

The Congregational Church of West Medford

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

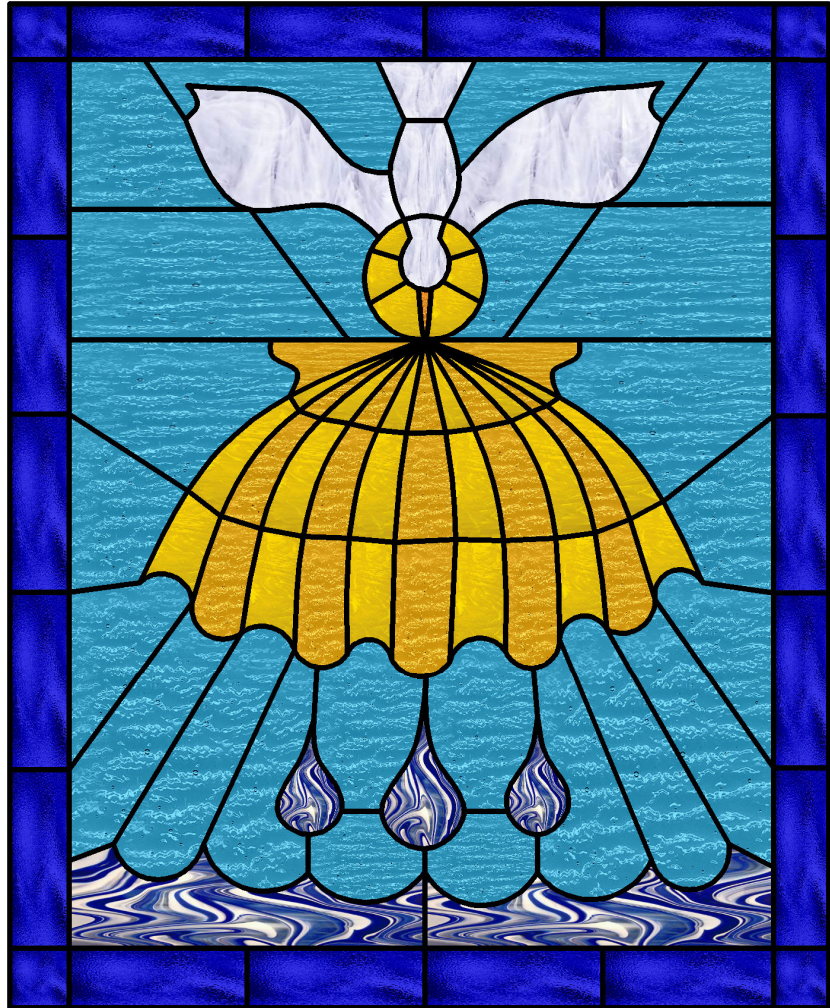
Mother's Day, Good Shepard Sunday

May 11, 2014

Worship at 10 o'clock am



God is Still Speaking,



WELCOME

The Congregational Church of West Medford, United Church of Christ is in a time of transformation as move toward God's new direction for our ministry and our future. Thank you for your patience with and your participation in our experimentation and exploration.

We extravagantly welcome all people; believers, non-believers, doubters, questioners, no matter who they love, their gender identity or expression, their race, culture, ability, or economic circumstance. All are a blessing to our journey of faith and we seek to share God's love and grace with all.

We pray that you might meet God here today—and connect with another seeking the same. We invite you to participate in the acts of worship that work for you and encourage you should you choose not to participate in others.

Prayers of the People: Joys and concerns are often offered openly as an act of worship. Our pastor and deacons pray these requests through the week. You are also welcome to request prayer via the blue sheet in your bulletin, leaving it in the offering plate or with the pastor or a deacon. Please note if any requests are confidential.

GATHERING TO PRAISE GOD

Prelude

Let Us Be Praising Christ

—J.S. Bach

Welcome

Church Life and Mission

*Opening Hymn “God Is Here As We Your People Meet” # 70
 Stanza 1, 3, 4

*Call to Worship (from Psalm 23) Albert Howell

One: God shepherds me and so I lack for nothing.

All: *God lets me rest in peaceful places and leads me to quiet pools of refreshment. God revives me and guides me along true paths.*

One: My way may be difficult and fearful,

**All: *but I know that God is with me
and this gives me comfort and courage.***

One: God is a bountiful host to me.

All: *God feeds me with abundance, while my adversaries look on.*

One: God showers me with good things

**All: *and God's kindness and love are constantly with me.
I will always be part of God's family. Amen.***

* Please rise in body or spirit as you are able

Connecting with God

Rev. Wendy Miller Olapade

Preparing our Hearts “The Peace of the Earth”

—Iona

The peace of the earth be with you, the peace of the heavens too
The peace of the rivers be with you the peace of the oceans too
Deep peace, falling over you; God’s peace, gro-o-wing in you.

Invitation and Prayer of Confession

One: Loving God, Thank you for community: for those who meet here each week and for the wider community, for all those who care for others and share generously. We hear of the costly commitment of the early church and are aware of our shortcomings:

Two: the prayers we have neglected to pray, (*silence*)

Three: the community members we have not visited, (*silence*)

Four: the phone calls we have not made, (*silence*)

Two: the people we find hard to love, (*silence*)

Three: the dissension we have allowed to continue, (*silence*)

Four: the resources we have not joyfully shared, (*silence*)

All: We remember these and other failures to live in community, and we are sorry. Amen.

Silence

*Words of Assurance of God’s Presence and Forgiveness

One: God forgives us before we ask and gives us the grace to move forward in our lives and in our communities.

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Christ is Risen! Amen!

*Passing of the Peace

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

Sung Response

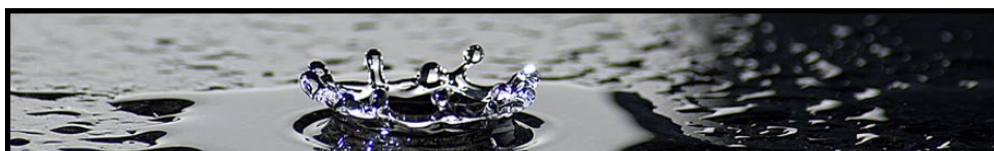
“Halleluia”

—Caribbean Melody

Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-ja, Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-ja

Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-ja, Hal-le-lu-ja, hal-le-lu-ja.

The Word with God’s Beloved Children



THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Welcome

One: They were bringing children to Jesus that Jesus might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, Jesus was indignant, and said to them,

All: **“Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the realm of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the realm of God like a child shall not enter it.”**

One: And Jesus took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands upon them.

The Meaning of Baptism

Questions to the Parents and Sponsors

Congregational Pledge (In Unison)

There is one body and one Spirit. There is one hope in God's call unto us in Christ. By the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body. We, as the people of this congregation, now fully promise our faithful support, our nurture, and our Christian love to the one about to be baptized, and to those who care for her. We acknowledge that Meckenzie will minister to us as much as we minister to her. Give to her: strength for life's journey, courage in time of suffering, the joy of faith, the freedom of love, and the hope of new life, through Jesus Christ, who makes us one. Amen.

Prayer of Baptism

Presentation

Meckenzie Rose Siobhan Burke-Hutchinson

Child of God

Daughter of Patricia A. Burke-Hutchinson & Kerry A. Hutchinson.

Granddaughter of George and Beverly Hutchinson

Goddaughter of Dr. Corretta McCarter

Act of Baptism

Act of Praise—Presentation of Baptismal Certificate and Gifts

Prayer for the Baptized

Hymn

“Take Me To The Water”

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

Prayers of the People

Our worship includes an open prayer time today.

You are also invited to write your prayers on the blue prayer sheet in your bulletin and place them in the offering plate later in the service. Please note if confidential.

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.

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination (Unison)

We give thanks, O God of sacred stories, for the wisdom of holy scripture. Through it, you nurture our imaginations, touch our feelings, increase our awareness, and challenge our assumptions. Bless we pray, our hearing of your Word this day. Speak to each of us; speak to all of us; and grant that by the power of your Spirit, we may be hearers and doers of your Word. Amen.

From the Bible

Psalm 23

—Bobby McFerrin

Acts 2:42—47

Albert Howell

Sermon

PRESENCE & COMMUNITY

Rev. Wendy Miller Olapade

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Affirmation (Responsively)

Albert Howell & Rev. Wendy Miller Olapade

One: Who is God like?

Two: God is like a mother.

All: God has made the world: the ground from which we are born and nourished, a place where we can feel at home, the earth to which we return at the end of our days.

One: Who is God like?

Two: God is like a loving companion.

All: God walks beside us, delighting in our company, sharing everyday tasks, ready to lay down life for us.

continued...

One: Who is God like?

Two: God is like a wise woman.

All: God imparts knowledge and wisdom, gifts and skills, not afraid of the dark times, always passing on the treasures of abundant life. (con't...)

One: Who is God like?

Two: God is like a caring mother or father,

All: like a shepherd or best friend,

One: like the best in our loving relationships,

All: and greater than them all.

Offering

Albert Howell

Invitation to Joyful Stewardship

Offertory

Minuet

—Mozart

***Procession of Gifts**

***Easter Doxology**

O Jesus, risen now to bless, do thou thyself our hearts possess,
that we may give you all our days the willing tribute of our praise!

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Closing Hymn**

"They Did Not Build in Vain"

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Benediction

Postlude

Come and Rejoice

—Dandrieu



All are invited to a time of fellowship,
refreshment and conversation in Barnes Chapel.

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

WORSHIP AT THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WEST MEDFORD

Today Sunday, May 11—Mother's Day, Good Shepherd Sunday Worship at 10:00 am
Fourth Sunday of Eastertide Worship with Baptism of Meckenzie Burke-Hutchinson

The Theme of Worship is "Living in Community": If we do not let Easter change our manner of living one might wonder, was it worth it? How can we as Easter people change the world through the way we live each day? Rev. Wendy will be preaching and the Burke-Hutchinson family will host a time of fellowship after worship.

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Altar Flowers given by , Vina Williams, Trip & Drew , in loving memory of husband and father, Edward Hill.

The white rose is in honor of Meckenzie Hutchinson's Baptism

Special thanks to:

The Liturgist: Albert Howell

Karen McCune Barca for-ever being the set-up and clean-up maven.

The Burke-Hutchinson Family for the fellowship celebration.

The Deacon of the Month for May is Karen McCune Barca (karenmccunebarca@gmail.com).

Wednesday, May 14, 2014 CCWM Joint Ministry Meeting (LR)

Worship 7:00—7:30 pm

Meeting 7:30—9:00 pm

Next Sunday, May 18—Confirmation Sunday

Please join their families and mentors in celebrating the faith journey and decisions being made next Sunday by our Confirmands:

Jessica Coughlin, Tripp Hill, Drew Hill, AJ Olapade and Louise Wilensky.

Wednesday, May 21, Online Worship/Study—7:00 pm;

via Fuze meeting <http://fuze.me/23459647>

Our Online Worship and Study this Wednesday with the Rob Bell Nooma Film entitled "Luggage" This films asks the question: "Why is it so hard to forgive?" We all have wounds and we end up carrying around these things that people have done to us for too long. It isn't easy to forgive but God created us to be free...

Save the Date: June 8,—11:00 am

Shared Blue Grass Worship and Barbeque with North Prospect Union

THIS WEEK AT YOUR CHURCH

Sunday May 11, Mother's Day/Good Shepherd Sunday
Worship and Baptism for Meckenzie Burke-Hutchinson 10 am
Tibetan Sunday School (Lower Level)—12:00 pm
Church of Redemption (Bean Chapel)—11:30 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 am (LR)
Yoga—6:30pm (FH)

Tuesday

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)
Zumba—6:30 pm (FH)
On Line Worship/Study—7:00 pm (Fuze Meeting)
CCWM Joint Ministry Team Meeting—7:00 pm (BC)
Alcoholics Anonymous— 8:00 pm (YR)

Thursday

Food Addicts—6:00 pm (YR)
Zumba—6:30 pm (FH)

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)
Congregation Crossroad Conversation
Q & A Session—9 am (Barnes Chapel)
Yoga—9:30 am (FH)
Boot Camp—12:15 pm (FH)

Sunday May 18, **Worship 10 am—Confirmation**

Tibetan Sunday School (Lower Level)—12:00 pm
Church of Redemption (Bean Chapel)—11:30 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!

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: Karen McCune Barca

Clerk: Karen McCune Barca

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Rev. Wendy—pastor@medfordchurch.org