



**The Congregational Church
of West Medford**

**An Open and Affirming Congregation
of the United Church of Christ**

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 15, 2013

10:00 o'clock am



Finders Keepers?

A foolish thing
this wandering sheep
face to the stubble
nibble after nibble;
then by its own stupidity
becomes bleatingly lost.

A well worn thing
this silver coin
passed around
from hand to hand;
then by some simple accident
becomes silently lost.

A wondrous thing
this Shepherd grace
not giving up
though bruised and torn;
then like an Easter shout of joy
heaven toasts one lost soul found!

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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.

As an act of prayer, you are encouraged to light a candle on the table at the front of the sanctuary—for yourself, for a loved one, for peace, for the world.

GATHERING TO PRAISE GOD

Prelude

Air

— J.S. Bach

Welcome and Prayer of Praise

***Gathering Song**

“This is the Day”

84

***Call to Worship**

Beverly Roche

One: God the shepherd looks for lost sheep and when he finds them says

All: Rejoice with me!

One: God the homemaker seeks a lost a coin and when she finds it says

All: Rejoice with me!

One: Jesus the saviour welcomes all people and says

All: Rejoice with me!

One: Come, let us rejoice with the God who finds us and claims us.

A Time of Confession

Invitation

One: When we hide, we hide ourselves from God; scared of what we could be come, the ill words we've spoken, the selfish choices we've made, the unhealthy relationships we've nurtured, hoping God does not see.

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

-3-

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Transforming God, we often hide from you those parts of ourselves we do not like, or that of which we are ashamed.

When we hide our pasts from you or bury the burdens we carry hoping you do not see, find us and hold us once more.

Silence

***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**

"Somebody Prayed for Me"

—Darling and Norwood

Somebody prayed for me, had me on their mind, took the time and prayed for me
I'm so glad they prayed, I'm so glad they prayed, I'm so glad they prayed for me.

The preacher prayed for me, had me on her mind, took the time and prayed for me
I'm so glad she prayed, I'm so glad she prayed, I'm so glad she prayed for me.

My mother prayed for me, had me on her mind, took the time and prayed for me
I'm so glad she prayed, I'm so glad she prayed, I'm so glad she prayed for me.

Jesus prayed for me, had me on his mind, took the time and prayed for me
I'm so glad he prayed, I'm so glad he prayed, I'm so glad he prayed for me.

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Church Life and Mission

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

Luke 15:1—10

Beverly Roche

Reflection

**WHY CHURCH?
REASON ONE: COMMUNITY**

Rev. Wendy Miller Olapade

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

***Offering**

Youth of the Church

Invitation to Joyful Stewardship

Offertory

The Poet Speaks

—Schumann

***Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ all creatures here below;
Praise Holy Spirit, comforter; One God, true, whom we adore. Amen

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

***Closing Hymn**

**"We're Gonna Sit
at the Welcome Table"**

—traditional African American

I'm gonna sit at the welcome table,
I'm gonna sit at the welcome table one of these days—Alleluia.
I'm gonna sit at the welcome table,
Sit at the welcome table one of these days.

I'm gonna feast on milk and honey...
All God's Children gonna sit together...
We're gonna sit at the welcome table...

Blessing and Sending

Postlude

Vivo

—Vivaldi



If you are participating in a Crossroads Small Group today we encourage you to be prompt in getting to your group. A time of fellowship and conversation will be held immediately after worship in Barnes Chapel., for those who are not in Crossroads today. Exit the sanctuary in the front through the door to the left of the pulpit.

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

WORSHIP AT THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WEST MEDFORD

*In conjunction with our 'Crossroads: A New Beginning' dialogue,
our worship this week (and for the next few weeks) is intergenerational
and designed to last 30-40 minutes.*

Nursery Care is provided during the worship 'hour'.

School aged children will remain in worship with their families.

*A values oriented children's program will be provided on Crossroads Sundays while
parents are in the Crossroads conversations. The Children's program
will be staffed by teachers from our Bright Stars Afterschool.*

Today, Sunday, September 15, 2013, 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:00 am—10:40 am

Crossroads Session 2 —11:00 am—1:00 pm

Blue Group House Meeting—Living Room

Red Group House Meeting—Beane Chapel

Crossroads Kids—10:45 am—1:15 pm, Lower Level Classrooms

Rev. Wendy will offer a worship series entitled, "Why Church?"

As we seek answers in our Crossroads conversations as to what it is that God is calling
us to be and do—we will wonder aloud together as to why we would 'do' church.

The text from Luke reflects on the Good Shepherd's search for a single lost sheep.

When found, the sheep is brought back into the flock—where safety and
sustenance are found. The message is "Why Church? Reason One: Community."

Next, Sunday, September 22, 2013, 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:00 am—10:40 am

Crossroads Session 3 —11:00 am—1:00 pm

Blue Group House Meeting—Living Room

Red Group House Meeting—off site

Crossroads Kids—10:45 am—1:15 pm, Lower Level Classrooms

Why Church? Series continues with "Reason Two: Real People" as we consider the
parable of the dishonest manager who steals from his boss but is acknowledged as a
shrewd businessman. None of us is perfect and real people falter and stumble as they
follow Jesus. When we come to church we help each other to be the best that we can
be and grow as people of faith.

Crossroads: A New Beginning

The conversation continues today. All are welcome.

*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,

‘Crossroads: A New Beginning’ 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.

From today the remaining five sessions will be done in small group “House Meetings” which are being offered either Sunday after worship or Monday evening. If you have not already signed up, please see Rev. Wendy about being assigned to a small group. **You CAN join a group today.**

For the duration of Crossroads, Sunday Worship will be 30-40 minutes and Intergenerational. There will be a Fellowship Café Lite for those who are not participating in Crossroads on Sunday. Following worship, the Crossroads small groups will go to their House Meetings and 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.

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

September 15-21, 2013

September 15, 2013 Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Worship (Sanctuary) 10:00 am

Crossroads Session 2 Blue Group (LR) 11:00 am—1:00 pm

Crossroads Session 2 Red Group (Beane Chapel) 11:00 am—1:00 pm

Crossroads Children (Lower Level Classrooms) 10:45 am—1:15 pm

Monday

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

Peer Group--10 am (LR)

Crossroads: Session 2 Gr. Group (Wilensky's)

Yoga— 6:30 pm (FH)

Tuesday

Gamblers Anonymous—7:30 pm (BC)

Gam-Anon—7:30 pm (YR)

Outreach Meeting— 7:00 pm

Wednesday

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

Alcoholics Anonymous— 8:00 pm (YR)

Spiritual Life— 7:00 pm (LR)

Thursday

Food Addicts—6:00 pm (YR)

Friday

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

Pine Ridge Pot Luck Supper—7:00 pm (FH)

Girl Scouts—7:30 pm

Saturday

Alanon - 9:00 am (YR)

Yoga—9:00 am (FH)

Boot Camp- 12:15 pm (FH)

Youth Champion Instructor Training — 10 am (BC)

English At Large Yard Sale Front Lawn —8 am

September 22, 2013 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Worship Service (Sanctuary) 10:00 am

Crossroads Session 3 (LR and Offsite) 11:00 am—1:00 pm

Crossroads Kids (Lower Level Classrooms) 10:45 am—1:15 pm

Goodland Church Worship (in Korean) (Sanctuary) 12:30 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

Room Legend: (FH) Fellowship Hall; (BC) Barnes Chapel; (YR) Youth Room; (LR) Living Room

The Congregational Church of West Medford, United Church of Christ

Ministers: All of us!

Organist and Choir Director: Dr. Herman Weiss

Moderator: Paul Roberts

Treasurer: Beverly Roche

Pastor and Teacher: Reverend Wendy Miller Olapade

Church Administrator: Diane Petrelis

Deacon of the Month: Brenda Briggs

Clerk: TBD

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