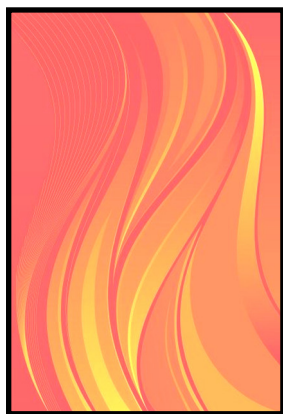


A weekly collection of news, reflections and announcements from the
 Congregational Church of West Medford
 an Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



PASTORAL REFLECTION

'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.' –Acts 2:17



Dream Big Baby

Pentecost is a 'high holy day' in my book—and not because it is the anniversary of my ordination ;-). We celebrate the festival as the “birthday of the church” when according to the story told in the book of Acts the wind whipped up, the Holy Spirit came as tongues of fire over a crowd, and all were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. ‘Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs--in [their] own languages [heard] them speaking about God's deeds of power.’ (Acts 2:9-11)

Peter preached, and Jesus's motley crew of eleven disciples became a church of 3000 followers who were astonished and amazing—and ready to dream!

The Acts 2 text that we always read on Pentecost is rich with possibilities for preaching and reflection – but as we step out from our Bold Decision to plant something new, I am drawn to verse seventeen—“your sons and daughters shall prophesy...see visions... and...dream dreams.”

Beloved the miraculous story of this humble beginning of what we like to call the Church of Jesus Christ is replete with a demand for absolute inclusion (everybody gets to be a part), a charge to be prophetic about what is expected of we children of God, and the encouragement to envision and make real the kind of kin-dom and beloved community that God expects from us and about which Jesus taught. It also commissions us to dream and to dream big -- amazing, bold, outrageous, colorful, crazy, we-couldn't-do-this-without-the-help-of-the-Holy Spirit dreams!

As your pastor, I could not be more proud of your courage in envisioning a new way for us to be church. Scary as it has been, risky as it is - you are responding to this call to love all of your neighbors; you are taking on the mantle of this commission. You are dreaming big dreams and placing yourself in the hands of the Holy Spirit.

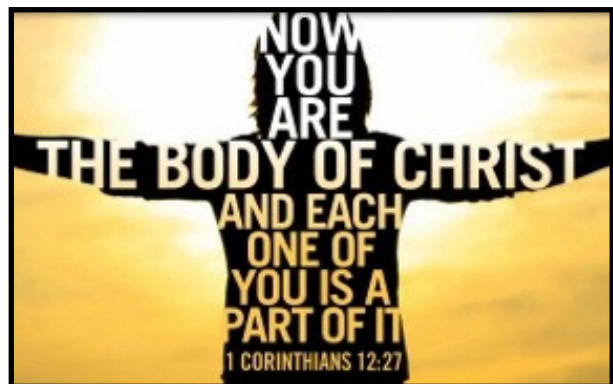
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Let me remind you of a few of the things about which we have been dreaming:

- we are and will be a progressive, Christian community that experiences the sacred in everyday, ordinary moments; we will build loving relationships with God and each other;
- we will discover old and new spiritual practices that leave us refreshed and inspired;
- we are a rag tag, wildly diverse group of questioners and believers (and everything in between) who are forming faith at home and together through worship, ritual, prayer, practice, service, and study;
- we will make a difference in the lives of people who would not ordinarily come to “Church” but who will find “church” in us;
- we will create threshold moments where the stuff of our regular lives becomes the stuff of holiness and grace;
- we will experience joyous, heartfelt, intelligent and participatory worship that challenges and amazes and puts us in touch with God;
- we will be a community that is called to care—about everyone;
- we will be place where there are no barriers to entry and where the table of hospitality is set with love and forgiveness and grace and you can’t help but want to sit down and be fed;
- we will sometimes offer classic forms of worship where we will go to a sanctuary somewhere and have an order of worship and pray the way we love to pray and sing hymns and hear “The Word”;
- we will create new ways of praising God—through new forms of worship, grounded in old liturgy and our story, with music and singing and expressions that are organic to who we are--and other new forms like online practices, drop in meditation, experiences of faith through Art and Nature and Literature; and spiritual study groups that do not look like church as we know it, but that bring us in touch with our Creator;
- we will move out of our big, beautiful building and building bold, beautiful big-ness on the move;
- we will have a welcoming ministry center in the public square that offers hospitality seven days a week--where people can drop in to laugh and cry and find a faith that works for them;
- we will act in many ways that expresses what we stand for—we will be “those Christians” that advocate for justice and make a difference in the lives of people in need, that feed the hungry and clothe the naked and take seriously Jesus’ call to love our neighbor;
- we will be a people so blessed, so transformed by our experience of being a part of this vision – that we cannot help but invite others to join us on the journey!

Beloved, I am confident that people will want to join us because they want what we have and want to be like us. But more significantly, I am confident about the future because the Holy spirit has come upon us like tongues of fire and she will be with us, guiding, encouraging, emboldening us to the ends of the age!

Rev. Wendy Miller Olapade
revwdmiller@comcast.net/617.592.5853



IN OUR PRAYERS AND PASTORAL CARE



Concerns: We pray for a member of Karen's family; the many forms of grief and anxiety of which we are aware as we move forward from our June 1 decision; for Rev. Wendy's family as they face her father's cancer diagnosis and treatment; light and love to prevail in a broken situation; a hurt soul who is lashing out; a challenge being faced by the Hutchinson Family; the injustice and lack of care in our prison system; friend of Joy's, a coworker who passed away; Lorene's family struggling and needs healing (Albert, Frank, Tina, Linda); all affected by gun violence in our country—including the

perpetrators; for June L. for strength, courage and recovery; for Kim G. and her family for strength for the challenge of caring for June; for the process the congregation is going through.

We continue to pray for Thelma T. recuperating at Aberjona; for Eva W. at home; Ernestine in rehab, Kathy W. in her prison work and keeping the balancing act it requires; for sexton Steve S. caring for his father and grandson; patience for all who are working so hard on our transition; for God to make a way for reconciliation where there seems to be no way; for beloved friends who are not with us; all who struggle with addictions; for our own process of discernment; Tom C. for relief from chronic neck pain; 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..

Joys: We celebrate our bold decision and the unanimity that was evident in our voting; that so many were able to participate in our June 1 meeting, including those with us via electronic communication—Thelma, Kerry, Patti, Margot and Joyce; Bruce and Joy celebrate the birth of a grand-niece; Ernestine S. is out of danger and back in rehab.

We continue to celebrate the courage with which we are facing the future and the hand God has had in it all.

We continue to pray for Charlene's family as they walk with her brother Lou who is in hospice care; all in recovery; 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 June is Brenda Briggs who can be reached at bgbriggs51@gmail.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

Fellowship Hour Help Needed: Can you bring some goodies to support our fellowship time? Karen McCune Barca has take on the organization of this beloved time—and all are welcome to help. Please be in touch with her about signing up for a Sunday to bring snacks! Immediate help needed for the last three Sundays in June. Please contact Karen (karenmccunebarca@gmail.com).

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. Ose Manheim and Julie Roberts are the contacts at this time. 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 June Birthdays

- 2 Gregory Cox
- 2 Kylie Baker
- 8 Jack Briggs
- 9 Rebecca Adriana Luongo
- 10 Karen McCune Barca
- 11 Peggy Bennett
- 11 James Lee Grubb, III
- 15 Chris and Philip DiSciullo
- 19 David Luongo
- 21 June Livingston
- 28 Constance Wescott
- 29 Jessica Coughlin



Workshop on church growth and renewal: Craft Church. Monday, June 16, 6:30-

9:30pm (Join Rev. Wendy): Michael Piazza, a national expert in church renewal, will lead a workshop that offers specific and practical insights into how to attract people to your church, then get them to come back, then get them to stay and become a part of your community. Well-established churches can grow again if they learn to *craft* services, programs, and systems in ways that are congruent with the local settings values, mission, and vision. Reverend Piazza is the Director of Congregational Vitality for the Center for Progressive Renewal and the former senior pastor of Cathedral of Hope UCC, Dallas, Texas. While senior pastor of Cathedral of Hope, the congregation grew from 280 to 3,500 members. The United Parish in Brookline, 210 Harvard Street, Brookline. upbrookline.org. For more information and to RSVP, please contact office@upbrookline.org or call 617.277.6860.



Invest IN THE **Vision**
STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING

About Strengthen the Church

Each day, visions and dreams are created in the hearts of many in the United Church of Christ. Through the Strengthen the Church offering, they can become a reality. As God calls our congregations to be “church” in new ways, your gift will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches, and develop spiritual life in our youth and young adults. Because of this offering, many more will hear the good news that “God is still speaking.”

About Stillspeaking

Stillspeaking: It’s the shorter form of “God is still speaking,” a campaign by the United Church of Christ to simply remind us that God still has a lot more to say. Since 2004, Stillspeaking has worked with thousands of UCC churches and individuals across the country to make religion relevant again and to extend an extravagant welcome to all—because no matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey, you’re welcome here. Here at the United Church of Christ.

Your offerings are directed to your church’s Conference, Local Church Ministries, and The Stillspeaking Ministry for these purposes.

Next Sunday

**CCWM
welcomes
your
gift
to
this
annual
UCC Offering**

June 15, 2014

MISSION AND OUTREACH



The Lakota Sewing Circle in So. Dakota has donated a Star Quilt for us to raffle. The purpose of the raffle is raise funds to cover the shipping costs of all the sewing materials generously given and to be sent to the Pine Ridge Fund.

Tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$20. Please contact Joy Harris at brujoy2@comcast.net.

<https://www.facebook.com/LakotaSewingCircle> As well as
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aC64PK14pCc&list=UUcOHBWkJea6ssmyl_wk-5A&feature=share

Joy Harris is organizing a group to attend the Mashpee Wampanoag Pow Wow—either July 4th or July 5th. We will car-pool to the event.

Those interested please contact Joy at brujoy2@comcast.net.

Outdoor Church
Sandwich Making
Sunday, June 29
Save the Date!!



Be Your Self—Change the World!!

ONA Churches at Pride Weekend, June 14

CCWM will march and Carvina Williams is our contact !

If you want to witness—contact Carvina via (hilliams1@comcast.net)

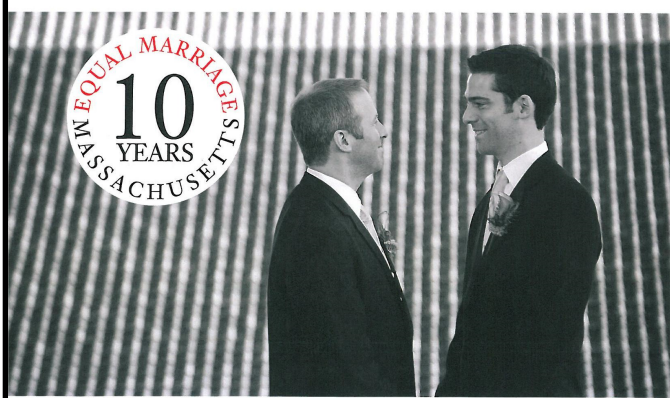
The 44th annual Boston Pride Parade and Festival is Saturday, June 14.

MA Conference ONA churches will once again 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. See www.bostonpride.org.

Old South Church in Boston

**PRIDE
MORNING
= WORSHIP =**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 2014 AT
NINE THIRTY IN THE MORNING**



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

On the morning of the Boston Pride Parade, Old South Church will host Pride Morning Worship – a joyous time for remembrance, thanksgiving, and recommitment. We will honor two heroes of equal marriage: Episcopal Bishop M. Thomas Shaw, who leveraged his position of authority to support equal marriage, and Rev. Frank Schaefer, a Methodist minister who was forced to step down for officiating his son's wedding. State Representative Byron Rushing will offer remarks. Hillary Goodridge, plaintiff in the equal marriage lawsuit *Goodridge v. Department of Public Health*, will read from Massachusetts' landmark decision.

Before you set your feet to marching,
come let your spirit soar!

Church banners welcome. <http://www.oldsouth.org/events/pride-morning-worship>

THIS WEEK AT YOUR CHURCH

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.

Deacon Meeting 10 am

Lower Level NPU 144 North St Medford MA

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—6:30 pm (FH)

Tuesday

Gamblers Anonymous—7:00 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)
Joint Ministry Team Meeting—7:00 pm (Bean)
Alcoholics Anonymous—8 pm (YR)

Thursday

Spiritual Direction—5:30pm (LR)
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, June 15, Music Sunday—10:00 am

Worship 10 am at

The Congregational Church of West Medford

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 for the Month of May: Karen McCune Barca

Deacon for the Month of June: Brenda Briggs

Clerk: Karen McCune Barca

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office@medfordchurch.org, 781-395-3360

Rev. Wendy—pastor@medfordchurch.org