



**The Congregational Church
of West Medford**

An Open and Affirming Congregation
of the United Church of Christ
First Sunday in Lent

March 9, 2014

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 *Aria* —Handel

Welcome

Call to Worship Brenda Briggs

One: Celebrate God today.

All: Steadfast love surrounds those who trust in God.

One: Celebrate God today.

All: We are glad in God and rejoice together.

One: Celebrate God today.

All: God gives us a new start and shows us the way to go.

*Opening Song "Forty Days and Forty Nights" # 205

Sharing Ourselves with God and Each Other

Invitation—Wilderness Times

One on One Conversation (5 minutes each)

Think about a wilderness time in your own life.

Who or what helped you through the experience?

Share this with someone else in worship...

or write/draw about it and bring it to the altar to share it with God.

* Please rise in body or spirit as you are able -2-

Kyrie Eleison: Lord, have mercy

Musical score for Kyrie Eleison. The score is written for two staves (treble and bass clef) and includes lyrics: Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

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

Confessional Meditation—"I am giving you me"

Silence

*The Good News of God's Grace and Presence

One: Know that God's love meets our lament,
God's grace meets our guilt and God's life meets our longing.
God holds nothing against us and surrounds us with care and compassion.

All: *God gives us a fresh start – thanks be to God!*

*Passing of the Peace

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

*Sung Response

"Down at the Cross"

189

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Time with Young Christians

"It's Tempting"

Based on Matthew 4:1—11

Children are invited to go to Sunday School at this time.

Church Life and Mission

Prayers of the People and Pastoral Prayer

You are invited to write your prayers on the blue prayer sheet and pass them to the aisle.

Down at the Cross

Elisha A. Hoffman (1839-1929); alt.

LENT

189

Gal. 2:20

1 Down at the cross where my Sav - ior died, down where for cleans-ing from
2 I am so won-drous-ly saved from sin, Je - sus so sweet-ly a -
3 O pre-cious foun-tain that saves from sin, I am so glad I have
4 Come to this foun-tain so rich and sweet, cast your poor soul at the

sin I cried, there to my heart was the blood ap - plied—
bides with - in; there at the cross where Christ took me in—
en - tered in; there Je - sus saves me and keeps me clean—
Sav - ior's feet; plunge in to-day and be made com-plete—

Refrain

(1-4) Glo - ry to Christ's name. Glo - ry to Christ's name, glo - ry to Christ's

name; There to my heart was the blood ap-plied; glo-ry to Christ's name.

While Elisha Hoffman pastored several congregations, he was associated with evangelical publishing houses as editor or compiler of fifty songbooks. Although never formally trained in music, he wrote texts and tunes for more than 200 hymns.

Tune: DOWN AT THE CROSS
9.9.9.5. with refrain
John H. Stockton (1813-1877)

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.

Sung Response

Just As I Am

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Prayer for Illumination (Unison)

Spirit, we are preparing to open the Scriptures. We want to hear from you as we read. We want to understand these living words and apply them to our lives. We believe that you can give us insight and understanding. Move in us and give us hearts that are open to the truth we will encounter. Let us be changed because we have engaged in the word of the Lord. Amen.

From the Bible

Psalm 32

Brenda Briggs

Lenten Meditation

“Lord Help Us To Say No”

Reflection

CHOICES TO LIVE BY

Rev. Wendy Miller Olapade

One-on-One Conversations:

Think about a time when you risked a “choice-to-live-by.”

How did you judge the risk? Where did you place your trust?

Please share with another the struggle and how you came to the choice you made.

Community Conversation:

What choices are we being called to make to bring life to our community?

Let's talk about the risks? Where we place our trust?

How will we decide?

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

Offering

Brenda Briggs

Invitation to Joyful Stewardship

Offertory

Meditation

—Franck

***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.

* Please rise in body or spirit as you are able

-5-

***Prayer of Dedication**

One: Thank you God for providing for us so abundantly and for equipping us to minister in your name. Above all, we are filled with gratitude

All: *that you sent Jesus to minister among us, accepting us where we are and leading us on grace-filled paths toward the way of love that you intend. We offer with our treasure our renewed commitment to your purpose. Amen.*

***Closing Song “Again We Keep This Solemn Fast” # 187**

Benediction

Postlude *Let Us Be Praising Christ* —J.S. Bach



Everyone is encouraged to join in a time of community building immediately after worship in Barnes Chapel.

The Emerging/Exploration of Ministry Series will begin 15 minutes after the start of fellowship time in Barnes Chapel.

**Lenten Wednesday Worship and Study
For Lent we will use ‘Nooma®’ Films and Discussion**

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**This Wednesday, March 12—at Joint Ministry Team  
Worship 7:00—7:30 pm (Barnes Chapel) ‘Rain’  
Meeting 7:30—9:00 pm (Barnes Chapel)**

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Next Wednesday, March 18 — Online Via Fuze Meeting

Nooma is a series of short films, (10 minute-ish) about God and our lives. Like parables, they use the experiences of our lives to teach about the fullness of life through Jesus, tackling issues like forgiveness, discipleship, and unconditional love.

The study materials accompanying each NOOMA encourage meaningful discussion with relevant questions and biblical references.

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, March 9, 2014, First Sunday in Lent

Cleaning out our Closets (w/Kathy Williams) 9:30 am
Prayer for our Process (Bean Chapel) 9:15 am—9:30 am
Worship (Bean Chapel) 10:00 am
Emerging/Exploring Ministry Presentation (Barnes) 15 minutes after worship
Reading Group (Living Room) 11:45 am
Crossroads Phase II Leadership Meeting (TBD) 11:45 am
Faith Formation/Confirmation Class (LD/DR) 4:00—6:00 pm

The Liturgist today is Brenda Briggs.

The Deacon of the Month for March is Ose Manheim.

Leadership for Fellowship Hour for March is the Spiritual Life Committee; with special thanks to the Brenda Briggs and Karen McCune Barca for this week's coffee hour.

**The Altar Flowers today are given by Carolyn Epps,
in loving memory of her father, Andrew M. Williams.**

**The Lectern Flowers today are given Thelma Thompson,
in loving memory of her sister, Teddy McArthur.**

Wednesday Worship/Study: Being Jesus Followers

March 12 Joint Ministry Team Meeting

Worship 7:00—7:30 and Meeting 7:30 —9:00 pm.

Nooma Film "Rain" which speaks to where God is when the rains come into our lives.

Sunday, March 16, 2014, Second Sunday in Lent

Cleaning out our Closets (w/Kathy Williams) 9:30 am
Prayer for our Process (Bean Chapel) 9:15 am—9:30 am
Worship (Fellowship Hall) 10:00 am
Emerging/Exploring Ministry Presentation (Barnes) 15 minutes after worship
Crossroads Phase II Leadership Meeting (TBD) 11:45 am
Faith Formation/Confirmation Class (LD/DR) 4:00—6:00 pm

Worship will be about Crossroads Phase II and include a discussion about our shared values and mission—and is designed to lead us one step closer to our bold decision about the faith community and our future.

THIS WEEK AT YOUR CHURCH

March 9, 2014 First Sunday in Lent

Prayer for our Process (Bean Chapel) 9:15—9:30 am
Cleaning The Closets—9:30 am-10:00 am; 11:00 am--12:00 pm
Sunday Worship Service (Bean Chapel) 10:00 am
Reading Group—11:30 am (LR)
Crossroads Phase II Leadership Meeting (TBD)—11:30 am
Tibetan Sunday School (Lower Level) 12:00 pm Haitian Church (Bean Chapel) 12:00 pm
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)
Peer Group—10:00 am (LR)
Yoga— 6:30 pm (FH)
Mother's Club—7:30 pm (LR)

Tuesday

LDI Coaching-6:00 pm St. Paul Cathedral
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 pm--6:15 pm (FH)
CCWM Joint Ministry Team;—7:00 pm (Bean Chapel)
Alcoholics Anonymous— 8:00 pm (YR)

Thursday

Food Addicts—6:00 pm (YR)

Friday

(3) Boot Camp Sessions: 5:45 am--6:15 am;
8:15 am-- 9:00 am (FH)
Strategic Planning—9:30 am (LR)

Saturday

Alanon— 9:00 am (YR)
Yoga—9:00 am (FH)
Boot Camp—12:15 pm (FH)
Girl Scouts 100th Birthday Celebration—2:00 pm (FH)

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Cleaning The Closets—9:30 am-10:00 am; 11:00 am--12:00 pm
Sunday Worship Service (Bean Chapel) 10:00 am
Crossroads (LR) 11:30 am
Tibetan Sunday School (Lower Level) 12:00 pm Haitian Church (Bean Chapel) 12:00 pm
Goodland Church Worship (in Korean) (Sanctuary) 12:30 pm
Faith Formation/Confirmation (LR/DR) 4:00 pm

Room Legend: (BC) Barnes Chapel; (Bean) Bean Chapel; (DR) Dining Room; (LR) Living Room; (YR) Youth Room

The Congregational Church of West Medford, United Church of Christ

Ministers: All of us!

Organist and Choir Director: Dr. Herman Weiss

Co- Moderators: Paul Roberts & Rich Carle

Treasurer: Beverly Roche

Pastor and Teacher: Reverend Wendy Miller Olapade

Church Administrator: Diane Petrelis

Deacon of the Month: Ose Manheim

Clerk:

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Rev. Wendy—pastor@medfordchurch.org