

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

Back to School?! Finding our Way...

Beloved,

With baited breath and a sense of great excitement, I am headed into my first training session at the National Church Leadership Institute (NCLI) in Atlanta, Georgia. With your wonderful support and trust, I have joined a cohort of colleagues from the Mass Conference of the UCC who are spending this next year becoming certified by the Center for Progressive Renewal (progressiverenewal.org) as church vitalization specialists and new church leaders. In addition to numerous practical training programs in which I will engage over the year, the certification program affords our new church start effort a coaching relationship with experience church planters. As well, I will share this journey and learning with a bunch of fabulous, local UCC pastors in regular gatherings of support and collaboration. What a gift!! Thank you for allowing me to make this program a part of our future. I can't wait to share the lessons and the blessings with you.



The following is a brief description of NCLI. Pray for me? See you next week —
 Rev, Wendy (revwdmiller@comcast.net)

The National Church Leadership Institute is a conference for equipping entrepreneurial leaders to empower new expressions of church to passionately meet the world's greatest needs! You will hear from over a dozen leading experts on everything from building a dynamic, small group ministry to running the "business" of church. **Bring a team** from your church to take full advantage of the full experience of:

- Skill-based training in church planting, growth and renewal;
- Networking opportunities with over 300 innovative church leaders;
- Take-away resources that will energize your ministry today;
- Sustainable connections that increase ministry effectiveness;
- Oh yeah, and fun after-hours events!!

During these three days, you will have access to the brightest practitioners and creative experts of our age who are changing the Church as we know it. They will teach you how to birth new ministries within existing churches and how to renew churches.

IN OUR PRAYERS AND PASTORAL CARE



Concerns: We pray for Paul's best friend's daughter Rebecca, who just started to receive chemo therapy; Dick's friends Ed who struggles with Lou Gehrig's disease who will seek a nursing home while his housemate goes in for surgery and Paul who has an illness. Wendy's father and her family; Thelma moved to Sunrise in Arlington; that members would visit and send cards; the friends and family members lost in yet another act of violence; for Ernestine's adjustment to her nursing home and her families adjustment to the change - including for Dick and Jeff; Jeff prayers for mother in nursing

home and for Revere residents impacted by tornado, Bev prayer for discernment how we as a faith community can support the Revere victims of the tornado, and for people to treasure their teenagers; prayers and help for June while Kim is on vacation; and Carvina prays for guidance when dealing with family situations. Ose prayers for family traveling to Canada; Ana - prayers of healing for her cat Bosco. ; for June L. for strength, courage and recovery; for Kim G. and her family for strength for the challenge of caring for June; for Eva W. at home; for God to make a way for reconciliation where there seems to be no way; all who struggle with addictions; Tom C. for relief from chronic neck pain; Sheila in treatment; a brother Paul and his wife's struggles; those caring for the elderly; .

Joys: We celebrate with gratitude Jeff - joy for volunteer opportunities; Kathy - for joyful childhood memories of her grandmother "Leaning on the ever lasting arms" - "Weanies on the everlasting arms"; Ose - for wonderful lunch with Tom; Julie - Kim returned from vacation and appreciated all those who supported June while she was away; June - appreciated the phone calls and welcomes more.; Paul - prayer of thanks that the Purchase & Sale was signed; Carol and Joe's daughter earned a promotion in her paralegal position; joy that Robin's daughter will be with her a few more weeks and that she had completed her teaching internship with inner-city children; the Heifer Global Village Trip; Contractor's Vinny and Deno and their staff who are building our new home with love and creativity; Drew and Tripp's grandmother's summer visit; our future; 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 August is Karen McCune Barca who can be reached at karenmccunebarca@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 easy-peasy summer fellowship time? 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 August Birthday

7 Herman Weiss
7 Shealyn Maloney
9 Irving McDowell
21 Beverly Roche
29 Albert Howell
31 Camille Mary Kromm



Quick Update on the Construction and Preparations for our Ministry Center at 458 High Street



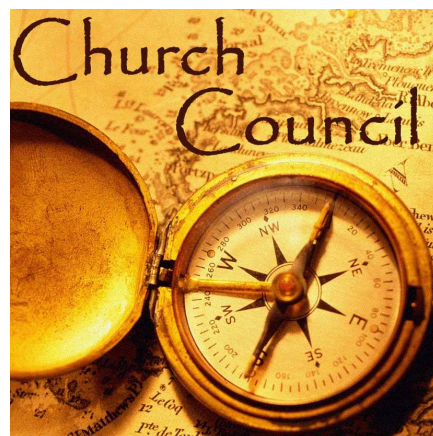
The construction and preparation are well underway for our move to and our new ministries to begin in September. As you can see from the announcement in this newsletter, we are planning an open house and ice cream social in connection with our Annual Blessing of the Back Packs on September 5. Here is what has been happening in the new space. The plumbing and electrical is finished and inspected. Flooring in the main space has been completed. The hospitality area cabinets have arrived and the tile and countertop have been ordered. The new walls are up and painted. This week we hung our CCWM banner in the window to begin to let the community know about what is happening and the HVAC is being installed. Next week we will see the cabinets installed, finish carpentry begun and adjustments made to the stairs to the basement storage area. In addition, we will make final decisions about and order the appliances, furniture and Audio-Visual System! It is looking beautiful and gracious and it feels very exciting.

Next Wednesday, August 13 (6:15—6:45)
the space will be open for anyone who would like to come by and see the progress.

Update from the Church Council About Our Ministry and our Future

Church Council met Wednesday, July 16 and continued to do the work of managing our move, deciding about construction and furnishings and the future of our ministry. Progress is being made and additional spending has been confirmed.

- Update on the Faith Formation in the Home Ministry: Tom and Rev. Wendy are working with a branding consultant to choose a domain name for the web site; Tom is working with a web design consultant to insure the site is easy to work with, effective, simple to navigate and beautiful to look at. Tom has begun to acquire subscriptions and curricula to offer to the network and develop the social networks to which we will offer the product.
- Church council affirmed an updated spending amount for Construction, Furnishings and Audio Visual System for the church offices and ministry center in the amount of \$ 60,000.00. The design of the secure, air conditioned and handicap accessible space includes: a small office for the pastor, a church office, a small hospitality area with refrigerator and microwave, a handicap accessible restroom, a large basement storage area, a multipurpose meeting/gathering space which will seat 40 in cushioned “church chairs”, and a high quality HD Audio Visual System. Details are available upon request. Further proposals will be addressed in August for a Keyboard for worship, exterior signage and computer and other electronic upgrades. Watch for an invitation in mid August to take a field trip to the new digs!!
- The By Law Team will do research through Mid August and meet to address a new church organizational model and a complete revision of our bylaws—with the objective of being completed by Sept 1 and voted upon at a meeting of the governing body on Sept. 14. 2014. Rev. Wendy will provide some “informational” documentation for the congregation regarding the philosophy behind the model being proposed in late August.
- Church Council was advised that the sale of the building is progressing and is still scheduled to complete on September 30, 2014. The process has been more challenging than has been expected, signatures for the P&S are planned for the week of July 21.



Reminder that as of Sunday, October 5, 2014 our 10 am Sunday Worship will move to the new ministry center at 458 High Street, Medford. We will continue to worship there on Sundays at 10 am until further notice. We will begin a deliberate congregational conversation about worship and music models that are called out of our vision, but will not try to complete that over the summer. That conversation will consider both the worship hopes and expectations of our current members, and those of the people who we seek to do ministry with who are not yet here; and we will prioritize the needs and preferences of those who are not yet here.

Save the Date:
Sunday, August 24
10 am Outdoor Worship &
Pot Luck Picnic Brunch
All at the Parsonage!



FROM OUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

CALL KENNETH KEEL 781-249- 2828 OR VEE 857-261-0287 FOR TICKETS

**The West Medford Community Center &
The West Medford Community Spirit
Present**

Labor Day at Dugger Park

Sunday, August 31, 2014

12 pm – 6 pm

- * Hot Dogs, Burgers, Chicken, Chips & Beverages
- * **Cotton Candy**
- * 50/50 Raffle
- * Music
- * **Family & Friends**
- * **Basketball Tournament**
- * Races
- * Pony Rides
- * Water Balloon Toss
- * Tug of War
- * Round the River Race
- * Moonwalks
- * Face Painting
- * **Dunk Tanks & More!**

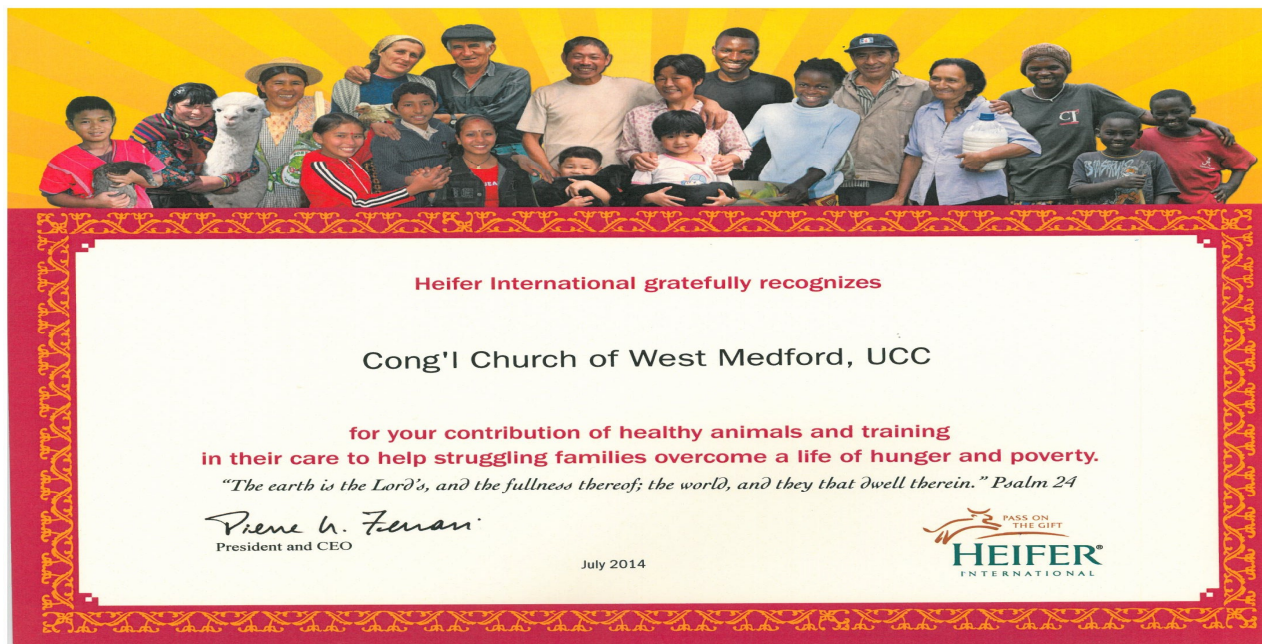


Thanks to our sponsors:

- * **Risman Insurance Agency of Medford**
- * **West Medford Lobster Fest**



MISSION AND OUTREACH



September 5, 2014 (2—8 pm)

Blessing of the Back Packs

**CWS School Kits for Kids—Service Project
Ice Cream Social & Family Networking for
“Faith Formation at Home”**

Church World Services is in need of School Kits for children around the world. School Kits give children in impoverished schools, refugee camps, or other difficult settings some of the basic tools for learning.



We are planning our first new ministry center moment during the first week of school! We will invite families all over Medford to collect items for CWS School Kits and ask them to bring their donations to our ministry center over the course of an afternoon where kids will have a chance to “build a kit”, craft a note to include in the kit (we will send them to CWS); have their own backpacks, laptops, tablets and school year blessed and share in an ‘Ice Cream Social’.

We will use the opportunity to network and connect with families and share our Faith Formation in the Home ministry/Web Site based offering.

For your planning, see the next page for the content of the kits:

<http://www.cwsglobal.org/get-involved/kits/school-kits.html>

Check out more details about the School Kit packing and shipping.

To assemble a CWS School Kit you will need:

- One pair of blunt metal scissors (rounded tip)
- Three 70-count spiral notebooks or notebooks totaling 200-210 pages (**no loose-leaf or filler paper**)
- One 30-centimeter ruler (12")
- One hand-held pencil sharpener
- One large eraser
- Six new pencils with erasers
- One box of 24 crayons (only 24)
- One 12" x 14" to 14" x 17" finished size cotton or lightweight canvas bag with cloth handles. (**Please, no reusable shopping bags or backpacks.**)
- Pack all items inside the cloth bag (pattern for bag is on website)

We will also need to raise the \$ 2.00 per kit for shipping to send along to CWS!

Note this Urgent Appeal issued in June: "With the latest shipment of CWS School Kits to our partner IOCC in response to the Syrian refugee crisis, CWS is now down to about 60 cartons of School Kits at the New Windsor Warehouse and 120 cartons at the warehouse in Ferncliff. We need to replenish these supplies immediately. In the case of Syria, IOCC supports one of the largest established networks to deliver life-saving humanitarian aid inside Syria, where more than 9.3 million people are currently in need of assistance. In November 2013, some 3,000 CWS School Kits were shipped for distribution in Syria. CWS School Kits include some of the basic necessities for learning, including notebooks, pencils and crayons. These kits help children return to normalcy faster, helping them avoid the long-term effects of trauma."



Lakota Sewing Club

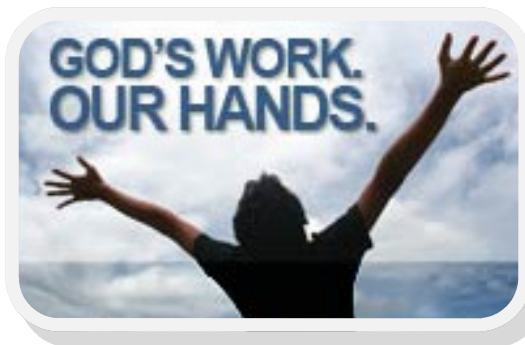


Lakota Sewing Club
At the Oyate Community Center
We meet every other Fridays from
6pm-8pm & Saturdays from 11am-2pm
Providing the community with a space to learn, create, and share
to express, support, and inspire one another through all
mediums of Arts and Crafts.
<https://www.facebook.com/LakotaSewingClubTea/>

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=UUcOHBWkJJea6ssmyl_wk-5A&feature=share



What is next for our 'Outreach' Ministry?

The action oriented ministries imagined & organized by our Outreach Committee have been foundational to the turnaround and re-energizing of spirit that our congregation has seen over the last couple of years. Think Pine Ridge Reservation and our passion for economic and racial justice; Sandwich making for Outdoor Church and City Mission Society Urban Outreach Mission Projects and our growing concern for the homeless, the chance to express our generosity through gift giving to the Angel Tree, holiday collections for the Indigo Girls of Medford and Heifer Project International. We are in need of a couple of souls who feel called to consider how we will continue to live out our call to walk humbly, care for the least of these and work for justice. If you are interested in these concerns, think about joining the newly formed "Joint Ministry Team" to represent our Outreach Ministry. Contact Elizabeth Bennett, Rev. Tom or Rev. Wendy.



Bread of Life

Walk for Bread

& 5K Run

**Sunday
October 5
2014**

Pine Banks Park
Melrose & Malden

Help feed friends and families in need.

781-397-0404 www.breadoflifemalden.org

