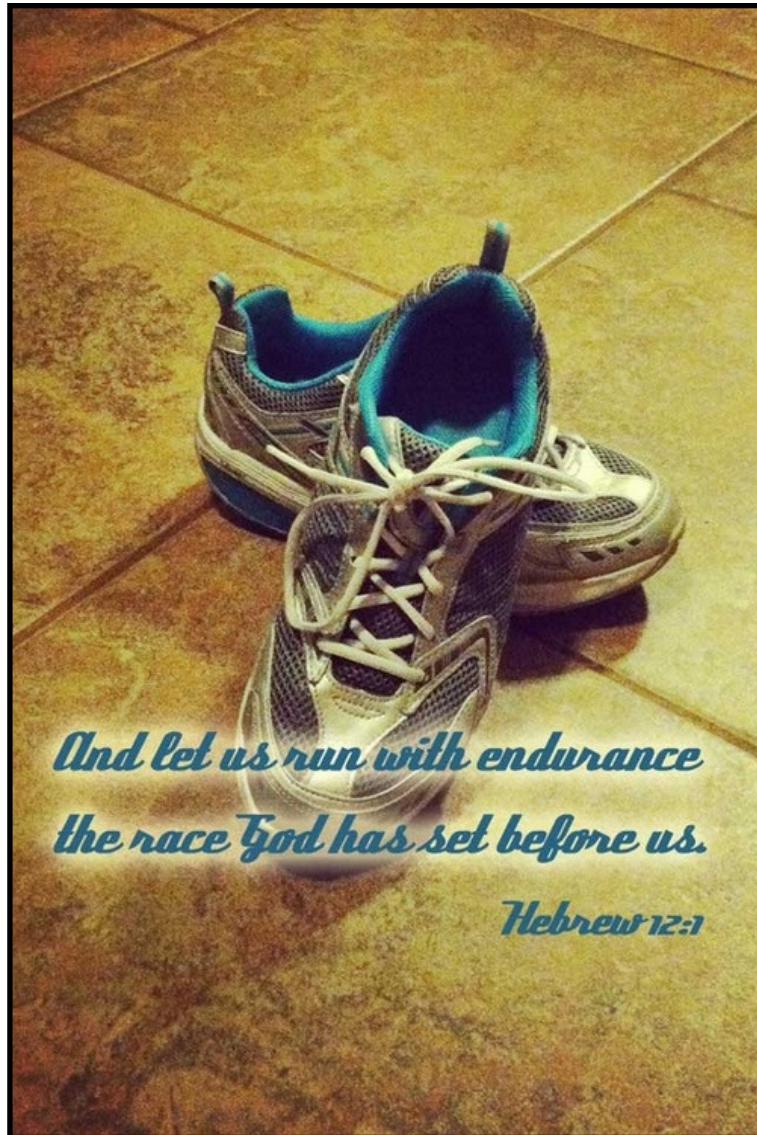


The Congregational Church of West Medford
An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



The Thirteenth Sunday
after Pentecost
Worship

August 18, 2013

10:00 am

WELCOME

The Congregational Church of West Medford, United Church of Christ, is a community that strives to live according to the teachings of Jesus Christ and to share in the costs and joys of discipleship. We unconditionally welcome and affirm people of every age, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, race, culture, ability, and economic circumstance, and invite everyone into full participation in our church life and ministry.

If you're visiting for the first time, feel uncertain about church, find yourself here infrequently, or attend weekly, there's a place for you here. There are many ways to be involved and if you'd like to know more about our many activities, please speak to a greeter or the pastor.

**We ask that you wear a name tag to help us know each other.
Blank name tags are available by the door for anyone in need.**

Please be sure to sign the Pew Register which you will find on the center aisle.

GATHERING TO PRAISE GOD

Prelude *Air* — J.S. Bach

Welcome

Call to Worship Robin Baker

One: We are your vine, O God,
your tree planted by your grace watered by your mercy.

**All: *We are yours:
planted in your deep, rich loam of Scripture, story, and song.***

One: We are yours, dear God, growing in your care.

**All: *Water us with your Spirit. Feed us with your word.
Hear us, as we gather to learn, to pray, to ask, to grow in you.***

***Gathering Song** "For All the Saints" # 299

Prayer of Praise

A Time of Confession

Preparing our Hearts "Spirit of the Living God" —Iverson

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me, Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me, Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.

** Please rise in body or spirit as you are able* -2-

Prayer of Confession

One: During every day, we make choices:
how to use our time, our knowledge, our resources.

**All: *Sometimes we choose well, and sometimes we choose poorly.
In this time, open our eyes, dear God,
to see how our choices have affected others.
Open our eyes to the mistakes we have made,
to the possibilities we ignored, to the work we interrupted. (Pause.***

One: Help us to use those moments to guide our future steps,

All: *like a trellis for a green vine, as we continue to grow in you. Amen.*

***The Good News of God's Grace and Presence**

***Passing of the Peace**

One: May the peace of Christ be with you all. **All: And also with you.**

***Sung Response "Sweet, Sweet Spirit" #293**

Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove,
stay right here with us, filling us with your love
And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise

Without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived when we shall leave this place.

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Church Life and Mission

Time with Young Christians

Hymn "I Sing a Song of the Saints of God" # 295

Prayers of the People and Pastoral Prayer

One: God in your mercy **All: *Hear our prayer***

The Lord's Prayer (You are welcome to pray in the language most familiar to you)

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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

From the Bible

Hebrews 11:29 - 12:2

Sermon

'KEEP THE FAITH' DISCIPLESHIP

Rev. Wendy Miller Olapade

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

Hymn "Guide My Feet" # 497

Offering Robin Baker

Invitation to Joyful Stewardship

Offertory *Heliotrope Bouquet* --- Joplin/Chauvin

***Doxology**

***Procession of Gifts and Prayer of Dedication**

***Closing Hymn** "Thuma Mina: Send Me, Lord" # 360

Blessing and Sending

Postlude *Ricercare* — Dandrieu



Please join in a time of fellowship and connection immediately after worship in Barnes Chapel. Exit the sanctuary in the front through the door to the left of the pulpit.

WORSHIP AT THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WEST MEDFORD

Today, Sunday August 18, 2013, Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The liturgist for today is Robin Baker

The Deacon of the Month for August is Kathy Williams

We celebrate the gift and beauty of perpetual flowers on the Altar.

With a sermon entitled “Keep the Faith’ Discipleship,” Rev. Wendy continues to preach about faith from the letter to the Hebrews, which refers us to “the great cloud of witnesses” that has persevered through tough times. Life is unsettling. We want easy answers. The letter to the Hebrews dares to come forward and say, “yes, bad things happen. They have happened for years. And yet God is with us. Always. So we dare not give up.” Maybe we would do well to let go of the things that weigh us down, and simply persevere, looking at the example of Jesus who went through suffering and even death to proclaim the message of God’s justice. How readily can we set things aside and move forward? How do we live out our discipleship as people who receive faith from scripture and our tradition and take it out into our week and into the community?

Next Sunday, August 25, 2013 Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Through a story of healing in the gospel of Luke, Jesus demonstrates that all people are of value, and worthy of enjoying the wholeness of life. Whether the woman is healed of a physical ailment or not is secondary to the fact that she is set free from a heavy burden, in direct challenge to those who see her as a low “priority.” God calls us all, God affirms us all, and God is a refuge for all. With this kind of assurance, we can dare to fling open gates and enter new life.

Crossroads: A New Beginning The Implementation Plan Mark Your Calendars!!

*This is what the Lord says:
“Stand at the crossroads and look;
ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is,
and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls.
—Jeremiah 6:16*



Dear Friend,

It is time! Our team of facilitators has been meeting through the summer and we are very excited to present the implementation plan for our Crossroads Process! As you know, Crossroads is designed to enable our congregation to make a decision that will allow the church to reach sustainable levels for our future witness.

Everyone is welcome to this imperative and meaningful conversation about the future of our congregation—whether ‘member’ or friend, whether you have been here 50 years or 50 days, if you have an interest in the Congregational Church of West Medford’s mission and ministry—you are urged to participate. Based on your availability, you will be assigned to a small group (8 –10 people) to allow for effective and thoughtful dialogue.

We are planning an “All-Church Kickoff Picnic” and Crossroad Session I will be an “All-Church” event. The remaining five sessions will be done in small group “House Meetings” which are being offered either Sunday after worship or Monday evening. You will receive a doodle poll, via email whereby you are asked to let us know which of these times works for you.

We are changing the model for our Sunday worship for the duration of Crossroads. It will be a 30-40 minute Intergenerational Worship Service. We will have a light coffee hour for those who are not participating in Crossroads on Sunday. Following worship, the Crossroads small groups will leave the church to go to House meetings while children will remain at the church to participate in a children’s program offered concurrently with the Sunday Crossroads Sessions (and led by professional child care providers).

We welcome and encourage teens from Confirmation age and above to participate in Crossroads at the discretion of their parents/guardians.

Here are the details that you need to know for now. We ask that you mark your calendars and respond to the requests for feedback immediately.

The Schedule

- A. Crossroads Kick-off: Saturday, August 24 (3:00 pm—7:00 pm)**
All-Church Picnic at the Parsonage (all ages are welcome)
We will serve Blue Ribbon Barbeque for the main meal and invite you to bring:
Appetizers, Drinks or Dessert! Help needed to get tables and chairs to the parsonage.
- B. Sept. 8—Homecoming Sunday**
Worship (10:00 am-10:40 am)
Homecoming “Picnic” — Fellowship Hall (CE and Potluck meal)
Crossroads Session 1 —11:00 am —1:00 pm, All-Church in Fellowship Hall
- C. Sessions 2 through Session 6—House Meetings (locations to be determined)**
- Crossroads Session 2: Sunday, Sept. 15/Monday, Sept. 16
 - Crossroads Session 3: Sunday, Sept. 22/Monday, Sept. 23
 - Crossroads Session 4: Sunday, Sept. 29/Monday, Sept. 30
 - Crossroads Session 5: Sunday, Oct. 06/Monday, Oct. 07
 - Crossroads Session 6: Sunday, Oct. 20/Monday, Oct. 21

Sunday Schedule

Sunday Intergenerational Worship (10:00 am—10:30 am)

Children’s Program at the church (10:45 am—1:15 pm)

Sunday Crossroads Session Offsite (11:00 am—1:00 pm)

Monday Crossroad Session (7:00 pm—9:00 pm)

Offsite location to be determined

Monday Session members will determine if meal to be included

What we need from you for now:

- **Volunteers for hosting the Sunday and Monday house meetings (these could take place at the same location or rotate depending on availability)**
- **Respond to doodle poll (via email) or call the church office with your RSVP for the All Church Picnic and your RSVP for participating in Crossroads and your preferred availability for the house meetings (Sunday or Monday).**

Any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact the church office, Rev. Wendy, Paul Roberts or one of the facilitators (Stephanie Miller, Jenna Nackel, Julie Roberts, Kathy Williams, Karen Barca McCune, and Charlotte Wilensky).

THIS WEEK AT YOUR CHURCH

August 18-August 24, 2013

August 18, 2013 Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Worship Service-10 am with Holy Communion

Goodland Church-5:30 pm

Goodland Church Fellowship Hall—2:30-5:00 pm

Monday

(3) Boot Camp Sessions: 5:45 am--6:15 am;
8:15 am--9:00 am; 5:30 pm—6:15 pm

Yoga- 6:30 pm

Mothers Club-7:30 pm

Tuesday

Zumba— 6:30 pm

Gamblers Anonymous- 7:00 pm

Wednesday

(3) Boot Camp Sessions: 5:45 am— 6:15 am;
8:15 am--9:00 am; 5:30 pm—6:15 pm

Zumba- 6:30 pm

Alcoholics Anonymous- 8:00 pm

Thursday

Food Addicts— 6 pm

Friday

(3) Boot Camp Sessions: 5:45 am--6:15 am;
8:15 am-- 9:00 am, 5:30--6:15 pm

Saturday

Alanon - 9 am

Yoga- 9am

Boot Camp- 12:15 pm

August 25 2013 Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Worship Service-10 am

Goodland Church Worship--5:30—7:30 pm

Weekdays

(M—F) **Bright Stars Afterschool Enrichment Program**, www.BrightStarsKids.org

((M-F) **Gentle Dragon Co-op Preschool**, www.GentleDragonPreschool.org

(M-F) **English at Large** (ESOL/ESL Programs), www.englishatlarge.org

The Congregational Church of West Medford, United Church of Christ

Ministers: All of us!

Pastor and Teacher: Reverend Wendy Miller Olapade

Organist and Choir Director: Dr. Herman Weiss

Church Administrator: Diane Petrelis

Moderator: Paul Roberts

Deacon of the Month: Kathy Williams

Treasurer: Beverly Roche

Clerk: Clarisse Coughlin

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