



The Sanctuary

October 4, 2026

19th Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE

“Tiento (Offertoire)” from Suite Médiéval
Jean Langlais (1907-1991)

Peter Fennema

WELCOME

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

Molly Vetter

HYMN

Please stand as you are able.

I Come With Joy

**United Methodist Hymnal
No. 617**

1. I come with joy to meet my Lord, for - giv - en,
2. I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as
3. As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud di -

loved and free, in awe and won - der to re - call his
all are fed, the new com - mun - i - ty of love in
vi - sion ends. The love that made us makes us one, and

life laid down for me, his life laid down for me.
Christ's com - mun - ion bread, in Christ's com - mun - ion bread.
strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.

Words: Brian Wren © 1971 Hope Publishing Co.
Music: DOVE OF PEACE, *The Southern Harmony*, 1835
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MORNING PRAYER

Shirley Williams

Please be seated.

*God, you split rocks in the wilderness,
and gave your people abundant drink, as from the deep.
Come to us, Lord.
Give us that abundant water.*

*You turned the desert into pools of water,
the parched land into springs of water.
Come to us, Lord.
Create springs in the parched desert of our hearts.*

*As a deer longs for flowing streams,
so my soul longs for you, O God.
My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.
Come to us, Lord, and fill our longing.*

~ adapted from Living Waters for the World. <http://www.livingwatersfortheworld.org/>

CHILDREN'S TIME

Molly Vetter



THE COMMUNITY INTERACTS WITH THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 19

Betty Holden

*The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims God's handiwork.
Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.
There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;
yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.
In them God has set a tent for the sun,
which comes forth like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,
and runs its course with joy like a strong man.
Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them;
and there is nothing hid from its heat.
The law of the Lord is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the testimony of the Lord is sure,
making wise the simple;
the precepts of the Lord are right,
rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is pure,
enlightening the eyes;
the fear of the Lord is clean,*

enduring for ever;
 the ordinances of the Lord are true,
 and righteous altogether.
 More to be desired are they than gold,
 even much fine gold;
 sweeter also than honey
 and drippings of the honeycomb.
 Moreover by them is your servant warned;
 in keeping them there is great reward.
 But who can understand one's own errors?
 Clear me from hidden faults.
 Also keep your servant from the insolent;
 let them not have dominion over me!
 Then I shall be blameless,
 and innocent of great transgression.

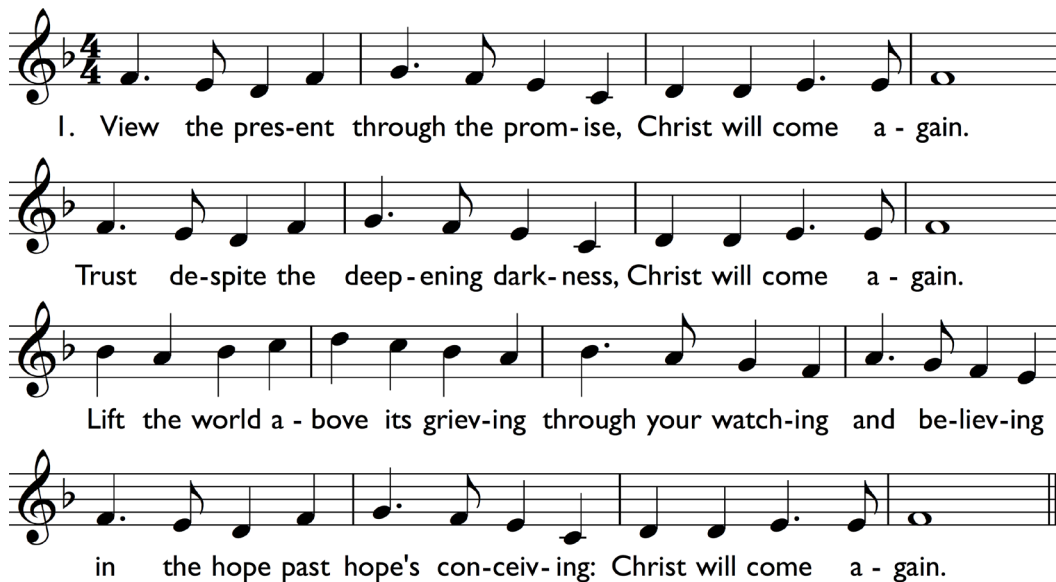
Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
 be acceptable in your sight,
 O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

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

HYMN

View the Present through the Promise

Worship & Song No. 3048



I. View the pres-ent through the prom-ise, Christ will come a - gain.
 Trust de-spite the deep-en-ing dark-ness, Christ will come a - gain.
 Lift the world a - bove its griev-ing through your watch-ing and be-liev-ing
 in the hope past hope's con-ceiv-ing: Christ will come a - gain.

Words: Thomas H. Troeger © 1994 Oxford University Press, Inc., assigned 2010 to Oxford University Press
 Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Traditional Welsh melody
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SCRIPTURE READING

Revelation 22:1-7

Molly Vetter

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God
 and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with
 its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month, and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the
 nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it,

and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

And he said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true, for the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place."

"See, I am coming soon! Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."

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

Thanks be to God.

HYMN

View the Present through the Promise

Worship & Song No. 3048



3. Match the pres-ent to the prom-ise, Christ will come a - gain.

Make this hope your guid - ing prem - ise, Christ will come a - gain.

Pat-tern all your cal - cu - lat - ing and the world you are cre-a - ting

to the ad - vent you are wait - ing: Christ will come a - gain.

Words: Thomas H. Troeger © 1994 Oxford University Press, Inc., assigned 2010 to Oxford University Press
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SERMON

Living Water

Molly Vetter

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

CALL TO PRAYER

"Grave" from *Adagio in C* J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Peter Fennema

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS AND THE WORLD

Jeanne Roe Smith

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**

Chancel Choir

“The Heavens are Telling” from Creation

Franz Josef Haydn (1732-1809)

*The heavens are telling the glory of God.
The wonder of his works displays the firmament.*

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 - 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
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INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Molly Vetter

Please be seated.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

Loving God,
too often we overlook the needs of people around us
while we proclaim our devotion to you.
We could do so much more
to feed the hungry, clothe the naked,
to welcome the stranger, and heal the sick.
We fail to recognize ways that our systems
diminish the humanity of us all.

**Open our hearts to recognize your presence in every person,
and to respond to their needs so that we may be rightly called by your name.
Amen.**

*Though we wander, God searches us out.
God reaches out to us, longing to bring us ever closer.
Receive this good news:
God pardons our sin and frees us to boldly love
And joyfully serve God and neighbor.*

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
Glory to God! Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Molly Vetter & Jeanne Roe Smith

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*We give thanks to God, concluding with: with communities all around the world and with all the company of
heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

Holy, holy, holy Lord; God of Power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blest is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

*We recall Christ's salvation and the institution of the Lord's Supper, concluding with: In union with Christ's
offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.*

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

*We pray for the Spirit's presence in the bread and cup that we share, giving thanks for this divine presence,
concluding with: Through your Son, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is
yours, Almighty God, now and forever.*

Amen.

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.**

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

Molly Vetter

COMMUNION

Communion is open to all people. You are invited to come as the ushers guide your row; please receive the bread and dip it into the cup. Gluten free wafers are available in the front. If you would like to be served in your seat, please send word to the ushers as they come to your row.



MUSIC DURING THE DISTRIBUTION

Sanctuary Singers

Teach Me, O Lord

Philip Stopford (b. 1977)

*Teach me, O Lord, the ways of thy statutes;
and I shall keep it unto the end.
Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law;
yea, I shall keep it with my whole heart.*

*Make me to go in the path of thy commandments;
for there-in is my desire.
Incline my heart unto thy testimonies,
and not to covetousness.*

*O turn away mine eyes lest they behold vanity;
and quicken me in thy way.
O stablish thy word in thy servant,
and I may fear thee.
Amen*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Molly Vetter

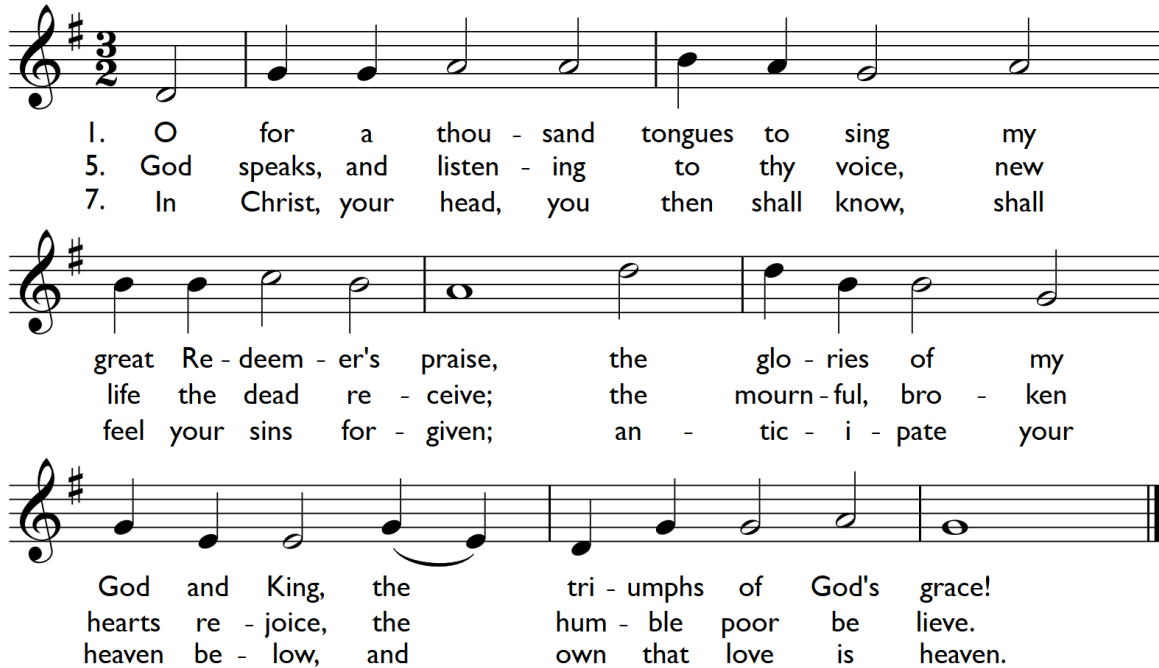
THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH GOES OUT TO SERVE

HYMN

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

UM Hymnal
No. 57

Please remain standing as you are able.



1. O for a thou - sand tongues to sing my
5. God speaks, and listen - ing to thy voice, new
7. In Christ, your head, you then shall know, shall

great Re - deem - er's praise, the glo - ries of my
life the dead re - ceive; the mourn - ful, bro - ken
feel your sins for - given; an - tic - i - pate your

God and King, the tri - umphs of God's grace!
hearts re - joice, the hum - ble poor be lieve.
heaven be - low, and own that love is heaven.

Words: Charles Wesley, 1739
Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser; arr. by Lowell Mason, 1839
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please be seated.

Molly Vetter

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Please remain seated.

“Prélude (Entrée)” from Suite Médiéval
Jean Langlais (1907-1991)

Peter Fennema

PARTICIPATING TODAY

Pastoral Staff

Rev. Molly Vetter, (she/her), Senior Pastor
Deaconess Jeanne Roe Smith (she/her), *Campus Minister, Wesley Foundation Serving UCLA*

Sanctuary Music Leadership

Dr. Andrew Schultz, *Director of Sanctuary Music*
Peter Fennema, *Organist*

Chancel Choir Section Leaders

Trinity Del Regno, *soprano*
Carmen Edano, *alto*
Taylor Jacobs (he/him), *tenor*
Abram Poliakoff (he/him), *guest tenor*
Byron Jones (he/him), *bass*
Georgia Ballard (she/him), *choral scholar*
Natalie Fishman (she/him), *choral scholar*

Liturgists

Betty Holden
Shirley Williams

Production Team

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

Flowers are on the Altar

Given in celebration of the life of
Matthew Carlton Miles (1987-2026)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

New Requests

- For the family of Jerry Whittemore

Ongoing Prayer Request

- Cheryl Downey
- The Family of Beth Thomas
- Alana Miles & Family
- Janet Hoskins
- Kelly O'Brien
- Joy Bennett Koupal
- Gloria Forio
- Diana Park
- Paul & Dorene Rutter
- Bukola Gbadamosi
- Judy Wessling
- 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.

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



“Healing the Body-Spirit Divide” with Rev. Dr. Christopher Carter Today (10:30am) in The Loft and via YouTube Livestream

Our bodies are not just some “thing” we have; they are who we are. Our embodiment is always telling us a story. However, Western culture has inherited philosophical and theological frameworks that told us to control and disavow our bodies to get away from “sin” so we could be closer to God. Jesus did not teach his followers that our spirit is separate from or more holy than our bodies - so where did this belief come from? And how might we find our way back home to our bodies?

Conversation Question: In what ways was your body allowed to be free when you were younger? In what ways was your body restricted?



WISDOM AT WESTWOOD

“Faith-Based Responsible Consumerism”

Sunday, October 4th (11am) Wesley Room and via Zoom

In a world of endless choices, how can our spending reflect our deepest faith-based values? This Sunday the Community Advocacy Team (CAT) will explore Faith-Based Responsible Consumerism, using the United Methodist Church’s Social Principles to guide ethical purchasing. Together, we’ll examine how corporate contracts can perpetuate harm in our community. Join us and learn harm-reduction frameworks to make mindful, justice, and faith-affirming choices and learn how to transform consumerism into an act of stewardship, compassion, and solidarity, ensuring dignity and sustainability for all.



MATT MILES - A CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Today (3pm) Westwood UMC Sanctuary

A service in celebration of Matt's life has been planned for today at 3pm in the Sanctuary. The service will also be livestreamed on our YouTube channel for those who can't be here in person. A reception will follow upstairs in The Loft.



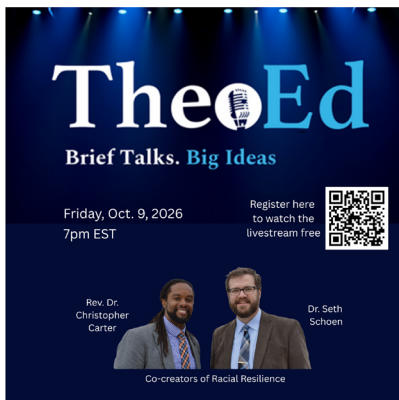
CONNECT WITH OUR MINISTRIES

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



“What We Had To Unlearn To Practice Antiracism” A TheoEd Conversation with Rev. Dr. Carter & Dr. Seth Schoen Friday, Oct. 9th (7pm EST) Register to watch online

Rev. Dr. Carter and his colleague (and best friend) Dr. Seth Schoen will be speaking at TheoEd on Friday, October 7th, in Orlando. TheoEd brings together leading voices in the-ology and the academy for an evening of 20-minute talks — TED-style, no notes — de-signed to spark real conversation about God, faith, and justice. Drs. Carter and Schoen will be speaking about what they have learned - and unlearned - during the last 10 years since they began teaching their Racial Resilience program. Just scan the QR code in the image to register., and watch the livestream for free!



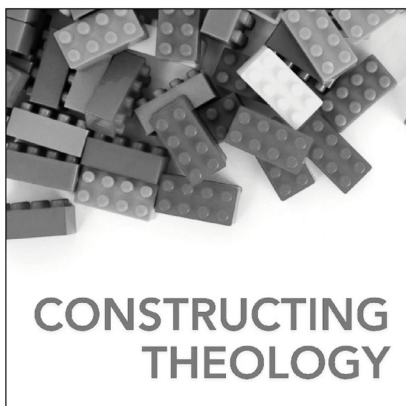
JOIN US FOR WESTWOOD'S ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL! Sunday, October 11th (12pm) on the Courtyard

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?

SIGN UP and let us know if you'll be bringing a pot of your homemade chili, a dessert, or BOTH if you're so inspired! You can also sign up to help organize the food, decorate the courtyard, or clean up after. Just go to: <https://tinyurl.com/FallFestivalSignUp2026>



CONSTRUCTING THEOLOGY 4-Week Class Starting Sunday, October 18th (9:30-10:15am) In the Wesley Room

How do your beliefs shape the way you practice Christianity? In this four-week class led by Rev. Dr. Carter, participants will be invited to explore their beliefs about Scripture, God, Jesus, and salvation. Each week, we will cover a theological category by watching a sermon, engaging a short reading, and reflecting on journal questions to help you discover how your faith informs your practice. If you would like to participate, please email Sabrina at sabrina@westwoodumc.org.



WESTWOOD WOMEN'S POTLUCK LUNCH Saturday, October 24th (11am) Helms Hall

Please join us for our Women's Group for our quarterly potluck. We will have a gathering and fellowship time for about 30 to 40 minutes and then enjoy lunch together. Bring a dish to share and invite a friend, all are welcome! RSVP to Sabrina in the church office at sabrina@westwoodumc.org.

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

