

A weekly collection of news, reflections and announcements from the
 Congregational Church of West Medford
 an Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



PASTORAL REFLECTION

You have heard it said, "You shall not murder," but I say to you that if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable. So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. —Matthew 5.21-24

All You Need

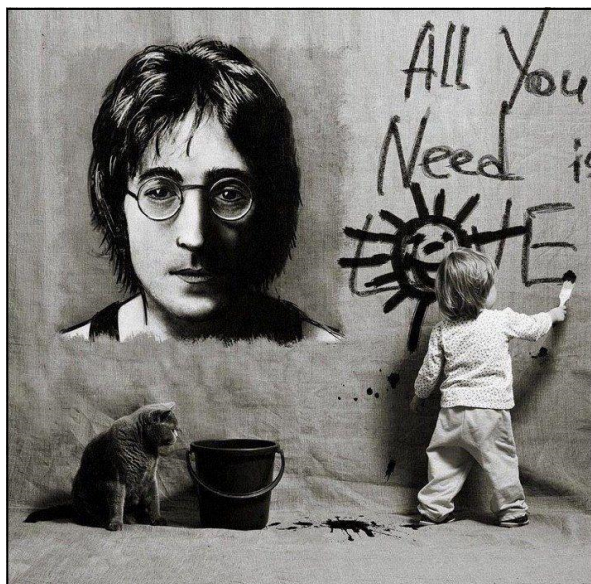
Be Reconciled

The law of God
 is not a gate you make it through,
 not a finish line you attain.
 It is the road toward relationships
 of healing, blessing and justice.

The law of God
 is not a target you can hit or miss.
 It is the bow that shoots you
 toward perfect love.

The law of God
 is a metaphor
 for awe
 which you wonder about out loud
 until you become
 a metaphor for love.

—Steve Garnaas-Holmes, unfoldinglight.net



I imagine for most of you, as it has been for me, this past week has been full of heart softening, sweet memories elicited by the music of the Beatles; wonder and breathlessness from watching the world's best athletes compete in the Sochi Winter Olympics; and the mix of emotions evoked by the marketing of and the shared expectations we build around the hearts, flowers and candy calling from Valentine's Day. My friend, Steve Garnaas-Holmes connected it all (for me) to our gospel lesson for this week—and leaves me with just one "Word" (thanks John Lennon): "All You Need Is Love." Sing it with me? Love, love, love...

With blessing and prayer, Rev. Wendy Miller Olapade/revwdmiller@comcast.net/617.592.5853

IN OUR PRAYERS AND PASTORAL CARE



Concerns: Joy and Bruce R. spent a wonderful week visiting family, along with the challenges they faced in downsizing elderly parents into another place; Dick S.' friend Ed is now battling cancer in addition to Lou Gehrig's disease; Ose M.'s friend Alma and her loved ones grieving for Wolfhardt who recently passed away; friends and family of John Hudson, who are also mourning his death; for growth and learning from the stories of Black History.

Joys: We celebrate that Gail's brother has left Afghanistan (thank you Lord for keeping him safe); pray in gratitude for all those in military service for our country and in cities; Kylie B. made the Dean's list at Emory University for fall semester; Jenny B. recounted the joy of seeing the various nations displayed with their pride in the opening Olympic ceremony; that our hearts be open for differences of opinions as we gather together in search of new beginnings. We continue to celebrate that Shirley G.'s recovery; Jenna's trip to Brazil; Jamie G. graduating and becoming a Medford Police Officer.

We continue to pray with Herman's brother-in-law, Mike, who lost his leg because of a blood clot; June L. in active treatment and for her family as they care for June; Louise's school mate who was killed in an auto accident and her mother who was driving; for the people of the Ukraine; Connie's brother Skip and their family at the death of Joyce Barnard Conlon a former member of our congregation; Shirley G. in recovery from surgery; Ose's friend Alma at the passing of her husband Wolfart; those affected by the weather extremes; for Bruce R.'s brother Bill in early recovery; Charlene C's brother Lou in the final stages of Alzheimer's; our sexton Steve's daughter and grandson; our church's ongoing process of discernment and for the leaders who are guiding our conversations and discovery.

We pray for all the MACUCC churches engaged in Crossroads; for all those struggling with cancer, addiction and Alzheimer's; for the environment; for President Obama and Congress regarding our present times of strife—may God's intentions prevail as they make decisions; for our beloved elders at home: Eva W., June L. Thelma T. We remember fallen soldiers, Veterans and those serving in our military. We lift up all of the children of our congregation and those we bless in Bright Stars.

Please send requests to office@medfordchurch.org by noon Wed.

Pastoral Care Concerns: The Deacon of the Month for February is Robin Baker who can be reached at (robinb12@verizon.net). Please let the deacon of the month know if there is someone who could use a visit, phone call, card, or prayer. The Deacons (aka: Spiritual Life) rely on your input about the well being and needs of our members and friends. Rev. Wendy can be reached: revwdmiller@comcast.net.

Thank you from Diva!

Dear Kind and Generous Christians, It warms my heart that you are so wonderful that you even cared enough about an older homeless kitty like me to fund my dental surgery. Your Christian practice knows no bounds and your love is greatly appreciated. I had my surgery successfully and I am now waiting at the Pets in Need Somerville shelter for a forever person. If you know of anyone who can provide a safe indoor home to a gentle girl kitty who loves sitting on your lap, catnip and lots of treats, please apply to adopt me!

Diva



OUR CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Empty your Pockets in the Pennies from Heaven Jar: The "Jar" will be in the Narthex for you to empty your pockets of the loose change you may have. This jar is just one way to help support the church in a very easy way. The jar easily takes coins and paper money.



Worship Volunteers Always Welcome: We are always looking for folk to participate in worship as ushers and readers. Youth and Children are always welcomed to participate. The Spiritual Life Committee recruits readers. Robin Baker is the contact at this time (robinb12@verizon.net). You are also welcome to call the church office to volunteer. Our church works better when we all pitch in and participate! Your help is appreciated.

Altar Flowers Always Welcomed: Please contact Brenda Briggs bgriggs51@gmail.com (or the church office@medfordchurch.org) to make arrangements to schedule a Sunday to bring flowers or order them in honor or memory of a loved one.

Fellowship Café: During the month of February the Christian Education Committee is sponsoring coffee hour. All are welcome to help with our fellowship time. Karen McCune Barca has taken on the responsibility of setting up and cleaning up the coffee weekly—and she is organizing the volunteers!! *If you can bring some goodies or veggies or fruit to support, please be in touch with Karen.*

Cleaning Our Closets!! Volunteers are needed for cleaning out the church closets: As we place the church building on the market and consider our future, Kathy Williams is leading this effort to "clean out our closets." You would be amazed at how much stuff has accumulated and is stuck in corners. We will donate, trash, recycle as is called for. **Cleaning will take place weekly from 9:30 -10 am before church and 11 am–noon after church until completed. Volunteers are particularly needed to drive boxes of unneeded items to charity donation sites.** If you would like to join Kathy on this mission, please contact her at kathypricewilliams@yahoo.com.



Tax Documentation: If anyone would like a letter from the church to verify your pledge/contribution for 2013 tax purposes, please contact Tom Roche at thomasroche@comcast.net / 781-281-1000.

Happy February Birthdays

- 1 James Grubb, Jr.
- 17 Karen Morey
- 17 Paul Roberts
- 21 Tom Roche
- 23 Matthew David Kromm
- 28 Johnny Maloney



CROSSROADS PHASE II

Did you see the Mini-Explorations we have offered?
There has been great interest and good conversation afterward!

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Here are the two we have watched to date:

1) St. Lydia's Dinner Church in Brooklyn, New York.

<http://www.stlydias.org/>

2) LuthersTable.org [and the video here of Luther's Table in Renton, WA](#)

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**This Week Rev. Wendy is Off**

### Sunday Weekly

#### **Prayer for our Process**

Each Sunday from 9:15 - 9:30 am,

Rev. Wendy will lead a time of prayer in Bean Chapel for our discernment process.

### Wednesday Weekly

#### **1st, 3rd, 4th Worship and Study: Being Jesus Followers.**

7:00 pm-8:00 pm, Rev. Wendy will lead a weekly worship, study and dialogue designed to consider what Jesus asked of us when he said, "Follow me," and what that suggests to us about what God is calling us into for the future.

#### **2nd Wednesday Worship and Study from 7:00-7:30 PM and Joint Ministry Team Meeting from 7:30 to 9:00 pm.**

#### **This Week, Wednesday, February 19**

We will consider the "Follow Me" story of Matthew's call from Mark 2:13-22.

**Weekly: Worship Experimentation:** We will continue to deliberately experiment in worship- with new music, with experiential practices, with more visual and embodied engagement. Some of this has begun to happen already but we are excited to try other new things. As the journey unfolds, we will try new models for worship-perhaps a Taize service, or worship in another space, or a dinner worship. Watch for more specifics.

**Weekly: Exploration:** Every Sunday we will bring you 15 minutes of exploration via video, web sites, and other means-offering you a chance to see vital and viable ministries and unique models for worship and community. This time is designed to spark ideas and creativity in us-and will happen each Sunday after worship during fellowship hour. We intend to expose ourselves to lots of new ideas in the interest of getting our own creative juices flowing.

**Due to the holiday, this Sunday,  
Feb 16 there will be no exploration after worship.**

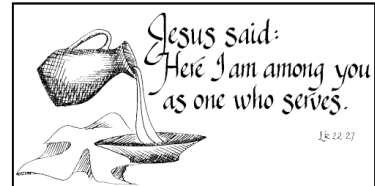
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MISSION AND OUTREACH

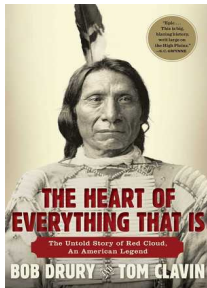
Urgent Note Regarding 2014 Re-Member Trip to Pine Ridge

The First Congregational Church of Winchester has agreed to take over the CCWM Re-Member reservation for the 2014 mission trip planned for July 26– August 1, 2014. If anyone from CCWM is interested in joining this summer's trip, they are welcome to join the trip. The leadership and planning for the trip s being led by our former student, Winchester member, Jena Roy. **The deadline for deposits to Re-**

Member has been extended to 2/30/14 so if you have a desire to participate, be in touch with Jena ASAP, jenaroy@aol.com. Due to many other questions we are facing this season, the Pine Ridge Ministry Team determined that planning and raising funds for a trip this summer would divert us from our objective of discerning God's call for our future.



CCWM to Sell Hoka Coffee on March 1 at Super Saturday: The Pine Ridge Ministry team is looking for a few folk to help with staffing a table at Super Saturday to sell Hoka Coffee to raise funds for our ministry with the Reservation. If you can help, please contact Joy Harris (brujoy2@comcast.net). Folk attending super Saturday may be able to help during breaks.



Sunday, March 09, 11:30—2:00 pm: Book Discussion: “The

Heart of Everything That Is” Susan D’Arcy will lead this first book in book series/discussion group. “The Heart of Everything That Is” is written by Bob Drury and Tom Clavin – and tells the untold story of Lakota Sioux chief, Red Cloud. There are ten copies in local libraries or you are encouraged to purchase the book yourself. We are open to suggestions for other Indian themed books for future book discussion groups. Contact Kathy or Joy suggestions or questions.

Heifer Farm Rutland: Pancakes at the Farm—Saturday, March 8

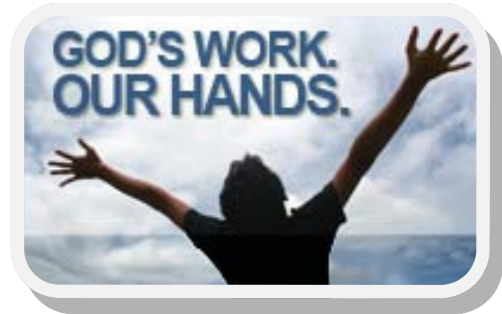
9:00 am to 1:00 pm—DEADLINE TODAY!!

Tour the farm, visit the sugar shack, spend time with the animals and enjoy a hearty pancake breakfast with Heifer Farm maple syrup and sausages. Advanced reservations are required so please let Susan D’Arcy Fuller know if you’d like to attend by Feb 15th. We will arrange carpooling once we know how many are going. Adults \$12.00, Children (3-10) \$6.00, free for Children under 3

Note this replaces the Heifer trip postponed due to weather.



What is next for our 'Outreach' Ministry? The action oriented ministries imagined & organized by our Outreach Committee have been foundational to the turnaround and re-energizing of spirit that our congregation has seen over the last couple of years. Think Pine Ridge Reservation and our passion for economic and racial justice; Sandwich making for Outdoor Church and City Mission Society Urban Outreach Mission Projects and our growing concern for the homeless, the chance to express our generosity through gift giving to the Angel Tree, holiday collections for the Indigo Girls of Medford and Heifer Project International. We are in need of a couple of souls who feel called to consider how we will continue to live out our call to walk humbly, care for the least of these and work for justice. If you are interested in these concerns, think about joining the newly formed "Joint Ministry Team" to represent our Outreach Ministry. Contact Rev. Wendy or Karen McCune Barca.



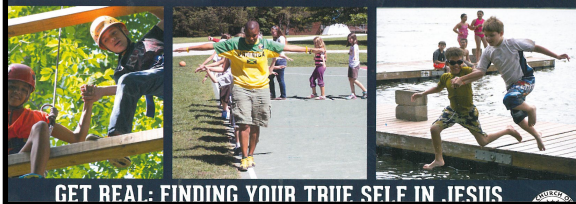
FROM OUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

UCC's Silver Lake, CT Summer Camp Registration Now Open



SPEND A WEEK AT CAMP IN GOD'S BACKYARD

SILVER LAKE
Conference Center
Co-Directors Anne and Tim Hughes
223 Low Road, Sharon, CT 06069
860-364-5526 • hughes@ctucc.org
WWW.SILVERLAKECT.ORG
Silver Lake is the Outdoor Ministry
program of the Connecticut Conference
of the United Church of Christ.



GET REAL: FINDING YOUR TRUE SELF IN JESUS

Power Kids The Paul and Patricia Coates Memorial Scholarship

Scholarship will be awarded on April 1, 2014.

Power Kids Summer Camp Program strengthens character and community. *Power Kids* helps children to mature socially, emotionally, intellectually, morally, and physically to realize their dreams and unlock their true potential. Unlock your child's potential by enrolling them today and give your **Kids** the **POWER** to succeed. <http://www.medfordpowerkids.com/> A scholarship is funded by *Power Kids* Summer Enrichment Program. It covers full tuition for six weeks of a *Power Kids* summer experience (valued at \$1,525). Eligibility Requirements: Enrolled in grades K through 5; Resident of Medford, MA; Letter of referral from a non-family member. Complete and submit the above information, postmarked no later than the deadline of MARCH 28 to: Power Kids, Paul and Patricia Coates Memorial Scholarship, 59 Dunster Lane, Winchester, MA 01890, Direct Dial: 781-756-4874

Power Kids
unlocking potential

Join our own choir members Bev Roche and Susan D'Arcy and hundreds of beautiful voices for their Annual Gospel Concert (and sing along)!

Bev can offer discounted tickets if you contact her by Tuesday, Feb 18.

(bevroche@comcast.net).

MYSTIC CHORALE

led by Jonathan Singleton

mystic GOSPEL

Join us for our eagerly anticipated annual Gospel season with 250+ voices in two joyful and spirit-filled concerts, featuring an inspiring and uplifting program of traditional and contemporary gospel music.

*Saturday, March 1, 2014
7:30 pm*

*Sunday, March 2, 2014
3:30 pm*

\$18 adults / \$15 students and seniors

Converse Hall, Tremont Temple, 88 Tremont Street, Boston, MA

For information or tickets: (781) 316-2500

www.mysticchorale.org

www.brownpapertickets.com

CONCERT AND SING

NEWS AND EVENTS FROM THE UCC

More about Super Saturday: Here is a taste of the exciting topics being covered on March 1. Discount registration available to five or more from same church. For more: <http://www.macucc.org/events/detail/1458>

Please let Rev. Wendy know if you are able to attend.

14. Sacred Conversations on Race Training: An introduction to the Sacred Conversations on Race "TARASC Training" ...introduce the six stages of the Multi-Racial/Multi-Cultural Spectrum: Tolerance, Acceptance, Respect, Affirmation, Solidarity and Critique (TARASC). ...will reflect ...

17. What do Pastors and Church Leaders Really Need to Know to Create a Thriving Church: ... We will reflect on the wisdom and creativity that are needed in all aspects of parish ministry that will lead a church to a more enthusiastic and vital witness and look at practical ways...

10. Fluid Christianity: Welcoming the 'Spiritual but Not Religious': Responding to the changing spiritual landscape requires new ways of worship, spiritual practice, preaching, theological reflection and faith formation. Taught by a spiritual guide, pastor, and process theologian, this workshop provides a positive vision and effective spiritual practices for affirming and responding to self-described 'spiritual but not religious' persons and spiritual seekers in our communities.

11. Holistic Faith Formation for Small Membership Churches: An introduction to a new intergenerational, contextual model for faith formation ministry which is particularly adaptable for meeting the needs of families and children in small membership congregations and their surrounding communities. The overall vision of this paradigm is for all ages to journey together as pilgrims (not experts) in life-long formation of faith through head knowledge, heart experience and hands-on-engagement.

18. Social Media 101: Nine Media in Ninety Minutes Facebook, Twitter, and Yelp...

29. Recovering From Our Cultural Addictions...

33. How to Become a Green Congregation - Solutions to Practical & Financial Issues...

34. I Am The Church: Developing Local Church Leaders...

40. Think Outside Your Church: Cooperative Ministry Possibilities: ...10 ways to share staff/facilities and identify successful cooperative ministries people have already experienced. ...

41. Transformative Worship: This experiential, conversational workshop will explore practices and ideas for creating worship that is heart-centered, devotional, and transformative. Learn why many people, young adults in particular, are not drawn in by worship in UCC churches, and what church leaders can do about it. ...for inspiration.

And much much more: <http://www.macucc.org/events/detail/1458>

