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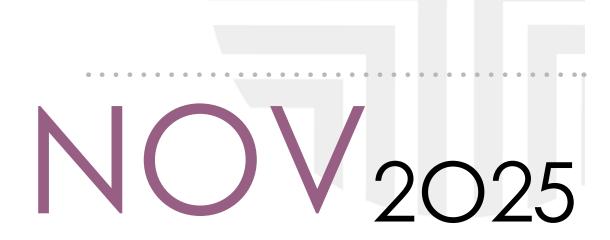
11/2025

Growing More Christlike Together

West Los Angeles UMC welcomes all persons regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.



West Los Angeles United Methodist Church Monthly Newsletter | November Issue



2026 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Dear WLAUMC members and friends,

I pray and hope that all of you are well in these days. November and December are generally our months of the year that we invite and encourage you to consider your support of our church's ministry through our annual Stewardship campaign.

We appreciate every measure of your support through your time and participation shared in our worships, programs, and avenues of outreach and service to the larger community and world.

We appreciate the gifts and talents that you have that each of you uniquely share that remind us that all parts of Christ's body truly have unique gifts that contribute to Christ's church and mission.

We also greatly appreciate the giving of your financial support (your tithing) that helps support building and property maintenance, utility expenses, programming and ministry expenses, staff salaries, and denominational support.

Without a doubt, the vitality and effectiveness of our church's ministry is only as good as the support that we receive from all who are members and friends of WLAUMC. It is very much through you that God in Christ blesses the magnitude of the good that we are able to do at WLAUMC and far beyond.

2026 marks a new beginning for our church as Pastor Kiana Hertogh-Nicholson transitions to be our new Senior Pastor. It's a very exciting time ripe with new opportunities and vision for ministry under her pastoral leadership. Your financial giving will help enable continuing ministries to grow and new ministries to be established. The hiring of additional support staff would also be made possible by the strong financial commitment of each of us.

Soon you will receive your 2026 Stewardship campaign packets that will provide you with information and a pledge card. We hope that you will pray for the future or our WLAUMC ministry and consider what you are able to give to the church for the 2026 year through your time, talents, and financial giving.

Please complete and submit the pledge card and return it as soon as you are able so that we can appropriately assess what we might be able to support in ministry for the coming new year.

Please also come to worship through November and early December and hear about our 2026 budget and about our hopes for the ministry of West Los Angeles United Methodist Church. Again, thank you for your kind support of our church in the past and present. May God bless us and the ministry of WLAUMC as we commit ourselves to carry Christ's church forward into the new year!

- Rev. Keith

ALERT! SCAM EMAIL!

Dear WLAUMC members and friends, recently some of you continue to get scam emails posing as me. One such scam email comes from the email: revkeithinouyee@gmail.com. This is NOT my email address (though it clearly is using my name to scam people). This seems to be a growing trend today; that people look up church websites and send out such vague requests that might cause the recipient to respond to either extort money from recipients or obtain personal information about the recipients for malicious purposes.

This last email text sent to a church staff member stated the following:

"Hello (name of recipient)
I have a request I need you to handle
discreetly. I am in a prayer session, no calls
so just reply to my message. i will be glad if
you reply to this message as soon as it gets
to you." -Rev. Keith



Please do not fall for these scam emails and text messages.
Please know my church email address and the email address of other staff members. Call me or the office to verify anything that seems suspicious and **DO NOT respond**. Please know that I will always be descriptive and clear about why I am contacting you. I will NEVER ask you to be "discreet" or "secretive" about any matter that I wish to discuss with you. Thank you!



SAVE THE DATE! REV. KEITH AND VIKI'S RETIREMENT CELEBRATION!

JOIN US! Sunday, December 21st will be a day of celebration (and a few tears) as we honor, thank, and bid Aloha to Rev. Keith & Viki Inouye upon their retirement from West Los Angeles UMC and active ministry. Rev. Keith will preach at their final Sunday worship service at 9:30 am. A special Aloha program will begin at 1:00 pm in the Sanctuary, featuring tributes, music, and good cheer. A treat-filled holiday reception will follow. (Rev. Keith will give his final pastoral message at the Christmas Eve service.)

For more information about the event and how to share your gratitude and best wishes with Rev. Keith & Viki, please contact Jeri Okamoto-Tanaka at jotwlaumc@gmail.com. To contribute to the reception, please contact Susan Tsukahira at susantsukahira@gmail.com.





NICHIGO MINISTRY PASTOR'S NOTE FROM REV. BECKY

Rev. Rebecca Hirata



「勤労感謝」

10月はスポーツの月を覚えて、体と心の健康を祈る月でした。礼拝後は、スタミナのつく餃子、お好み焼き、焼きうどん、ちらし寿司などを食べて交わりを持ちました。今年は卓球を体験。子ども達ファミリーと一緒に楽しい時間を持て感謝でした。

11月は感謝祭を迎えます。日本では11月23日に勤労感謝の日をお祝いします。「勤労を尊び、生産を祝い、感謝しあう日」。働くことを感謝するのですが、日本にある職種は約1万8000種類以上!事務がトップ。次に技術的職業、生産、サービス、販売、運搬&清掃、建築と続きます。農林漁業は9位。明治時代、農業は77%を占めていたのに、大正9年には50%。現在は3%!しかし、食品産業は85%と大きな割合を占めるようになりました。食べ物は、今、食品産業として大きな位置を占めているのです。例えば、秋はお米の収穫時。米農家の働きは、お店で買うお煎餅に影響。仕事と食べ物が深くつながっているのです。

「地よ。恐れるな。楽しみ喜べ。主が大いなることをされたからだ。。。 木はその 実をみのらせ、いちじくの木と、ぶどうの木とは豊かにみのる。。。 打ち場は穀物 で満ち、石がめは新しいぶどう酒と油とであふれる。」 ヨエル2:21 – 24

11月は主に与えられた仕事と食べ物を感謝する事を覚えたいと思います。

11月27日(木)感謝祭ターキー弁当を準備します。ターキーとスッタフィング。マッシュポテトとグレービー。ヤムとコーン。パンプキンパイとアップルパイ。全て手料理です。ターキーを食べて感謝祭をお祝いしたい方は、是非ご参加ください。

主に感謝して、収穫の秋をエンジョイしましょう。

In October, we enjoyed Sports Month and ate good food, like Jumbo Gyoza, Okonomiyaki, Yaki-udon, Sushi, etc... after Nichigo service. Also, Kodomo enjoyed playing Ping-pong!

We thank the Lord for His provision weekly, and once again, we will learn to count our blessings from the Lord in November.

November marks Thanksgiving, but in Japan, it is called "Kinro-Kansha-no-Hi" (Labor Thanksgiving Day). On November 23rd, we honor labor, celebrate production, and give thanks to each other. There are over 18,000 different occupations in Japan. Office work tops the list, followed by technical occupations, production, service, sale, transportation & cleaning, and construction. Agriculture, forestry, and fishing rank ninth. During the Meiji era, 77% of the J-population was farmers(a major industry!) but by 1920, it had fallen to 50%. Today, it's down to just 3%!! However, the food industry has grown to 85%. It is a significant growth! Food now occupies a major industry in Japan. For example, autumn is the rice harvest season. Rice farmers' work influences the Senbei industry. Work and food are deeply connected.

"Do not fear, O soil; be glad and rejoice, for the Lord has done great things! The threshing floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil." (Joel 2:21&24)

We remember to give thanks to the Lord for the work and food we are given. On Thursday, November 27th, we will be preparing a Thanksgiving turkey dinner.

Let's give thanks to the Lord and enjoy the autumn harvest!

平田

11月1日(土)秋の弁当

教会では穀物の収穫感謝を覚え、シニアのメンバーに秋の弁当を届けます。ご希望の方は教会オフィスまでご連絡ください。

Café Aloha Senior Bento Delivery on November 1st (Saturday)

To observe Thanksgiving Day, Café Aloha ministry would like to reach out to our senior members, 70 and older, by delivering Bento. If you are interested in receiving Bento, please contact Church office.

メニュー: 稲庭うどんサラダ、松茸、栗、菓子、フルーツ

Menu: Inaniwa-udon salad, Matsutake, Kuri, Kashi, fruits









WLA UMC 2025 HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE

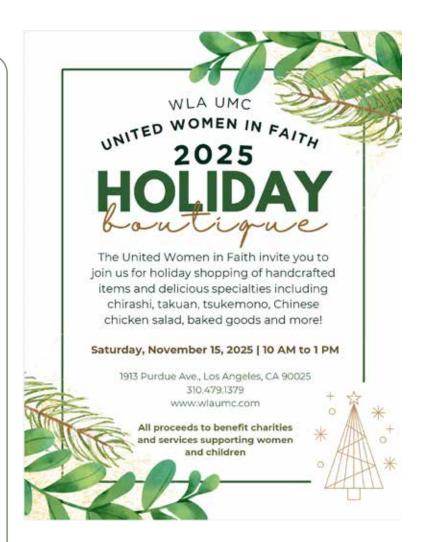
Please mark your calendar to attend our annual UWF Holiday Boutique on Saturday, November 15th from 10am to 1pm. We will have handmade, handcrafted items for sale made by our talented UWF members and friends! In addition, to our yummy homemade Bake Sale items, delicious food will be available for purchase including our delicious Chirashi, and the UWF Takuan and radish Tsukemono in addition to Kenji's Salsa. We are also excited to be able to provide Chinese Chicken Salad and Yakisoba from Feast from the East and Spam Musubi from Rutt's Hut!!

For our Bake Sale we invite our UWF family to contribute your favorite home baked goods! Some ideas include cookies, mochi, sweet breads, cakes, furikake chex mix, rice krispie treats, etc. Please do not bring anything that requires refrigeration and advise us if it contains nuts. Also we appreciate if you pre-package your items ready for sale. Please bring your items to church on Friday 9am-12pm or Saturday morning by 9am.

We are also pleased to be able to have our UWF Quilt Opportunity Drawing. Please see Lois Tateishi for purchasing drawing tickets for \$2/ticket or a book of 5 tickets for \$10. Try your luck at the opportunity to win a WLA UMC UWF one-of-a-kind quilt that is part of our on-going UWF church treasures.

We welcome all of our WLA UMC family and friends as there is something for everybody as we enjoy fellowship and support our UWF fundraiser. Please remember that ALL proceeds will benefit women, children and young adults.

We invite everyone to enjoy shopping for special handcrafted items, and delicious food for lunching with your family and friends! Please tell and bring your family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, and spread the word for SATURDAY, November 15th, 10am-1pm!



UWF NOVEMBER 2025

We welcome all those interested in joining the United Women in Faith. Our next meeting will be on Sunday, November 2nd at 11 am in Classroom 2. We will be discussing final plans for our November 15th Holiday Boutique and plans for our Christmas luncheon meeting in December.

If you are interested, please see Pamela Ryder, Sharon Kinoshita Gill or Jeri Okamoto Tanaka.

THANKSGIVING DINNER PARTY

Nichigo Invites you to... Thanksgiving Dinner Party 2025 In-person Event

Everybody is welcome

When: Nov. 27 (Thursday) 4 pm- 7 pm

Where: W.L.A. United Methodist church Nisei Hall

1913 Purdue Avenue, L.A., CA 90025

Start cooking from 9 am @ church kitchen

Please call before or on Nov. 24 (Monday) R.S.V.P. 310-479-1379(Church office)/ 310-818-6128 (Toshio)/310-945-7285(Keiko)

If you want a Bento Box, please ask Keiko

Pick up time around 4 pm

Free event / Any donations are welcome

Let's enjoy together our Turkey dinner, Games, Crafts and Have a time to praise and thank God.

West Los Angeles United Methodist Church Nichigo-bu



感謝祭ディナーパーティ2025のお知らせ

11月27日(木) 午後4時から夜7時まで教会のNisei ホールにて

参加費無料 差し入れも大歓迎 どなたでも参加できます

11月24日(月)までにご予約をお願いします ご予約310-479-1379教会 または310-818-6128 (利夫)310-945-7285(圭子)

*お弁当をご希望の方はその旨お申し出ください(当日午後4時ころのピックアップになります)

ターキーを焼いてみたい方は、朝9時においで下さい

伝統的なターキー料理、ゲーム、クラフトそして主に賛 美と感謝する時を持ちます

ウエストロサンゼルス合同メソジスト教会日語部

1913 Purdue Avenue, L.A., CA 90025

REMEMBERING OUR LOVED ONES





MARIE CALLENDER'S FUNDRAISER!

Much thanks to all who supported and publicized our Thursday October 2nd church fundraiser at the Marie Callender's located near the corner of Sawtelle Ave. and National Ave. which ran from 8:00am until 8:00pm!

Rev. Keith estimated that he greeted 164+ people who came by to dine or pick-up throughout the day. Because Marie Callender's gave us the 20% donation from their sales we were able to raise a total of \$779.14.

Much thanks to Ms. Stephanie Fierro of Marie Callender's corporate office, Mr. Taka Itoyama, manager of this local Marie Callender's who always takes great care or us every first Thursday of the month when we hold our regularly Thursday Breakfast Bunch, and Sonia Dixon for being our WLAUMC Fundraising Chairperson.













VOLUNTEERING AT WEST SIDE FOOD BANK

Saturday, October 4 (9:00 am-11:00 am)

On a recent Saturday morning, a dedicated group of volunteers from our church gathered at the Westside Foodbank in Santa Monica to lend a helping hand. Though everyone could have chosen to spend their two hours elsewhere, these servanthearted individuals responded to the call to support the foodbank's mission of helping those facing food insecurity within our community.

The main task for the day was "sorting"—organizing a variety of donated items so they could be distributed efficiently to those in need. Instructions were clear: sort the cans, glass, soft foods, pet foods, and baby formula. Our group, comprised of 23 adult and youth volunteers, quickly divided into teams to tackle the different food categories.

Through teamwork and collaboration, we made significant progress. Staff members at the foodbank were impressed by our efficiency and spirit, as we managed to sort through barrels and barrels of mixed food items within our two-hour shift. The experience was both rewarding and a testament to what can be accomplished when we come together in service to others.











GOD'S GARDEN KICKS-OFF CRAYON RECYCLING!

Have you ever wondered what becomes of old, broken, and unused crayons? Each year, millions of pounds of crayons are thrown away, eventually turning into a waxy sludge that clogs up our landfills. By working together—and partnering with the Crayon Initiative—we have the opportunity to recycle these crayons. They will be re-manufactured into new, free crayons for children in hospitals across the United States.

These programs offer countless children a creative outlet, allowing them to express themselves through art. This not only brings joy but also helps to ease their anxiety during challenging times. Throughout the month of November, God's Garden children will be collecting unwanted crayons. Collection boxes will be available at the church so that you can donate crayons from your homes, schools, friends, neighbors, and even restaurants you visit regularly. Your contributions will help make a positive impact on both the environment and children in need.

GOD'S GARDEN KIDS MAKE DOG BISCUITS!

The God's Garden children recently had a fun and educational experience making homemade dog biscuits. Using just three simple ingredients—oat flour, unsweetened applesauce, and eggs—the kids learned how easy it can be to create healthy treats for our furry friends.

After mixing the ingredients together, the children rolled out the dough and used cookie cutters to shape the biscuits into assorted dog bone shapes and sizes. Their creativity resulted in a delightful batch of treats; each one made with care.

Once the biscuits were baked and cooled, the kids wrapped them up so they could be given to the dogs attending the upcoming "Blessing of the Animals" event. The project was a joyful way for the children to share kindness with the community's pets. Woof!









A TEDDY BEAR PICNIC FOR SACRED SEEDLING FAMILIES

Date and Time: Saturday, November 12th

(11:00 am-12:30 pm)

Location: Airport Park, 3201 Airport Ave, Santa Monica, CA

Welcome to New Parents and Little Ones

New parents with babies and toddlers are warmly invited to join us for a special time of fellowship and lunch. This informal gathering provides a wonderful chance to connect with other parents, share experiences, and build a sense of community with others in the sacred seedling class at church!

Teddy Bear Photo Opportunity

If your child has a teddy bear, please bring it along for a memorable photo opportunity. Don't worry if you don't have one—there will be plenty of teddy bears available to share for the picture!

Activities and Sharing

The event will include singing songs with the little ones, creating a fun and engaging atmosphere for both children and parents. Parents are encouraged to bring a helpful parenting tip or insight they have learned to share with the group.

What to Bring

- -Your own lunch
- -A large blanket to sit on
- A teddy bear (optional)

RSVP Information

Please RSVP to Viki Inouye at viki.inouye@gmail.com and provide the age of your child(ren) as well as the total number of people attending. We look forward to seeing you and sharing this special time together!



SANCTUARY TREE DECORATING: "O HOLY NIGHT"

This year, our church community is invited to join together in decorating the Sanctuary tree for Christmas. God's Garden encourages each ministry group to participate by planning their own ornament making activity. Each group will select an ornament design that reflects a part of the nativity story, such as angels, stars, sheep, kings, shepherds, love, or the manger. Groups are welcome to interpret the "O Holy Night" theme in a way that is meaningful to them.

Ministry groups will host ornament making stations on Sunday, November 9th. All ages are welcome to visit these stations and create ornaments that will be used to adorn the tree.

Ornament Making Details: Date: Sunday, November 9 Time: 10:45 AM – 11:45 AM Location: Nisei Fellowship Hall

If you have any questions, please contact Viki Inouye or Susanne Nagata for more information.

The tree trimming will take place during the First Week of Advent, on November 30th.





REFLECTING ON THE CHRISTMAS STORY THROUGH THE CRÈCHE WALK

During the busy holiday season, it can be easy to lose sight of the true meaning of Christmas amid all the activity and preparations. A display of a crèche, or nativity scene, serves as a powerful reminder of that sacred night and the promise and hope found in the manger.

To help set the tone for Advent, a "Crèche Walk" has been organized for Sunday, December 14th. This event will feature a variety of crèche sets and nativity scenes, giving everyone an opportunity to reflect on and appreciate the diverse artistic expressions and cultural interpretations represented in these displays.

If you have a nativity set or crèche that you bring out each Christmas, we invite you to share it with the congregation during the Crèche Walk. All types of crèche sets are welcome—whether you have a traditional scene, a "Peanuts" themed set featuring Charlie Brown and Lucy as Joseph and Mary, or perhaps a Native American manger displayed in a teepee.

If you are willing to bring your crèche set to church for the event, please complete an information sheet so it can be included in a book guide.

The forms will be available on the purple table throughout the month of November.

If you have any questions, please contact Viki Inouye for further information.



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

What a beautiful month of honoring and giving thanks for the companion animals in our lives. On Sunday, October 5th, I had the privilege of blessings more than 30 cats and dogs in our West LA UMC family and Sawtelle neighborhood, both virtually and nose-to-nose. We gathered beneath the trees in front of the church and offered treats for the furkids including bandanas and special doggie biscuits handmade by our WLA Youth & Ms. Viki. Another 25 cats, dogs, and birds from my Deaconess/ Home Missioner community – present and remembered – also received blessings in a Zoom ceremony on October 13th. Thank you for the honor of blessing your dear ones!

Heavenly Creator,
We thank you for the gift of animals,
our companions, protectors,
and sources of joy and comfort.
Bless these beloved beings
with health, safety, and happiness.
May they continue to enrich our lives and we theirs,
with unconditional love and loyalty.
Through these relationships with animalkind,
may we learn to cherish and care for all living beings,
respecting the beauty, diversity, and balance of your creation.
Grant us the wisdom to be kind stewards of these precious
lives.







WHAT IS AN ANIMAL CHAPLAIN?

Animal chaplains serve in many contexts. Some are conservationists, preserving habitats and caring for animals in the wild. Others focus on rescued animals and assist shelter workers with compassionate care. Many, like me, center on family companion animals through their stages of life, from welcome blessings and prayers for the sick or injured, to providing end-of-life rituals, memorial services, and grief education and support, honoring the profound loss that may be experienced when a beloved animal "crosses the rainbow bridge." For more information and support, contact Jeri at jotwlaumc.com.



Senior Fun Days: Fridays November 21 & December 12th (Christmas Party)

Our Senior Fun Day gatherings are so much fun! We play board games, enjoy lunch together, play some inventive team challenges, and have really meaningful times sharing about our lives. Please come! We meet in the Nisei Fellowship Hall at church. Contact Rev. Keith if you plan to come so we can plan the appropriate amount of food.



Thursday Breakfast Bunch

Anyone in our church who is free to join us for breakfast on the first Thursday of every month is welcome to join us! You don't have to be a senior; just an earlier riser hungry for breakfast and fellowship! The Marie Callender's restaurant is located at 11324 National Blvd, Los Angeles, CA near the corner of Sawtelle Avenue and National Avenues. We will meet at 8am on November 6th and December 4th.

If you need a ride, we will do our best to try to provide transportation for you so please call Rev. Keith at (408) 355-0837 cell so he can coordinate transportation. If you are able to join us please RSVP to Rev. Keith if you are able but know that you can just show up as well. All are welcome!



Grief Support Group

For those in need of grief support over loss of loved ones (both recent and years past), and those facing many other forms of loss (job, health, etc) please know that our Grief Support Group can offer a supportive environment for sharing what you are going through and a welcome opportunity to fellowship with others. Please contact Jeri Okamoto-Tanaka if you would like to attend. Lunch will be provided. Our next meeting is Thursday, November 13th.

However our December 11th gathering will be at U-Zen Sushi Japanese Restaurant for our Christmas luncheon located at: 11951 Santa Monica Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90025. Meet at the restaurant at 11:30am or contact Rev. Keith for transportation.



Tai Chi Class

Did you know that WLAUMC members gather every Wednesday and Thursday at 10:30am in the Social Hall for Tai Chi? Originated in ancient China, Tai Chi is considered "meditation in motion" and proven to have many physical and mental benefits. All are welcome to join anytime, and parking is provided.

YOUNG GENERATIONS COOKING CLASS!

Om Saturday, September 27, our younger generation gathered in the Nisei Fellowship Hall and WLAUMC Kitchen for a cooking class led by Susan Tsukahira! Along with helpers Kay Yang and Elaine Sunoo, our younger generations learned how to make a traditional Japanese meal of Japanese meatballs, gyoza, tofu salad, musubi, and Tsukemono. It was a great time of building intergenerational relationships and passing down beloved recipes.

Many thanks again to Susan Tsukahira for coordinating the entire cooking class and menu, Elaine Yang and Elaine Sunoo for their encouragement and support, as well as the Shikata family for their generous donation toward food costs.





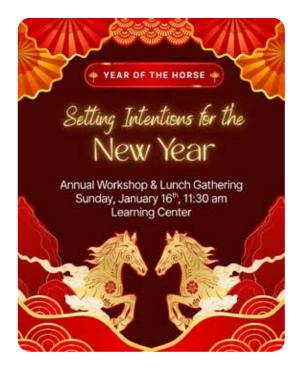








On Saturday, November 1st, our 20's-40's ministry is invited to Kiana and Phifer's home for a Friendsgiving Dinner celebration! Please contact Kiana to RSVP and sign-up to bring your favorite dish. See you at 7PM!



Less is More (Part VI): How to Buy Eco-Friendly Gifts! Pt. 1

The gift-giving season is on the horizon, and believe it or not, fighting consumerism does not mean we have to forgo the joyful tradition of giving gifts. There are two general methods of gift-giving: material gifts and non-material gifts. While we know non-material gifts are great for the environment (and I'll be focusing more on non-material gifts next month), I'm also very aware that in many cases, only a material gift will do! Below are several options to consider.

Homemade/Local: Of course if you're crafty, making your own gift is always an option. This can be anything from jam to bookmarks to ornaments. Or if you're not into making things, consider supporting a local artist or grower at a farmers market who does!

Thrift: There are so many products in the world already. One concept to explore is the idea of sharing these things. As one person is done with something, or has no use for it, it can be passed on to someone who can use it and will treasure it. Thrift stores like Goodwill, or estate sales and antique shops often have beautiful and very valuable items. And I personally find used bookstores (The Open Book in the valley is my favorite) to be a treasure trove of interesting books, comics, games, and other fun trinkets.

Environmental Gifts: But your gift-recipient may just need something brand new. I totally get it. In which case I suggest to indulge in something pro-environment! Environmental products are often beautiful, well-made, and even one-of-a-kind. However they can often be too pricy for a person to buy on a day-to-day basis, which make them excellent gifts. A little online searching will lead you to beautiful hand-woven bags, bamboo utensil sets, sustainable chapsticks and deodorants, unique wooden toys or beeswax crayons, soy candles, fancy reusable water bottles, solar-powered cellphone chargers, high-end cleaning products, and more. There are a lot of people who are making quality things out of recycled items, such as toys, shoes, yoga mats, and wallets (my phone case is made out of recycled skateboards!). And finally, environmental programs like the World Wildlife Fund have stores with great gift ideas for children and adults alike, and all the proceeds help support their efforts.



Environmental Justice Chair, Jamie Thierman



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

In-person Services 9:30 AM—English Worship 11:00 AM—Japanese Worship Online worship at wlaumc.com

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday-Friday 8:30am-12:30 pm or call the Church Office at 310-479-1379 to speak to the staff

STAFF

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