



# The Sanctuary



May 10, 2026

6th Sunday of Easter

## PRELUDE

Peter Fennema

### 3 Chorale Variations on "O Give Thanks to the Lord, for He Is Good"

Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

## WELCOME

Blair Stowe

*May the peace of Christ be with you.*

**And also with you.**

## HYMN

### God of Grace, and God of Glory United Methodist Hymnal

*Please stand as you are able.*

**No. 577**

1. God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple  
3. Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness, bend our pride to  
4. Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour thy power; crown thine an - cient church - 's sto - ry;  
thy con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,  
we de - plore; let the search for thy sal - va - tion

bring her bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom,  
rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom,  
be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom,

grant us cour - age, for the fac - ing of this hour,  
grant us cour - age, lest we miss thy king - dom's goal,  
grant us cour - age, serv - ing thee whom we a - dore,

for the fac - ing of this hour.  
lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.  
serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.

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MUSIC: John Hughes, 1907; CWM RHONDDA

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## MORNING PRAYER

Jo Schiff

Please be seated.

*Holy One of mystery and power,  
there is no God like you  
in heaven above or on earth below,  
keeping covenant and steadfast love  
with all who walk before you  
with pure and upright hearts.  
Fill our lives with your glory,  
as you filled the temple with cloud  
when Solomon first brought the ark  
into your holy dwelling place.  
Give us the strength and the power  
to withstand the forces of evil  
at work in our lives and in our world. Amen.*

-Adapted from The Abingdon Worship Annual 2009

## CHILDREN'S TIME

Uriya Simeon

### THE COMMUNITY INTERACTS WITH THE WORD OF GOD

## HYMN

### *I Will Trust in the Lord*

United Methodist Hymnal  
No. 464

The musical score is written on four staves in a 2/2 time signature with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: "I. I will trust in the Lord, I will trust in the Lord, I will trust in the Lord, till I die; I will trust in the Lord, I will trust in the Lord, I will trust in the Lord, till I die." The melody is simple and repetitive, with a final cadence on the fourth staff.

Words: Afro-American spiritual  
Music: I WILL TRUST, Afro-American spiritual; adapt. and arr. by William Farley Smith © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House  
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No one shall be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. Be strong and courageous, for you shall lead this people to possess the land that I swore to their ancestors to give them. Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to act in accordance with all the law that my servant Moses commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, so that you may be successful wherever you go. This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth; you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to act in accordance with all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall be successful. I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

This is the word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN**

**I Will Trust in the Lord**

**United Methodist Hymnal  
No. 464**

Sis-ter will you trust in the Lord, Bro-ther will you trust in the  
 Lord, Sib-ling will you trust in the Lord, till you die;  
 Sis-ter will you trust in the Lord, Bro-ther will you trust in the  
 Lord, Sib-ling will you trust in the Lord, till you die.

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**SCRIPTURE READING**

**Ephesians 6:10-18**

**Blair Stowe**

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power; put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil, for our struggle is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on the evil day and, having prevailed against everything, to stand firm. Stand, therefore, and belt your waist with truth and put on the breastplate of righteousness and lace up your sandals in preparation for the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints.

This is the word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**



Preach-er will you trust in the Lord, Preach-er will you trust in the  
 Lord, Preach-er will you trust in the Lord, till you die;  
 Preach-er will you trust in the Lord, Preach-er will you trust in the  
 Lord, Preach-er will you trust in the Lord, till you die.

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## SERMON

*Lead Courageously*

Blair Stowe


**THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS TO THE WORD OF GOD**

## CALL TO PRAYER

Sanctuary Singers

***It Is Well with My Soul (excerpt)***

Philip Bliss (1838-1876), arr. Yu-Shan Tsai (b. 1968)

*When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,  
 When sorrows like sea billows roll;  
 Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,  
 It is well, it is well with my soul.*

*Lord, hasten the day when the faith shall be sight,  
 the clouds be rolled back as a scroll;  
 The trumpet shall sound, and the Lord shall descend;  
 even so it is well with my soul.  
 It is well, it is well with my soul.*

## PRAYERS FOR OTHERS AND THE WORLD

Janet Hoskins

**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**

**GIVING BACK TO GOD**

We are thankful for all that God has blessed us with, and we consider financial giving an act of worship. We invite you to express your worship by becoming a faithful giver to support God's work through Westwood Church. To make a one-time or recurring donation, **use the QR code** or visit [www.WestwoodUMC.org/Give](http://www.WestwoodUMC.org/Give).



**OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

**The Word Was God**

**Chancel Choir**

Rosephanye Powell (b. 1962)

*In the beginning was the Word,  
 and the Word was with god, and the Word was God.  
 The same was in the beginning with God.*

*All things were made that have been made.  
 Nothing was made, He has not made.*

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was God!*

**-Text: John 1:1-3**

**OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

**Voices Raised to You**

**Evangelical Lutheran Worship**

**No. 845**

*Please stand as you are able.*

3. Christ, the song of love in - car - nate, touch - ing earth with heav - en's grace,  
 for your liv - ing, suf - fring, dy - ing, for your ris - ing, hear our praise!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, re - deem - er, Lord of life!

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 Music: SONG OF PRAISE, Carolyn Jennings, b. 1936, © 1996 Carolyn Jennings  
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THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH GOES OUT TO SERVE

**HYMN**

**All Who Love and Serve Your City United Methodist Hymnal**

*Please stand as you are able.*

**No. 433**

1. All who love and serve your cit - y, all who bear its  
 2. In your day of loss and sor-row, in your day of  
 5. Ris - en Lord, shall yet the cit - y be the cit - y

dai - ly stress, all who cry for peace and  
 help - less strife, hon - or, peace, and love re -  
 of de - spair? Come to - day, our Judge, our

jus - tice, all who curse and all who bless:  
 treat - ing, seek the Lord, who is your life.  
 Glo - ry, be its name, "The Lord is there!"

Words: Erik Roxley © 1969 by Galliard, Ltd.  
 Music: CHARLESTOWN, USA melody  
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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Blair Stowe**

*Please be seated.*

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

**Prelude, Fugue, and Chaconne**

**Peter Fennema**

*Please remain seated.*

Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

## PARTICIPATING TODAY

### **Pastoral Staff**

Rev. Blaire Stowe (she/her), *Theologian in Residence*  
Rev. Dr. Diana Holbert (she/her), *Minister of Care*

### **Sanctuary Music Leadership**

Christopher Arceo, *Guest Conductor*  
Peter Fennema, *Organist*

### **Chancel Choir Section Leaders**

Trinity Del Regno (she/her), *soprano*  
Carmen Edano (she/her), *alto*  
Taylor Jacobs (he/him), *tenor*  
Abram Poliakoff (he/him), *guest tenor*  
Byron Jones (he/him), *bass*

### **Choral Scholars**

Georgia Madland (she/her), *soprano*  
Natalie Fishman, *alto*

### **Liturgists**

Janet Hoskins  
Jo Schiff

### **Production Team**

Leila Jay Bishop (they/them), *sound engineer*  
Guillermo Gonzalez (he/him), *videography*  
Eli Reynolds (he/him), *videography*

### **Flowers on the Altar**

Given by **Yinka Bamgbose** in remembrance of her beloved mama, *Modupe Oyemade*, and in celebration of all the mothers and mother figures in our WUMC community.

## STAFF OUT TODAY

Rev. Molly Vetter (she/her), *Senior Pastor*  
Dr. Andrew Schultz, *Dir. of Sanctuary Music*

## PARTICIPATING TODAY

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

### **Ongoing Prayer Requests**

- Subie Green
- Judy Wessling
- Earle Hager
- Jage Schiff
- Anna Lee
- Alex Hodges
- Linda Dannison
- Maggie Fitzgerald
- Coral Moore
- Kenneth Lange
- Eunice
- Nancy Hill
- Paul Rutter
- Pablo Jauregui
- Hapi Veikune & family
- Kelly O'Brien
- Jim Agee
- Patricia Barlow
- Bette Caldwell
- Amy & Josh Burch
- Bonnie Crouch
- The people in the Middle East, Venezuela, Russia, Ukraine, Myanmar, and the Sudan.
- For our country as it continues to face challenges.

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.

**To submit a prayer request, please go to [www.westwoodumc.org/care](http://www.westwoodumc.org/care).**

## WESTWOOD UMC MISSION STATEMENT

Westwood United Methodist Church is an intergenerational Christian community committed to radical inclusivity, justice, compassion, and growing Jesus' beloved community.

In worship and beyond, we invite you to connect with others in our community through our ministries, events, and groups. We are grateful to be a church that includes and celebrates people of all ages and races, abilities, gender identities and sexual orientations.

## TODAY AT WESTWOOD UMC

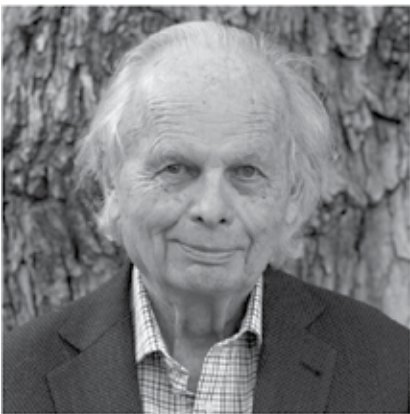


### THE LOFT

**"(W)Holy Restoration" - Rev. Dr. Christopher Carter**

**Today, May 10th (10:30am) Upstairs in The Loft**

The Holy Spirit is the implanted hope that continuously moves us to practice living the Christian life, the Way of Jesus. One function of this movement towards God is that we are restored to a right relationship with God by grace and through faith. When we choose to go with, rather than against, the momentum of our souls, we step into the Divine flow of love that restores our love for our neighbors and ourselves.



### WISDOM AT WESTWOOD

**"Confessions of a Tamed Heretic"**

**Today, May 10th (11am) Wesley Room and via Zoom**

Have you clarified in your mind how comfortable (or not comfortable) you are parsing the merely weird from hard core blasphemy? Do you really know the difference between doubt and true heresy? Join Jerry Whittemore for an engaging discussion this week!



### QUEER GROUP

**Sundays, May 10 & 17 (12noon) Church Courtyard**

Westwood UMC's Queer group – our Small Group for LGBTQIA+ folks – will meet May 10 for community and conversation; on May 17 they will have an extra meeting with special guest Rev. John Griffin-Attil. Pastor John was one of the first out gay UMC clergy in our area, and his long ministry is a witness of persistence and courage. For more information, please contact Everest Harvey at [everest@westwoodumc.org](mailto:everest@westwoodumc.org) and join the WhatsApp group to get looped in to info about meetings, Bible studies, and more.



### CONNECT WITH OUR MINISTRIES

**Join a Small Group:** We have neighborhood groups in Westwood and Culver City, and groups for Young Adults, Men, Queer Folks, and People of Color. Contact Westley Garcia at [westley@theloft.org](mailto:westley@theloft.org) for details.

**Join a Social Justice Group:** Contact Everest at [everest@westwoodumc.org](mailto:everest@westwoodumc.org) to join our Social Justice Team, our Community Advocacy Team, or our Social Justice Movie Club.

**Join Care Ministries:** Contact Pastor Diana Holbert at [diana@westwoodumc.org](mailto:diana@westwoodumc.org) to connect with any of our care ministry teams, including meal trains, visitation volunteers, and more.

## UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



### WISDOM AT WESTWOOD

#### “Not A Church, A Neighborhood Center”

**Sunday, May 17th (11am) Wesley Room and via Zoom**

Rev. John Griffin-Atil is the Executive Director of the Imperial Beach Neighborhood Center. His ministry with the community Imperial Beach is transforming a former UMC church into a hub for the whole neighborhood. The IBNC attends to the South Bay San Diego beach community by providing the necessary services to those in need while also focusing on the empowerment and well-being of the community.

**LOTERIA & LAUGHS**  
**THURSDAY MAY 21 • 6-8 PM** **\$50**  
 10000 WILSON BLVD, LOS ANGELES, CA 90024  
**A Benefit for EPIC LA**  
 Supporting Immigrant Children and Families  
 Join us for an EPIC night of comedy, live music, and delicious Mexican food – all in support of EPIC LA's mutual aid efforts, empowerment workshops, and career programs for immigrant youth and families.  
 Before you arrive for a relaxed, high-energy evening filled with friendly conversation, laughter, and food that brings us together – while helping feed and sustain our community.  
**One Ticket Includes:**  
 • Loteria games & prizes  
 • Live comedy acts throughout the evening  
 • Authentic Mexican dinner  
 • Refreshing Spanish beverages  
 • All proceeds benefit EPIC LA's programs  
 Scan the QR code and get your tickets today! [www.epicla.org](https://www.epicla.org)  
 Don't miss out on this special event!

### LOTERIA AND LAUGHS

**Thursday, May 21st (6-8pm) Pico House**

Join Echo Park Immigration Center (EPIC) for food, loteria, and comedy. Your \$50 ticket supports immigrant youth and families with empowerment programs, Know Your Rights workshops, and mutual aid. Scan the QR code to purchase tickets.



**ALL CHURCH TACO PARTY**  
**SUNDAY, MAY 24TH**  
**12NOON IN THE LOFT**  
 Renewing the Wisdom at Westwood Sunday Speaker Series

### ALL CHURCH TACO PARTY

**Sunday, May 24th (12noon) The Loft**

Come and enjoy delicious homemade tacos and Mexican food made by Paul Freese to support the Wisdom at Westwood Speaker Series. There will be carne asada, ground beef, chicken, and vegetarian tacos available. While this special event is free and open to all, we hope that you will consider a voluntary donation of \$15/person. Your generous contributions will help us continue offering meaningful and thought-provoking experiences and supports the inspiring guest speakers who enrich our Wisdom at Westwood classes on Sunday mornings. Make a donation at [www.WestwoodUMC.org/Give](http://www.WestwoodUMC.org/Give) or put it in the Sunday offering plate. Questions? Contact Sabrina Simmons at [sabrina@westwoodumc.org](mailto:sabrina@westwoodumc.org).

**70th ANNIVERSARY OF WOMEN'S ORDINATION**  
 IN THE METHODIST TRADITION  
 a celebration of clergywomen at Westwood UMC  
**Sunday, May 31st**  
 9:30am - The Sanctuary  
 10:30am - The Loft

### 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF WOMEN'S ORDINATION

On Sunday, May 31st, Westwood UMC will celebrate the 70 years of women's ordination in the Methodist tradition. During worship in both The Sanctuary and The Loft, we will include and honor clergywomen who have been connected to our congregation. Special guests will include: Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank, Bishop Mary Ann Swenson, Rev. Dr. Sharon Rhodes-Wickett, Rev. Jane Voigts, Rev. Kathy Cannon, Rev. Dr. Natalie Houghtby-Haddon and Rev. Blair Stowe.

## UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



**YOU'RE INVITED TO THE WEDDING OF EVEREST & URIYA**  
**Saturday, June 6th (11:30am) Westwood UMC Sanctuary**  
Everest and Uriya are delighted to invite the congregation to join them at their wedding! A tea party reception will be held in the courtyard afterward. For more information, scan the QR code to check out their wedding website.



Westwood United Methodist Church  
presents the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual

### ORGAN CONCERT SERIES

**Peter Fennema**  
Sunday, June 14th (3pm)\*

**Christoph Bull, Organ with Mezzo-Soprano I-Chin-Lee**  
Sunday, June 28th (3pm)

**Piano/Organ Duo Sean Wang-Tange & Brandon Zhao**  
Sunday, July 12th (3pm)\*

### 2026 ORGAN CONCERT SERIES

Join us in person at Westwood UMC or via YouTube livestream\* for three 60-minute concerts performed on the landmark Shaffer Memorial Organ.

**Peter Fennema**  
Sunday, June 14th (3pm)\*

**Christoph Bull, Organ with Mezzo-Soprano I-Chin-Lee**  
Sunday, June 28th (3pm)

**Piano/Organ Duo Sean Wang-Tange & Brandon Zhao**  
Sunday, July 12th (3pm)\*

*\* June 14 and July 12 concerts will be live-streamed and available for later viewing on YouTube.*

## MEMORY GARDEN PAVERS

### MEMORY GARDEN PAVERS

Just east of the Sanctuary, our Memory Garden is an ongoing, permanent garden installation to honor or commemorate a loved one or special event or in gratitude for the Westwood UMC family. We are pleased to offer a new invitation to those who would want to sponsor pavers. Rectangular in shape, the garden pavers are approximately 14 x 8 inches, and allow for three lines of engraving, twenty characters per line; a space counts as a character. A sponsorship for a Memory Garden Paver is \$2,250. We are inviting sponsors now, for an engraving session after Easter. If you are interested in sponsoring a paver, contact Sabrina Simmons at [sabrina@westwoodumc.org](mailto:sabrina@westwoodumc.org) or 310.474.4511.



### SIERRA SERVICE PROJECT 2026

Our Grapple Group is going to Northern Arizona in the Navajo Nation for our Sierra Service Project trip in July 11-19, 2026! There will be an overnight drive on both ends of the trip. Incoming seventh graders and older youth are welcome to come. This summer we are going to an intergenerational week, which means if any college-age or young people are interested in attending they are ALSO WELCOME this year! And, we are looking for older adult chaperones, too--please reach out to Everest if you would like to know more. The cost of participating is \$650, including a \$200 deposit to sign up. Westwood UMC welcomes donations from the congregation to help with covering the cost of vehicles, travel breakfast and dinner, and chaperone participation. You can send in a deposit or make a donation at [www.WestwoodUMC.org.Give](http://www.WestwoodUMC.org.Give).

## UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



### WESTWOOD KIDS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Keeping our kids happy and safe is our goal. Our policy is to have two adults in each classroom at all times, including the nursery. The second person in the room with the teacher does not need special training or preparation, just a love of children and willingness to be present with us for an hour or two...about six times a year during The Sanctuary or The Loft gathering times. If you would enjoy volunteering in this easy and delightful way, contact Deanna Edwards, Dir. of Children's Ministries, at [deanna@westwoodumc.org](mailto:deanna@westwoodumc.org) or 765-620-4280.



### 580 CAFE FOOD DONATION LIST

Support the ministry of 580 Café by dropping off any of these items at 580 Hilgard Ave. (LA) on Monday - Wednesday (10am-6pm) or Thursday - Friday (10am-4pm). For more info, contact [wfsucla@gmail.com](mailto:wfsucla@gmail.com) or 310.909.4471.

- Canned Goods (tuna, chicken, pasta sauce, coconut milk, soup, chili)
- Beans (black, red, butter, refried)
- Pasta (any shape, box or bag)
- Easy Mac n Cheese (individual cups)
- Snacks individually packaged (granola bars, snack bars, chips, cheese crackers, trail mix)
- Cup of Noodles (individual cups), Ramen, Nori
- Grocery Cards (\$10-\$25) Ralphs, Trader Joes, Target



### MUTUAL AID RESPONSE TEAM

Mutual aid is an opportunity for us to build genuine community with each other by supporting each other with our time and talents. All it requires is for us to be open to receiving help and to be willing to help another as we are able. In order for this system of Mutual Aid to work, we need people to sign up to be on the Mutual Aid Response Team. Join the response team at [www.WestwoodUMC.org/MutualAidTeam](http://www.WestwoodUMC.org/MutualAidTeam) and click on "ask to join the group," and you will be notified whenever there is a request. If you, or someone you know is in need of aid, please have them complete the Mutual Aid Request Form at [www.WestwoodUMC.org/MutualAid](http://www.WestwoodUMC.org/MutualAid).



### SPONSOR SUNDAY ALTAR FLOWERS

Ever thought about sponsoring the flowers on the altar? It's a wonderful way to honor or remember a loved one, celebrate a special event or milestone, or just make the Sanctuary space more beautiful! Cost is \$95. You can even partner with a friend, committee, or other church group to help defray the cost. For more info or to sign up for a specific Sunday, please contact Sabrina Simmons at [sabrina@westwoodumc.org](mailto:sabrina@westwoodumc.org) or 310.474.4511.

# WESTWOOD CHURCH

Rev. Molly Vetter.....Senior Pastor  
Rev. Dr. Christopher Carter.....Associate Pastor/Pastor of The Loft  
Rev. Dr. Diana Holbert.....Minister of Care  
Dr. Deanna Edwards.....Director of Children & Families  
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  
Trinity Del Regno, Carmen Edano, Taylor Jacobs, Byron Jones.....Chancel Choir Section Leaders  
Sabrina Simmons.....Office Manager  
Pablo Jauregui.....Facilities Manager  
Gabrielle Grubbs.....Loft Music and Worship Director  
Westley Garcia.....Director of Loft Connections  
Uriya Simeon.....Assistant Director of Children and Youth Ministries  
Isabel Kilroe.....Director of Children's Arts  
Jaime Top.....Facilities Assistant  
David Trotter.....Communications  
Youth & Children's Ministry Staff: Beverly Bell, Lesley Castillo, Fozieh Karimi, Ashley Kishibay, and Emily Kishibay

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

## The Sanctuary – 9:30am

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

More info: [www.WestwoodUMC.org](http://www.WestwoodUMC.org)

## The Loft – 10:30am

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

More info: [www.TheLoftLA.org](http://www.TheLoftLA.org)

## Westwood Kids

Westwood Church has a vibrant Sunday morning children's ministry. Integrating biblical stories, music, art, and play, we are exploring God's world using multiple teaching approaches. Join us in The Sanctuary at 9:30am, including a children's time, followed by our own morning together in our children's area until 12noon. Join our Westwood Kids email by contacting Deanna Edwards at [deanna@westwoodumc.org](mailto:deanna@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](mailto:everest@westwoodumc.org).

## Westwood Church

10497 Wilshire Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90024

## Office Hours

Tuesday - Friday  
(9am - 1pm)

## Contact Us

[wumc@westwoodumc.org](mailto:wumc@westwoodumc.org)  
310.474.4511

