

The Congregational Church of West Medford

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

July 13, 2014 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 *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us* —Gilbert Martin

Welcome

Church Life and Mission

*Opening Song "Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast" # 318

Call to Worship Ose Manheim

One: Fresh corn dripping with butter,
watermelon seed spitting contests,
beefsteak tomatoes sweetening our burgers,
juicy peaches topping our cereal:

All: ***praise is due to you, God of the harvest!***

One: Families picnicking in the backyard,
breezes at the beach bringing a chill to the day,
children chasing fireflies in evening's shadows,
sparklers and torches making the days even longer:

All: ***Praise is due to you, God of summer days!***

...continued next page

One: Mothers tightening training wheels on bikes,
teens discovering the joy of a first kiss,
long lost cousins reuniting for a party,
grandparents remembering the smell of a new baby,
fathers teaching kids to bait a hook,
Sabbath season so sweet:

All: praise is due to you, God of our lives!

Connecting with God

Pastor

Invitation

Preparing our Hearts

**“Breathe On Me,
Breath of God”**

—Trentham

Breathe on me breath of God, fill me with life anew
That I may love the way you love and do what you would do.

Prayer of Confession

One: We know the seeds we have sown, Harvesting God:

***All: anger which springs from our flinty hearts;
bitterness which flows like a rushing river into another's heart;
hurtful words which wrap their thorny briars
around a friend's kindness;
passion which poisons an innocent relationship.***

One: Forgive us, Loving God, and have mercy.

***All: Your grace can turn our fallow hearts into rich fields of love.
Your hope can smooth the rocks in our way,
so we can go to be reconciled to another.
Your love for us in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior,
can untangle the thorny mess we have made of our lives.***

One: Bless us with these gifts, we pray.

Silence

*Words of Assurance of God's Presence and Forgiveness

One: No ifs, no ands, no buts. Now there is no condemnation - period!
God answers all our hurts, our wrongs, our sin with salvation.
Believe this good news, my friends.

***All: We are stunned by your grace, and embraced in your love,
forgiving God, and lift our thanks to you. Amen.***

***Passing of the Peace**

Sung Celebration

Sweet, Sweet, Spirit

293

There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,
And I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;
There are sweet expressions on each face,
And I know they feel the presence of the Lord.

Chorus (on next page):

Sweet Holy Spirit, Sweet heavenly Dove,
Stay right here with us, filling us with Your love.
And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;
Without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived,
When we shall leave this place. *(repeat chorus)*

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

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.

Hymn

"You Are Salt For the Earth, O People"

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Prayer of Illumination (In Unison)

Ose Manheim

Come, Holy Spirit, come, to quicken our minds and open our hearts that we might receive your Word as it is read and proclaimed. Encourage or convict, comfort or confront as you know we need. Feed us and teach us, empowering us to respond in obedient faithfulness. Amen.

From the Bible

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Ose Manheim

Sermon

A SLOPPY SOWER?

Rev. Wendy Miller Olapade

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

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Offering

Ose Manheim

Invitation to Joyful Stewardship

Offertory

Offertoire

—Josef Jongen

*Procession of Gifts

*Doxology

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

*Prayer of Dedication

HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Feast

Communion Prayers

Sharing the Bread and Cup

*This meal of love and grace is open to all who wish to participate.
Gluten Free Crackers are available and the cup is filled with grape juice.*

Prayer of Thanksgiving (Unison)

Thank you, gracious God, for life in the spirit of Jesus: for peace the world cannot give, for joy in the company of friends, for the splendors of creation, and for the mission of justice you have made our own. Give us the gifts of this holy communion—oneness of heart, love for neighbors, forgiveness of enemies, the will to serve you every day, and life that never ends. In the name of Love, we pray. Amen.

*Closing Song

“This Little Light of Mine”

525

Blessing and Sending

The people face each other across the center aisle & extend their hands in blessing.

Left: The Lord bless you and keep you.

Right: The Lord turn his healing face towards you.

Left: The Lord be merciful to you and grant you peace.

Right: God send you to the world, refreshed with grace,

Left: to bless the earth with love and hope.

**All: And may the name of God be blessed and praised
by every creature God has made, now and forever. Amen!**



All are welcome to a time of fellowship
immediately after worship in Barnes Chapel.

WORSHIP AT THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WEST MEDFORD

Sunday, July 13, Fifth Sunday After Pentecost—10:00 am Worship w/Communion

Rev. Wendy preaches about the Sower. There is mystery in how God plants, nurtures, and weeds to secure a harvest of promise—nonetheless, the sower just keep sowing the seeds!
What does this say for us as we plant a new ministry!?

We celebrate the perpetual beauty of the altar flowers.

Special thanks today to:

Our Guest Musician: Lorraine Lueft

Our Liturgists for the summer:

7/13: Ose Manheim; 7/20: Rich Carle; 7/27: Charlene Carle

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

The Deacon of the Month for July is Ose Manheim <photose@comcast.net>

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**Sunday, July 20, Sixth Sunday After Pentecost—10:00 am Worship**

Rev. Matt Carricker, author of the soon to be released book, "Giving Christianity Back to Jesus"; Protestant Chaplain at Brandeis University and Founding Pastor of the UCC Church Plant: AGAPE in Waltham will preach. See the vision for AGAPE: <http://www.backtojesusnow.com>

**Sunday, July 27, Seventh Sunday After Pentecost—10:00 am Worship**

Our beloved friend and former bridge pastor, Rev. Judy Brain will preach.

**Sunday, August 03, Eighth Sunday After Pentecost—10:00 am Worship**

Rev. Anastasia Kidd, Director of Admissions Boston University School of Theology and UCC Clergy will preach.

**Sunday, August 10, Ninth Sunday After Pentecost—10:00 am Worship**

Our beloved friend and former bridge pastor, Rev. Judy Brain will preach.

## What Gifts Might You Share in Our Move?

My Pennsylvania Dutch Poppop always said, "Many hands make light work!" and we are ready to start planning and doing the preparations for our move out of 400 High Street and the "nesting" of 458 High Street. We are wondering how you might get involved?

### Volunteers Needed for:

- Shopping for office furniture, chairs, tables, for ministry center—immediately
- Shopping for Signage—immediate
- Leading/Working with team to decide on AV System for ministry center—immediately
- Packing books and hymnals in late July and early August
- Work with Staff to vetting, dispose and pack church office file drawers—July and August
- Packing worship goods—September
- Packing Office Equipment—August

While we are expecting to contract for the construction of our ministry center, there are some things that could be done by church members if there is energy and passion. It could be fun and will certainly add to the investment we experience in our space. **Possible DIY**

### Projects include:

- Painting the Interior of the Center
- Building Storage (IKEA?)—bookshelves for offices and basement storage
- Building Furnishings—pastors desk, church office desk and credenza
- Cleaning and Refinishing existing solid wood storage hutch for our office storage and work center
- *Your idea...*



## Please Note These Important Summer Changes

**Summer Church Council Dates:** Wed., July 16 – 7 pm; Wed., August 27 – 7 pm

### Summer Staff Vacation:

Diane Petrelis (July 1—July 18); Herman Weiss (Sundays July 11, 20, 27 and August 3)  
Rev. Wendy will be on vacation July 1—7; July 20—August 4; at a conference August 7—10 and off Sunday, August 31

### Summer Office Hours

**The church office will be closed Mon. & Fri. through July.**

**Volunteers will Cover: Tues, July 15; Wed, July 16, Thurs, July 17.**

## THIS WEEK AT YOUR CHURCH

### Sundays

Cleaning Out The Closets—9:30 am  
Sunday Worship Service (Sanctuary) 10:00 am  
Church of God of Redemption-Rev. Lucien Nere—Bean Chapel  
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—6:30 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)  
AA—8:00 pm (Youth)  
Church Council—7:00 pm (LR/DR)

### Thursday

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

### Saturday

Alanon— 9:00 am (YR)  
Yoga—9:00 am (FH)  
Boot Camp—12:15 pm (FH)

*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: Amanda Coughlin

Pastor and Teacher: Reverend Wendy Miller Olapade

Church Administrator: Diane Petrelis

Deacon for the Month of July: Ose Manheim

Clerk: Karen McCune Barca

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