

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

Here are Your Disciples

Lord Jesus,
here are your disciples—
Your wounded hands and feet
In the world today are ours.

At times we have been the frightened ones,
staying at a distance,
worried about our safety or our reputations.
But you come close to us,
bringing peace and challenge,
unlocking our potential
and setting us free.

At times we have been the doubting ones,
when creeds conflict
or certainty has evaded us.
But you come close
and allow us to speak our minds,
accepting us
and setting us free.

At times we have been the confused ones,
feeling far from you
with questions that don't have answers.
So in the evening of your resurrection
we listen for your voice.



The risen Christ says to us: "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I am sending you."

As the Body of Christ, let us join [in community and let us join] hands [and let us pray that] through our fear, through our doubt, through our confusion, may we continue Jesus' work as we travel many roads, liberated and united by the love of the Resurrected One. Amen.

(from "Stages on the Way", Iona Community, Wild Goose Worship Group—adapted)

Happy Easter Dearly Beloved, Rev. Wendy Miller Olapade/revwdmiller@comcast.net/617.592.5853

IN OUR PRAYERS AND PASTORAL CARE



Concerns: We pray for all those remembering the violence and struggles from last year's marathon and those who are facing fear to run this year; Joy's parents' moving next week and prayers for gentle transition to their new situation; that Jeff is able to do "home" work for Mass Rehab and continue to get support in his job search; for the bus crash victims; and to all who struggle with addictions; for a church member who fell this week and is in recovering; for the churches who want to purchase our property as they discern their future; for our own process of discernment. We continue our prayers for

Tom C. for relief from chronic neck pain and successful cataract surgery May 1; 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; Anita's niece Verena, caring for her newborn and toddler; Bruce's sister's eye surgery; Sheila in treatment; a brother Paul and his wife's struggles; the situation in the Ukraine; those caring for the elderly; all affected by memory loss and dementia a growing concern in our country; Dick S's friend Ed who is now diagnosed with stage 4 cancer; Mary B. for continued recovery.

Joys: We celebrate the wisdom of people of France whose decisions support Sabbath; the birth of Rosena's baby despite debilitating health issues; Brenda's nephew's HS Graduation; all those pending graduation; Albert's progress towards a call as a Military Chaplain; Old South church's 7000+ handmade scarves to give runners at the Boston Marathon and their commitment to "turn hate into love"; the Peace Garden proposed in Medford to honor the 4 victims of the Marathon bombings; our church's courage and willingness to consider making a Bold Decision; Diane's vacation to Disney with daughter and granddaughters; gratitude for the volunteers and help in the church office (Heather, Julie, Charlene, Brenda); all the wonderful worship we have experienced over the last month.

We continue to 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—and honor the grief and challenge this presents to many. We continue to pray for Charlene's family as they walk with her brother Lou who is in hospice care; Bruce'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

pennies
from
heaven



Don't forget to empty your Pockets in the Pennies from Heaven Jar! Lots of coins make for many gifts!

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 bgbriggs51@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.

Happy April Birthdays

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



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/email will be covered during this period by volunteers.

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.

FYI: Rev. Wendy taking a "reduced commitment week" this week: The schedule for our decision making is too tight for Rev. Wendy to take her quarterly break from Sunday Worship, but this week she will try to reduce her hours to take a breath.

**Watch for Changes as our Exploration Continues
Upcoming Schedule for Worship**

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 Q&A Session after worship about recommendation
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

Please Save These Additional Dates

- Sunday, May 18: Church Council will email and distribute a written "Call to Congregational Meeting and the recommendations for a) the offer and sale of 400 High Street and b) model and plan for future ministries."
- Tuesday, May 20 and Tuesday, May 27: Leadership Team will offer all church gatherings to answer questions and discuss the proposal(s)—to be voted upon June 1. In addition, one-on-one conversations will be offered.



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

*www.nooma.com: 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 and relevant discussion.

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*Wed., April 23—**No** Online Worship and Discussion (Rev. Wendy off)*

*Wed., April 30—Online Worship and Discussion: "Trees"—living a life with meaning and purpose*

*Wed., May 7—Online Worship and Discussion: Film topic to be announced*

*For more information about this exciting online ministry, contact Rev. Wendy.  
ALL are welcome, tell your friends.*

## MISSION AND OUTREACH

**Worlds of Change: Due Today!!! Please bring next week if you have forgotten your banks. 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.



**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



Jesus Seminar  
on the Road

### **“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 Con-**

**ference:** 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

### **Project Bread's 46th Annual Walk for Hunger Sunday May 4, 2014.**

The 20 mile walk is the largest walk event in the state, bringing more than 40,000 people together each year to raise more than \$3.5 million to support Project Bread's Work to end hunger in Massachusetts. Registration is now open—you can walk, volunteer, and donate at [www.projectbread.org/walk](http://www.projectbread.org/walk) or call 617-723-5000 for more



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



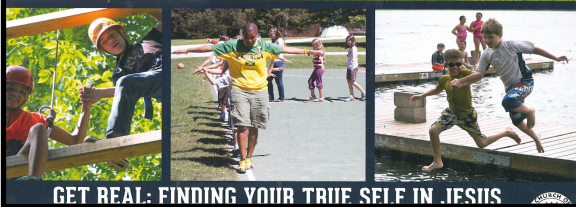
**SPEND A WEEK AT CAMP IN GOD'S BACKYARD**

**SILVER LAKE**  
Conference Center  
Co-Directors Anne and Tim Hughes  
223 Low Road, Sharon, CT 06069  
860-364-5526 • [hughes@ctucc.org](mailto:hughes@ctucc.org)  
[WWW.SILVERLAKECT.ORG](http://WWW.SILVERLAKECT.ORG)

Silver Lake is the Outdoor Ministry program of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ.



**SHARE  
THE  
FUN  
BRING A FRIEND**



**GET REAL: FINDING YOUR TRUE SELF IN JESUS**



**There is still  
time  
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 classmate, 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

## **THIS WEEK AT YOUR CHURCH**

### **Sunday, April 20, 2014, Easter Sunday**

Easter Pot Luck Breakfast 8:00 am (FH)

Easter Egg Hunt 9:15 am (Front Lawn)

Easter Sunday Worship Service 10 am (Sanctuary)

Tibetan Sunday School (Lower Level) 12:00 pm

Church of Redemption (Bean Chapel) 11:30 pm

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

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#### **Monday**

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

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

Mother's Club—7:30 pm (LR)

#### **Tuesday**

Girl Scouts —6:00 pm (Green)

Church Council—7:00 pm (DR)

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)

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; 5:30 pm--6:15 pm (FH)

Strategic Planning—9:30 am (LR)

Church of God of Redemption—7:00 pm (Bean)

#### **Saturday**

Alanon— 9:00 am (YR)

Boot Camp—12:15 pm (FH)

### **Sunday April 27, Holy Hilarity Sunday!**

**Worship with Special Guest Preacher Rev. Wendy Vander Hart—10 am**

Q&A Session after Fellowship Hour with Wendy Vander Hart and the CCWM Leadership Team  
to discuss recommendation for "The Bold Decision."

Tibetan Sunday School (Lower Level) 12:00 pm

Church of Redemption (Bean Chapel) 11:30 pm

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

Pastor and Teacher: Reverend Wendy Miller Olapade

Organist and Choir Director: Dr. Herman Weiss

Church Administrator: Diane Petrelis

Co- Moderators: Paul Roberts & Rich Carle

Deacon of the Month: Julie Roberts

Treasurer: Beverly Roche

Clerk: Karen McCune Barca

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