

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT SUNDAY

Sunday, Dec. 22nd (10am)
Combined Service in the Sanctuary



PRELUDE

Noël
Louis-Claude Daquin (1694-1772)

Peter Fennema
Organist

WORDS OF WELCOME

Molly Vetter
Senior Pastor

May the peace of Christ be with you!
And also with you!

HYMN

Please stand as you are able.

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

**United Methodist Hymnal
No. 224**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ was born today.
Ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

**Members of our Found Family Group
Everest Harvey, Ben Bender,
John Holbert, and Jenniffer Duran-West**

*In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again?
Where do we start?
Let us begin with tenderness.
Let us begin with our hearts on our sleeve.
Let us begin from a place of vulnerability and hope.
Let us begin with love.
Yes, let us start with love.
Today we light the candles of hope,
peace, joy, and love.*

**May the warmth of these lights
be our cornerstone.
May the truth in these lights
help us begin again.**

THE COMMUNITY INTERACTS WITH THE WORD OF GOD

HYMN

Star-Child

**The Faith We Sing
No. 2095**

Star-Child, earth-Child, go-between of God,
Love Child, Christ Child, heaven's lightning rod,
This year, this year, let the day arrive
when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!

Hope-for-peace Child, God's stupendous sign,
Down-to-earth Child, Star of stars that shine,
This year, this year, let the day arrive
when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!

FIRST READING

Luke 1:46-55
The Magnificat

Marlowe Weatherford

HYMN

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

**United Methodist Hymnal
No. 211**

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

SECOND READING

Matthew 1:18-25

Christopher Lange

HYMN

Away in a Manger

**United Methodist Hymnal
No. 217**

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus
laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the sky
looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus,
asleep in the hay.

Be near me, Lord Jesus,
I ask thee to stay
close by me forever, and love me, I pray!
Bless all the dear children
in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven,
to live with thee there.

THIRD READING

Luke 2:1-7
Entrance of the Holy Family

Ford Miller

HYMN*Please stand as you are able.***Angels We Have Heard on High****United Methodist Hymnal****No. 238**

Angels we have heard on high,
 sweetly singing o'er the plains,
 and the mountains in reply
 echoing their joyous strains:
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
 Why your joyous strains prolong?
 What the gladsome tidings be
 Which inspire your heavn'ly song?
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

FOURTH READING**Luke 2:8-14****Mateo Chan***Shepherds & animals enter***ANTHEM****O Come, All Ye Faithful****Westwood Kids Choir,
Grapple Choir, & Loft band**

John Francis Wade (1751)

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant
O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem
O come and behold Him, born the King of Angels
O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:
Glory to God, in the highest!
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.

FIFTH READING**Luke 2:15-20****Emma Pang-Le****ANTHEM****Silent Night****Westwood Kids Choir
Loft Band**

Franz Xavier Gruber

Silent night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy Infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born.

Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT**Pastor Diana**

HYMN

The First Noel

**United Methodist Hymnal
No. 245**

The first noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
*Noel, noel, noel, noel,
born is the King of Israel.*

SONG

We Three Kings

Peter Fennema

from the United Methodist Hymnal, No. 254

SIXTH READING

Matthew 2:1-6

Jonah Vetter Parker

Herod & the Magi

HYMN

What Child is This?

**United Methodist Hymnal
No. 219**

What Child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?
*This, this is Christ, the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!*

SEVENTH READING

Matthew 2:7-12

Lydian Witt & Will Read

The Magi bring gifts

HYMN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

**United Methodist Hymnal
No. 240**

Please stand as you are able.

**Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
*Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"***

**Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.
*Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"***

HOMILY

Hope is Worth the Risk

Molly Vetter

THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS TO THE WORD OF GOD

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Christopher Carter
Pastor of The Loft

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power
and the glory, forever. Amen.

PRESENTATION OF OUR GIFTS AND LIVES

Raymond Fitzgerald

GIVING BACK TO GOD

Our Christmas Offering supports direct needs in our community through the **580 Cafe**, **Good Samaritan Fund**, and the **Echo Park Immigration Center**. Use the QR code available to the right or visit our website at www.WestwoodUMC.org/Give.



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Love Came Down at Christmas
arr. Hugh Benham (b. 1943)

Sanctuary Singers

*Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love divine;
Love was born at Christmas;
star and angels gave the sign.*

*Worship we the Godhead,
Love incarnate, Love divine;
worship we our Jesus,
but wherewith for sacred sign?*

*Love shall be our token;
love be yours and love be mine;
love to God and others,
love for plea and gift and sign.*

~Christina Rosetti

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Please stand as you are able.

Joy to the World

United Methodist Hymnal
No. 246

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing!**

THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH GOES OUT TO SERVE

HYMN

Please stand as you are able.

Go! Tell it on the Mountain

**United Methodist Hymnal
No. 251**

**[Refrain:] Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills, and ev'rywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.**

**Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. [Refrain]**

BENEDICTION

Molly Vetter

POSTLUDE

Please remain seated.

Go! Tell it on the Mountain

Loft Band

We invite to greet one another as you depart.

Westwood UMC Mission Statement

Westwood Church is a Christian community that welcomes all people and focuses on becoming and making disciples committed to justice, kindness and walking humbly with God. We welcome and affirm our ministry with all persons, regardless of age, race, ethnic origin, economic status, ability, gender, marital status or sexual orientation, from first-time visitor to lifetime member.

We seek to understand and carry out God's will, bearing witness to Christ's compassion and embracing the movement of the Holy Spirit in our lives. We foster spiritual growth in all persons - children, youth, and adults; through individual and corporate prayer and study, worship of God, nurturing relationships, and participating in ministries of justice and mercy at home and in the global community. ALL ministries of Westwood UMC are available to ALL people.

A Reconciling Church: We, the faith community of Westwood Church, affirm that a God-filled perspective understands and embraces diversity and radical inclusivity; for that reason we embrace and affirm the full inclusion of everyone regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. We explicitly welcome lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people who have been marginalized and diminished within the larger United Methodist tradition. We commit to embracing the responsibility of pushing for a more open and inclusive United Methodist Church.

You are welcome here. You are supported here. You are included here.

PARTICIPATING TODAY

Pastoral Staff

Rev. Molly Vetter (she/her), *Senior Pastor*

Rev. Dr. Christopher Carter (he/him)
Associate Pastor/Pastor of The Loft

Rev. Dr. Diana Holbert (she/her)
Pastor of Children & Families

Everest Harvey (they/them),
Director of Youth & Social Justice Ministries

Music Leadership

Dr. Andrew Schultz (he/him), *Dir. of Sanctuary Music*

Peter Fennema (he/him), *Organist*

Hsin-Hua Wang (she/her)
Dir. of Children & Youth Choirs

Julia Black (she/her), *Dir. of Loft Music*

Chancel Choir Section Leaders

Temple Hammen (she/her), *soprano*

Carmen Edano (she/her), *alto*

Taylor Jacobs (he/him), *tenor*

Byron Jones (he/him), *bass*

Guest Musicians

David Abrams, *guitar*

Dom Anzalone, *percussion*

Jack Lipson, *piano & band leader*

Acolytes

Savanna Cohen, Oz Peterson, Jonah Vetter Parker,

Lydian Witt, Quinn Weatherford,

Sydney Weatherford

Production Team

Richard An (he/him), *Videography & Sound*

Hsin-Hua Wang (she/her), *Videography & Sound*

Guillermo Gonzalez (he/him), *Videography*

Flowers on the Altar

Given by **Angelina Kwan** in loving memory of
Julia Kwan who loved life on her birthday.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The following people have requested prayer, or
others have requested prayers for them:

Ongoing Prayer Requests

- Judy Wessling
- Laquetta Willis
- Cindy Ball & daughter, Harley Hunkapillar
- Julia and Natalie Thai
- Bob & Tracy Mesrop
- Jackie Ray & Family
- Yvonne Newton
- Azalea
- Patricia Barlow & Family
- Timothy Jones
- Charles & Ruby Simmons
- John Brandt
- Yinka Bamgbose
- Michael Kelly
- Beverly & Brydon Shirk
- The Veikune Family
- Coral Moore
- Nancy Hill
- Bonnie Crouch (on hospice)
- Jackie Vincent
- The Abernethy Family
- Jim Agee
- Russia, Ukraine, Palestine, and Israel

These requests are held in prayer by the pastoral staff
and by the prayer chain. You are encouraged to join in
praying for them by name.

Christmas Flower Dedications

Many thanks to all who contributed to the Christmas flowers this holiday season!

Yinka Bamgbose ~ In loving memory of: Olujimi Bamgbose, a dear husband, father and grandfather; my parents Olatunji and Modupe Oyemade. In honor of my children and grandchildren; and my siblings, Olusola, Oyetokunbo and Arinola with love and gratitude.

Marianne Barlow ~ In memory of Alice, Mel, and Ralph Barlow.

Gary Bosworth ~ In memory of Joyce L. Bosworth, Thomas J. Bosworth, and John & Alice Bosworth.

Sherry Burch ~ In loving memory of my Daddy, John Willis, who moved to life eternal this year. In honor of our son, Josh and fiancée Amy, to celebrate their recent engagement. In honor of our son, Zach, and his husband, Ben, who celebrate their 8th wedding anniversary on Dec 26th.

Heather Butterfield ~ In loving memory of my mother, Dorothy Butterfield.

Yoteen Cameron & Family ~ Merry Christmas to all!

Carolyn & Laura Coyle ~ In memory of John & Elizabeth Coyle and Don & Marlene Bufkin. In honor of grandparents John and Kristine Coyle.

Elizabeth & Kenny Crews ~ In honor of our children, Veronica and Will.

Lisa Marie Parker Desai ~ In honor of Ada Parker Desai and Lila Parker Desai.

Cheryl Downey ~ In loving memory of my husband, Larry Owen, and my son, Christopher Bandasch.

Raymond & Keri Fitzgerald ~ In memory of Ed & Ruby Fitzgerald.

Chris & Liz Gipson ~ In honor of our parents Penny and Reg Gipson.

Karen Hodges

Diana Holbert ~ In honor of the stellar children's ministry team.

John Holbert ~ In honor of Diana and her 5 years of wonderful work for the children and families of WUMC.

Donna Hollister ~ In memory of my beloved mom Marie Hollister, and grandmother to my much loved sons Keith, Casey, Jeffrey, and Jon.

The Kishibay Family ~ Merry Christmas to all! With love from the Kishibay Family.

Angelina Kwan ~ In loving memory of Julia & Hiram Kwan and in celebration of their lives.

Rhonda K. Lawrence ~ In loving memory of my parents Keith & Mary Lawrence, and sister Jennifer Lynn Lawrence.

Cindy & Joel Liberty ~ In honor of our wonderful children who have our hearts: Taylor, Collin, Cade, and Sewwandi, with love! In loving memory of my father in heaven, Noah Hazel. Love, Cindy.

Brian & Shelley McCarthy ~ Love at Christmas to friends and family near and far.

Marissa Nadjarian ~ In memory of Don & Roslyn Nelson for their love of Christmas and all things family and in honor of Adelaide Porter for 34 years of inspiring young minds.

Adelaide Porter ~ In honor of my daughters: Marissa, Meghan, and Kelly.

Keith & Nancy Price ~ In memory of our parents, James & WillaMae Price and Loren & Alice Jackson. In honor of our grandchildren, Petra and Raina Matheson.

John & Nancy Richardson ~ In memory of Hope S. & John V. Richardson and Sara C. & William R. Brown.

Sharon Rhodes-Wickett ~ In honor of my children & grandchildren: Rachel, Elliot, Wesley, Henry, Simon, Ben & Phoebe.

Pat & Chris Schmidt ~ Merry Christmas with love from Pat & Chris Schmidt.

The Scottgale Family ~ In loving memory of Austin and Ruth Gale from their children & grandchildren.

Sabrina Simmons ~ In loving memory of Cheryl Simmons and Betty Marsh. In honor of my dad and stepmama, Charles and Ruby, with so much love.

Louise Spear ~ In loving memory of my parents, Raymond & Silvery Spear, who always enjoyed the holidays.

Tonia Symensma-Cohen ~ In loving memory of her Dad, Roger Symensma. In honor of the staff and pastors at WUMC.

Lynn Woods & Glen Watts

Judy Wessling ~ In celebration of my wonderful grandchildren: Luke & Owen Forsman and Josie & Ollie Marks and my precious daughters and sons-in-law: Katherine, Jenni & Arnie, Carolyn & Peter. In loving memory of Bob Wessling, husband, father, grandfather, friend. With gratitude and love for the lives of Gabe & Polly Hanson and Bob & Marge Wessling.

The Wessling Family ~ In celebration of our incomparable mother & grandmother, Judy Wessling.

JOIN US IN JANUARY AT WESTWOOD CHURCH!



THE SANCTUARY WORSHIP GATHERING Sundays at 9:30am in The Sanctuary

WE ARE - New Sermon Series starting January 12th!

Remembering and reimagining what we are meant for, as a community of followers of Christ. Join us for a new seven-week Sanctuary sermon series designed to help us live faithfully toward the promises of God. A perfect beginning for 2025 - starting January 12th.

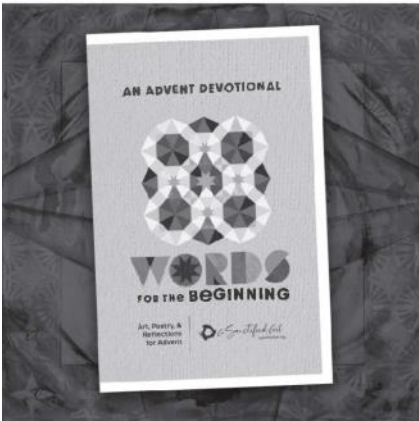


JOIN THE WINTER CHOIR! Sundays, January 12th & 19th

9am - Practice in The Sanctuary
9:30am - Sing in the Worship Gathering

Do you like to sing? Don't read music? That's okay! Join us in The Sanctuary to learn a simple anthem that we'll sing in the 9:30am gathering that day. We don't wear robes, and we sit in the church service as part of the congregation until the Offertory. Come one Sunday, or more! For more information, contact Andrew Schultz at andrew@westwoodumc.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



FREE ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

We encourage you to use this free Advent devotional as a part of your prayer life this season; it connects with ideas and images used in worship in The Sanctuary and in The Loft. The devotional continues through the week after Epiphany Sunday (January 5th), so it's not too late to begin. Scan the QR code to access the devotional online or pick up a hard copy today.



FOUND FAMILY TEA PARTY

Sunday, December 22nd (4-4:45pm) Wesley Room

Join us for some tea and cookies before the Sound Bath in the Sanctuary at 5pm. This is an amazing sensory experience, and it's a good chance for all of us to gather before going together.

DON WE NOW OUR GAY APPAREL PARTY

Tuesday, December 24th (9am) Grapple Room

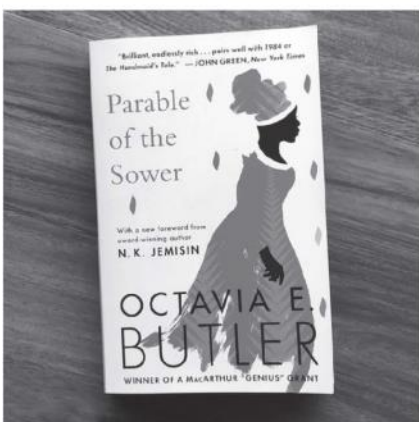
Watch a Christmas movie, play some games, eat some food, drink some cider, and have a Gay Old Time or a Gay Young Time (since it's queer group and young adult group). Fun sweaters are encouraged but not required!



GRATITUDE TO PASTOR DIANA

We invite you to join us in celebrating Pastor Diana's leadership at our church, giving thanks for these five years when she has served as our Children and Family Minister. Her final Sunday in this role will be December 29th, and we will have cake to celebrate her that day. We also invite anyone in the church to write a note of thanks to Diana, which will be collected into a scrapbook for her. We encourage you to write on any flat piece of paper that's smaller than 12"x12" and bring your note to the church office.

We also invite you to contribute to a Love Gift for Diana at www.WestwoodUMC.org/Give.



"PARABLE OF THE SOWER" FIVE-WEEK READING GROUP

In Person Group - starts Tuesday, January 7th (11am)

Online Group - starts Wednesday, January 8th (7:30pm)

In 1993, Octavia Butler wrote *Parable of The Sower*, a novel set in 2024 Los Angeles that, in many ways, predicted the current state of our national politics and our environmental crisis. *Parable of the Sower* won multiple awards and in 2021 was recognized as one of the top 125 Science Fiction novels of the last 125 years by the New York Times. To join either group, contact Rev. Dr. Carter at christopher@theloftla.org.



CHRISTMAS at WESTWOOD

SCATTERED FOR SERVICE: ALTERNATIVE GIFT GIVING

Today, December 22nd (Before & After Worship) Wesley Room

Scattered for Service is an opportunity to “pay it forward” while shopping for friends and family this holiday season. Give Alternative Gifts this year – make a donation to one of the non-profits in lieu of a purchased gift. Our online Alternative Gifts market is open through Christmas Day (and is a great, stress-free way to finish any last minute shopping!) Shop online at www.ScatteredForService.com.



CONTEMPLATIVE CHRISTMAS SOUND BATH

Today, December 22nd (5pm) The Sanctuary

On one of the longest nights of the year, join us for a contemplative experience that offers an evening prayer liturgy brought to life with a healing sound bath. Led by sound healer Ruth Sie and Pastor Molly Vetter, this experience brings gifts of a meditative sound bath into the sacred beauty of our sanctuary. Please wear comfortable clothes; you are welcome to sit or lie in our pews or bring a mat to lie on the floor.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

Tuesday, December 24th

4:30pm – Doors Open / Prelude Begins

5pm - Family Candlelight Worship with our Chancel Choir

Join us in The Sanctuary as we experience the joy and mystery of Christmas and share the good news of Christ’s birth through music, scripture, prayer, preaching and candlelight. Featuring music from our Sanctuary musicians, you are invited to sing beloved carols with us, and hold candlelight as we sing “Silent Night” together.



11pm - Candlelight Worship with Communion featuring Loft Musicians

Join us in The Loft as we experience the holy mystery of Christmas and celebrate Christ’s birth with music, scripture, prayer, preaching, communion, and candlelight. Featuring music from our Loft musicians, you are invited to sing beloved carols with us, share communion at our open table, and hold candlelight as we sing “Silent Night” together.

WESTWOOD CHURCH

Rev. Molly Vetter.....Senior Pastor
Rev. Dr. Christopher Carter.....Associate Pastor/Pastor of The Loft
Rev. Dr. Diana Holbert.....Director of Children and Family Ministries
Everest Harvey.....Director of Youth & Social Justice Ministries
Deaconess Jeanne Roe Smith.....Campus Minister, Wesley Foundation Serving UCLA
Dr. Andrew Schultz.....Sanctuary Music Director
Peter Fennema.....Organist
Carmen Edano, Temple Hammen, Taylor Jacobs, Byron Jones.....Chancel Choir Section Leaders
Sabrina Simmons.....Office Manager
Pablo Jauregui.....Facilities Manager
Julia Black.....Loft Music and Worship Director
Westley Garcia.....Director of Loft Connections
Dr. Deanna Edwards.....Children's Ministry Executive Assistant
Hsin-Hua Wang.....Children/Youth Choirs
Jaime Top.....Facilities Assistant
David Trotter.....Communications
Youth and Children's Ministry Staff: Beverly Bell, Fozieh Karimi, Ashley Kishibay, Emily Kishibay, Lesley Castillo, Waldina Guevara, Eva Hooten, and Uriya Simeon

West District Superintendent: Rev. Dr. Siosaia Tu'itahi
California-Pacific Annual Conference Bishop: Rev. Dr. Dottie Escobedo-Frank



Today's Worship Guide

To access a digital version, use the QR code or visit www.WestwoodUMC.org/Livestream.

The Sanctuary – 9:30am

A sacred gathering with traditional liturgy, a thoughtful message, and resounding organ.

More info: www.WestwoodUMC.org

The Loft – 10:30am

An innovative gathering with spiritual conversation, creativity, coffee, and music.

More info: www.TheLoftLA.org

Westwood Kids

Westwood Church has a vibrant Sunday morning Children's Ministry. Integrating biblical stories, music, art, and play, we are able to explore God's world using multiple teaching approaches. Join us in The Sanctuary at 9:30am with the children's choir following, and at 10:45am our biblical story time. Join our Westwood Kids email by contacting Pastor Diana Holbert at diana@westwoodumc.org.

Grapple Group

The Grapple Group provides a spiritual community for big questions for young people in grades 6-12. For more information, contact Everest Harvey, Director of Youth & Social Justice Ministries, at everest@westwoodumc.org.

Westwood Church
10497 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90024

Office Hours
Tuesday - Friday
(9am - 1pm)

Contact Us
wumc@westwoodumc.org
310.474.4511

