



The Sanctuary

July 26, 2026

9th Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE

Matins

Peter Fennema

Healey Willan (1880-1968)

WELCOME

Molly Vetter

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

HYMN

God Moves In a Mysterious Way

New Century Hymnal

Please stand as you are able.

No. 412

1. God moves in a mys - te - rious way great
3. O fear - ful saints, fresh cour - age take, the
4. Judge not God's way through hu - man sense, but

won - ders to per - form; God plants firm foot - steps
clouds you so much dread Are big with mer - cy
trust un - fail - ing grace: Be - hind a frown - ing

in the sea and rides up - on the storm.
and shall break in bless - ings on your head.
prov - i - dence there shines a smil - ing face.

Words: William Cowper, 1774; alt. (Ps. 77:19; Rom. 11:33-36)
Music: DUNDEE C.M. from The 150 Psalms of David, Edinburgh, 1615
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MORNING PRAYER

Dick Sun

Please be seated.

Holy God,
We try to fix and fasten you,
But you will not be stayed.
You are love in motion:
Always breathing us into being,
Calling us to serve,
Sustaining us in the wilderness.
Come to us as the morning breaks.
Softly what has grown dry and brittle in our hearts
Until we worship with abandon,
For we pray in the name of the Son you sent
And through the Spirit that gives us life.
Amen.

(adapted from "Feasting on the Word," Kimberly Bracken Long, editor)

CHILDREN'S TIME

Molly Vetter



HYMN

The Kingdom of God

United Methodist Hymnal
No. 275

1. The king-dom of God is like a grain of mus-tard seed.

When it is sown in the earth, it is the small-est seed.

Refrain
It is like the king-dom of God and a mys-ter-y.

Words: Gracia Grindal, 1985 (Mt. 13:31-32; Mk. 4:30-32)
Music: MUSTARD SEED; Austin C. Lovelace, 1985; © 1987 Hope Publishing Co.
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SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 105:1-11, 45b

Denise Freese

*O give thanks to the Lord, call on God's name
make known God's deeds among the peoples!
Sing to the Lord, sing praises!
Tell of all God's wonderful works!
Glory in God's holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice!*

Seek the Lord and his strength;
 seek the Lord's presence continually!
 Remember the wonderful works God has done,
 the miracles and judgments God has uttered,
 O offspring of Abraham, God's servant,
 children of Jacob, God's chosen ones.
 The Lord is our God,
 whose judgments are in all the earth.
 The Lord is mindful of his everlasting covenant,
 of the word commanded for a thousand generations,
 the covenant made with Abraham,
 his promise sworn to Isaac,
 and confirmed to Jacob as a statute,
 to Israel as an everlasting covenant, saying,
 "To you I will give the land of Canaan
 as your portion for an inheritance."
 Praise the Lord!

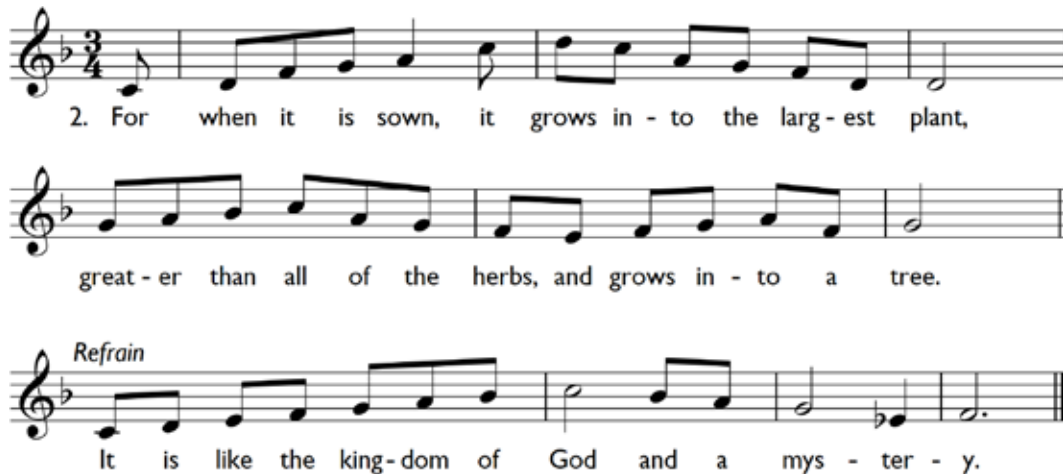
This is the word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN

The Kingdom of God

United Methodist Hymnal No. 275



2. For when it is sown, it grows in - to the larg - est plant,
 great - er than all of the herbs, and grows in - to a tree.
 Refrain
 It is like the king - dom of God and a mys - ter - y.

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 8:26-39

Molly Vetter

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather,

who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

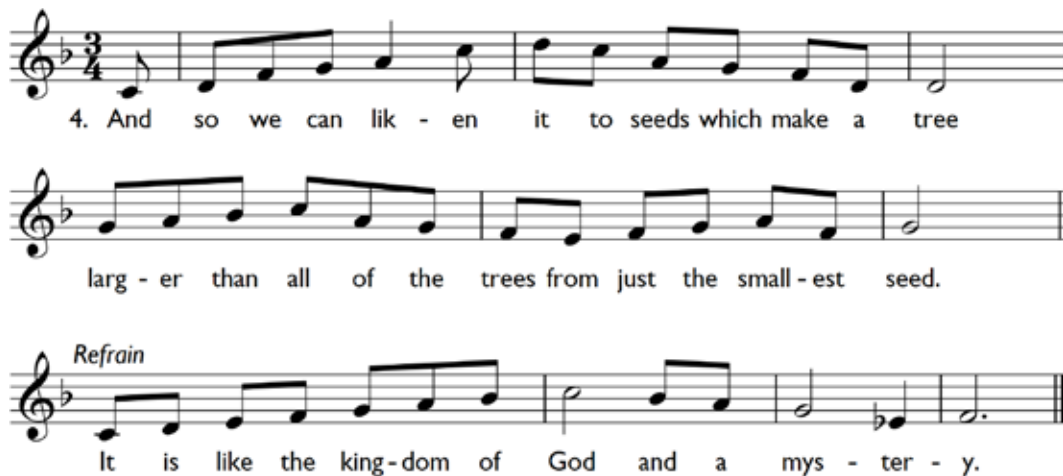
This is the word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN

The Kingdom of God

**United Methodist Hymnal
No. 275**



4. And so we can lik - en it to seeds which make a tree
larg - er than all of the trees from just the small - est seed.
Refrain
It is like the king - dom of God and a mys - ter - y.

SERMON

Convinced

Molly Vetter



THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS TO THE WORD OF GOD

CALL TO PRAYER

Guide My Feet Spiritual

Sanctuary Singers

*Guide my feet, Lord, while I run this race,
for I don't want to run this race in vain.*

*Hold my hand, Lord, while I run this race,
for I don't want to run this race in vain.*

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS AND THE WORLD

Tanya Sun

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

With a Voice of Singing

Martin Shaw (1875-1958)

Summer Choir

*With a voice of singing declare this, and let it be heard, Alleluia.
Utter it even unto the ends of the earth.
The Lord hath delivered his people, Alleluia.
O be joyful in God, all ye lands,
O sing praises to the honour of his name, make his praise to be glorious.
With a voice of singing declare this, and let it be heard, Alleluia.*

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

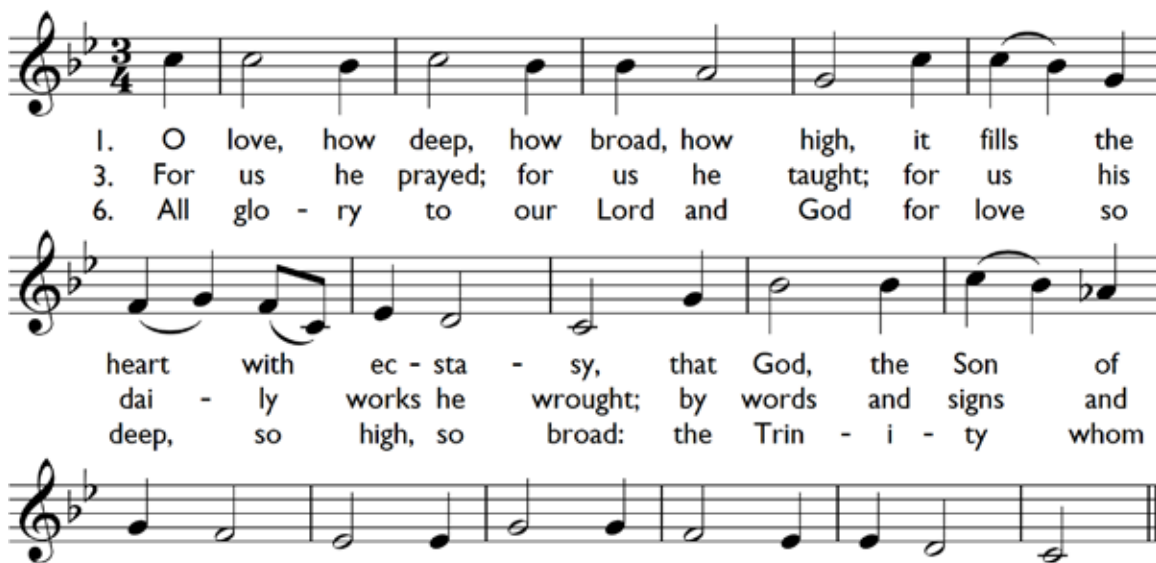
Praise God for This Holy Ground

**Worship & Song
No. 3009**

Please stand as you are able.

2. Praise God in whose word we find
food for body, soul, and mind.

Refrain
Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! God's
good - ness is e - ter - nal.

 THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH GOES OUT TO SERVE
HYMN**O Love, How Deep**
United Methodist Hymnal
No. 267
Please stand as you are able.


1. O love, how deep, how broad, how high, it fills the
 3. For us he prayed; for us he taught; for us his
 6. All glo - ry to our Lord and God for love so

heart with ec - sta - sy, that God, the Son of
 dai - ly works he wrought; by words and signs and
 deep, so high, so broad: the Trin - i - ty whom

God, should take our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake!
 ac - tions thus still seek - ing not him - self, but us.
 we a - dore, for - ev - er and for - ev - er - more.

Words: 15th cent. Latin; trans. by Benjamin Webb, 1854; alt.
 Music: DEO GRACIAS, English melody
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Molly Vetter

*Please be seated.***PRAYER SHAWL BLESSING**

For the family of Norris Pratt who passed away July 24th; also for his wife, Betty, who has Alzheimer's Disease. Norris is Liz Gipson's father (and Chris' father-in-law).

BENEDICTION**POSTLUDE***Please remain seated.***Prelude on "Deo Gracias"**

Healey Willan (1880-1968)

Peter Fennema

PARTICIPATING TODAY

Pastoral Staff

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

Sanctuary Music Leadership

Dr. Andrew Schultz, *Director of Sanctuary Music*

Peter Fennema, *Organist*

Sanctuary Singers

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

Carmen Edano (she/her), *alto*

Taylor Jacobs (he/him), *tenor*

Byron Jones (he/him), *bass*

Liturgists

Denise Freese

Dick and Tanya Sun

Production Team

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

Guillermo Gonzalez (he/him), *videography*

Eli Reynolds (he/him), *videography*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

New Requests

- The Family of Norris Pratt

Ongoing Prayer Request

- The Lyster Family
- Jerry Whittemore
- Diana Park
- Paul Rutter
- Dick Sun & Family
- Bukola Gbadamosi
- Judy Wessling
- Jage Schiff
- Maggie Fitzgerald
- Nancy Hill
- Pablo Jauregui
- Hapi Veikune & family
- Linda Dannison
- The people in the Middle East, Venezuela, Russia, Ukraine, Myanmar, and the Sudan.
- For our country as it continues to face challenges.
- Coral Moore
- Eunice
- Jim Agee
- Patricia Barlow
- Bette Caldwell
- 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.

hospitality

(n.) more than just sunday friends



THE LOFT

"Making a Place for Hospitality" - Rev. Molly Vetter

Today, July 26th (10:30am) Upstairs in The Loft

Because we practice hospitality as a core part of our faith, we work to make the our spaces more welcoming. This requires us to pay attention to how people experience our homes and our churches, in hopes that they will be places characterized by love and generosity.



WISDOM AT WESTWOOD

"Journeys of Faith - Isabel Kilroe"

Today, July 26th (11am) Wesley Room and via Zoom

Born and raised in Mexico City, Isabel Kilroe comes from a family deeply rooted in education, culture, public service, and the arts. Isabel is also a certified Movement Therapy Coach, integrating her lifelong understanding of the body, movement, and expression into her work with others. Today, Isabel brings together her passion for movement, art, education, and faith as a Sunday School teacher at Westwood UMC. Through creative lessons that combine Biblical stories, art history, and movement, she helps children discover the beauty and meaning of Scripture. She has found in the church a welcoming community, a deeper spiritual journey, and a meaningful way to share her gifts in service of others.



PARABLE PLAY - WESTWOOD KIDS SUMMER PLANS

Sundays in the Summer (9:30am - 12noon)

Our kids will experience music and movement, art, songs, special snacks, dramas, crafts and a Godly Play gold-box story, including a time for wonder, silence, and response activities. This wonder-full program is based on our Godly Play series of 6 parables of Jesus: *The Good Shepherd*, *The Good Samaritan*, *The Great Pearl*, *The Sower*, *The Leaven*, and *The Mustard Seed*. We will have fun telling these stories in several delightful ways! But wait, there's more: We will follow these six great weeks with the intriguing new 4-part series we call *The Greatest Parable*. Does this seem a little bit like a mystery? Well, as we say every Sunday . . . "I wonder!" For more information, contact Deanne Edwards at deanne@westwoodumc.org.



JOIN THE SUMMER CHOIR!

Sundays - July 19th through September 13th

Practice - 9am in The Sanctuary to sing at 9:30am

Do you like to sing? Don't read music? That's okay! Join us in The Sanctuary at 9am 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 come to every Sunday! For more information, contact Andrew Schultz at andrew@westwoodumc.org. (Regular Thursday evening rehearsals restart on October 1st with the Chancel Choir returning to the worship service on October 4th.)

UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



GATHERING IN GRACE: WOMEN'S GROUP LUNCH & LEARN

Saturday, August 1st (11am-12:30pm) Helms Hall

All women of the Westwood community (and friends!) are warmly invited to join us for a morning of fellowship, shared food, and meaningful connection.

Our Gathering & Mission Spotlight: This month, we are honored to welcome representatives from EPIC (Echo Park Immigration Center). They will be sharing about their vital ministry and how they support families in our broader Los Angeles community. As a community of faith, we want to put our love into action. Our goal is to sponsor up to \$1,000 toward EPIC's Back-to-School backpack drive, helping immigrant children start their school year with feelings of confidence and belonging by providing the tools they need to thrive.

How to Support: Scan the QR code in the upper right to make a donation online, or you can bring a donation (cash or check) to the lunch.

Nourishing One Another (With a Touch of Stewardship!): We will be sharing a potluck lunch together. Please bring a small dish to share. In the past, our generous hearts have led to beautifully massive amounts of extra food. This month, we're practicing gentle stewardship by keeping our portions small so we can enjoy a simple, nourishing meal together without leaving excess waste.

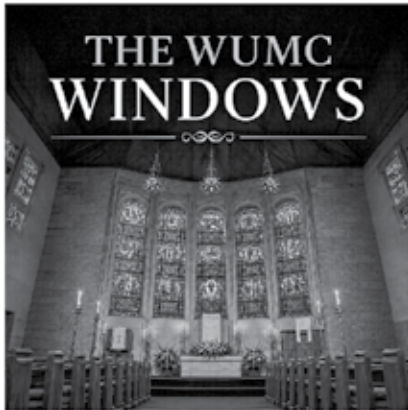
To Request Childcare: Simply let us know when you RSVP by Tuesday, July 28th, so we can have our wonderful care team ready to welcome your little ones. RSVP To help us prepare the space, please let us know you are coming by emailing sabrina@westwoodumc.org. We can't wait to share this table with you!



UMCOR TRAINING ON CAMPUS

We are pleased to host a training of Disaster Recovery Case Managers this week on our church campus, sponsored by UMCOR (The United Methodist Committee on Relief). Please join us in holding the people who will participate in prayer - for their training and for their service in disaster response.

UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



WISDOM AT WESTOOD - "The WUMC Windows"

Sunday, August 2nd (11am) Wesley Room and via Zoom

Discover the remarkable story behind one of Los Angeles' hidden artistic treasures at "The WUMC Windows," presented by UCLA Professor Emeritus Dr. John V. Richardson Jr. This richly illustrated program explores the creation of the magnificent stained-glass windows of Westwood Community Methodist Church, from the vision of its building committee and renowned architect Harold E. Wagoner to the groundbreaking innovations of the Willet Stained Glass Studios. Blending architectural history, religious art, and detective work, this presentation offers fresh insights into a landmark that has inspired worshippers and visitors for generations. Whether you appreciate stained glass, local history, or untold stories of overlooked artists, this is a presentation you won't want to miss.



WESTWOOD UMC YOUNG ADULTS BEACH DAY

Sunday, August 2nd (2pm–Sunset) Santa Monica Pier

Join us for a day on the beach! Scan the QR code to join the Young Adults Whatsapp group. For more information, contact Westley Garcia at westley@theloftla.org.



CARE NOTES AVAILABLE

In the passageway between the narthex and the courtyard our Care Ministry has set up a display of Care Notes. These are small booklets to help deal with crises in your lives, ranging from death of a pet or a loved one to dealing with stress. We even have some for children. Please take what you need.



TRAINING FOR CARE: BEING HEARD, BEING HELPED, BEING HELD

Sunday, August 30th (12-1:45pm) Helms Hall

Have you ever wondered what to say to a person in crisis? Or how to show God's love when someone's world is falling apart? This August, our Care Ministry is offering lunch and training for everyone in the church, from teenagers to elders, in order to help supply the support you need to support others. To sign up to attend, scan the QR code and please indicate if you need childcare. (Deadline is August 23rd.)



UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



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.



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 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



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 or 765-620-4280.



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-Davis.....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 Harvey-Davis.....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

