

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

In-Between Times

"In anthropology, **liminality** (from the Latin word *limen*, meaning "a threshold") is the quality of ambiguity or disorientation that occurs in the middle stage of rituals, when participants no longer hold their pre-ritual status but have not yet begun the transition to the status they will hold when the ritual is complete. During a ritual's liminal stage, participants "stand at the threshold" between their previous way of structuring their identity, time, or community, and a new way, which the ritual establishes."—Wikipedia

A student sits in a liminal time when celebrating a graduation. Twilight is a daily liminal time between light and dark, day and night. Equinoxes, solstices, New Years Day—these are all threshold moments. And despite my (very advanced) age, my first pregnancy felt like a liminal time—between the unencumbered freedom of my single person's lifestyle and that of a responsible parent.



Richard Rohr describes a liminal space as: the place of transition, waiting, and not knowing...*"a unique spiritual position where human beings hate to be but where the biblical God is always leading them. It is when you have left the tried and true, but have not yet been able to replace it with anything else. It is when you are finally out of the way. It is when you are between your old comfort zone and any possible new answer. If you are not trained in how to hold anxiety, how to live with ambiguity, how to entrust and wait, you will run...anything to flee this terrible cloud of unknowing."*

"Between Parades"

by Ann Weems

We're good at planning!
 Give us a task force
 and a project
 and we're off and running!
 No trouble at all!
 Going to the village and finding the colt,
 even negotiating with the owners
 is right down our alley.
 And how we love a parade!
 In a frenzy of celebration
 we gladly focus on Jesus
 and generously throw our coats
 and palms in his path.
 And we can shout praise
 loudly enough
 to make the Pharisees complain.
 It's all so good.

 It's between parades that
 we don't do so well.
 From Sunday to Sunday
 we forget our hosannas.
 Between parades
 the stones will have to shout
 because we don't.

continued next page...

Beloved, here in the moments (and the weeks) after we have received the recommendation for “The Bold Decision” called for by our Crossroads Process and by God, we find ourselves at a threshold. As individuals, we may be feeling the fear and panic of this space of unknowing—for everything about the future smacks of continued experimentation and exploration. It will not be a sure thing and the way that it will be and the way that it will feel to be this new ministry that God is calling forth will not be clear. As Rohr suggests, not knowing leaves even the boldest of us wanting at best, to define all the answers and at worse, to run and avoid it all costs.

But, I love what Rohr says about liminal space being “when we are finally out of the way.” We agreed at the beginning of this process that this was about discerning God’s will for our future. As a faith community we will have some time to sit in the liminal spiritual space to which God has lead us and “get out of our way.” Yes, we will do some more processing of the ideas and the questions that come up for us—and eventually (June 1) we will make a decision together—even if we are scared to death! And this is one of the great joys and reflective of the power of faith communities. We have each other to hold onto and our decision making will be better because of the covenant we have as members of a congregation to find the future together. With the help of the Holy Spirit, we will find our way through this liminal time, moving from what has been to what is to be, being made new by God’s vision for our faith community, resurrected for another journey forward as followers of Jesus, holding each other in the in-between times! It does not feel like a coincidence that we are “Between Parades.” May you remember your Hosannas through this holy week, and may the stones shout when you can not.



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

IN OUR PRAYERS AND PASTORAL CARE



Concerns: We pray for Tom C. for relief from chronic neck pain and successful cataract surgery May 1; all who are struggling from addiction; Jeff S. in his search for a job and help from his resource group; for family and friends of Brianna a high school classmate of Kylie's, who died in a car accident and for all who grieve; for family, friends, and our communities at the death of 2 Boston firefighters, especially Joan and all mothers of those who serve; all firefighters, police and first responders who are preparing for this year's marathon security; comfort and strength for June, as she deals with her illness;

both joy and concern for Anita's niece Verena, who recently had a baby, but is worried about caring for her newborn and toddler as she experiences going blind from degenerative eye disease.

We continue to pray for Bruce R's sister going through eye surgery on both eyes; Joy's friend Sheila in treatment; Joy's aging parents who struggle with physical and emotional issues and her brother Paul and his wife's struggles; for students with applications for college; for Louise W. who has been invited to the National honor society; for struggles around the world those lost in the Malaysian airplane disaster and recovery effort, for college students looking for summer jobs and internships; the situation in the Ukraine; those caring for the elderly; all affected by memory loss and dementia a growing concern in our country;

a client of Kathy W's released from prison and facing the inevitable challenges—may he remain on the path of wellness; Dick S's friend Ed who is now diagnosed with stage 4 cancer; Mary B. who had a fall and is short term rehab.

Joys: We celebrate the joy of our church's journey, knowing that "Even though our building is for sale, our church is not."; we continue to celebrate our exploration and the work of our leadership team; the crystalizing of our future that seems to be taking shape.

We continue to pray for both the joy and grief associated with our decision to sell our building; Joy's continued recovery from surgery; Kathy W's sister Annette in recovery; for those preparing for the Marathon; Joy and her family at the loss of an aunt; Anita's family as they negotiate her mother's transition; Charlene C. and her family as they walk with her brother Lou who is in hospice care; Sheridan, who is recovering from surgery and Susan caring for her; the people in Ukraine to find a peaceful solution; for June L; our congregation, as we experiment with new possibilities; for all suffering from addiction; all who are caring for elderly parents; Bruce R.'s brother Bill in early recovery; our sexton Steve's daughter and grandson; the UCC 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., Tom C. 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 April is Julie Roberts who can be reached at (heronjulie@yahoo.com). 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.

OUR CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy April Birthdays

23 Randall Kromm
24 Debbie DiSciullo
24 Brian Dorrance
26 Janet Morey
27 Eva Wagner



Don't forget to empty your Pockets in the Pennies from Heaven Jar!

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.

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.

Still Plenty of Closet Cleaning To Do!! Volunteers are needed for cleaning out the church closets: Kathy Williams is leading this effort to “clean out our closets.” 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.



Church Administrator Diane Petrelis is on Vacation from April 16 through April 25.

The office hours, phones and email will be covered during this period by volunteers.
Church office closed Good Friday, April 18, 2014

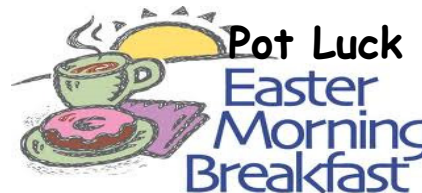
Save the Date: Sunday, May 4: MBA Spring Meeting, Congregational Church of Needham, 1154 Great Plain Ave. Keynote Speaker, Rev. Molly Baskette, Lead Pastor of First Church Somerville—presenting themes from her soon to be published book: *Real. Good. Church. How Our Church Came Back From the Dead and Yours Can Too* (Pilgrim Press), will talk about First Church Somerville UCC's growth in spirit and numbers, and particularly about how a culture shift around money in the congregation helped with their dramatic renewal. Through visionary spending, and a risky but life-giving movement from Yankee 'privacy' to transparency, vulnerability and testimony about money and giving, this congregation has seen a six-fold increase in pledged giving in the last 10 years.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

**Thursday, April 17, 7:00 PM
Sanctuary**

**Easter Sunday, April
20—Pot Luck Easter Breakfast
8:30 am in Fellowship Hall**

Please contact Julie Roberts to sign up for A Breakfast Entrée (French toast casserole or quiche); Fruit or Pastry/Breads.
heronjulie@yahoo.com



9:15 am

**Celebrate Easter
Worship**

**10:00 am in the
Sanctuary**

Help with Hunt? Contact Jenny Briggs : jbriggs85@gmail.com



Upcoming Schedule for Worship Please note these changes in our plans for worship as our Exploration continues:		
Sunday	4/13/2014	8:00—9:00 am: Palms for Passersby 10 am: Palm Sunday Worship in Sanctuary; 11: 30 am: All Church Meeting re: Bold Decision Recommendation 12:30-1:00 pm: Palms for Passersby
Sunday	4/20/2014	8:30 am: Easter Pot Luck Breakfast w/Egg Hunt 10:00 am: Easter Worship in Sanctuary
Sunday	4/27/2014	10 am: Wendy Vander Hart Preaching, Worship in Sanctuary
Sunday	5/4/2014	No Worship at CCWM 5 pm: Worship w/Communion, at North Prospect Union
Sunday	5/11/2014	10 am: Worship in Sanctuary, Mother's Day and Baptism
Sunday	5/18/2014	10 am: Worship in Sanctuary
Sunday	5/25/2014	10 am: Worship in Sanctuary
Sunday	6/1/2014	10 am: Worship at CCWM Congregational Decision Making Meeting —Bold Decision



Wednesday Worship and Study: Online Via Fuze Meeting
'Nooma®' Films and Discussion
Led by Rev. Wendy, reflection by Rob Bell

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.

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*Wednesday April 9—No Online Worship, Join Ministry Team Meeting at Church*

*Wednesday, April 16—No Online Worship—Holy Week*

**Note: Thursday, April 17—Maundy Thursday Worship at Church**

*Wednesday, April 23—Online Worship and Discussion*

*Wednesday, April 30—Online Worship and Discussion*

*For more information about this exciting online ministry, contact Rev. Wendy.*

*ALL are welcome, tell your friends.*



## MISSION AND OUTREACH

### **Worlds of Change: The Outdoor Church: Don't forget to collect your pocket change!**

During Lent we are participating in the Outdoor Church's "Worlds of Change" fundraiser. We simply ask that at the end of each day to take your spare change and place it in the box we passed out a couple of weeks ago. It may not feel like a lot, but when combined with the contributions of hundreds of individuals from other congregations, these small daily contributions can make a world of change for the chronically homeless men and women of Cambridge. After Easter, someone from the Outdoor Church will pick up the boxes, count the change, and send us an announcement celebrating how much we as a congregation raised. Thank you for your commitment to the homeless men and women in our community. **Bring your Worlds of Change banks to church on Easter!!!**



**Indigo Girls Easter Baskets:** Thanks to our Outreach Leader, Elizabeth Bennett and members of the Joint Ministry Team, Brenda Briggs, Jenny Briggs, Julie Roberts for purchasing, assembling and delivering our annual Easter Baskets to the girls at the Indigo Shelter. Always appreciated, the girls get much needed toiletries, Easter candy treats and a \$ 100.00 grocery card to help with Easter dinner.

**Outdoor Church Sandwiches a Success:** Thanks to a great crew of about 10 folk, we made and delivered over 100 sandwiches on March 30. Thanks to everyone who made tuna salad, stuffed sandwiches and cleaned up. Special thanks to shopping mavens Brenda Briggs and Elizabeth Bennett and delivery driver, Carina Williams!

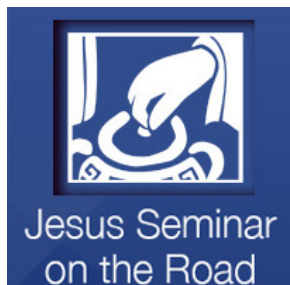
**Thanks to all who helped and attended the Kind Hearted Woman Film Screening.** It was a great evening and we were proud to host the event. A wonderful conversation, great food and company was had by all. Thanks to Joy Harris for her continued passion and commitment to our ongoing ministry with the people of Pine Ridge Reservation.

### **Save the Date: ONA Churches at Pride Weekend, June 14**

The 44th annual Boston Pride Parade and Festival is Saturday, June 14 (same day as the MACUCC Annual Meeting in Sturbridge). MA Conference ONA churches typically march as a delegation. Spectators enjoy our rhythm band, welcoming chants AND big numbers. They are excited to see so many churches that welcome LGBTQ/same gender loving people. This year's theme is "Be Yourself - Change the World." Sounds very UCC, don't you think? We register as one marching delegation—with **one large parade banner (no individual church banners)** and each ONA church carries a small, commercially made sign bearing the name of the church. Volunteers needed to represent our congregation for this important witness! Deadline to sign up to March with the Conference group is May 8. See [www.bostonpride.org](http://www.bostonpride.org). **Can you volunteer to represent CCWM??**

**The Fabulous and Ecumenical Pride Morning Worship at 10am at Old South Church UCC, will celebrate 10 years of Equal Marriage!!!**

## NEWS AND EVENTS FROM THE UCC



### **“Competing Gospels”**

**Jesus Seminar on the Road: May 9-10, 2014**

**Trinity Church in Northborough, MA ([trinitynorthborough.org](http://trinitynorthborough.org))**

The MACUCC is hosting the *Jesus Seminar on the Road* program of the Westar Institute which brings scholars of the Jesus Seminar into conversation with interested people across North America and around the world. Designed to address significant issues in current biblical and theological research and scholarship, the program comprises a Friday evening lecture and four hours of presentations and discussions on Saturday. Arthur Dewey, Professor of Theology and Bernard Brandon Scott, Professor of New Testament will give a lecture that explores the *Imperial Images in Stone and Song* and offer four workshops on Saturday that consider the implications for contemporary Christianity. For registration: [westarinstitute.org](http://westarinstitute.org)

### **Adult Music Camp, July 24-27, 2014: Craigville Conference Center:**

Join other musically minded Christian adults for the opportunity to spend a long weekend making beautiful music together. We will worship, rehearse, relax, and enjoy fellowship with one another. On Sunday afternoon we will share our talents in a concert. All participants are expected to sing in the choir. And all of this takes place at the beautiful setting of Craigville with access to the beach, walking trails and a peaceful environment. Come alone or bring a friend. Minimum age is 18. Cost per person \$360.00 (includes 10 meals and linens); \$70.00 additional for the extra night (7/29). There will be a charge for music, to be determined, that will be collected during camp. A minimum non-refundable deposit of \$75.00 is required at the time of registration. For registration: <http://www.macucc.org/events/detail/1545>



### **Save the Date! 215th Annual Meeting of the Massachusetts Conference:**

June 13 - 14, 2014, at the Sturbridge Host Hotel & Conference Center. The theme of this year's meeting, inspired by John 14:12; is “Greater Works than These.” The Keynote Speaker will be **Yvette Flunder**, Founder and Senior Pastor of **City of Refuge United Church of Christ** in San Francisco. Flunder founded the City of Refuge UCC in 1991 in order to unite a gospel ministry with a social ministry. City of Refuge is a thriving inner-city congregation that celebrates the radically inclusive love of Jesus Christ. Preaching a message of action, the church has experienced steady numerical and spiritual growth. In June 2003, Bishop Flunder was consecrated Presiding Bishop of **The Fellowship**, a multi-denominational fellowship of 110 primarily African American Christian leaders and laity representing 56 churches and faith-based organizations from all parts of the United States Mexico and Africa. **Registration deadline: May 23**

## FROM OUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

**Join our own Louise Wilensky  
and “Boston Harmony”  
(World Music Choir) in Concert:**



**Saturday, April 5 at 8:00 PM**  
at **Hancock UCC Church in Lexington, MA**  
1912 Massachusetts Avenue  
&  
**Friday, April 11 at 8:00 PM**  
at **First Baptist Church in Melrose, MA**  
561 Main Street

**Admission at the door is \$12 with \$8 for  
students and seniors**  
For further information call (802) 426-3210  
or email [villageharmony@gmail.com](mailto:villageharmony@gmail.com)

The concert program presents **South African** songs and dances, sacred and secular music from **Caucasus Georgia, Corsica** and **Bulgaria**, two dramatic **English West Gallery Anthems** by William Knapp, traditional and contemporary **American shape-note songs**, and **renaissance** Italian laudae.

More information about this intergenerational choir is available at the concerts or at  
[www.villageharmony.org](http://www.villageharmony.org).



**Running,  
running,  
running  
to support  
the  
Krystle  
Campbell  
Memorial  
Fund**

### **A note from Susan Carle**

Hi all! I'm running again...this time an even bigger challenge: THE Boston Marathon—in memory of my friend and Medford High class-mate, Krystle Campbell. Krystle was one of the victims of the Marathon bombing last year. To honor her memory her family and friends have put a team together to run and raise money for the fund to establish annual scholarships for students from Medford High School for post-secondary endeavors!

Krystal and I marched in the band and bonded over hot chocolate and freezing temperatures during football games. More recently we re-connected when we discovered we shared a mutual best friend. I was fortunate to host both of them in Chicago, just a year prior to last year's marathon. I will always remember Krystle for her kindness, generosity and fun-loving personality.

Please consider donating through the link below. Your donation will be in support of my fundraising efforts.

<https://www.tbf.org/giving/make-a-gift/krystle-campbell-memorial-fund>

Thank you in advance! Love, Susan