We will be having fun baking and cooking recipes of hope and hospitality each week as we learn how to serve others and offer genuine hospitality.

Kids Fellowship Club provides a safe, fun and affirming environment where children are invited to discover the love of Christ and how to share it-through, Bible lessons, hands on projects, interactive games, music and a community meal.

A few of the recipes the children will lovingly prepare will provide hope for our guests at our **WPC Shelter**, sustenance for the volunteer team at Westminster Clinic, and encouragement for folks who are unable to venture out of their homes. We will even be baking bread for our communion table.

Children ages 5 through fifth grade are encouraged to come join us in the test kitchen- the fellowship Hall-with an open, giving heart! A delicious time learning and applying the truths we uncover in God's word is guaranteed! Bring a friend.

Forms are online at [www.wpcwestlake.org](http://www.wpcwestlake.org) or you can pick up a registration form in the Children's and Family Ministry office.



**Details:**

September 12—October 10  
Tuesday Evenings 4:30 – 6 pm  
Kids age Kindergarten through 5th Grade

**REGISTER TODAY!**

Cost: \$50 First Child, \$40 Second, \$35 Third and Fourth, discount with early registration (scholarships are available)

Pieter Devries and Jonathan Christie making needed improvements on the WPC playground, continuing progress on our campus improvements.



*Adult Christian Formation Series*

## The Reformation: 500 Years Later

**T**he Adult Christian Formation course year launches on Sunday, September 17. The first course for the year will be a survey of the Protestant Reformation. This year marks the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's nailing of his 95 Theses on the door of the chapel church in Wittenberg, an action regarded as the beginning of the Reformation period. Join us for this six Sunday look at the major Reformation movements in Europe during the 1500's, along with the legacy and the impact of the Reformation today.

The course will be taught by Gary Pate and runs September 17 through October 22. Come to the Fellowship Center at 10:45 for any or all of these courses.



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OF WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*September 2017*

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Material for the October 2017 issue needs to be in the WPC office or sent by September 10 to [Kathy@wpcwestlake.org](mailto:Kathy@wpcwestlake.org). To submit late photos call Kathy Dahms.