

dwell in possibility

—Emily Dickenson



The Congregational Church of West Medford

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

The Thirty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 17, 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

Andante Moderato

— Mendlessohn

Welcome

*Call to Worship

Louise Wilensky

One: When we love one another

All: God is with us.

One: When we sing and pray

All: God rejoices through us.

One: When our spirits are renewed

All: God is at work in us.

One: God is present in love, in song, in renewal.

All: Let us worship God.

*Gathering Song

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

23

Opening Prayer

A Time of Confession

Invitation

* Please rise in body or spirit as you are able

-2-

Bless the Lord

$\text{♩} = 78$

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

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

Prayer of Confession

***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

The Dedication of Makai Kayden Levin

Intentions of the Family

***Congregational Commitment (Unison)**

As members and friends of this congregation, as participants in the family of God, we promise to help this family in teaching, guiding, loving and nurturing Makai through the years, as part of the fellowship of this faith community, so that he might make his own decision about faith?

Anointing

Presentation

Makai Kayden Levin

Child of God

Son of Donielle Denise McDade & Steven Matthew Levin

Brother of Nevaeh Chriselle Catino

Godchild of Jasmin Londy and Socrates Lubin

Act of Praise—Presentation of Certificate and Gift

Blessing

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

Hymn

“Community of Christ”

314

Stanza 1, 2, 4

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

2 Thessalonians 3:6—13

Louise Wilensky

Isaiah 65:17-25

Sermon

INFINITE POSSIBILITIES

Rev. Wendy Miller Olapade

RESPONDING TO GOD’S GRACE

Hymn

“Give Me Jesus”

Insert See Page 6

Stanzas 1, 2, 5

***Offering**

Louise Wilensky

Invitation to Joyful Stewardship

Offertory

Air

—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

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

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

***Closing Hymn**

“We Shall Overcome”

570

Blessing and Sending

Postlude

Rondo

— Haydn



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.

**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 Cross-roads 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

In the Morning When I Rise

Give Me Jesus

TRUST, GUIDANCE

777

1 In the morn-ing when I rise, in the morn-ing when I rise,
 2 Dark . . . mid - night was my cry, dark . . . mid - night was my cry,
 3 Just a - bout the break of day, just a - bout the break of day,
 4 Oh, . . . when I come to die, oh, . . . when I come to die,
 5 And . . . when I want to sing, and . . . when I want to sing,

in the morn - ing when I rise, give me Je - sus.
 dark . . . mid - night was my cry, give me Je - sus.
 just a - bout the break of day, give me Je - sus.
 oh, . . . when I come to die, give me Je - sus.
 and . . . when I want to sing, give me Je - sus.

Refrain

Give me Je - sus, give me Je - sus.

You may have all the rest, give me Je - sus.

Text: African American spiritual
 Music: African American spiritual, arr. L.L. Fleming, b. 1936
 Arr. © 1973 Augsburg Publishing House

GIVE ME JESUS
 777 4 and refrain

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..*

Sunday, November 17, 2013, 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)

The Liturgist today is Louise Wilensky

, Deacon of the Month for November is Kathy Williams.

Leadership for Fellowship Hour and Ushers for November is the Spiritual Life Committee.

This week we thank Brenda Briggs for their leadership.

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

Our worship focuses 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?

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**Next Sunday, November 24, Thanksgiving Sunday/Pledge 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 5 (Fellowship Hall)***

As we stand on the verge of a new church year we take time to celebrate by giving thanks. Our worship will be full as we celebrate themes of thanksgiving and generosity.

**Please bring your commitment card and your thoughts of gratitude!!**

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Sunday, December 1, Advent I, Hanging of the Greens

Worship: 10:00 am

The Spiritual Life and Christian Education Committees are joining to bring a new, old tradition to our worship on the first Sunday of Advent. Using symbols and songs of the season, we will all decorate the sanctuary as we begin the journey to Bethlehem to await the coming of Jesus.

Rev. Wendy will be off for the holiday.

THIS WEEK AT YOUR CHURCH

November 17-23, 2013

November 17, 2013 Thirty-third Sunday After Pentecost

Worship (Sanctuary) 10:00 am

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

Girl Scouts B&J Briggs—6:00 pm (GR)

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 24, 2013 Thanksgiving Sunday

Worship Service (Sanctuary) 10:00 am

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

Soup and Salad Pot Luck Lunch and Congregational Meeting (FH & Bean Chapel): 11:30 am—1:30 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: Kathy Williams

Clerk: TBD

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