

The Westminster Presbyterian Church  
*Communicant*  
Fall 2018



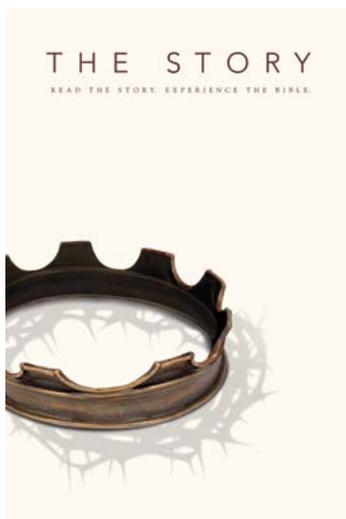
## *A New Season and a Fresh Start*

It may still feel like Summer, but Fall is here! September brings opportunities for all kinds of fresh starts. Parents plaster pictures of their children at new schools or in front of new classrooms all over the place, new sports seasons overflow with optimism, and — in some places — a crisp is felt in the air that reminds us that winter is coming. We're given an opportunity to establish rhythms and patterns that will carry us till next Summer.

There are a few fresh starts that I want to invite you to be a part of here at Westminster.

First, I invite you to engage with "The Story." Whether you've read through the entire Bible or not, this journey provides an opportunity to see how God moved throughout the narrative of Scripture and to explore how God is still moving today. I'd encourage you to follow along with the weekly reading, to join a Story Group, and to spend some time in personal reflection.

Our 50th Anniversary celebration weekend will be on the weekend of November 10 and 11. God has moved mightily through this church. Let's spend some time celebrating all that God has done, as well as looking forward toward the next 50 years.

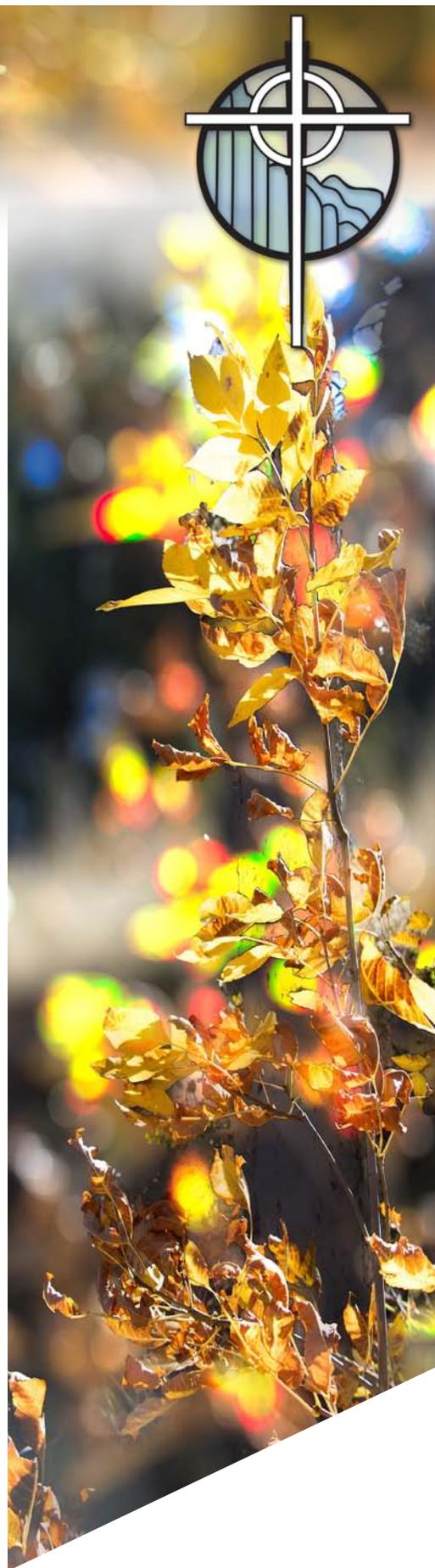


In December, The Bethlehem Experience will return. In addition to inviting your neighbors to drive through on December 14 or 15, there are plenty of ways to help us prepare for this incredible weekend. Visit [gotobethlehem.com](http://gotobethlehem.com) to find out more, or see the article on page 9.

In addition to these areas, there are plenty of places to get involved this year. Have you thought about singing, but haven't been too sure if the choir is really for you? Give it a try, just for a month. Thought about teaching Sunday school or being a youth advisor, but been nervous to start? This is the season to begin.

We need elders and deacons, greeters and worship leaders, small group facilitators and committee members. So whether you're a creative or administrative type, whether you have one hour a week or ten, whether you're young or old, plug in somewhere this Fall. If you're not sure how that looks for you, and you want to talk about it, please reach out. I'm MORE than willing to talk about how you can use your gifts to serve this community and God's Kingdom.

Pastor Dave



## Get Your Red Hot WPC News Faster!

*Changes are coming in the way you receive information from WPC*

The Communicant has been our monthly newsletter as far back as most of us can remember. It is a valuable reminder of what all about! This issue, which covers all events between now and December 31, is the last MONTHLY one you will receive. In 2019, we are producing seasonal issues beginning with a winter issue. They will be full color, and be both a retrospective of the last three months and announcements of coming programs and events.

To be more cost-effective and save some trees, we would like to send the new Communicant by email to everyone who has an email address. Those of you who do NOT have access to email are asked to please contact the church office (extension 110) so we can keep you on our matter what, it is our priority to make sure everyone receives on all WPC activities!

A HUGE thank you to Kathy Dahms, who has produced monthly issues of the Communicant for 21 years. Multiplying that out, she has worked on over 250 issues!! Kathy, we are so grateful for your servant heart and all you have done to get the word out about WPC. Kathy is not going anywhere – she will still be involved in our seasonal issues and is also on our Communications Committee.

### *The WPC Weekly*

*WPC's weekly email will be bringing you timely updates on WPC events plus a preview of our coming Sunday sermon focus.*

The current Weekly Warmup, which most of you receive by email, will be expanding to include even more information about upcoming events as well as a pastoral message on our focus for the coming Sunday. We are renaming it the "WPC Weekly." You will receive it each Sunday afternoon, and a few hard copies will also be available on Sundays on the courtyard after the worship service (and for shut-ins who can't make it to services). If you are reading this and do not currently receive the warmup, PLEASE send us your email address so we can include you—and get you your important WPC news fast and fuss free. Send to [Kathy@wpcwestlake.org](mailto:Kathy@wpcwestlake.org). Thank you!

## WPC 50th Anniversary Gala

Please plan to join us for our 50th Anniversary Dinner/Dance on Saturday, November 10th. We'll gather at The First Neighborhood Community Center—the place of WPC's first worship service.

It will be an evening of visiting the past and celebrating all of God's blessings in the past 50 years. Tickets for the Gala will go on sale on the church courtyard on Sunday, September 23rd. Please stay tuned for more information.

Sunday, November 11th we'll continue the celebration with just one service at 10:00am. We'll have food trucks, dessert and games on the courtyard to bring our whole church family together. Our entire community will be invited to the Sunday Celebration. Please start thinking about who you want to include and invite them to celebrate the past and look to the next 50 years with us.

Do you have 50-year-old WPC memorabilia laying around? We'd love to display your treasures. Please see Sheryl Brownfield with details of what you can share.

## October 7—World Communion Sunday

*"Peace at all times in all ways" – 2 Thessalonians 3:16*

Celebrate with us as we join church communities around the globe to commemorate the Lord's Supper. On this date we also receive the PC(USA) Peace & Global Witness offering. This offering encourages the church of our time to cast off anxiety, fear, discord and division, and embrace God's mission with those around the corner and around the world as active peacemakers "at all times in all ways." Special offering envelopes will be available in the pew racks.



# Fall and Advent at WPC

## September

### September 9

Fall Kickoff  
 Flapjack Festival  
 "The Story" begins  
 Meet Your Deacon

### September 11

Taco Tuesday  
 Kids Fellowship Club begins  
 Leadership Training for youth

### September 17

Restaurant Night, Sea Casa

### September 23

Bible Presentation Sunday

### September 26

Session

## October

### October 7

World Communion Sunday  
 Acolyte training, 12:30pm

### October 9

Taco Tuesday

### October 14

New member class, 12:30pm

### October 21

New member class, 12:30pm

### October 24

Session

## November

### November 10

50th Anniversary Gala Dinner

### November 11

One service, 10am, followed by  
 Anniversary Celebration

### November 25

Service of Hope & Remembrance,  
 4pm

### November 28

Session

## December

### December 2

Family Advent Celebration (see  
 times on page 7)

### December 4

Christmas Pageant Rehearsal  
 (and following Tuesdays),  
 4:30pm

### December 8

Bethlehem Blitzbuild

### December 9—16

WPC parking lots closed

### December 12

All-church Christmas Dinner,  
 6pm  
 Christmas Choir Concert,  
 7:30pm

### December 14

Bethlehem Experience, 5:30  
 – 9:30pm

### December 15

Bethlehem Experience, 5:30  
 – 9:30pm

### December 16

One service, 10am, followed by  
 BethEx cleanup

### December 24

Christmas Eve Services:  
 5:30 pm—Family service with  
 children's pageant  
 8 pm—Candlelight service, music  
 by praise band  
 10 pm—Candlelight service with  
 communion, music by  
 chancel choir

### December 30

One service, 10 am

## Taco Tuesdays!

*Second Tuesday of the month*

**BEGINS SEPTEMBER 11, 5:30PM**  
**\$8/PERSON**



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



## Fall Kickoff!

Join us for the annual WPC all-church kick off **brunch!** Happening between services on **Sunday, September 9**, there will be a delicious full meal with pancakes.

After a busy summer, both you and your kids will enjoy seeing old friends and meeting new ones at the brunch and as Sunday School begins.

Meet your Deacon! They would love to say hello to you face-to-face at the Welcome Table during the brunch.

Also on this morning, we are excited to begin our all-church study of **The Story**.

Bring your whole family, your friends and your neighbors to enjoy this exciting morning!

## Communion

September 2

October 7

November 4

December 2

December 24 at the 10 pm service

## Sermon Schedule for September—December 2018

### *The Story: New Beginnings*

- 9/9 Creation
- 9/16 God Builds a Nation
- 9/23 Joseph
- 9/30 Deliverance
- 10/7 New Commands and Covenant

### *The Story: Are You Wandering?*

- 10/14 Wander
- 10/21 The Battle Begins
- 10/28 A Few Good Men and Women
- 11/4 The Faith of a Foreign Woman
- 11/11 WPC's 50th Anniversary (one service followed by a celebration on the front lawn)
- 11/18 and 25 Thanksgiving Theme

### *Advent: All in the Family*

- 12/2 Matthew 1:2-6 Abraham to David: Mercy
- 12/9 Matthew 1:7-11 Solomon to Exile: Judgment
- 12/16 Matthew 1:12-16 Babylon to Jesus: Faithfulness of God  
(one service followed by Bethlehem Experience cleanup)
- 12/23 Matthew 1:17

### *Summary: Sovereignty*

- 12/24 Christmas Eve Services
  - 5:30 pm Family Service with pageant
  - 8pm Service (music by praise team)
  - 10pm Service with communion (music by chancel choir)
- 12/30 One service, 10am

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

Since its inception in 1998, the Prayer Shawl Ministry has continued to grow, extending its message of hope around the world. Countless volunteer knitters and crocheters now take part in this exciting new tradition of faith. It is their work that sustains a tidal wave of caring as they turn yarn into wraps that are interwoven with prayers. Those who receive these handmade expressions of love are buoyed by the spiritual comfort they experience while wearing shawls.

The ministry's message of caring is simple, universal, and enduring. And we have seen time and again that the creation and presentation of a prayer shawl, like all acts of generosity, enriches the giver as well as the recipient. Come join us in the WPC Library on the second and fourth Thursday of every month, 9:30 - 11am. If you don't knit we will teach you. Any questions call Cathy Howell, (see church office or printed *Communicant* for contact details).



## *Ladies of Westminster*

Please consider joining us every Wednesday evening at 6:30 pm in the WPC Library for the Women on Wednesday (WOW) Bible study. We are currently concluding our study of The Gospel of Mark. In mid-September, we will join the WPC community in discussing The Story and its review of The Bible. We gather together in faith and friendship and hope you can join us!

Contact: Sue Minihan (see church office or printed *Communicant* for contact details).

PICTURES FROM PASTOR DAVE'S INSTALLATION, WESTLAKE STREET FAIR, MORE!  
Lots of Fun Summer Events at WPC

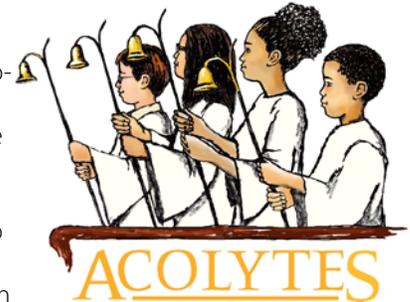


## Children's and Family Ministry

### Acolyte Training

FOR CHILDREN 3RD GRADE THROUGH 8TH GRADE  
 Sunday, October 7, 12:30—2:00 pm

The word acolyte is a Greek word that means “follower”, “attendant” or “helper”. In the early church, acolytes were apprentices, or learners, who assisted the priests. Today, acolytes work closely with the pastors and the worship team during the worship service helping to create an atmosphere of reverent worship. Our acolytes will help the congregation prepare their hearts and minds to worship God and encourage them to acknowledge and experience the presence of His Holy Spirit. They will assist in communion set up, candle-lighting and other worship duties. Serving as an acolyte at WPC is a privilege and an awesome responsibility. The acolytes serve once a month on a regular basis and at special services throughout the year.



We hope your child will be a part of this ministry team.

To register contact [julie@wpcwestlake.org](mailto:julie@wpcwestlake.org) or 818.889-1491 extension 128.

### Leadership Training for Youth

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 4:30—5:30 PM

Children's and Family Ministries would like to invite you to be a leader at our Tuesday night children's ministry program, Kids Fellowship Club. We believe some of the best leaders for young children are young adults. We also believe that leaders need direction and training to be effective.

On September 11 we will be offering training for youth who are interested in serving as leaders at KFC. If you have been in a leadership capacity at KFC it is not mandatory that you attend, but we would love to have you. If you have never led at KFC you must attend the training to serve.

Youth leaders and CFM staff will be teaching effective leadership techniques and guidelines for working with and mentoring young children. The leaders lead art lessons, games, and activities. They guide and mentor children ages 4 years through 5th grade. The commitment is Tuesday evenings beginning September 18 from 4 – 6pm,

Kids Fellowship Club meets on Tuesday evenings from 4:30 to 6:00 pm. Dinner is a part of the evening. Contact Julie Martin [julie@wpcwestlake.org](mailto:julie@wpcwestlake.org) or 818.889-1491 extension 128.

### Bible Presentation

September 23, 2018

We have a long-held tradition at WPC of presenting children with the gift of a Bible when they reach second grade. We believe having their own Bible to read, study and contemplate is very important to their faith development. Our hope and prayer is that it will contribute to a life-long journey of faith and discovery for your child.

We have a lovely ceremony with the children and their parents in our worship services, and would love for you and your child to be a part of this. If your child is in second grade or higher and they would like to receive a Bible, we need their full name, as you would like it printed in their Bible, and the service you will be able to attend on September 23. The Children's and Family Ministry team creates labels to personalize the Bibles and the children are called by name in the congregation; therefore, we need to know in advance if you will be participating. You can fill out a Bible Presentation card (located in the CFM office, the main office or at the Sunday morning registration table) or you can contact Valerie: [valerie@wpcwestlake.org](mailto:valerie@wpcwestlake.org) or 818 889-1491 extension 139.

## Family Advent Celebration

*Come and prepare your heart!*

**A**n evening full of creativity, lively worship, engaging music, food and fun on Sunday December 2nd.

The season of 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.

4 pm Wreathmaking - \$20/family for Advent Wreath decorating supplies and LIVE Greens

5 pm Lively Worship in the Sanctuary – ending with “The 12 Days of Christmas,” a beloved annual tradition!

Simple Family Supper to follow in the Fellowship Center. Bring a plate of Christmas cookies to share!

It will help with our planning if you RSVP for the wreath-making and for supper: 818.889-1491 extension 139 or [valerie@wpcwestlake.org](mailto:valerie@wpcwestlake.org). We want to be sure we have enough for everyone!

## Children’s Christmas Pageant

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

We will have three Tuesday afternoon rehearsals from 4:30 – 5:30 on December 4, December 11, December 18, and two dress rehearsals: Saturday, December 22 and Sunday, 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 extension 128 or [julie@wpcwestlake.org](mailto:julie@wpcwestlake.org).

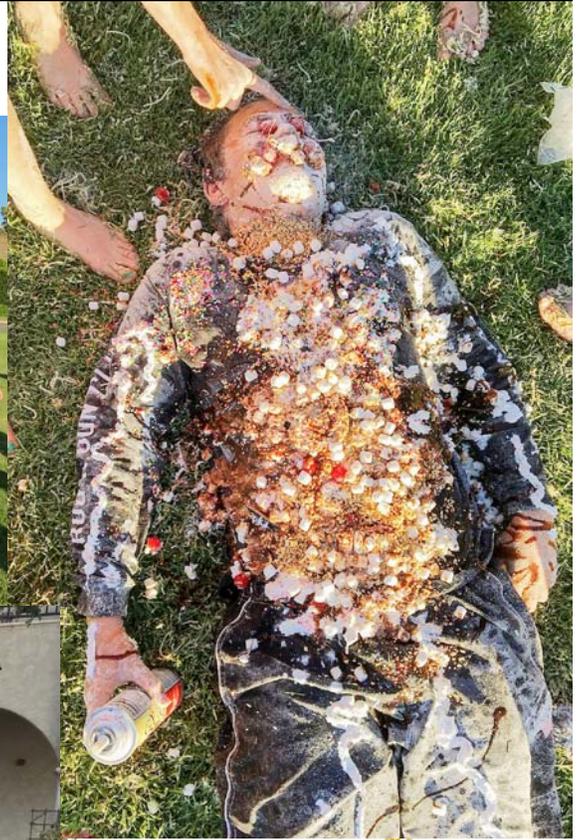
We need youth leaders and adults to assist with staging, costumes, directing, and/or fun control. Call us!! We would love to have you be part of the joy!



**KIDS FELLOWSHIP CLUB  
4 YEARS - 5TH GRADE  
TUESDAYS 9/18-10/16 FROM 4:30-6PM (DINNER INCLUDED)  
\$50/KID \*SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE  
TO REGISTER CONTACT CFM (818) 889-1491 \*139 OR EMAIL [VALERIE@WPCWESTLAKE.ORG](mailto:VALERIE@WPCWESTLAKE.ORG)** 7

SUMMER YOUTH MINISTRY

Yuck Olypmics: August 2018



## The Bethlehem Experience

Every other December, WPC turns our parking lot into the town of Bethlehem at the time of the very first Christmas. This drive-through experience begins as you enter Bethlehem from Lakeview Canyon under a large Roman arch and are counted by real Roman Centurions for the census. The 100 villagers you are watching are WPC people plus friends and family in full costumes. As you slowly drive the village the sounds, smells, and sights are all around you. There are goats, donkeys, and a real camel. Families are everywhere along with shopkeepers, Jewish dancers, Roman soldiers, a butcher, a tax collector, all leading up to the manger scene with Baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph, and a host of glowing angels.

Since 1997 Westminster Presbyterian Church has presented this iconic event. We need 300 volunteers to assemble, perform, and take down the village. We will have over 3,000 people in 1200 cars wrap around Westlake Village streets waiting over 30 minutes to take the two-minute drive-through tour. Some drive through in Santa caps, pointing at all the things to see. Some drive through intently looking for something and bearing some holiday grief. You might have first heard about our Church from this event.

### KEY DATES TO GET INVOLVED:

- December 14 and 15 5:30—9:30 pm performances
- December 1 We pull the set out of storage.
- December 8 We assemble the Village.
- December 11—13 We add the set decorations.
- December 16 On Sunday, we will have one service followed by an all-church put-away party.

This year we will hold BethEx with participation from Moorpark Presbyterian Church. They will help us assemble and perform. WPC and MPC will celebrate this Christmas together in Bethlehem! It is a huge event that needs your help too! We need people behind the scenes and in costumes. Invite your friends and family. Look in the courtyard for the volunteer table to sign up and help us create this miracle in 2018. Please also go to [www.gotobethlehem.com](http://www.gotobethlehem.com) for more information on how to participate and donate to the event.

More questions? Contact Jeff Covert (see church office or printed *Communicant* for contact details).



## WPC Prayer Team

Did you know WPC has a prayer team? Under the deacon umbrella, the prayer team is part of our caring ministry. The team's purpose is to confidentially pray for any concerns you feel comfortable sharing.

Prayer request cards (blue cards available in the pew racks) can be placed in the locked prayer box in the Narthex. Team members read them all, pray for each request multiple times daily, and bring them to Pastor Dave's attention if a call from a pastor is requested. After a month the prayer box is emptied and your prayer cards are shredded to assure privacy. If you would like immediate prayer, please see Lynne Wilkins at the deacon table on Sundays.

If you would like to be part of our prayer team and find out more about what we do, visit the deacon table after the first service. Contact Lynne Wilkins, (see office or print version for contact details).

## Service of Hope and Remembrance

The holidays are not always happy times. If you are mourning the loss of a loved one, or are in grief for any reason, please join us for a service of remembrance in which we are reminded again of our hope in Jesus Christ. Service will be held Sunday, November 25, at 4 pm in the Sanctuary, followed by a small reception. Everyone is welcome.

## Thanksgiving Baskets

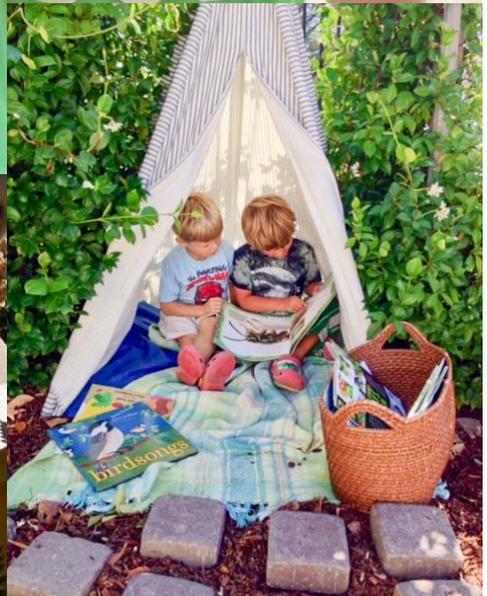
Once again, WPC will be providing Thanksgiving dinner baskets to local families through Lutheran Social Services. You will be hearing more about what is needed as Thanksgiving approaches, but plan to be in worship on Sunday, November 18, to help fill baskets. This is a wonderful annual ministry and a great time for families and individuals to be a part of a hands-on ministry!

# Celebrating 47 Years of Preschool Ministry

**A**s WPC celebrates its 50th anniversary, the Westminster Presbyterian Church Preschool enters into its 47th year of partnership with the church. The preschool continues to have a strong presence in the community, among the three different school districts as well as the private school community. We carry award-winning accolades such as a Demonstration Site for the Outdoor Classroom Project and as a Certified Nature Explore Classroom through Arbor Day Farms. Most recently we have applied for our certification as a Butterfly Way Station! All these programs continue to engage children with God's creation and our passion for taking care of it, all the while developing a sense of awe and wonder.

This year the Preschool has an enrollment of over 140 families that we are honored to come along side of in sharing the partnership of parenting. Our staff of 21 teachers and administrators is thrilled to be starting another year. Our staff has longevity. The average time a staff member has been with us is 20 years—we span from 44 years to 2 new hires this year, one of whom is a former student and granddaughter of Darv and Cathy Howell (Cathy was one of the preschool's founders!). We currently serve many families in which the parents attended WPCP as children and now are bringing the next generation here to attend!

We are proud to be an outreach into the community on behalf of Westminster Presbyterian Church.



*SEA CASA*  
*FRESH MEXICAN GRILL*

*Is proud to sponsor*

**WESTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
SYF**

*Help kick off the new school year and  
join us for delicious food and fellowship!*

**Monday September 17, 2018**  
**from**  
**5 pm to 9 pm**

**1014 S. WESTLAKE BLVD, WESTLAKE VILLAGE**

***Flyer (electronic or paper) must be presented  
when ordering (dine in or carry out) and 40%  
of the pre-tax sales generated from this  
fundraiser will be given back to WPC.***

YOUTH MINISTRY FUN

## Yuck Olypmics: August 2018



Nice clean pre-event "Olympians"! (see page 8 for more photos and MUCH less tidy participants)

### Become a Member of WPC!

**A**re you newer to WPC and ready to commit to calling Westminster Presbyterian of Westlake Village your church home? Pastor Dave and our lay ministry elder would love to meet with you on Sunday, October 14 and 21 from 12:30 – 2:30. We'll share a light lunch, learn more about our church's history, theology and structure. Also you will get to meet your fellow newcomers and some of our church leaders.

Come prepared with your questions! Please RSVP to Pastor Dave's assistant Kathy Josselyn in the church office: [Kathy@wpcwestlake.org](mailto:Kathy@wpcwestlake.org) or 818.889-1491 extension 110.



*The*  
**Communicant**

A NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS & FRIENDS  
OF WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Fall 2018*

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