



The Congregational Church of West Medford

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 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

The Advent of Our King

—Willan

Welcome

Call to Worship

Charlotte Wilensky

One: The Reign of God is drawing near:

All: *The prophet calls us to change our lives!*

One: Prepare the way for the Lord:

All: *A just and peaceful path!*

One: Welcome one another, for Christ welcomes you:

All: *For the glory of God!*

*Opening Song

"The Baptist Shouts on Jordan's Shore"

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The Advent Candles *(after Isaiah 11: 1-10; Matthew 3:2)*

One: We dream God's dream, of a world at peace
Where enemies are reconciled, and children play in safety;
Where the poor and powerless find justice.

Two: We remember God's promise of a Ruler of Peace,
Filled with the Spirit of God, of wisdom and understanding,

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

Of counsel and might, of justice and faithfulness.
We light the first candle of hope (*light candle*)
and this second Advent candle, (*light candle*)
the candle of peace, and we pray:

All: Come Lord Jesus!
Open our lives to the Peace which you bring;
let us turn to you, and get ready!

Sung Response

“One Candle Is Lit”

tune: Cradle Song

Come surely, Lord Jesus, as dawn follows night
Our hearts long to greet you, as roses, the light.
Salvation, draw near us, our vision engage,
One candle is lit for the hope of the age.

Come quickly, shalom, teach us how to prepare
for a gift that compels us with justice to care.
Our spirits are restless till sin and war cease.
One candle is lit for the reign of God’s peace.

Sharing Ourselves with God

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.**

PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD

Anthem

For Ever With the Lord

—Gounod

Susan D’Arcy Fuller and Beverly Roche, duet

Time with Young Christians

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

Hymn

“With Joy Draw Water”

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Church Life and Mission

Prayers of the People and Pastoral Prayer

One: God in your mercy

All: Hear our prayer

From the Bible

Isaiah 11:1-10

Charlotte Wilensky

Matthew 3:1-12

Choral Anthem

Waiting

—Althouse

Sermon

A COSTCO ENCOUNTER

Rev. Wendy Miller Olapade

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

Advent Litany

One: Among the poor, among the proud,

Two: among the persecuted, among the privileged—Christ is coming.

All: Christ is coming to make all things news.

Two: In the private house, in the marketplace,

One: in the wedding feast, in the judgment hall—Christ is coming.

All: Christ is coming to make all things news.

One: With a gentle touch, with an angry word,

Two: with a clear conscience, with a burning love—Christ is coming.

All: Christ is coming to make all things news.

Two: That the kingdom might come, that the world might believe,

One: that the powerful might stumble, that the humble might be raised—
Christ is coming.

All: Christ is coming to make all things news.

One: Within us, without us, among us,

Two: before us, in this place, in every place,

All: for this time, for all time—Christ is coming.

Christ is coming to make all things news.

***Offering**

Charlotte Wilensky

Invitation to Joyful Stewardship

Offertory

When the Stars are Gone

—Mollicone

***Procession of Gifts**

***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

***Prayer of Dedication**

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

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THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*All are welcome. In company with all who hunger for spiritual food,
we come to this table to know the risen Christ in the sharing of this life-giving bread.
The bread is gluten free and the cup is filled with grape juice.*

Invitation to the Feast

Communion Prayers

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.

Breaking Bread/Pouring Wine/Sharing the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving (In Unison)

Thank you for this feast. Thank you for this Advent. Though this was just a bite, a sip, a sliver of experience, we made taste, sound, smell, colour and mood come together in remembrance of the one who enlivened word with flesh and then resurrected life with love. Help us, in every moment, to experience and share your redeeming love. Amen.

***Closing Song** **"Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn"** **# 107**

***Commission and Blessing**

Postlude

The Day Is Surely Drawing Near

— Praetorius



The Advent Workshop will begin immediately after worship.

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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 8, Advent II—The Candle of Peace**

Worship Service and Holy Communion (Sanctuary) 10:00 am  
Advent 'Workshop' for All Ages (Barnes Chapel) After Worship  
Goodland Church Worship (in Korean) (Sanctuary) 12:30 pm  
Faith Formation/Confirmation (LR/DR) 4:00 pm

*The Liturgist today is Charlotte Wilensky*

*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.*

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!

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'On the Road, Again?'

Advent Wednesday, Dec. 11 (Sanctuary) 7:00 pm

Reflection, healing, renewal and stillness for the journey as we birth a new thing.
With Rev. Wendy and Rev. Dr. Susan Corso.

Sunday, December 15, Advent III—The Candle of Joy

Christmas Music Sunday

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

We light the candle of joy and celebrate the delights of community as our music ministry brings the Journey to Bethlehem alive with wonderful sounds of the season. Rev. Wendy will offer a homily on the Liberation Song sung by Mary in the Magnificat.

'How Long Must We Wait?'

Advent Wednesday, Dec. 18, 7:00 pm

Reflection, healing, renewal and stillness for the journey as we birth a new thing.
With Rev. Wendy and Rev. Dr. Susan Corso.

UPCOMING ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS WORSHIP



Christmas Sunday Worship

Advent IV: Sunday, Dec. 22, 10:00 am

We light the candle of love and say "yes" to the presence of God in Jesus and in the world-Emmanuel, God is with us.

Blue Christmas/Longest Night Worship

Sunday, Dec. 22, 7:00 pm

Providing space and time away from the hype of Christmas and an opportunity to experience a sacred presence amidst our sometimes awkward, uncomfortable, and messy lives. Designed especially for those dealing with loss or having a difficult time.

Christmas Eve Worship

Family Christmas Eve Worship

Tuesday, Dec. 24, 5:00 pm

Join in the telling and living of the greatest story every told-a joyful and holy un-rehearsed Christmas Pageant for all ages. Bring the kids, bring a costume and take your place in the manger. Costumes will also be provided and your favorite carols will be sung. No experience required!

Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship

Tuesday, Dec. 24, 11:00 pm

A classic, contemplative Christmas Eve worship service with lessons, carols, Holy Communion and a sense of the sacred.



Holy Family Sunday Worship

Anniversary of the Wounded Knee Massacre

Sunday, Dec. 29, 10:00 am

As we take a breath on this quiet Sunday in the space-in-between, we will look back on the season and ask the question, "How Does Christmas Work?" Turning away from consumption and spending, we turn toward a foreign land to see the way Christmas really works. We will also take some time to honor the anniversary of the Massacre of Wounded Knee.



THIS WEEK AT YOUR CHURCH

December 8-14, 2013

December 8 2013 Sunday Advent II

Worship Service w/Communion (Sanctuary) 10:00 am
 Advent Workshop (Barnes) after worship
 Goodland Church Worship (in Korean) (Sanctuary) 12:30 pm
 Faith Formation/Confirmation (LR/DR) 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 — 1000 am (LR)
 Yoga— 6:30 pm (FH)
 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)
 Girl Scouts w/V. Petrelis— 4:00 pm (BC)
 Wednesday Advent Worship—7:00 pm (Sanctuary)
 Alcoholics Anonymous— 8:00 pm (YR)

Thursday

Food Addicts—6:00 pm (YR)
 Youth Champions—5:00 pm (FH)
 Spiritual Direction—5:45 pm (LR)

Friday

(3) Boot Camp Sessions: 5:45 am--6:15 am;
 8:15 am-- 9:00 am (FH)
 Strategic Planning— 9:30 am (LR)
 Girl Scouts E. O'Rourke (BC)

Saturday

Alanon - 9:00 am (YR)
 Yoga—9:00 am (FH)
 Boot Camp—12:15 pm (FH)

December 15, 2013 Sunday of Advent III

Christmas Music Sunday Worship Service (Sanctuary) 10:00 am
 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: Joy Harris

Clerk: TBD

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