

The Congregational Church of West Medford
An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 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

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

—Gehrke

Welcome

Call to Worship

Drew and Tripp Hill

One: How shall we prepare this house for the birth of Jesus?

All: *With branches of cedar, the tree of excellence and strength.*

One: How shall we prepare this house for the eternal Christ?

All: *With garlands of pine and fir, whose leaves are ever living, ever green.*

One: How shall we prepare this house for the prophet of Galilee?

All: *With wreaths of holly and ivy, telling of his passion, death and resurrection.*

One: How shall we prepare our hearts for this revelation of God?

All: *By hearing again the words of the prophets and the promises of God.*

One: For in the story of Jesus we see revealed the transforming power of God.

We are reminded anew of God's vision of wholeness, justice, and peace for all of creation.

All: *Thanks be to God.*

* Please rise in body or spirit as you are able

THE MYSTERY OF THE INCARNATION

Scripture Reading

John 1:1-5, 9-14

*Hymn "Of the Parent's Heart Begotten" #118

*Blessing of the Christmas Tree (Unison)

Loving God, we come with joy to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, whose path of justice and inclusivity lights a path for all who follow him. May this tree, arrayed in splendor, remind us of the life-giving cross of Christ, that we may always rejoice in the new life that shines in our hearts. In Jesus' name. Amen.

THE NATIVITY

Hymn "Away in a Manger" # 124

Prayers of the People and Pastoral Prayer

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

The Lord's Prayer (You are encouraged 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.

Passing of the Peace

One: May the peace of Christ be with you... *All: And also with you.*

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

*Offering

Drew and Tripp Hill

Invitation to Joyful Stewardship

Our hope for peace, like Isaiah's vision long ago, is expressed in the ministry of this church, where God's children can come to learn to walk in the paths of God. We give our gifts today in hope for the future and in gratitude for what has been. Let us gather our gifts together and present them as an offering to God.

Offertory

Allegro Moderato

—Kindermann

***Procession of Gifts**

***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

***Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication (Unison)**

We dedicate our lives and all that we have to the work of life, of love, of peace. Receive our gifts and lead us in wisdom and courage. Amen.

Church Life and Mission

***Hymn**

“Come, O Long-Expected Jesus”

122

***Commission and Blessing**

Drew and Tripp Hill

One: Take time, in the busyness of this season, for quiet reflection—For the light of God’s love is discernible everywhere.

**All: We will let ourselves be surprised by wonder,
And set aside time to offer quiet thanks.**

One: The good news of Advent is this: Christ is coming. Christ is always coming.

All: We will welcome Christ into our hearts. We will let ourselves be guided by his ministry. We will go forth from this place in hope.

Postlude

Oh Come, O Come, Emmanuel

— Moser



Everyone is encouraged to join in a time of community building as we share some goodies immediately after worship in Barnes Chapel—exit the Sanctuary 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'.
Sunday School is offered today for school aged children..*

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

Worship Service (Sanctuary) 10:00 am
Goodland Church Worship (in Korean) (Sanctuary) 12:30 pm

The Liturgists today are Drew and Tripp Hill

Deacon of the Month for December is Joy Harris.

*Leadership for Fellowship Hour and Ushers for December is the Building and Grounds
and Stewardship Committees.*

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

Special thanks to Kathy Williams, Karen McCune Barca and all of our participants for the wonderful Hanging of the Greens worship service today.

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 is be off for the holiday.

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### **Advent Wednesday Worship, December 4, 7:00 pm (Sanctuary)**

A time of reflection, healing and renewal for the journey as we birth something new. Led by Rev. Dr. Susan Corso and Rev. Wendy we will worship, pray, meditate and heal.

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Sunday, December 8, Advent II

Worship Service (Sanctuary) 10:00 am
Christian Ed. Ministry presents Advent Workshop for all ages during fellowship hour (11:00 am)
Goodland Church Worship (in Korean) (Sanctuary) 12:30 pm
Faith Formation/Confirmation Class (LH/DR) 4:00 pm

As he does every year on the Second Sunday of Advent, John the Baptizer screams onto the scene with his crazy gaze and his hairy suit. What might we learn from this wilderness wacko? Come hear about the time Rev. Wendy met John the Baptist at Costco!

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

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THIS WEEK AT YOUR CHURCH
December 1-7, 2013

December 1, 2013 First Sunday of Advent

Worship Service (Sanctuary) 10:00 am

Hanging of the Greens

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)

Yoga— 6:30 pm (FH)

Seaside Production Rehearsal —7:30 pm (FH)

Tuesday

Girl Scouts w Brenda & Jen Briggs (GR)

Church Council— 7:00 pm (LR)

Gamblers Anonymous 7:30 pm (BC)

Gam-Anon—7:30 pm (YR)

Seaside Production Rehearsal— 7:00 pm (FH)

Wednesday

(3) Boot Camp Sessions: 5:45 am— 6:15 am;

8:15 am--9:00 am 5:30 p--6:15 pm (FH)

;Worship: A Time of Meditation /Reflection for Advent—

7:00 pm (Sanctuary)

Alcoholics Anonymous— 8:00 pm (YR)

Thursday

Food Addicts—6:00 pm (YR)

Girl Scout Leader Meeting —7:00 pm (BC)

Friday

(3) Boot Camp Sessions: 5:45 am--6:15 am;

8:15 am-- 9:00 am (FH)

Strategic Planning Team —9:30 am

PPRC—10:00 am (LR)

Girl Scouts E. O'Rourke—7:00 pm (BC)

Seaside Production Show Set Up—4:00 pm (FH)

Saturday

Alanon - 9:00 am (YR)

No Boot Camp this Saturday

Yoga—9:00 am (BC)

Seaside Production Show Day (FH)

December 8, 2013 Second Sunday of Advent

Worship Service (Sanctuary) 10:00 am

Hanging of the Greens

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

Faith Formation/Confirmation (LR/DR) 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: Kathy Williams

Clerk: TBD

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