



The Sanctuary

September 13, 2026

16th Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE

Brass Ensemble & Organ

“Allegro Vivace,” “Air,” and “Hornpipe” from Suite from Water Music

G.F. Handel (1685-1759), transcr. Fred Mills

WELCOME

Molly Vetter

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

HYMN

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

U.M. Hymnal

Please stand as you are able.

arr. for brass by Chris R. Hansen

No. 103

1. Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise, in
3. To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small; in
4. Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light; thine

light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes, most
all life thou liv - est, the true life of all; we
an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight; all

bles - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days, al -
blos - som and flour - ish as leaves on the tree, and
laud we would ren - der: O help us to see 'tis

might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.
with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.
on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee.

WORDS: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1867 (1 Tim. 1:17)

MUSIC: ST. DENIO, Welsh melody from John Robert's *Canaidau y Cyssegr*, 1839

Used with permission. OneLicense.net #A-712504

MORNING PRAYER

Sherry Burch

Please be seated.

Compassionate, merciful God,
Companion with all Creation,
We gather today in celebration,
giving thanks for the diversity of relatives
and the abundance of fertile soils and salty seas.
With the ancients we rejoice,
“In wisdom you have made them all.”
May we open our hearts to feel the threats to Creation.
May we hear anew the Spirit’s call for wise keepers of Earth’s resilience.
May we learn again to love what you have loved from the beginning.
In the name of Jesus, Amen.

-prayer by Rev. Nancy Victorin-Vangerud

CHILDREN’S TIME

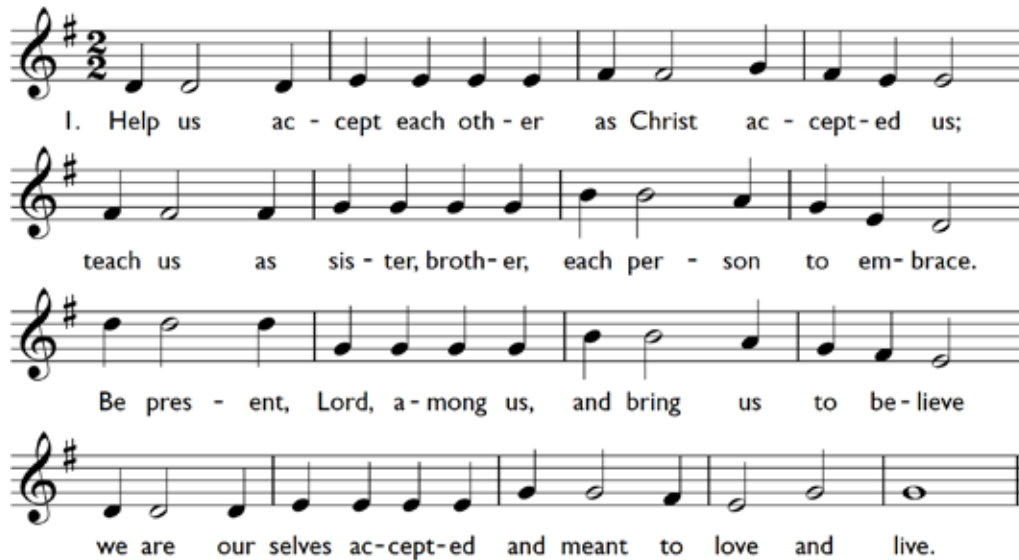
Molly Vetter

THE COMMUNITY INTERACTS WITH THE WORD OF GOD

HYMN

Help Us Accept Each Other

UM Hymnal
No. 560



The musical score is written for a single melodic line in treble clef, key of D major (one sharp), and 2/2 time. It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a time signature of 2/2. The lyrics are: 'I. Help us ac - cept each oth - er as Christ ac - cept - ed us;'. The second staff continues the melody with the lyrics: 'teach us as sis - ter, broth - er, each per - son to em - brace.'. The third staff continues with the lyrics: 'Be pres - ent, Lord, a - mong us, and bring us to be - lieve'. The fourth staff concludes the hymn with the lyrics: 'we are our selves ac - cept - ed and meant to love and live.'.

Words: Fred Kaan © 1975 Hope Publishing Co.
Music: ACCEPTANCE, John Ness Beck © 1977 Hope Publishing Co.
Used by permission, OneLicense.net #A-712504

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 65:5-13

Tanya Sun

By dread deeds you answer us with deliverance,
O God of our salvation,
who is the hope of all the ends of the earth,
and of the farthest seas;
who by your strength established the mountains,

being girded with might;
 who stills the roaring of the seas,
 the roaring of their waves,
 the tumult of the peoples;
 so that those who dwell at earth's farthest bounds
 are afraid at your signs;
 you make the morning and the
 evening resound with joy.
 You visit the earth and water it,
 you greatly enrich it;
 the river of God is full of water;
 you provide its grain,
 for so you have prepared it.
 You water its furrows abundantly,
 settling its ridges,
 softening it with showers,
 and blessing its growth.
 You crown the year with your bounty;
 the tracks of your chariot drip with fatness.
 The pastures of the wilderness drip,
 the hills gird themselves with joy,
 the meadows clothe themselves with flocks,
 the valleys deck themselves with grain,
 they shout and sing together for joy.

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

HYMN

Help Us Accept Each Other

**UM Hymnal
 No. 560**

2. Teach us, O Lord, your les- sons, as in our dai - ly life
 we strug - gle to be hu - man and search for hope and faith.
 Teach us to care for peo - ple, for all, not just for some,
 to love them as we find them, or as they may be - come.

Words: Fred Kaan © 1975 Hope Publishing Co.
 Music: ACCEPTANCE, John Ness Beck © 1977 Hope Publishing Co.
 Used by permission, OneLicense.net #A-712504

Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

*“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”*

So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

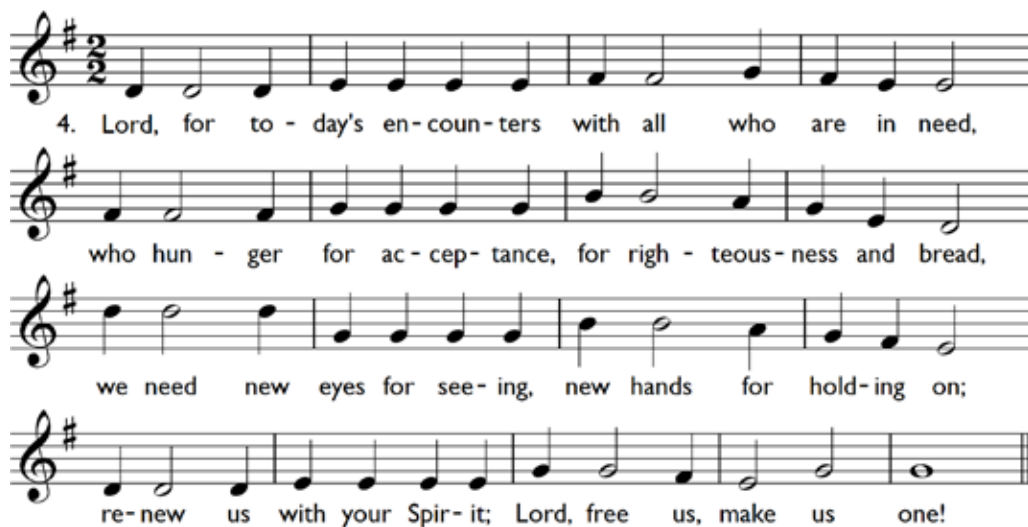
This is the word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN

Help Us Accept Each Other

**UM Hymnal
No. 560**



Words: Fred Kaan © 1975 Hope Publishing Co.
Music: ACCEPTANCE, John Ness Beck © 1977 Hope Publishing Co.
Used by permission, OneLicense.net #A-712504

SERMON

Living Water: Deepening Waters

Molly Vetter

THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS TO THE WORD OF GOD

CALL TO PRAYER

Beautiful River

Sanctuary Singers

Robert Lowry (1826-1899), arr. William Hawley (b. 1950)

*Shall we gather at the river,
where bright angel feet have trod,
with its crystal tide forever
flowing by the throne of God?*

*Yes, we'll gather at the river,
the beautiful, the beautiful river,
gather with the saints at the river
that flows by the throne of God.*

*On the margin of the river,
washing up its silver spray,
we will walk and worship
all the happy golden day.*

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS AND THE WORLD

Dick 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***Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing***

arr. James Mulholland (b. 1935)

**Summer Choir
Brass & Organ**

*Come, thou fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
mount of God's unchanging love!*

Here I raise my Ebenezer;
hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wandering from the fold of God;
He to rescue me from danger,
Interposed his precious blood.*

*Oh to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee;
Prone to wander, Lord I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart, O take and seal it,
seal it for thy courts above.*

ABOUT THE ANTHEM: *"Raise my Ebenezer" originates from 1 Samuel 7:12, where the prophet Samuel set up a stone as a memorial after God delivered the Israelites from the Philistines. Samuel named the stone Ebenezer, which in Hebrew means "stone of help" (eben = stone; ezer = help), saying, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us." This stone served as a tangible reminder of God's assistance and faithfulness, encouraging the Israelites to remember God's help in times of trouble.

The hymn uses the term metaphorically to encourage believers to reflect on and commemorate the ways God has helped them through challenges. The concept is not limited to physical stones but extends to any act that memorializes divine assistance in one's life

OFFERTORY RESPONSE***Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty*****UM Hymnal
No. 64***Please stand as you are able.*

arr. for brass by Michael Burkhardt

4. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y,

God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

WORDS: Reginald Heber, 1826 (Rev. 4:8-11)
MUSIC: John B. Dykes, 1861; NICAEA
Used by permission, OneLicense.net #A-712504

 THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH GOES OUT TO SERVE

HYMN

For the Healing of the Nations

United Methodist Hymnal

No. 428

Please remain standing as you are able.

arr. For brass by John Hughes



1. For the heal - ing of the na - tions, Lord, we pray with
 2. Lead us for - ward in - to free - dom; from de - spair your
 3. All that kills a - bun - dant liv - ing, let it from the

one ac - cord; for a just and e - qual shar - ing
 world re - lease, that, re - deemed from war and ha - tred,
 earth be banned; pride of sta - tus, race, or school - ing,

of the things that earth af - fords; to a life of
 all may come and go in peace. Show us how through
 dog - mas that ob - scure your plan. In our com - mon

love in ac - tion help us rise and pledge our
 care and good - ness fear will die and hope in -
 quest for jus - tice may we hal - low life's brief

word, help us rise and pledge our word.
 crease, fear will die and hope in - crease.
 span, may we hal - low life's brief span.

Words: Fred Kaan © 1968 Hope Publishing Co.
 Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1907
 Used by permission, OneLicense.net #A-712504

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Molly Vetter

Please be seated.

PRAYER SHAWL BLESSING

For **Isabel Kilroe** who's sister passed away suddenly.

POSTLUDE

Please remain seated.

“Allegro Maestoso” from *Suite from Water Music*

G.F. Handel (1685-1759), transcr. J.T. Hammons

Brass & Organ

PARTICIPATING TODAY

Pastoral StaffRev. 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, *guest alto*
Diego Delgado, *guest tenor*
Rayan Yamout, *guest tenor*
Byron Jones (he/him), *bass*
Parker Goodwin, *guest bass***Brass Ensemble**Cameron Wilkins and David Costello, *Trumpet*
Aija Mattson-Jovel, *Horn*
Hiram Rodriguez, *Trombone*
Bradley Möller, *Tuba***Liturgists**Sherry Burch
Dick & Tanya Sun**Production Team**Leila Bishop (they/them), *sound*
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 Prayer Requests**

- Alana Miles & Family

Ongoing Prayer Request

- Janet Hoskins
- Kelly O'Brien
- Joy Bennett Koupal
- Elizabeth Thomas
- Gloria Forio
- Jerry Whittemore
- Diana Park
- Paul & Dorene Rutter
- 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.

TODAY AT WESTWOOD UMC

Homecoming Sunday



Today, September 13th

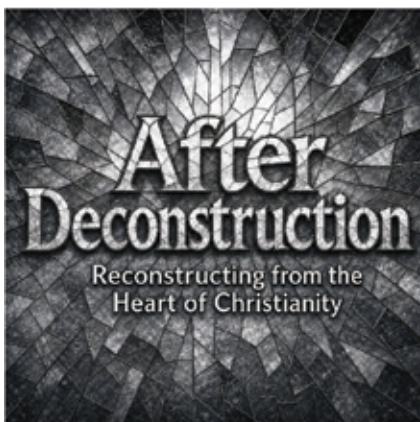
HOMECOMING SUNDAY - TODAY, SEPTEMBER 13th

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" will join Rev. Dr. Christopher Carter for a Gospel celebration. Don't miss it!

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.



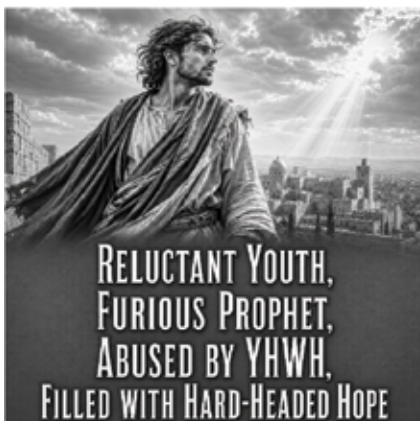
THE LOFT

"Born Again: A New Heart & The Heart of Justice"

Rev. Dr. Christopher Carter

Today, September 13th (10:30am) Upstairs in The Loft

The phrase "born again" carries A LOT of theological baggage. Yet the New Testament suggests that if being "born again" leads to judgmentalism, self-righteousness, and policing in-group and out-group boundaries, we can question whether someone has experienced the spiritual transformation of the heart Jesus describes in John. This transformation is both personal and political: when we are centered in God, our hearts beat for justice. **Conversation Question:** What comes to mind for you when you hear the phrase "born again?" How, if at all, has it influenced your understanding of what it means to practice being a Christian?



WISDOM AT WESTOOD - "Reluctant Youth, Furious Prophet, Abused by YHWH, Filled with Hard-Headed Hope" - Rev. Dr. John Holbert

Today, September 13th (11am) Wesley Room and via Zoom

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.

small acts of love



Diaper Drive in support of Black and BIPOC families in LA/OC

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 EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



LOFT NEW COMMUNITY MEMBERS INFO SESSION

Wednesday, September 16th (7:30pm) The Loft

Are you new to The Loft and interested in learning more about our community, how to connect with others, or opportunities where you can serve? You are invited to attend an information session where Westley, Gabrielle, and Rev. Dr. Carter will share their backgrounds and roles within the church. It's a chance for them to get to know you and answer any questions you may have. To sign up, please contact Westley Garcia at westley@theloftla.org.



FROM HONG KONG WITH LOVE:

MINISTRY TOGETHER WITH MIGRANT DOMESTIC WORKERS

Wednesday, September 16th (7pm) St. Alban's Church

Deaconess Joy Prim, a former 580 Cafe intern who currently serves in Hong Kong at The Mission for Migrant Workers, will share her experiences working alongside the migrant domestic worker community. Through this presentation, you will learn about the daily lives and struggles of these workers, and how 45 years of ministry has provided essential support and programs for the community. This gathering is a wonderful opportunity to connect with our campus and local justice organizations as we reflect on our shared commitment to dignity and community care. This event is co-sponsored by 580 Cafe, Canterbury Westwood, and St. Alban's Episcopal Church.



LETTER WRITING PARTY IN PARTNERSHIP WITH VOTEFWD

Friday, September 18th (12-1:30pm) Wesley Room

Ben Carroll, Everest Harvey, and the Social Justice Team are hosting a letter writing party to encourage voter engagement in swing states! Vote Forward is an organization that partners with volunteers to take evidence-driven, high-impact actions that strengthen our democracy by building trust in government and increasing voter participation. For more information or to express interest, contact Everest Harvey at everest@westwoodumc.org.



SOCIAL JUSTICE MOVIE CLUB - "Dreaming of a Vetter World"

Wednesday, September 23rd in The Loft

6:30pm - Pre-screening Popcorn from the Farm; 7pm - Screening

Pastor Molly is excited to be a special guest host of the Social Justice Movie Club for a special screening of "Dreaming of a Vetter World," along with filmmaker Bonnie Hawthorne. This 2018 documentary tells the story of her grandfather and uncle's organic farm in Nebraska. The making of the film is also a story of resilient commitment to the craft of filmmaking, and to telling stories that matter. We will serve organic popcorn from the Vetter farm, and have Q&A with Pastor Molly and Bonnie Hawthorne after the screening. (Run time: 1hr 10min)

UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



"CLEAR THE ROAD TO FREEDOM" PILGRIMAGE (Sept. 29th - Oct. 6th) **Zoom Info Session - Tuesday, September 8th (5:30-6:30pm)**

The Westwood Social Justice Team is helping to plan and coordinate a sacred journey from Adelanto ICE Detention Center to the Metropolitan Detention Center and Federal Building in Los Angeles to draw attention and cry out for immediate action to end the deplorable conditions and deaths at the detention centers throughout California and across the country. Participation of all kinds is encouraged, including walking on specific days, volunteering to support the walkers, and donating to the immigrant bond fund. To join the pilgrimage or volunteer, contact Everest Harvey at everest@westwoodumc.org.



50/50 BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR MOLLY & SABRINA **Sunday, September 27th (12noon) Church Courtyard**

Our Office Supervisor Sabrina Simmons and our Senior Pastor Molly Vetter are both turning 50! They invite you to join them to celebrate both of their 50th Birthdays at a 50/50 party after church. They're not asking for gifts - just your presence. Join us for cake and snacks including 50/50 combos of some of our favorite things!

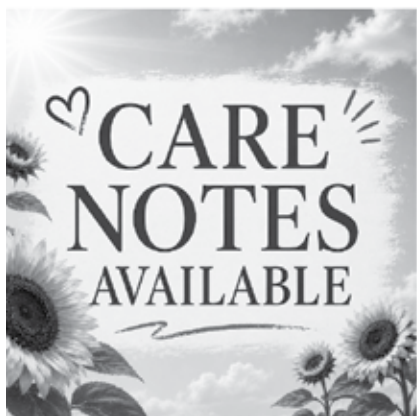


VIGILS FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE

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:

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)



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.

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

