



PERSISTENCE

**NOW THAT WE'VE EXHAUSTED ALL POSSIBILITIES...
LET'S GET STARTED.**

**The Congregational Church
of West Medford**

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

The Twenty Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 20, 2013

10:00 o'clock am

The Wind, One Brilliant Day

The wind, one brilliant day called to my soul
with the fragrance of jasmine.

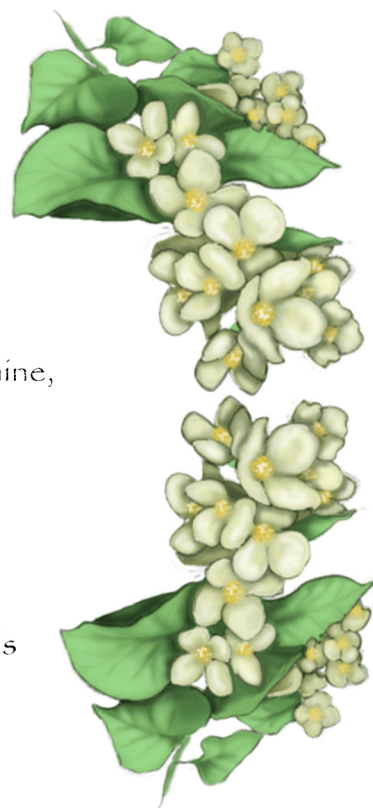
The wind said: "In return for the fragrance of my jasmine,
I'd like all the fragrance of your roses."

My soul replied, "I have no roses –
all the flowers in my garden are dead."

"Well then," said the wind, "I'll take the withered petals
and the yellow leaves
and all the waters of the fountain."

And with them, the wind left. And I wept.

And I said to myself: "What have you done
with the garden that was entrusted to you?"



—by Antonio Machado



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 *Prelude and Fugue in C Sharp Minor* — J.S. Bach

Welcome

***Call to Worship** Jenny Briggs

One: Here we are again.

All: Brought together in this wondrous community to find true life within it.

One: Here, we will sing again.

**All: Sing of joy and sorrow, praise and imperfection
all held together in Divine Love.**

One: Here, we will listen again.

**All: Listen to stories ancient and emerging
and discover truths written deep in our hearts.**

One: Here, we will live again.

**All: Live as people of the great shalom
persistent in love, compassion, and justice. May it be so.**

***Gathering Song** "What a Friend We Have In Jesus" # 506

A Time of Confession

Invitation (based on Psalm 119:97–104)

Silence

Bless the Lord

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems. The first system has a tempo marking of quarter note = 78. The lyrics are: "Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name." The second system has the lyrics: "Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life." The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a clear melody and accompaniment.

Music: J. Berthier
© Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, F-71250 Taizé-Communauté

Prayer of Confession (Repeat Sung Response)

***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, ..

My mother prayed for me...

Jesus prayed for me,

Church Life and Mission

Prayers of the People and Pastoral Prayer

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

* Please rise in body or spirit as you are able

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

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 18:1—8

Jenny Briggs

Reflection

BOLD PERSISTENCE

Rev. Wendy Miller Olapade

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

***Offering**

Jenny Briggs

Invitation to Joyful Stewardship

Offertory

Nocturne in E Flat

—Chopin

***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**

"Over My Head"

514

Blessing and Sending

Postlude

Chaconne

—Pachelbel



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.

WORSHIP AT THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WEST MEDFORD

Nursery Care is provided during the worship 'hour'.

Today, Sunday, October 20, 2013.

Worship 10:00 am—10:40 am

Crossroads Session 6 —11:00 am—1:00 pm

Blue Group House Meeting—Living Room

Red Group House Meeting—Bean Chapel

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

The Liturgist today is Jenny Briggs

Deacon of the Month for October is Robin Baker.

The gospel lesson from Luke 18:1-8 presents the story of the persistent widow and the corrupt judge. The text which often is preached about the value of unceasing prayer — also gives us a change to think about how valuable “not giving up” can be when times are tough. Rev. Wendy will take a few moments this week to reflect on this lesson and how it might inform our Crossroads conversations about the future of the church.

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Next Sunday, October 27, 2013.

Worship with the Sacrament of Baptism 10:00 am

We will celebrate the baptism of Celine Grace Shedd

*daughter of Rebecca & Scott Shedd and granddaughter of Julia & Paul Roberts
into the family of faith.*

Crossroad Leaders and Strategic Planning Team Meeting 11:30-1:30 pm— (LR)

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

The gospel lesson from Luke compares a Pharisee and a Tax Collector as they arrive at the temple to pray. In the text, one is humble about his sin and one, well, not so much! As we delve deeper into what it means to live as one community of faith united in Christ, we often grapple with internal and external barriers, histories of shame, and feelings of unworthiness. The scriptures this week celebrate how nothing stands in the way of God's love, and no distance is too great for God's grace to reach.

re:form—Youth Faith Formation (aka: Confirmation) has begun—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.wearsparkhouse.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

October 20-26, 2013

October 20, 2013 Twenty-second Sunday After Pentecost

Worship and Baptism (Sanctuary) 10:00 am
Crossroads Session 6: Blue Group (LR); Red Group (Bean Chapel)—11:00 am—1:00 pm
Goodland Church Worship (in Korean) (Sanctuary) 12:30 pm
Faith Formation/Confirmation Class— 4:00 pm

Monday

(3) Boot Camp Sessions: 5:45 am--6:15 am;
8:15 am--9:00 am; 5:30 pm--6:15 pm (FH)
Crossroads Session 6: Green Meeting Anita Nackel 's
House
Seaside Production Rehearsal— 7:30 pm (BC)

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

(3) Boot Camp Sessions: 5:45 am— 6:15 am;
8:15 am--9:00 am; 5:30 p--6:15 pm (FH)
C.E.—7:00 pm
Alcoholics Anonymous— 8:00 pm (YR)

Thursday

Youth Champions Cheering—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)
Yoga—9:00 (FH)
Boot Camp- 12:15 pm (FH)
Girl Scout G. Gingo— 1:00 pm (BC)

October 27, 2013 Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

Worship Service (Sanctuary) 10:00 am
Goodland Church Worship (in Korean) (Sanctuary) 12:30 pm
Crossroad Leaders and Strategic Planning Team Meeting 11:30-1:30 pm— (LR)
Faith Formation/Confirmation Class— 4:00 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: Robin Baker

Clerk: TBD

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