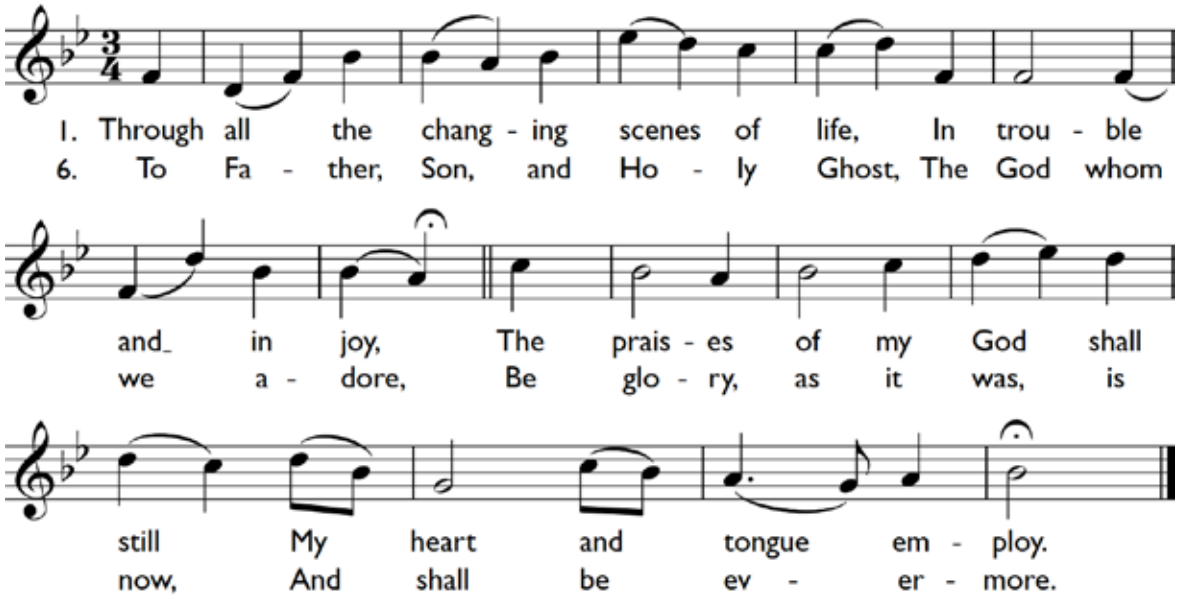
August 30, 2026 **14th Sunday after Pentecost**

PRELUDE ***Introit Prelude*** **Peter Fennema**
Maurice Duruflé (1902-1986)

WELCOME **Molly Vetter**

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

HYMN ***Through All the Changing Scenes of Life*** **New English Hymnal No. 467**
Please stand as you are able.



Words: Tate and Brady, *New Version* 1696 (based on Psalm 34)
Music: WILTSHIRE; George Smart (1776-1867) in his *Collection of Sacred Music*, 1863.
Originally set to Ps. 48 in 1795
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MORNING PRAYER **Nancy Price**

Please be seated.

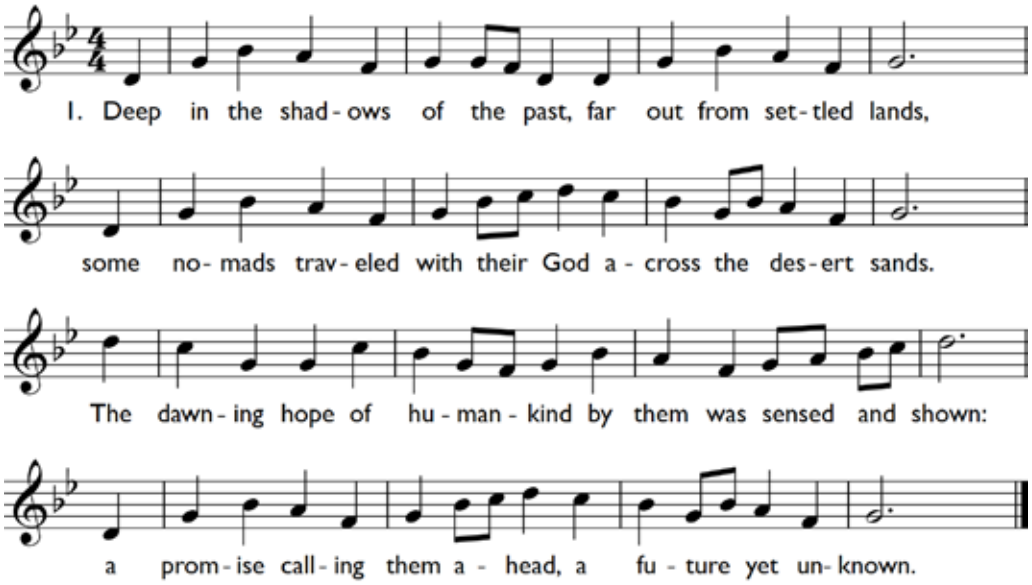
God of mystery and might,
Whose wonderful works are to be remembered,
Move in our lives, change our minds, soften our hearts, direct our feet,
That we may follow you more faithfully.
Yes, Lord, we seek to follow Jesus,
In whose name we pray. Amen.

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

CHILDREN'S TIME **Molly Vetter**

THE COMMUNITY **INTERACTS** WITH THE WORD OF GOD

HYMN ***Deep in the Shadows of the Past*** **Glory to God Hymnal No. 50**



Words: Brian Wren, 1973; rev. 1994; Text © 1975, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company
Music: SHEPHERD'S PIPES; Annabeth McClelland Gay, 1952; © 1958, ren. 1986 The Pilgrim Press
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SCRIPTURE READING **Exodus 3:1-15** **Shirley Williams**

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness and came to Mount Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight and see why the bush is not burned up." When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

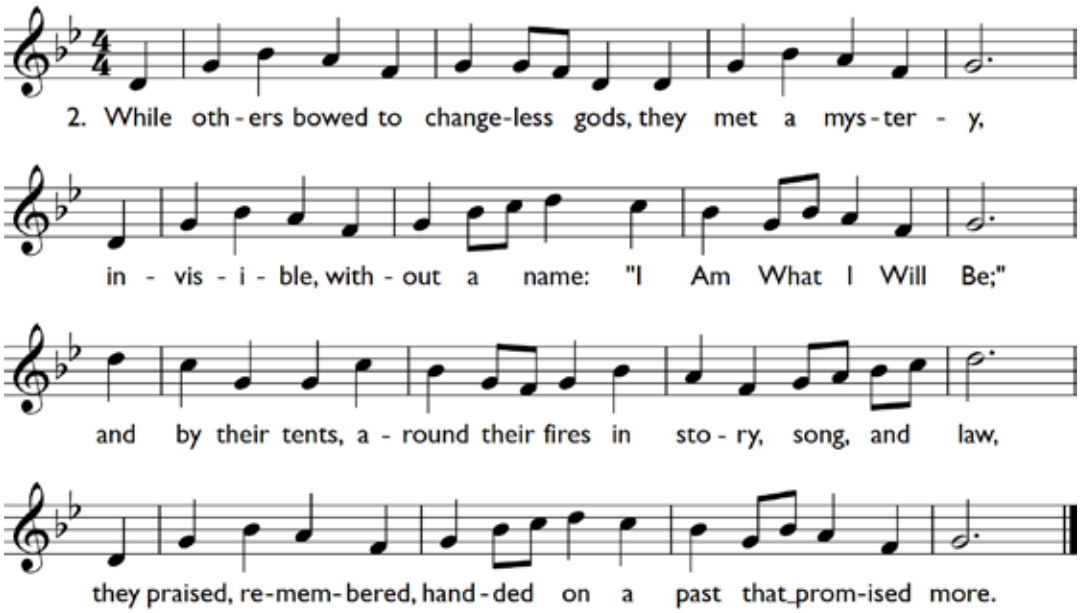
Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. Now go, I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He said, "I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain."

But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I am who I am." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I am has sent me to you.' " God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you':

This is my name forever,
and this my title for all generations.

This is the word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

HYMN ***Deep in the Shadows of the Past*** **Glory to God Hymnal No. 50**



SCRIPTURE READING **Matthew 16:21-28** **Molly Vetter**

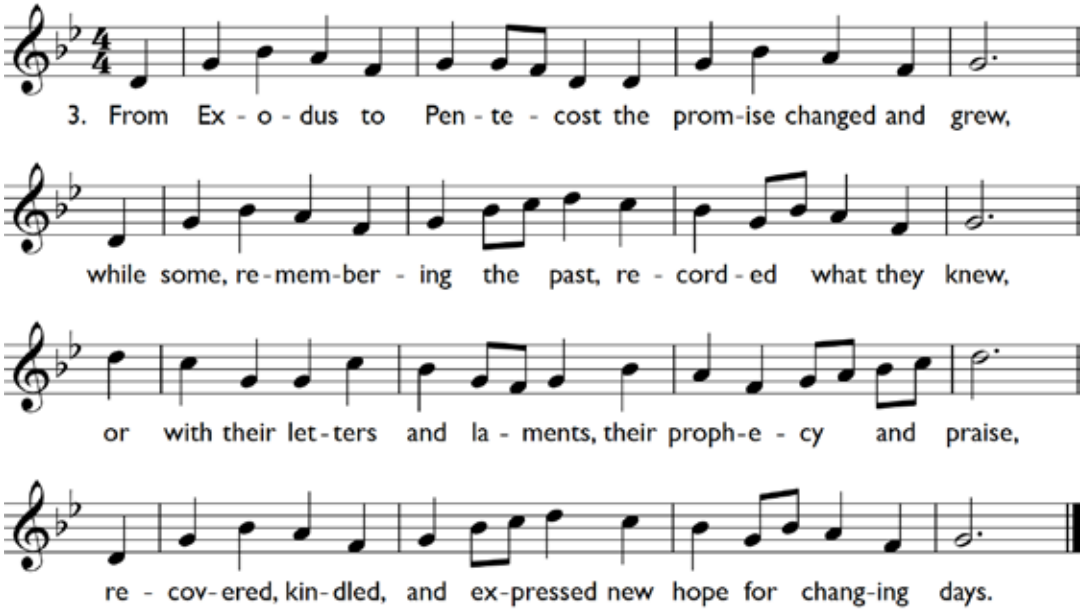
From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

"For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

This is the word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

HYMN ***Deep in the Shadows of the Past*** **Glory to God Hymnal No. 50**



SERMON ***Leadership on the Edge*** **Molly Vetter**

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

CALL TO PRAYER ***Light of a Clear Blue Morning*** **Sanctuary Singers**
Dolly Parton (1946-2026) **Carmen Edano,** *soloist*
arr. Craig Hella Johnson (b. 1962)

It's been a long dark night,
and I've been a waitin' for the morning.
It's been a long hard fight,
but I see a brand new day a dawning.
I've been looking for the sunshine
cause I ain't seen it in so long.
Everything's gonna work out just fine.
Everything's gonna be alright, it's gonna be okay.

I can see the light of a clear blue morning.
I can see the light of a brand new day.
I can see the light of a clear blue morning.
Everything's gonna be alright, it's gonna be okay.

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS AND THE WORLD **Mary Garbesi**

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.Westwood UMC.org/Give**.

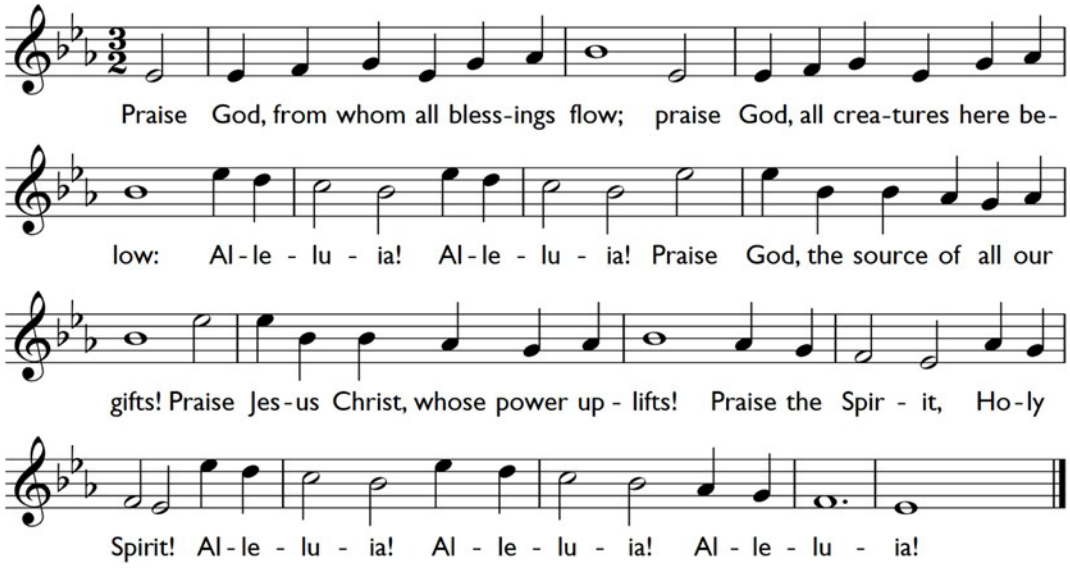
OFFERTORY ANTHEM ***Be Still and Know*** **Summer Choir**

Traditional, arr. Fred Bock (1939-1998)

Be still and know that I am God.
I am the Lord that strengthens thee.

OFERTORY RESPONSE ***Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*** **UMH No. 94**

Please stand as you are able.



Words: Thomas Ken, 1674; adapt. by Gilbert H. Vieira, 1978
Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, 1623; harm. by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906
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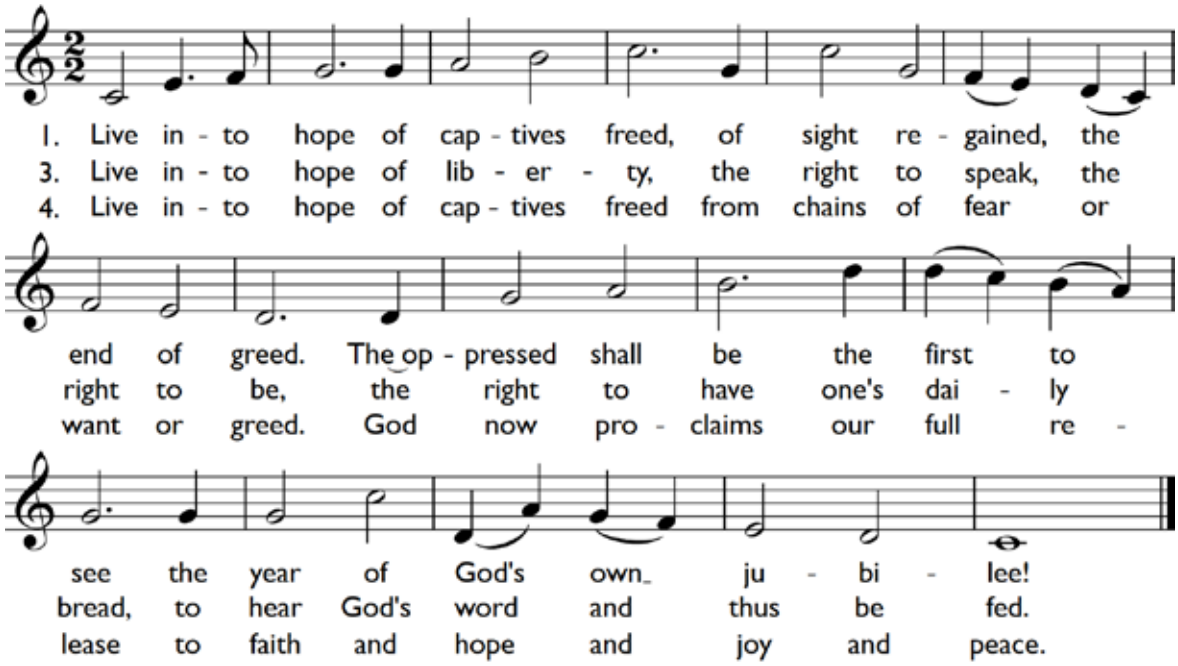
PRAYER OF DEDICATION **Molly Vetter**

THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH **GOES OUT TO SERVE**

HYMN ***Live Into Hope*** **Glory to God Hymnal**
Please remain standing as you are able. **No. 772**



Words: Jane Parker Huber, 1976;
Text © 1980 Jane Parker Huber (admin. Westminster John Knox Press)
Music: TRURO; *Musica Sacra*, c. 1778
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ANNOUNCEMENTS **Molly Vetter**
Please be seated.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE ***Fugue (on the theme of the carillon at Soissons)*** **Peter Fennema**
Please remain seated. Maurice Duruflé (1902-1986)

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*
Sophie O'Shea (she/her), *guest soprano*
Carmen Edano (she/her), *alto*
Vishaala Wilkinson (she/her), *guest alto*
Taylor Jacobs (he/him), *tenor*
Byron Jones (he/him), *bass*

Liturgists
Mary Garbesi
Nancy Price
Shirley Williams

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

Altar Flowers
Given by **Penny Gipson -** *"Celebrating my awesome husband, Reg, who is a wonderful example as a father, grandfather, brother, and friend on his 80th Birthday. Happy Birthday Reg!*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

New Prayer Requests
- Joy Bennett Koupal

Ongoing Prayer Request
- Marjorie N.
- Elizabeth Thomas
- 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
"God: The Heartbeat of Reality & The Mystery of Evil"
Rev. Dr. Christopher Carter
Today, August 30th (10:30am) Upstairs in The Loft
As Christians, we believe that God is the heartbeat of reality, a life-giving and sustaining presence. All Christians can affirm this claim. However, as we deconstruct our faith, we realize that the way we "see" God, our understanding of God's relationship to the world, and God's character significantly shape how we practice Christianity and how we respond to the evil and corruption of our time.
Conversation Question: What do you understand the character of God to be? Stated differently, what is your God most fundamentally like?

Wisdom at Westwood will not be held today, 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.

TRAINING FOR CARE: BEING HEARD, BEING HELPED, BEING HELD
Today, August 30th (12-1:45pm) Helms Hall
We look forward to being with all of you who have registered. At noon, please sign in outside Helms Hall (across from The Loft). We'll eat lunch at noon and start the training at 12:15pm. See you then! Thanks to a great team of volunteers.

VIGILS FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE
All are invited to as we come together alongside our Westside Mission Area friends and neighbors for three "Vigils for Justice and Peace" this Fall. Join us as we gather in prayer, witness, and hope for our communities and our world. Three opportunities to participate:

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

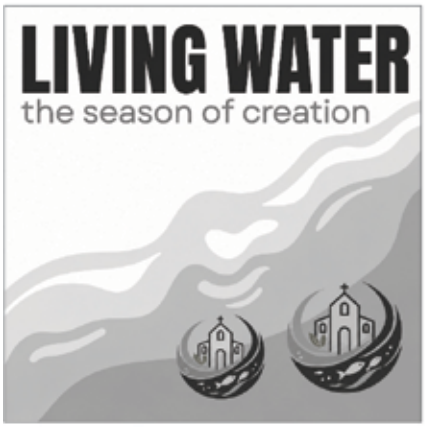
Sunday, Oct. 4th (4pm) - First UMC Santa Monica & Community Palisades UMC (Held at FUMC Santa Monica - 1008 11th St., Santa Monica)

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

UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PATH RETURNS!
First Thursday of the Month starting September 3rd (6pm)
PATH (2346 Cotner Ave. Los Angeles)
Westwood UMC will be cooking dinner at PATH's Cotner Avenue location on the first Thursday of each month starting on September 3rd. To sign up, scan the QR code and create an account on the new PATH Volunteer portal. The Westwood volunteer slot is available on the opportunities page under September 3rd. When you sign up on the portal, please also notify Everest Harvey at everest@westwoodumc.org. If you have any questions, contact Joy Hsu at joyhsu937@gmail.com.

SMALL ACTS OF LOVE: A DIAPER DRIVE AT WESTWOOD UMC TO SUPPORT BLACK AND BIPOC FAMILIES - September 6th-20th
Join us in collecting diapers for Black and BIPOC families in LA/OC, recognizing that even the smallest acts of love can have a profound impact. Diapers seem simple, but for many families, they represent freedom from worry, security in provision, and the ability to focus on what truly matters: the health and happiness of their children. The diapers will be distributed in support of the Black Infant Health Program of BreastfeedLA, and organization working to overcome maternal health disparities based on race and economic status. To participate, bring new, unopened boxes of diapers (sizes 2 through size 5) to The Sanctuary or The Loft during the campaign (September 6th–20th). Also, pray for the families who will benefit from this campaign. If you have any questions, contact Jenniffer Duran-West at jduranwest@calwic.org.



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.

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.

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.

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

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.

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