



The Congregational Church of West Medford

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

The Thirty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 10, 2013



10:00 o'clock 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.

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 Minor* — J.S. Bach

Welcome

***Call to Worship (from Psalm 98)** Aaron Olapade

One: Make a joyful noise all the earth.

All: We are embraced by steadfast love and faithfulness!
(The people make a joyful noise...with stomping and clapping)

One: Make a joyful noise all the earth.

All: God has done marvelous things!
(The people make a joyful noise...with stomping and clapping)

One: Make a joyful noise all the earth.

**All: Let the waters roar, the mountains groan,
the grasses and trees clap their hands!**
(The people make a joyful noise...with stomping and clapping)

One: Make a joyful noise all the earth.

All: Break forth into joyous song and sing praises!
(The people make a joyful noise...with stomping and clapping)

* Please rise in body or spirit as you are able

-2-

Opening Prayer

A Time of Confession

Invitation

Stand, O Stand Firm

The musical score is written for piano in D major and 6/8 time. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has three measures with lyrics: "Stand, (firm!) O stand firm. Stand, O stand firm." The second system starts at measure 5 and has lyrics: "Stand, O stand firm and see what our God can do. Sis-ters,* stand ver-y". Chord markings include D, A7, D, Em/A, and D fine.

* Make up additional verses: "Brothers," "People," "Children," etc.

Prayer of Confession

One: We don't know if we are to blame, O God,
but the wars within and without go on.

**All: Hear us as we acknowledge our discouragement...
(moment of silence)**

One: May we stand firm, O God, in forgiveness and hope.

All: Sing "Stand, O Stand Firm."

One: It may not be all up to us, O God, but the hungry go unfed
and the homeless remain without shelter.

**All: For this lack of justice, we acknowledge our dismay...
(moment of silence)**

One: May we stand firm, O God, in forgiveness and trust.

All: Sing "Stand, O Stand Firm."

One: A vision of shalom and wholeness is deep within
but we do not always act or live into this vision.

**All: *We acknowledge the lack of enthusiasm within us...
(moment of silence)***

One: May we stand firm, O God, in forgiveness and renewal.

All: *Sing "Stand, O Stand Firm."*

***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

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Time with Young Christians

Children are invited to go to Sunday School during the following hymn

Hymn "To God Compose a Song of Joy" # 36
Stanza 1 — 3

Church Life and Mission

Prayers of the People and Pastoral Prayer

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

Litany for Veterans

One: God of love, peace and justice, it is your will for the world that we may live together in peace. You have promised through the prophet Isaiah that one day the swords will be beaten into ploughshares. Yet we live in a broken world, and we live with times of war. Let us recognize with humility and sadness the tragic loss of life that comes in war. Even so, as we gather here free from persecution, we may give thanks for those that have served with courage and honor.

Please Rise: Those that are in our presence that are either in active duty or reserve duty, and the fathers, mothers, siblings, spouses and grandparents of those that are currently serving.

All: *God, we praise you for those that are willing to serve. Let all Soldiers, Marines, Sailors, Airmen and Coast Guardsmen serve with honor, pride, and compassion. Do not let their hearts be hardened by the actions they must take. Strengthen their families. Keep them surrounded in your love and peace.*

* Please rise in body or spirit as you are able

Please Rise: Those that are in our presence that have served in the military in the past.

One: God, we praise you for those that have served in the military. We thank you for those that put the welfare of others ahead of their own safety. Let us all be inspired by their self-sacrifice in service to those who needed protection.

Please Rise: Those that are in our presence who have lost a loved one in war.

All: God, we praise you for those that have made the ultimate sacrifice. We ask that you comfort those that still feel the pain of their loss. Keep us mindful that you have promised to comfort those that mourn.

Please Rise: Those who have gathered in your name in safety because of the sacrifices of others.

One: God, we praise you for granting us these freedoms. Let us honor those who have served by working for peace.

All: We will never forget those that have served, and never let go of your promise of peace. As you beloved children, may we work for and pray for peace in the name of Jesus the Christ.

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

2 Thessalonians 2:1—5, 13—17

Aaron Olapade

Sermon

HOLD ON TO FAITH

Rev. Wendy Miller Olapade

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

Hymn

“To God Compose a Song of Joy”

36

Stanza 4 — 6

*Offering

Aaron Olapade

Invitation to Joyful Stewardship

Offertory

The Lost Chord

—Sullivan

*Doxology

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

*Procession of Gifts and Prayer of Dedication

***Closing Hymn**

“I Want Jesus to Go With Me”

490

Blessing and Sending

Postlude

Voluntary

—Stanley



A time of fellowship will be held immediately after worship in Barnes Chapel—exit the Sanctuary through the door to the left of the pulpit.

Today’s conversation about the status of Crossroads, our proposal to engage a Real Estate Broker and our future will begin in Barnes Chapel at 11:30 am.

**Call to a Congregational Meeting of the Governing Body of
The Congregational Church of West Medford, United Church of Christ
Sunday, November 24, 2013 (11:30 am—1:30 pm)**

The Officers and Church Council of the Congregational Church of West Medford issue this call to a Congregational Meeting to:

1. Vote to Authorize the Church Council to engage the contracted services of a Real Estate Broker to create a market for the sale of all or a major portion of the congregation’s property at 400 High Street; to: a) determine the actual range of financial, ministry and building use options that a sale of the property might provide; and b) to develop and propose to the Congregation for their review and approval the option(s) regarding this property that would best serve the Congregation’s mission as determined by the Congregation in the continuing Crossroads Process.

NOTE: The Church Council has delegated responsibilities for this research on the potential sale of the congregation’s property to the ad hoc Strategic Planning Team (SPT) appointed by the Moderator and consisting of Rich Carle, Phil DiScullo, Bruce Roberts, Paul Roberts, Kathy Williams and Rev. Wendy Miller Olapade (with Max Beal serving as consultant). The SPT will report back to the Council on the options and any possible recommendation(s). The Council must review and approve any option recommendation(s) and submit it (them) to the Congregation for its approval.

2. Discuss other new business as brought forth by the Strategic Planning Team and/or members and friends of the congregation.

Paul Roberts, Moderator

WORSHIP AT THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WEST MEDFORD

*Nursery Care is provided during the worship 'hour'.
Sunday School is offered today for school aged children..*

Today, Sunday, November 10, 2013, 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Worship: 10:00 am

All Church Conversation about the Future: 11:30 am (Barnes Chapel)

The Liturgist today is Aaron Olapade.

, Deacon of the Month for November is Kathy Williams.

We celebrate the gift and beauty of the altar flowers, given by Bev Roche and Shirley Gibson

In Loving Memory of Brad Roche and Frank Gibson

The Veterans Day litany was written by Robb McCoy and printed with permission.

Paul writes to the struggling church in Thessalonica where times were tough and they were persecuted by non-believers. (Sound familiar?) He encourages them, as we are invited—to turn to God, recall God's purpose, stand firm in faith, and care for one another in God's love. As we face our future as a faith community, as uncertain as it may be, we can choose to live with faith and compassion. We can encourage one another with God's promises.

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**Next Sunday, November 17, 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Worship with the Dedication of Makai Kayden Levin: 10:00 am**

**Prayer for our Future & our Conversation (w/Rev. Wendy): 11:30 am (Bean Chapel)**

**Faith Formation/Confirmation: 4:00—6:00 pm (LR/DR)**

Our worship will focus on Isaiah 65:17-25 which tells us that God is creating new heaven and new earth, a reign of harmony and wholeness for all creation. As disciples, we are called to explore what it means to live into this vision of infinite possibilities and to help bring about a world of justice and peace. What a marvelous test to consider as we continue to listen for the Holy spirit's direction about our future as a faith community! What are the possibilities for us? What new thing does God need for us to co-create with Her? How is God directing our possibilities?

**Sunday, November 24, Thanksgiving Sunday**

**Worship: 10:00 am**

**Soup and Salad Pot Luck Lunch and Congregational Meeting: 11:30 am—1:30 pm**

***The Call to The Congregational Meeting is on page 6 (Fellowship Hall)***

## **THIS WEEK AT YOUR CHURCH**

**November 10-16, 2013**

November 10, 2013 Thirty-second Sunday After Pentecost

Worship (Sanctuary) 10:00 am

Congregational Conversation about Future 11:30 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)

Spiritual Life—10:00 am (LR)

Seaside Production Rehearsal— 7:30 pm (BC)

Mothers Club— 7:30 pm (LR)

### Tuesday

Spiritual Life Committee— 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)

Seaside Production— 7:30 pm (FH)

Alcoholics Anonymous— 8:00 pm (YR)

### Thursday

Youth Champions —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 (FH)

### Saturday

Yoga --9:00 am (FH)

Alanon - 9:00 am (YR)

Boot Camp- 12:15 pm (FH)

November 17, 2013 Thirty-third Sunday after Pentecost

Worship Service (Sanctuary) 10:00 am

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

## **Weekdays**

(M—F) **Bright Stars Afterschool Enrichment Program**, [www.BrightStarsKids.org](http://www.BrightStarsKids.org)

((M—F) **Gentle Dragon Co-op Preschool**, [www.GentleDragonPreschool.org](http://www.GentleDragonPreschool.org)

(M—F) **English at Large** (ESOL/ESL Programs), [www.englishatlarge.org](http://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: Kathy Williams

Clerk: TBD

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