

Pacific Palisades Presbyterian Church

By Nina Kidd | August 14, 2026



Palisades Presbyterian Church was destroyed in the fire, as was the preschool. Services are continuing and the pastor is available to help those who might need spiritual or other support.

Religious Life played an important part in the founding of Pacific Palisades and has been integral to the community as it grew. The Palisades 2025 Fire destroyed several religious institutions, including the Methodist, the Catholic and Presbyterian, damaged Calvary and left others without a place to worship. CTN Religious Correspondent Nina Kidd continues her series of reporting on congregations, including where and when services are held and upcoming events.

Pacific Palisades Presbyterian Church

Address: Now worshipping at Brentwood Presbyterian Church, 12000 San Vicente Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90049

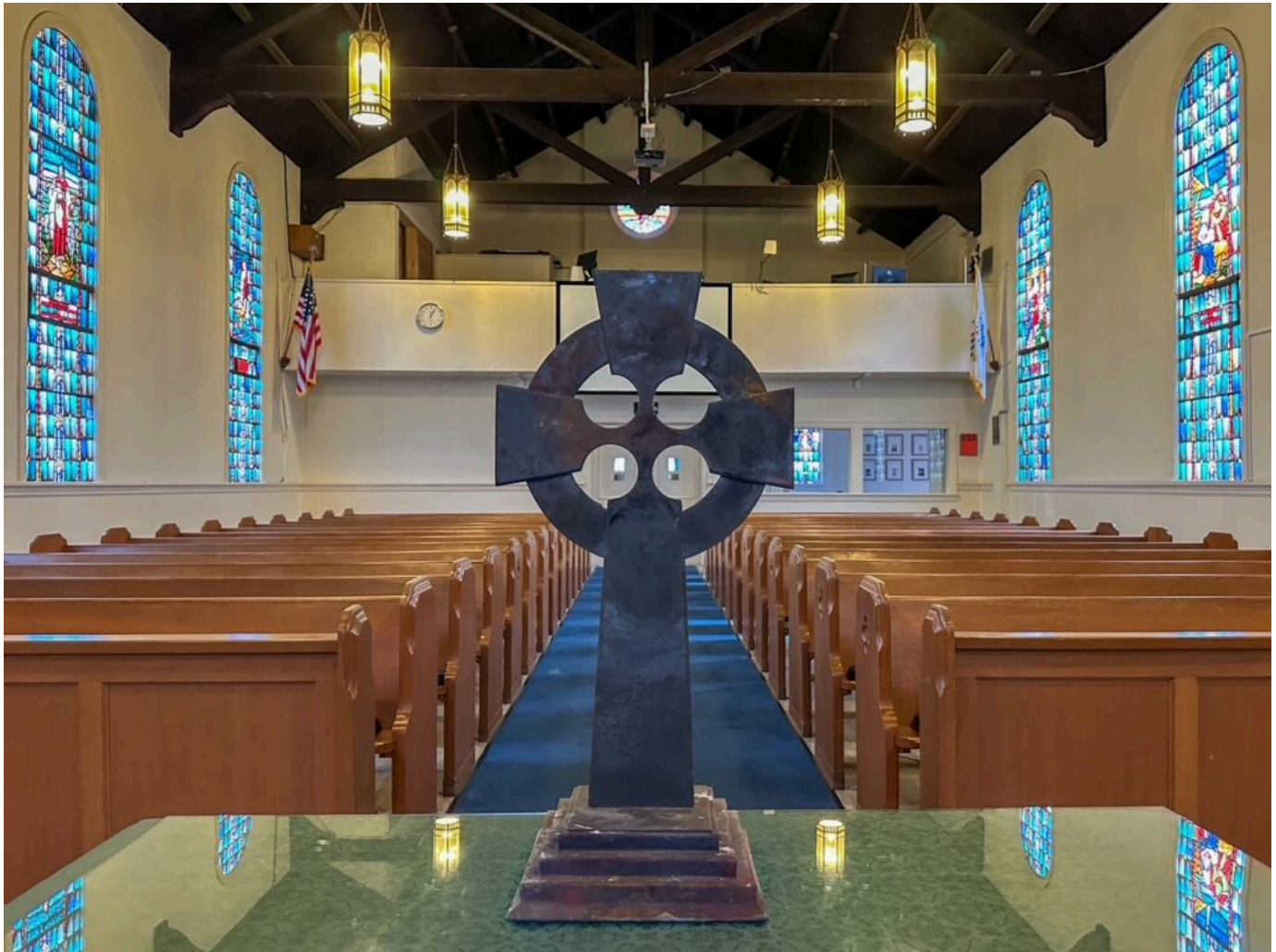
Phone: (310) 454-0366

Website: www.palipres.org

The Pacific Palisades Presbyterian Church had stood, built and rebuilt, on the Temescal bluffs since the 1950's. In January 2025 the church -- preschool, fellowship hall, offices and sanctuary -- was rubble on the ground. Only the skeleton of its bell tower rose above Temescal Canyon.

Calls poured in. "We were blessed," says Associate Pastor Grace Park. "Every Presbyterian church on the Westside offered to host us."

On schedule, mere days after the fire, Lead Pastor Matt Hardin welcomed his fire-stunned PaliPres families into a church rec room at Westwood Presbyterian Church. There they found a powerful message of hope from home: It was scorched and tarnished, but their four-foot-tall steel chancel cross had survived. Lovingly retrieved from the ashes, it stood before them as they hugged and sang and prayed with their pastors.



The Chancel Cross of the Palisades Presbyterian Church was found in the rubble.

The blackened chancel cross has stayed with the congregation for every service, traveling from Westwood to Culver City to now in West L.A., where this summer it has presided over 10 a.m. combined Sunday services with PaliPres and its longstanding hosts, Brentwood Presbyterian Church.

Though deprived of its physical house, Pacific Palisades Presbyterian Church retains its identity. The church on the hill had been known to center on families. The preschool had a reputation for preparing children well for both public and independent elementary schools.

Its unique shaded "Big Yard" with its play equipment was also a place for games during the church's annual "Fall Kickoff" back-to-school picnic. And it was the site of a regular Easter egg hunt for community kids.

At Christmas, a kids' production of Las Posadas took over the sanctuary. Featuring angel and shepherd costumes for all, it was open to the community and capped the evening with a Mexican dinner for 200 in Janés Hall.

Post-fire, the music directors continue professional-style training for a congregational choir supplemented by local professionals. The music directors produce a mix of traditional and contemporary music. Accompanied by guitars, violin, percussion and organ or piano; a single service can feature both centuries-old Christian music and 21st century worship band songs, and sometimes gospel music.

As the town grows back, PaliPres volunteers, including Sunday School students, have stepped up to make and deliver the sack lunches that the (PPTFH) professional outreach workers share with potential clients they encounter on Palisades streets and beaches.

The pastors continue to actively support the all-clergy fellowship. That group is responsible for the Palisades Community Thanksgiving service of music and messages presented by representatives from each congregation.



Lead Pastor Matt Hardin and Associate Pastor Grace Park lead Easter prayers for 80+ members on the PaliPres campus at El Medio and Sunset in 2026. This special Sunday service “back home” led to another in July with more anticipated in the fall.

WORKERS NEEDED:

September 23 to 26 a big Habitat for Humanity build is coming to the Palisades in aid of fire victims. PaliPres is making plans to send volunteers as they join other local congregations in this work. And on Sunday, September 27, their chancel cross will be there with its message of hope, wherever the PaliPres family worships.

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<https://www.circlingthenews.com/spiritual-life-pacific-palisades-presbyterian-church/>