



The Sanctuary

May 31, 2026

70 Years of Women's Ordination

PRELUDE

"Offertory" from *Little Suite*

Peter Fennema

Emma Lou Diemer (1927-2024)

WELCOME

Molly Vetter

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

HYMN

Hope of the World

UM Hymnal

No. 178

Please stand as you are able.

1. Hope of the world, thou Christ of great com - pas - sion,
2. Hope of the world, God's gift from high - est heav - en,
5. Hope of the world, O Christ o'er death vic - tor - ious,
speak to our fear - ful hearts by con - flict rent.
bring - ing to hun - gry souls the bread of life,
who by this sign didst con - quer grief and pain,
Save us, thy peo - ple, from con - sum - ing pas - sion,
still let thy spir - it un - to us be giv - en,
we would be faith - ful to thy gos - pel glo - rious;
who by our own false hopes and aims are spent.
to heal earth's wounds and end all bit - ter strife.
thou art our Lord! Thou dost for - ev - er reign.

MORNING PRAYER

Jeanne Roe Smith

Please be seated.

Gracious and justice-seeking God,
we give thanks for the gift of ministry opened to women and all whom You call.
Let us remember that Your Spirit equips people of every gender, every age,
and every identity, so that no one is silenced, excluded, or diminished.
Shape us now and always into a Church that celebrates each person's gifts with joy,
equity, and shared purpose.
Renew us as a community that learns together, serves together, and transforms together.
We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

-Rev. Hyewon "Sophia" Carno, GCSRW Board Member,
Associate Pastor of First United Methodist Church (FUMC)
at the Chicago Temple, Northern Illinois Annual Conference

CHILDREN'S TIME

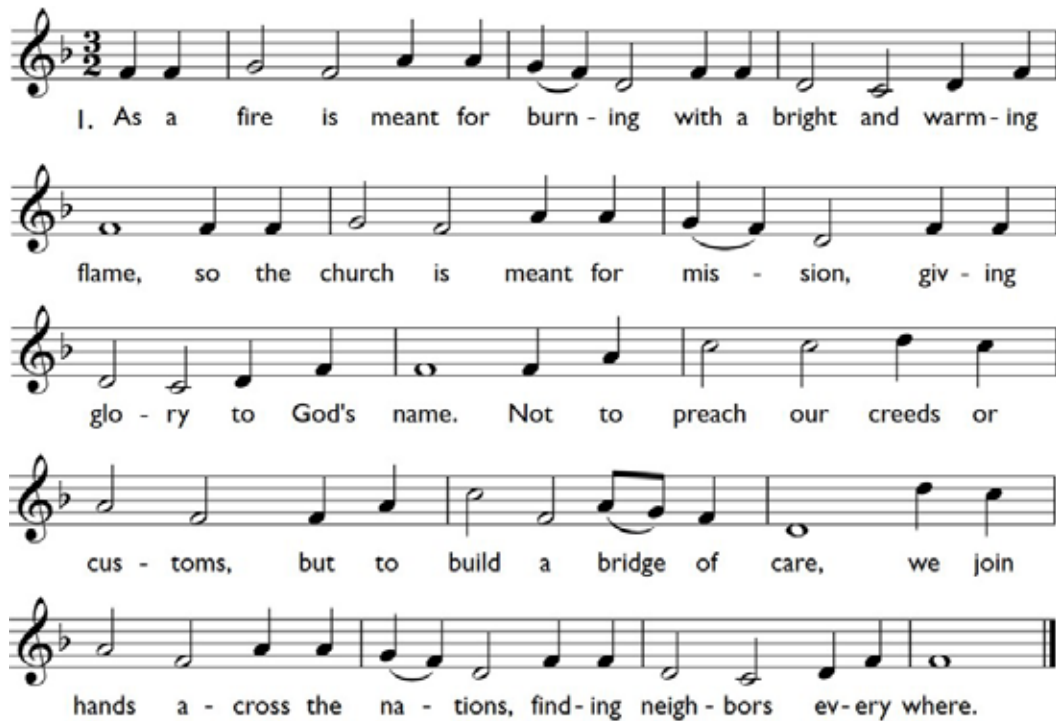
Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank

THE COMMUNITY INTERACTS WITH THE WORD OF GOD

HYMN

As a Fire Is Meant for Burning

The Faith We Sing
No. 2237



1. As a fire is meant for burn - ing with a bright and warm - ing
flame, so the church is meant for mis - sion, giv - ing
glo - ry to God's name. Not to preach our creeds or
cus - toms, but to build a bridge of care, we join
hands a - cross the na - tions, find - ing neigh - bors ev - ery where.

Words: Ruth Duck; © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc.
Music: BEACH SPRING; from *The Sacred Harp*, 1844
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They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

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

Thanks be to God.

HYMN

As a Fire Is Meant for Burning

**The Faith We Sing
No. 2237**

2. We are learn - ers; we are teach - ers; we are pil - grims on the
 way. We are seek - ers; we are giv - ers; we are
 ves - sels made of clay. By our gen - tle, lov - ing
 ac - tions we would show that Christ is light. In a
 hum - ble, lis - tening Spir - it we would live to God's de - light.

SCRIPTURE READING

John 20:11-18

Blair Stowe

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb, and she saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not touch me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and she told them that he had said these things to her.

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

Thanks be to God.

3. As a green bud in the spring-time is a sign of life re-
 newed, so may we be signs of one - ness 'mid earth's
 peo - ples, man - y hues. As a rain - bow lights the
 heav - ens when a storm is past and gone, may our
 lives re - flect the ra - diance of God's new and glo - rious dawn.

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SERMON

Preaching the Gospel

**Sharon Rhodes-Wickett,
 Jane Voigts, Kathy Cannon,
 and Molly Vetter**



CALL TO PRAYER

Give me Jesus (excerpt)
 arr. K. Lee Scott

Sanctuary Singers

*I heard my mother say,
 Give me Jesus.
 You may have all this world,
 Give me Jesus.*

*O when I kneel to pray,
 Give me Jesus.
 And when I come to sing,
 Give me Jesus.
 You may have all this world,
 Give me Jesus.*

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS AND THE WORLD

Natalie Houghtby-Haddon

*Deliver us, O God, from the sins that beset us in our time.
 From cowardice and anxiety,
 From impatience and discouragement,
 From lack of trust when night surrounds us.*

Deliver us, O God; and make strong our faith.

*From want of kindness and of charity,
From evil thoughts and conversation,
From the fires of suspicion, ill will, and hate,*

Deliver us, O God; and increase our love.

*From prejudice and false sentiment,
From arrogance about our race, our country or our class,
From the blasphemy of bitterness toward our fellow creatures made in Thine own image,*

Deliver us, O God; and deepen our humility.

*From compromise through love or ease of comfort,
From insincerity in thought or word or work,
From loving ourselves more than we have loved Thy Kingdom,*

**Deliver us, O God; and enlarge our devotion to Thee.
In the name of the Strong Deliverer, our Lord Christ, we pray.
Amen.**

-Dr. Georgia Harkness (1943); *The Glory of God: Poems and Prayers
for Devotional Use*, "Deliver Us, O God"

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

Molly Vetter

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.



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Ave Maria

B.E. Boykin (b. 1989)

Sanctuary Singers

*Ave Maria, gratia plena,
Dominus tecum;
benedicta tu in mulieribus,
et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus.
Sancta Maria, Mater Dei,
ora pro nobis peccatoribus,
nunc et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen.*

*Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee;
blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the Fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.*

OFFERTORY RESPONSE**O Breath of Life****United Methodist Hymnal
No. 543***Please stand as you are able.*

I. O Breath of Life, come sweep - ing through us, re -
vive your church with life and power. O Breath of Life, come,
cleanse, re - new us, and fit your church to meet this hour.

Words: Bessie Porter Head, 1920
 Music: BISHOP POWELL, David Ashley White © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House
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PRAYER OF DEDICATION**Bishop Mary Ann Swenson*****70th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women***

We celebrate all clergy women in our United Methodist Connection,
and honor those who connected to our congregation as:

Appointed Clergy

Sharon Rhodes-Wickett, Jane Voigts,
Molly Vetter, Darin Arntson

Staff Members

Diana Holbert, Blair Stowe,
Kathy Cannon (Church of the Nazarene)

Leaders at UCLA Wesley Foundation

Odette Lockwood Stewart, Alissa Amestoy,
Fran Materra (deceased)

Clergy Candidates from Westwood

Melinda Teter Dodge, Amy Rosenbaum,
Holly Reinhart-Marean

Student Interns or Volunteers

Dulce Proud
Debby Camphouse Sperry

Superintendents & Bishops

Kathy Michelle Wilborn, Mary Ann Swenson,
Minerva Carcaño, Dottie Escobedo-Frank

Current Charge Conference Members

Patricia Farris, Natalie Houghtby-Haddon,
Karen Ristine, Yuko Uesugi, Amy Rosenbaum,
Michele Johns

Litany of Thanksgiving and Repentance

Holy God, seventy years ago, your Church took a step toward faithfulness by granting women full clergy rights.

We give thanks for the movement of your Spirit.

*We thank you for women who discerned and answered a call before recognition was granted,
and for those who trusted your voice when the path was uncertain.*

We honor their courage and faith.

We confess that equality in word has not always meant equality in practice; that barriers, bias, and silence have persisted in your church. For clergywomen of color, and LGBTQ+ clergywomen, this impact is even deeper.

Forgive us and renew us for faithful witness.

For the gifts women bring to licensed and ordained ministry — preaching and teaching, leadership and care —

We rejoice in your grace at work among us.

For those discerning a call today, and for the church still being formed by your Spirit,

Lead us in justice, humility, and hope. Amen.

Today the Church pauses to recognize the seventieth anniversary of women being granted full clergy rights in the Methodist tradition. In 1956, the Church affirmed that God's call to ordained ministry is not limited by gender, but is grounded in baptism, giftedness, and the work of the Holy Spirit.

We give thanks for the women who answered that call with courage, for those who persevered through resistance and inequity, and for those who continue to serve the church with faithfulness and joy.

Thanks be to God.

For the women whose call aligned with the work of an ordained Elder or Deacon in the UMC and sibling denominations, including Sharon Rhodes-Wickett, Jane Voigts, Darin Arntson, Molly Vetter, Kathy Cannon, Diana Holbert, Blair Stowe, Odette Lockwood-Stewart, Alissa Amestoy, Fran Materra, Melinda Teter Dodge, Amy Rosenbaum, Dulce Proud, Holly Reinhart-Marean, Debby Camphouse Sperry, Patricia Farris, Natalie Houghby-Haddon, Karen Ristine, Yuko Uesugi, C Michele Johns, Kathey Michelle Wilborn, Bishop Minerva Carcaño, Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank, and me, Bishop Mary Ann Swenson.

Thank you, Lord.

For the women who serve communities with faithfulness, flexibility, and deep love as Local Pastors and Associate Members,

Thank you, Lord.

For the women who serve as leaders in our community and congregations through the Order of Deaconess and Home Missioners including Jeanne Roe Smith. This consecrated calling has always been led by and included women, and has continued to lead us toward greater inclusion of LGBTQ+ people.

Thank you, Lord.

For all lay women who serve as administrative leaders, as volunteers, staff members and participants. Strengthen all whom you have called to ministry. Make us ever mindful of the ways you continue leading the church into newer expressions of leadership in the years to come. And continue to shape your church into a faithful sign of your reconciling love for the world.

Thank you, Lord. Amen

THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH GOES OUT TO SERVE

HYMN

God of the Women

Please stand as you are able.



1. God of the wom - en who an - swered your call,
2. God of the wom - en long put to the test,
3. O God of Phoe - be and min - is - ters all,
Trust - ing your prom - is - es giv - ing their all,
Left out of sto - ries, for - got - ten, op - pressed,
May we be joy - ful in an - swering your call.
Wom - en like Sar - ah and Han - nah and Ruth
Qui - et - ly ask - ing: "Who smiled at my birth?"
Give us the strength of your Spirit so near
Give us their cour - age to live in your truth.
In Jes - us' dy - ing you show us our worth.
That we may share in your min - is - try here.

WORDS: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette from (https://www.carolynshymns.com/god_of_the_women.html)
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MUSIC: SLANE: Trad. Irish melody ("Be Thou My Vision"); harm. by Carlton R. Young, 1963.
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please be seated.

Molly Vetter

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Please remain seated.

"Postlude" from *Little Suite*

Emma Lou Diemer (1927-2024)

Peter Fennema

ABOUT THE MUSIC: The music throughout today's service reflects the profound contributions of women to the church's song. From the pioneering compositional voice of Emma Lou Diemer to the contemporary work of B.E. Boykin, women have shaped sacred music not only as performers and directors, but as composers and poets. Today we also lift up the women named and unnamed in our hymn texts: those who answered a call, led a congregation, and kept the faith alive. As we celebrate 70 years of ordained women in The United Methodist Church, may the music we offer be both a remembrance and a renewal.

PARTICIPATING TODAY

Pastoral Staff

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

Sanctuary Music Leadership

Dr. Andrew Schultz, *Dir. of Sanctuary Music*

Peter Fennema, *Organist*

Sanctuary Singers

Trinity Del Regno (she/her), *soprano*

Lexy Jensen (she/her), *guest soprano*

Carmen Edano (she/her), *alto*

Taylor Jacobs (he/him), *tenor*

Byron Jones (he/him), *bass*

Natalie Fishman (she/her), *choral scholar*

Production Team

Leila Jay Bishop (they/them), *sound engineer*

Guillermo Gonzalez (he/him), *videography*

Eli Reynolds (he/him), *videography*

Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers on the Altar and Welcome Table this morning are given by **Pat Wood** and **Brydon Shirk** in celebration of the 70th anniversary of the ordination of clergy women.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

Ongoing Prayer Requests

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

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.

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

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

THE LOFT

"Challenges and Hopes: After 70 Years of Women's Ordination"

Today, May 31st (10:30am) Upstairs in The Loft

Join us for a special Loft conversation with clergy women who have been connected to Westwood, including Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank, Bishop Mary Ann Swenson, Rev. Dr. Sharon Rhodes-Wickett, Rev. Jane Voigts, Rev. Dr. Natalie Houghtby-Haddon, Rev. Kathy Cannon, and Rev. Blair Stowe.

WISDOM AT WESTWOOD

This Sunday, we will join the Loft for worship, so we can hear stories from clergy women connected to Westwood, including Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank, Bishop Mary Ann Swenson, Sharon Rhodes-Wickett, Natalie Houghtby-Haddon, Blair Stowe, and Molly Vetter. After The Loft, we invite you to join us for a special reception on the Courtyard.

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.



PROMOTION SUNDAY

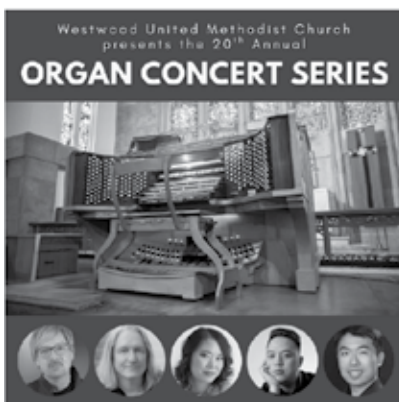
On Sunday, June 7th, we will celebrate Promotion Sunday, when our young people officially move up to their new grade. We will present Bibles to our new 4th graders, and celebrate people who are graduating at all levels. If you or someone in your family is graduating this year, please send information (their name, the school, and level/degree/program they are completing) to Sabrina Simmons at sabrina@westwoodumc.org by June 2nd.



SIERRA SERVICE PROJECT - DONATIONS WELCOME

Our Grapple Group is going to Northern Arizona in the Navajo Nation for our Sierra Service Project trip in 2026! We will be traveling from July 11-19, staying in Teec Nos Pos, Arizona. This summer we are going to an intergenerational week, and our group of 25 will include 19 youth, and 1 college-age student. Westwood UMC welcomes donations from the congregation to help with covering the cost of vehicles, travel breakfast and dinner, and chaperone participation. You can make a donation to support the trip by mail, offering plate, or online at www.WestwoodUMC.org.Give.

UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



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.



SECOND CHANCES & CURES FOR CANCER RUMMAGE SALE

Saturday, June 20th at Denise Freese's home

If it doesn't spark joy... Your trash might be someone else's treasure. Get that spring cleaning done while it's still spring, and donate your clothing, kitchenware, baby gear, furniture, books to a great cause. The CureSearch mission is to end children's cancer by driving targeted and innovative research in an accelerated time frame. WUMC members Keri Fitzgerald, Denise Freese, and Sarah Hansen are on a hiking team raising funds for this great cause and are organizing the sale, which will be at Denise Freese's home on June 20th. Reach out to any of them for more information, to donate and even arrange for a pick up. Fund the research. Find the cure. Because kids with cancer can't wait.



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 or 310.474.4511.



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 for details.

Join a Social Justice Group: Contact Everest at 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 to connect with any of our care ministry teams, including meal trains, visitation volunteers, and more.

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

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 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.

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

