



The Sanctuary



September 20, 2026

17th Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE

Winter Light
Ola Gjeilo (b. 1978)

Cello & Piano

WELCOME

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

Christopher Carter

HYMN

Please stand as you are able.

Gather Us In

The Faith We Sing
No. 2236

1. Here in this place new light is stream - ing,
2. We are the young our lives are a mys - t'ry,
4. Not in the dark of build - ings con - fin - ing,

now is the dark - ness van - ished a - way,
we are the old who yearn for your face,
not in some heav - en, light - years a - way, but

see in this space our fears and our dream - ings,
we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
here in this place the new light is shin - ing,

brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
now is the King - dom, now is the day.

Gath - er us in the lost and for - sak - en, gath - er us in the
Gath - er us in the rich and the haugh - ty, gath - er us in the
Gath - er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath - er us in and

blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
proud and the strong; give us a heart so meek and so low - ly,
make us your own; gath - er us in all peo - ples to - geth - er,

we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

MORNING PRAYER

Please be seated.

Uriya Harvey-Davis

Holy God whose Spirit hovered over the waters at the beginning,
we gather as part of your community of all creation, thirsty for your grace.
We give thanks for the gift of water, the veins of our common home,
that sustains the cedar and the whale, the pasture and the city.
We are grateful for the local waters that nourish our homelands and our fellow creatures.
We give thanks that in your well-watered garden, every drop is a sacred testament to your love.
May God, our Creator, who brought water from the rock sustain us in the desert.
May Christ, our Lord, who is Living Water, refresh us for the work of restoration.
And may the Holy Spirit carry us on currents of grace
until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.
Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Christopher Carter

THE COMMUNITY INTERACTS WITH THE WORD OF GOD

HYMN

We Come to You for Healing, Lord

Glory to God
No. 796



Words: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 2002
Music: LAND OF REST, American folk melody; arr. Annabel Morris Buchanan, 1938
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SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 8:4-9, 14, 18-22, 19:1

Diana Holbert

You shall say to them, thus says the Lord:
When people fall, do they not get up again?
If they go astray, do they not turn back?
Why then has this people turned away
in perpetual faithlessness?
They have held fast to deceit;
they have refused to return.
I have given heed and listened,

but they do not speak honestly;
 no one repents of wickedness,
 saying, "What have I done!"
 All of them turn to their own course
 like a horse plunging headlong into battle.
 Even the stork in the heavens knows its times,
 and the turtledove, swallow, and crane
 observe the time of their coming,
 but my people do not know
 the ordinance of the Lord.

How can you say, "We are wise,
 and the law of the Lord is with us,"
 when, in fact, the false pen of the scribes
 has made it into a lie?
 The wise shall be put to shame;
 they shall be dismayed and taken;
 since they have rejected the word of the Lord,
 what wisdom is in them?

Why do we sit still?
 Gather together; let us go into the fortified cities
 and perish there,
 for the Lord our God has doomed us to perish
 and has given us poisoned water to drink
 because we have sinned against the Lord.

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

My joy is gone; grief is upon me;
 my heart is sick.
 Listen! The cry of the daughter of my people
 from far and wide in the land:
 "Is the Lord not in Zion?
 Is her King not in her?"
 ("Why have they provoked me to anger
 with their images,
 with their foreign idols?")
 "The harvest is past, the summer is ended,
 and we are not saved."
 For the brokenness of the daughter of my people
 I am broken,
 I mourn, and horror has seized me.

Is there no balm in Gilead?
 Is there no physician there?
 Why then has the health of the daughter of my
 people not been restored?

O that my head were a spring of water
 and my eyes a fountain of tears,
 so that I might weep day and night
 for the slain of the daughter of my people!

HYMN

We Come to You for Healing, Lord

Glory to God No. 796



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On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, 'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.'" Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive, for as yet there was no Spirit because Jesus was not yet glorified.

When they heard these words, some in the crowd said, "This is really the prophet." Others said, "This is the Messiah." But some asked, "Surely the Messiah does not come from Galilee, does he? Has not the scripture said that the Messiah is descended from David and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David lived?" So there was a division in the crowd because of him. Some of them wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him.

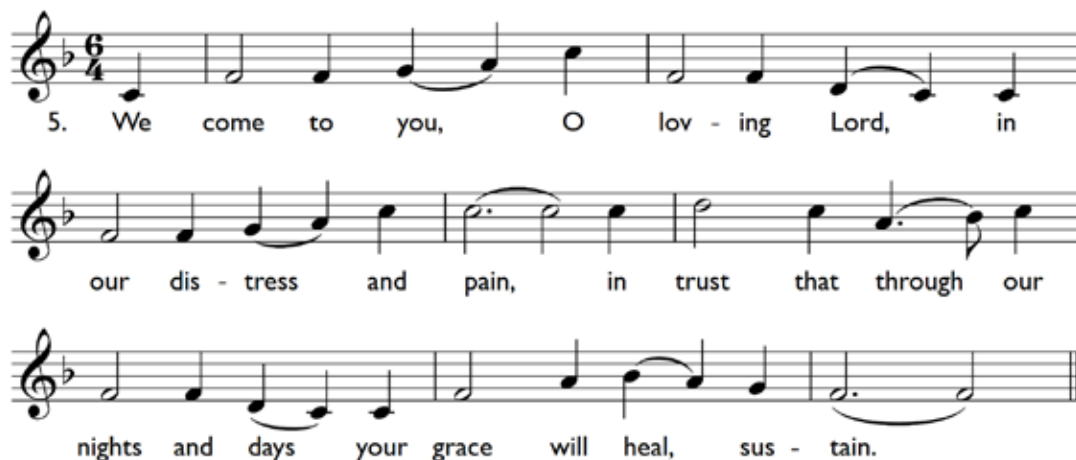
This is the word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN

We Come to You for Healing, Lord

**Glory to God
No. 796**



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SERMON

Living Water: Healing the Waters

Christopher Carter



CALL TO PRAYER

**"Still" from Night
Ola Gjeilo (b. 1978)**

Peter Fennema

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS AND THE WORLD

Jo Schiff

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Jo Schiff

**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

Christopher Carter

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

As Jesus Walked into the Stream

arr. Susan Borwick (b. 1946)

Trinity Del Regno, soloist

Carmen Edano, soloist

Cello & Flute

*As Jesus walked into the flowing stream,
God spoke a tender word to him,
God called him, "My beloved."
River, living stream, flowing fount,
Renew our spirits as you wash
our souls afresh with healing waters.*

*As Jesus dipped beneath the flowing stream,
A heavenly dove descended down
with blessings from above.
River, living stream, flowing fount,
Renew our spirits as you wash
our souls afresh with healing waters.*

*As we now sink beneath the flowing stream,
God speak and sends a heavenly dove
and names us, "My beloved."
River, living stream, flowing fount,
Renew our spirits as you wash
our souls afresh with healing waters.*

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty

UM Hymnal

No. 64

Please stand as you are able.

4. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - mighty!

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!

 THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH GOES OUT TO SERVE

HYMN

If You But Trust in God to Guide You

ELW Hymnal

No. 769

Please remain standing as you are able.

arr. David Cherwien (b. 1957)



1. If you but trust in God to guide you with gen - tle
 2. What gain is there in anx - ious weep - ing, in help - less
 4. Sing, pray, and keep God's ways un - swerv - ing, of - fer your
 hand through all your ways, you'll find that God is there be -
 an - ger and dis - tress? If you are in your Sav - ior's
 ser - vice faith - ful - ly. Trust heav - en's word; though un - de -
 side you when cross - es come, in try - ing days. Trust then in
 keep - ing, in sor - row will he love you less? For Christ who
 serv - ing, you'll find God's prom - ise true to be. This is our
 God's un - chang - ing love; build on the rock that will not move.
 took for you a cross will bring you safe through ev - 'ry loss.
 con - fi - dence in - deed: God nev - er fails in time of need.

WORDS: Georg Neumark, 1621-1681; tr. composite
 MUSIC: Georg Neumark; WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT
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BLESSING OF THE DIAPERS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christopher Carter

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

For **Alana, Michael, Olivia, and Joshua Miles** who continue to
mourn the sudden loss of Matt Miles, husband and father.

BENEDICTION**POSTLUDE***Please remain seated.****Morceau de Concours***

Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)

Flute & Piano

PARTICIPATING TODAY

Pastoral Staff

Rev. Dr. Christopher Carter (he/him), *Pastor of The Loft*
Rev. Dr. Diana Holbert (she/her), *Minister of Care*
Uriya Harvey-Davis (she/her), *Asst. Dir., Children & Youth Ministries*

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*

Guest Instrumentalists

Jaewon Ahn, *cello*
Marley Eder, *flute*

Liturgists

Jo Schiff

Production Team

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

STAFF OUT TODAY

Rev. Molly Vetter (she/her), *Senior Pastor*
Taylor Jacobs (he/him), *tenor section leader*
Byron Jones (he/him), *bass section leader*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

New Prayer Requests

- Cheryl Downey
- The Family of Beth Thomas who passed away.

Ongoing Prayer Request

- Alana Miles & Family
- Janet Hoskins
- Kelly O'Brien
- Joy Bennett Koupal
- Gloria Forio
- Jerry Whittemore
- Diana Park
- Paul & Dorene Rutter
- Bukola Gbadosi
- 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



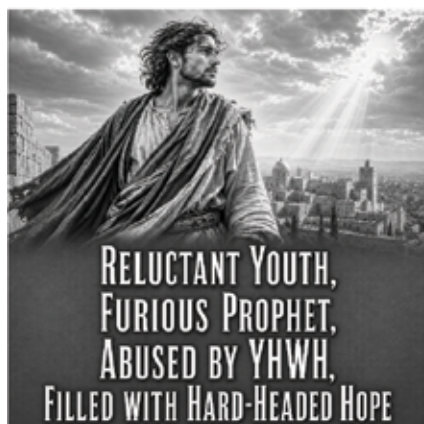
THE LOFT

"Reconstructing Salvation: Transforming the Heart"

Rev. Dr. Christopher Carter

Today, September 20th (10:30am) Upstairs in The Loft

Salvation is most often associated with what we must do (or believe) to go to heaven. As a result, most Christian theologies of salvation focus on what happens after we die. However, if we assume that salvation is important, it seems odd that Jesus would speak so little about what happens when we die. What Jesus speaks about frequently and passionately is how we can transform the world he lived in - the world we live in - into the Kingdom of God. **Conversation Question:** How, if at all, has Christianity's emphasis on the afterlife shaped your understanding of what it means to be a Christian or believe in the teachings of Jesus?



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

Today, September 20th (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.



COMMUNITY ADVOCACY TEAM (CAT)

Today, September 20th (12:15pm) Room 207

We will be preparing for our two Wisdom at Westwood presentations in October. On October 4th, we will present on Responsible Consumerism, and on October 18th, we will offer a Voter Engagement presentation. Both sessions will highlight our partnership with LA Voice and PICO California, our California Interfaith advocacy and organizing partners. We invite new participants to learn more about CAT and get involved, as we are an open group. For more information, contact cat@westwoodumc.org.



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



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)



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!



"CLEAR THE ROAD TO FREEDOM" PILGRIMAGE (Sept. 29th - Oct. 6th)

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.



MATT MILES - CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Sunday, October 4th (3pm) Westwood UMC Sanctuary

Matt Miles, former tenor soloist and section leader in Westwood's Chancel Choir for 8 years from 2010-2018, passed away suddenly Sept. 4, 2026. He is survived by his wife, Alana, and three children, Michael, Olivia, and Joshua. A memorial service in celebration of Matt's life has been planned for Sunday, Oct. 4th at 3pm in the Westwood UMC Sanctuary. A reception will follow upstairs in The Loft.

FALL FESTIVAL

WESTWOOD UMC

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11



SIGN UP TO BRING FOOD
& VOLUNTEER.

JOIN US FOR WESTWOOD'S ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL on Sunday, October 11th!

The day starts with a full morning of worship and learning, with our regular Sunday schedule. Plus, Grapple Group will lead Fall Festival games and activities with Westwood Kids on the courtyard. At noon, things get even more festive.

12noon - CHILI COOK-OFF & DESSERT BAKE-OFF on the Courtyard

Join us for a beloved annual tradition: our all-church Fall Festival on the courtyard! Make a pot of chili, bake a favorite dessert, and come ready to enjoy the entries in our Chili Cook-off and Dessert Bake-off. Perhaps you can be the new Westwood Champion?

SCAN THE QR CODE (upper right) and let us know if you'll be bringing a pot of your homemade chili, a dessert, or BOTH if you're so inspired! Not into cooking or baking? You can volunteer to help organize the crockpots and baked goods as they're dropped off, decorate the courtyard, or clean up after the party!



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



PATH RETURNS!

First Thursday of the Month - October 1st (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.



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)



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.



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

