



The Sanctuary

August 23, 2026

13th Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE

The Lake in the Mountains

Peter Fennema

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

WELCOME

Molly Vetter

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

HYMN

The Church's One Foundation

New Century Hymnal

Please stand as you are able.

No. 386



1. The church-'s one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ our Lord; we
3. 'Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion, and tu - mult of our war, we
4. Yet we on earth have un - ion with God, the Three - in - One, and



are Christ's new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word. From
wait the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more; Till
mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won. O



heaven Christ came and sought us in love to set us free; with
with the vi - sion glo - rious, our long - ing eyes are blessed, and
hap - py ones and ho - ly! God, give us grace that we, like



pre - cious blood Christ bought us for all e - ter - ni - ty.
the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
them, the meek and low - ly, may live e - ter - nal - ly.

MORNING PRAYER

Please be seated.

Mary Marroquin

Ever-present God,
Who is at the side of every creature in creation,
Renew our lives so that we may discern and do your will,
What is good and acceptable and perfect.
Be in our breath and our voices, be in our ears and understanding,
That through these words your Word may be known.
Amen.

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

CHILDREN'S TIME

Molly Vetter

THE COMMUNITY INTERACTS WITH THE WORD OF GOD

HYMN

One Is the Body

Worship & Song
No. 3156



I. One is the bod - y and one is the Head, one is the
Spir - it by whom we are led; one God, Cre - a - tor, one
faith and one call for all.

WORDS: John Bell
MUSIC: ONE IS THE BODY, John Bell
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SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 1:8-2:10

John Holbert

Now a new king arose over Egypt who did not know Joseph. He said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land." Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. The Egyptians subjected the Israelites to hard servitude and made their lives bitter with hard servitude in mortar and bricks and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, "When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women and see them on the birthstool, if it is a son, kill him, but if it is a daughter, she shall live." But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this and allowed the boys to live?" The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew

women are not like the Egyptian women, for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them." So God dealt well with the midwives, and the people multiplied and became very strong. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every son that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every daughter live."

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son, and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. "This must be one of the Hebrews' children," she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

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

Thanks be to God.

HYMN

One Is the Body

Worship & Song No. 3156

3. Gifts have been giv - en well suit - ed to each; some to be proph - ets, to
pas - tor, to preach; some, through the Gos - pel, to
chal - lenge, con - vert, and teach.

Words: John Bell
Music: John Bell, ONE IS THE BODY
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SCRIPTURE READING

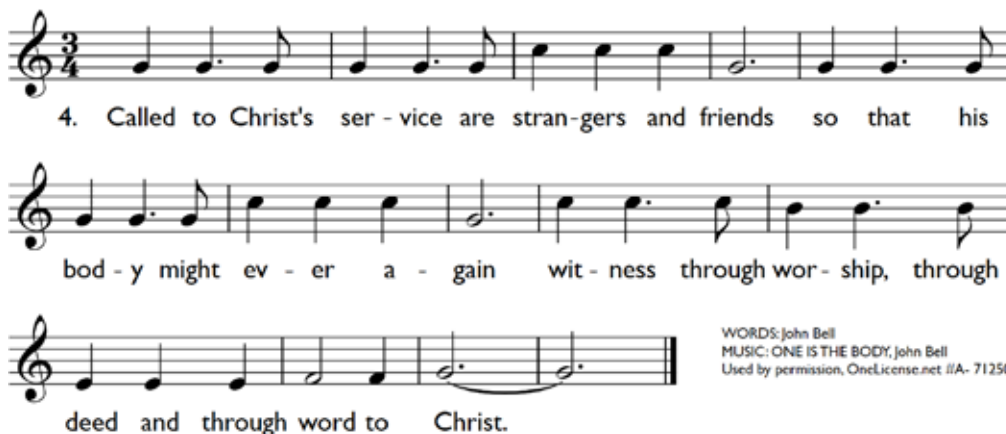
Matthew 16:13-20

Molly Vetter

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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

Thanks be to God.

HYMN**One Is the Body****Worship & Song
No. 3156**

4. Called to Christ's ser-vice are stran-gers and friends so that his
bod-y might ev-er a-gain wit-ness through wor-ship, through
deed and through word to Christ.

WORDS: John Bell
MUSIC: ONE IS THE BODY, John Bell
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SERMON**Power on the Edge****Molly Vetter****THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS TO THE WORD OF GOD****CALL TO PRAYER****God's Got the Whole World**
Spiritual, arr. Mark Miller**Sanctuary Singers**

*God's got the whole world in God's hands.
God has you and me, God's got you and me in those hands,
God's got the whole world in God's hands.*

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS AND THE WORLD**Nancy Price****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.**

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*****Bread of the World***

Gordon Young (1919-1998)

Summer Choir

*Bread of the world in mercy broken,
Wine of the soul in mercy shed,
by whom the words of life were spoken,
and in whose death our sins are dead.*

*Look on the heart by sorrow broken,
look on the tears by sinners shed;
And be thy feast to us the token,
that by thy grace our souls are fed.*

-words by Reginald Heber (1783-1826)

OFERTORY RESPONSE***Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow***

Please stand as you are able.

**UMH
No. 94**

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise God, all crea-tures here be-
low: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Praise God, the source of all our
gifts! Praise Jes-us Christ, whose power up - lifts! Praise the Spir - it, Ho-ly
Spirit! Al-le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Words: Thomas Ken, 1674; adapt. by Gilbert H. Vieira, 1978

Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, Geistliche Kirchengesänge, 1623; harm. by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

Adapt. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

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PRAYER OF DEDICATION**Molly Vetter**

THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH GOES OUT TO SERVE

HYMN

Please remain standing as you are able.

Built on a Rock

Worship & Song
No. 3147

1. Built on a rock the Church shall stand,
4. Still we our earth - ly tem - ples raise go,
6. Grant then, O God, where - e'er we go,
e - ven when stee - ples are fall - ing;
hous - es where God can draw near us;
that, when the church bless are ring - ing,
crum - bled have spires in ev - ery land, bells still are
plac - es for wor - ship, prayer, and praise, beau - ty and
man - y in faith may come to know this mes - sage
chim - ing and call - ing. Call - ing the young and
bless - ing to cheer us. Here God a cov - e -
Je - sus is bring - ing: "I know my own, my
old to rest, but a - bove all, the souls dis - tressed,
nant shall make; here sin and sor - row we for - sake,
own know me; you, not the world, my face shall see.
long - ing for rest ev - er - last - ing.
mak - ing us heirs of the king - dom.
My peace I leave with you." A - men.

Words: Nikolai F.S. Grundtvig; trans. by Carl Doving; adapt. by Dean McIntyre
Music: KIRKEN DEN ER ET GAMMELT HUS; Ludwig M. Lindeman
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please be seated.

Molly Vetter

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Please remain seated.

Prelude on "Hyfrydol"

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

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

Rev. Dr. John Holbert
Mary Marroquin
Nancy Price

Production Team

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

Altar Flowers

Given by **Penny & Reg Gipson**, “thankfully celebrating their 60 years of marriage.” And **John & Diana Holbert**, “thanking God for 57 grand years together - August 23, 1969.”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

New Prayer Requests

- Marjorie N.
- Elizabeth Thomas

Ongoing Prayer Request

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

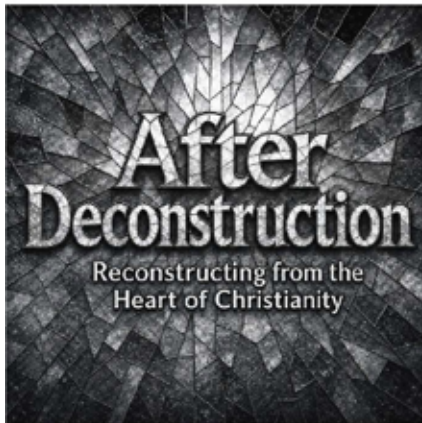
These requests are held in prayer by the pastoral staff and by the prayer chain. You are encouraged to join in praying for them by name.

To submit a prayer request, please go to www.westwoodumc.org/care.

WESTWOOD UMC MISSION STATEMENT

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

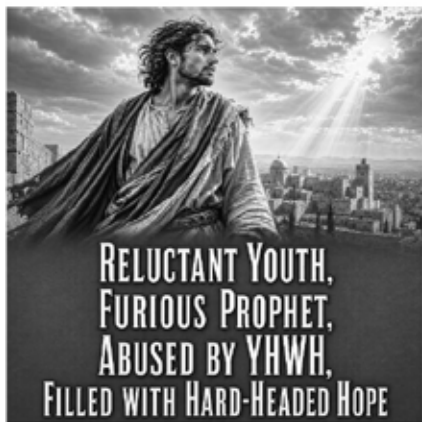
In worship and beyond, we invite you to connect with others in our community through our ministries, events, and groups. We are grateful to be a church that includes and celebrates people of all ages and races, abilities, gender identities and sexual orientations.



THE LOFT

**"Scripture: The Heart of our Tradition" - Rev. Dr. Christopher Carter
Today, August 23rd (10:30am) Upstairs in The Loft**

To be Christian is to be centered in the God of the Bible. For us, the Bible is our sacred scripture and sacred story. Yet the Bible is also one reason many people have left Christianity or the church and now describe themselves as "spiritual but not religious." At some point in our spiritual formation, we must answer this question: How do we read the Bible after deconstruction, and why does it matter? Please join us in The Loft as we answer this question together.



Wisdom at Westwood will not be held August 23rd or 30th, but it will resume on September 6th with a new series with Rev. Dr. John Holbert.

**WISDOM AT WESTOOD - "Reluctant Youth, Furious Prophet, Abused by YHWH, Filled with Hard-Headed Hope" - Rev. Dr. John Holbert
4-week series starting Sunday, September 6th**

Jeremiah was a 7th-6th century BCE prophet, speaking mainly to Judah and Jerusalem. He is unique among the prophets in that he both calls his people to account for their breaking of the covenant of YHWH by refusing to aid the marginalized and by worshipping a series of false gods, while at the same time revealing the enormous pain and agony his prophetic call caused him, leading him even to accuse his God of terrible deeds against him personally.



BREAST CANCER SURVIVORS & FRIENDS LUNCHEON

Today, August 23rd (12noon) in the Wesley Room

Join us for a potluck lunch as we celebrate life and honor the journeys of the breast cancer survivors in our community. Bring a yummy dish to share as we gather around the table for a heartfelt afternoon with fellow survivors, friends, and good food.



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 Dr. 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



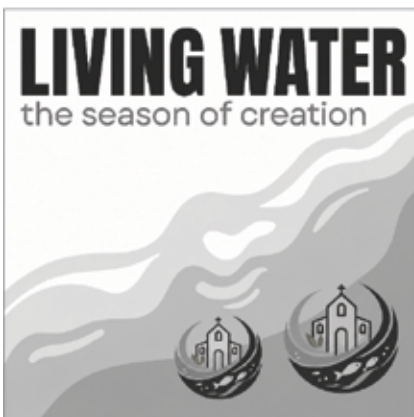
TRAINING FOR CARE: BEING HEARD, BEING HELPED, BEING HELD Sunday, August 30th (12-1:45pm) Helms Hall

From Pastor Diana - "Church is a great place to learn to be brave. And to learn how a big community of small groups like we have can be connected through care. Plans for this event have been in the works for several months, and this last week on our zoom with all the leaders, I was heartened by what direction they will be taking us. You are in good hands. Community building can be inconvenient, but the rewards of caring are great. As Jenniffer Duran-West said to us, quoting Steven Malcom Berg-Smith, "Expect and respect the unexpected." Childcare is available through registration. Also as a bonus, we will have an excellent lunch supplied by Earle and Jane! See you there." To sign up to attend, scan the QR code and please indicate if you need childcare. (Deadline is August 23rd.)



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.



UPCOMING SANCTUARY SERMON SERIES

"Living Water: A Season of Creation"

Water heals, restores, and makes creation flourish. But it also challenges us: to recognize ecological damage, to embrace our interconnectedness, and to immerse ourselves in the responsibility of caring for and restoring our Common Home. From September through October 4, our Sanctuary worship will join Christians from around the world in observing the Season of Creation 2026: Living Water as we seek to transform awareness into action and commitment into hope for our common home.



HOMECOMING SUNDAY - SEPTEMBER 13th

Mark your calendars for a Sunday filled with community, celebration, and new connections:

In **The Sanctuary**, our celebration of the Season of Creation takes us into Deepening Waters as we honor our interconnection.

In **The Loft**, the Singers of Soul join Dr. Carter for a gospel celebration.

At our **Ministry Fair** on the Courtyard, after each worship gathering, leaders in our diverse church ministries invite you to learn more about how to get involved in the meaningful life of the church.

UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



VIGILS FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE

All are invited to join our Westside Mission Area friends and neighbors for three "Vigils for Justice and Peace" this Fall. Join us as we gather together in prayer, witness, and hope for our communities and our world.

Three opportunities to participate:

Sunday, Aug. 30th (1pm) - West LA UMC & 580 Cafe (Held at West LA UMC - 1319 Purdue Ave., Los Angeles)

Sunday, Oct. 4th (4pm) - First UMC Santa Monica & Community Palisades UMC (Held at FUMC Santa Monica - 1008 11th St., Santa Monica)

Sunday, Nov. 1 (4pm) - Westwood UMC (10497 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles)



WESTWOOD KIDS - FALL 2026 - A DOZEN GREAT ADVENTURES

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

Happy New Year - for school and new adventures, that is! For starters, we're going to open up stories of ancient days, particularly in the Old Testament. Starting with wondering more about God's great gifts, we will move on to The Great Flood. Our fall adventure will follow some of the earliest people and their close encounters with God. Then get ready for The Great Family - an amazing story that is full of wonder. All 12 (that's a "dozen") stories this fall will be GREAT! Time with our friends will also be GREAT! And some of our art responses will be GREAT to experience! We're calling this time: A Dozen Great Adventures! For more info, contact Deanne Edwards at deanne@westwoodumc.org.



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.

UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

FOOD DONATION LIST



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



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 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.



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.

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

