



**The Congregational Church
of West Medford**

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

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 22, 2013

10:00 o'clock am

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Rather than helping us seek peace and justice for all—our egos and affiliations, our identities and ideologies often separate and keep us from working together. Like curtains over a window, they keep us from the grand view of your realm. We pray now for mutual understanding and partnership between ourselves and those with whom we struggle to recognize our unity in you.

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 16:1—13

Carol Luongo

The Common English Bible Translation

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

Reflection

WHY CHURCH?
REASON TWO: REAL PEOPLE

Rev. Wendy Miller Olapade

*Offering

Invitation to Joyful Stewardship

Offertory

Toccata in D minor

—J.S. Bach

*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

Trio

—Buxtehude



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.

The Children's program that was planned for the Crossroads program has been cancelled due to lack of need. If you need this please advise Rev. Wendy.

This 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—Vina Williams' home

Youth Faith Formation/Confirmation Class: 4:00—6:00 PM (LR)

The liturgist for today is Carol Luongo.

The Deacon of the Month for September is Brenda Briggs.

We celebrate the gift and beauty of the altar flowers given by Ethel M. Winsor in loving memory of her brother George Pike.

The 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.

Next Sunday, September 29, 2013, 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:00 am—10:40 am

Crossroads Session 4 —11:00 am—1:00 pm

Blue Group House Meeting—Living Room

Red Group House Meeting—Vina Williams' home

Youth Faith Formation/Confirmation Class: 4:00—6:00 PM (LR)

The Why Church? Series continues with "Reason Three: Money Matters" as we look at some wisdom from Paul's first letter to Timothy about money and our spiritual well-being. Paul suggests that we should "give" not only to do good for others but also because it's necessary for our own spiritual well-being. It's part of the way we love God with all our heart, soul and mind.

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.

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).

re:form—Youth Faith Formation (aka: Confirmation) begins this week—and needs a few good men and women!! Five Mentors are needed and Sunday Classroom/Field Trip chaperons are welcome.



Our youth (ages 13-16 year olds) will be encountering, engaging, responding and sharing their faith formation using a fabulous, progressive curriculum entitled re:form. The curriculum includes hilarious animated short films that frame the theological questions that youth really ask and an Anti-Workbook that's chock full of individual and group activities. You can see a bit about the curriculum here: <http://reform.wearesparkhouse.org/>.

The confirmation schedule is rigorous and engaging. The curriculum is designed to meet young people where they are and tackles some of the really tough questions we all face about our religious tradition and our faith. Some examples of lesson topics include: "Why does the Bible contradict itself?", "How can God be three-in-one?", "Why should I follow Jesus; can't I just say I believe in him?", "Can I be a Christian without going to church?", "Do I have to believe Jesus performed miracles in order to be a Christian?", "If there is only one God, why are there so many different religions?", "Is it a sin to think about sex?", "Is divorce a sin?", "What if my friends aren't Christian?", "Can you accept the theory of evolution and still be a Christian?", "What does God think about war?"

Makes you want to come and have the conversations yourself doesn't it?

The kids will meet on (20) Sundays from 4-6 pm with Rev. Wendy and an **adult volunteer** (preferably NOT parents of kids). We will also do several mission projects (November-Boston Urban Outreach, January-MLK, Jr. Day of Service and June-Global Gateway at Heifer's Rutland Farm); join other confirmation kids at an MACUCC confirmation retreat in February; and attend worship in several other faith traditions over the course of our program. **All of these occasions will need volunteer chaperones.**

In addition, **we seek a volunteer mentor** for each student who will connect with the student on a bi-monthly basis for a 30-60 minute conversation about their encounters with the topics. **Mentors can also volunteer as chaperones. Please if you can volunteer for any of these roles, contact Rev. Wendy ASAP.**

Please, if you know of young people in this age range (friends and neighbors) who may be interested in discovering their faith through a program such as this, they are welcome—contact Rev. Wendy.



THIS WEEK AT YOUR CHURCH

September 22-28, 2013

September 22, 2013 Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

Worship (Sanctuary) 10:00 am
Crossroads Session 3 Blue Group (LR) 11:00 am—1:00 pm
Crossroads Session 3 Red Group (Vina Williams Home) 11:00 am—1:00 pm
Crossroads Children (Lower Level Classrooms) 10:45 am—1:15 pm
Faith Formation/Confirmation Class— 4:00 pm
Goodland Church Worship (in Korean) (Sanctuary) 12:30 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 3 Gr. Group (Wilensky's)
Yoga— 6:30 pm (FH)

Tuesday

Gamblers Anonymous—7:30 pm (BC)
Gam-Anon—7:30 pm (YR)
Church Council Meeting— 7:00 pm (LR)

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)

Thursday

Youth Champions Cheering
Registration—5:00 pm (FH)
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)

Saturday

Alanon - 9:00 am (YR)
No Yoga This Sat.—
Boot Camp- 12:15 pm (FH)
Girl Scouts Recruiting Session — 10 am (BC)

September 29, 2013 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Worship Service (Sanctuary) 10:00 am
Crossroads Session 4 (LR and V. Williams Home) 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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