

**The Congregational Church of West Medford**

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Confirmation Sunday

May 18, 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 we 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 *Christ is Our Cornerstone* —Schein

Welcome

### Church Life and Mission

**\*Opening Hymn** *“Now In the Days of Youth”* **# 350**

**\*Call to Worship** Confirmation Class

One: We are the Body of Christ!

Louise: The hand clapping, toe tapping, heart pumping, mouth tasting, arms embracing,

Drew: Justice seeking, hymn singing, love making, bread baking, risk taking

**All: *Body of Christ!***

One: Baptized by one Spirit, we are members of one body.

**All: *Many and varied in gender, color, sexuality, age, class and ability, we are members of Christ's beautiful body.***

Aaron: None of us can say to another, “I have no need of you.”

**All: *For only together can we find wholeness.***

Jessica: None of us can say to another, “I will not care for you.”

*Continued next page*

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

**All:** *For we are connected like muscle and bone.  
If one suffers; we all suffer. If one rejoices, we all rejoice.*  
Tripp: Thanks be to God who in Christ has made us one.  
**All:** *Let us worship God!*

## PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

### A Reflection on Faith

Confirmand

### 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

##### Silence

#### \*Words of Assurance of God's Presence and Forgiveness

**All:** *You are child of God! Blessed are you!*

#### \*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

#### A Reflection on Faith

Confirmand

#### Hymn

#### "Not My Brother, Nor My Sister"

# 519

#### Stanza 1-3

### 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.

**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

1 Corinthians 12:4—13

A Reflection on Faith

Confirmand

Sung Response

**"I Want Jesus to Go With Me"  
Stanza 1**

**# 490**

A Reflection on Faith

Confirmand

**Offering**

**Invitation to Joyful Stewardship**

Offertory

*O God, Our Help in Ages Past*

—Pachelbel

**\*Procession of Gifts**

**\*Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;  
Praise Holy Spirit, comforter; One God, true, whom we adore. Amen.

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

A Reflection on Faith

Confirmand

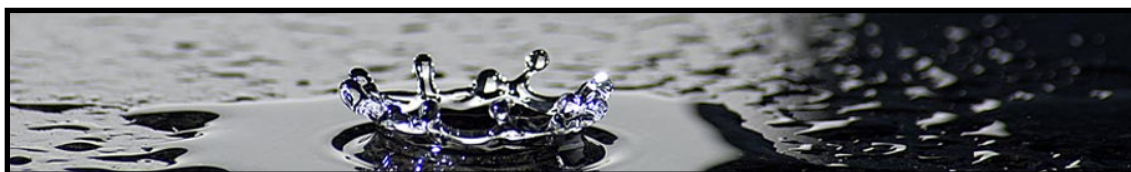
From the Bible

Galatians 5:22—25

Reflection

*"Fruits of the Spirit"*

—Max Lucado



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

# THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

## **Sentences of Celebration for Confirmation**

### **Invitation**

Jessica Eileen Coughlin  
Andrew James Hill  
Edward (Tripp) Robert Hill, III  
Aaron Joseph Olayimika Olayemi Olapade  
Louise Brierre Wilensky

## **Questions and Covenant of the Candidates**

### **Affirming our Faith: United Church of Christ Statement of Faith (Doxology) # 885**

#### Prayer of the Candidates

O God, my God, known to me in Jesus,  
guiding me through the wisdom of the Holy Spirit  
and leading me in faith through the church,  
I give myself to you as your own,  
to love and serve you faithfully all the days of my life. Amen.

#### Prayers for the Candidates by the Mentors

Almighty God, who in baptism received these your servants into the church, forgave their sins, and promised them eternal life, increase in them the gifts of your Holy Spirit. Grant love for others, joy in serving you, peace in disagreement, patience in suffering, kindness toward all people, goodness in evil times, faithfulness in temptation, gentleness in the face of opposition, self-control in all things. Thereby strengthen them for their ministry in the world; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

### **Blessing Hymn      "I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry"      # 351**

#### Act of Confirmation

Remembering our Baptism  
Laying on of Hands  
Confirmation Prayer

Anthem

“One Voice”  
Confirmands and Mentors

—Wailing Jennys

**Congregation’s Covenant (Unison)**

Jessica, Drew, Tripp, Aaron and Louise, we welcome you with joy into full faith and membership in our church family. We join you in the journey of discipleship on which we all travel. We promise all of you our fellowship as we share in the hopes and responsibilities of the church. We promise you our love and care through struggles and celebrations. We look forward to our journey together: seeking God, following Jesus and listening for the Holy Spirit’s guidance and direction. Together we will continue to seek a faith that works in our lives and to witness to the abiding love and grace of God.

**Greeting of Christian Love**

*You are invited forward to share with all of our new members the hand of fellowship.*

Pastoral Prayer

**\*Closing Hymn**

“Guide My Feet”

**# 497**

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

*Trio*

—Zipoli



Please join the confirmands and their families for a celebration of their journey!

~~~

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 18—Confirmation Sunday**

Members of our 2013/2014 Confirmation Class (Jessica Coughlin, Tripp Hill, Drew Hill, AJ Olapade and Louise Wilensky) will lead worship and share their faith journeys. They will affirm their baptisms through the ancient Rite of Confirmation.

~ ~ ~

### ***Special thanks to:***

Carvina Williams, Amanda Coughlin, Karen McCune Barca and the Deacons for arranging for our collation. Karen McCune Barca for-ever being the set-up and clean-up maven.

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

### **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...

### **Next Sunday, May 25—Sixth Sunday of Eastertide**

Our worship looks towards Pentecost when the disciples will receive the indwelling of the Holy Spirit that will affirm them of Christ's presence with them always. Though Jesus is no longer on Earth, because of this Spirit we are never alone.

### **Wednesday, May 28, Online Worship/Study—7:00 pm;**

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

Our Online Worship and Study continues with the Nooma Film series. Topic to be determined.

### **Sunday, June 8—Congregational Meeting—10:00 am**

See the Call to Congregational Meeting in the Reporter.

### **Sunday, June 8, Pentecost—11:00 am**

### **Joint Blue Grass Worship and Barbeque with North Prospect Union (NPU)**

We are delighted to be joining our friends at NPU, UCC for a Joint Blue Grass Worship service at 11:00 am (at NPU, 144 North Street, Medford). Worship will be followed by a BBQ—with Blue Ribbon BBQ meats and Pot Luck Sides.

Watch for more specifics, but take a look at your recipe box (or ask Kathy for a copy of her Southern Cook-Booklet) for your best BBQ sides recipes to join the fun.

And plan to wear RED!!!

## THIS WEEK AT YOUR CHURCH

### Sunday May 18,

#### Worship 10 am—Confirmation Sunday

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)

Yoga—6:30pm (FH)

Mothers Club—7:30 pm (LR)

#### Tuesday

Girl Scouts w Brenda & Jen Briggs (green room)

Crossroads Decision: Open Q&A—7:00 pm (LR)

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

Spiritual Visit (Lorene Hegner)—9:30 am (Labyrinth)

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)

Boot Camp—12:15 pm (FH)

### Sunday May 25, Sixth Sunday of Eastertide

#### Worship 10 am

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

400 High St. Medford, MA 02155, [www.medfordchurch.org](http://www.medfordchurch.org)

[office@medfordchurch.org](mailto:office@medfordchurch.org), 781-395-3360

Rev. Wendy—[pastor@medfordchurch.org](mailto:pastor@medfordchurch.org)