

The Congregational Church of West Medford
An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ
The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 17, 2014 at 10 o'clock am



God is Still Speaking,



WELCOME

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.

We invite you to write your prayers on the blue prayer request sheet in your bulletin, leaving it in the offering plate or with the pastor or a deacon. Please note if any requests are confidential. Your prayer requests will be share accordingly.

GATHERING TO PRAISE GOD

Prelude

Cantilena

—Björkland

Welcome

Church Life and Mission

*Opening Song

“Help Us Accept Each Other”

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Call to Worship

Elizabeth Rein Bennett

Voice 1: Come all who are weak.
Voice 2: Come all who are strong.
All: ***God welcomes us here.***
Voice 3: Come all who are in fear.
Voice 4: Come all who are brave.
All: ***God welcomes us here.***
Voice 3: Come all who are sad.
Voice 1: Come all who are filled with joy.
All: ***God welcomes us here.***
Voice 4: Come all who want peace.
Voice 2: Come all who seek justice.
All: ***God welcomes us here.***
Voice 3: Come all who long to praise rowdily.
Voice 1: Come all who are seeking a quiet moment.
All: ***God welcomes us each here,***
Voice 2: to worship this day. Amen.

* Please rise in body or spirit as you are able

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Connecting with God

Rev. Wendy Miller Olapade

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.

Body Prayer

Prayer of Confession (In Unison)

Gracious God, thank you for not only the forgiveness you offer to us but also for being with us when we feel far from home. Help us, God, to offer the same forgiveness and hospitality to others as you do with us. Amen.

Silence

*Words of Assurance of God’s Presence and Forgiveness

One: God’s love shows no boundaries. God’s forgiveness is deeper and wider than we can imagine. God’s mercy is always with us.

All: Thanks be to God.

*Passing of the Peace

Sung Celebration

Sweet, Sweet, Spirit

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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

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)*

Prayer of Illumination (In Unison)

Elizabeth Rein Bennett

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.

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

From the Bible

Joseph and His Brothers

Elizabeth Rein Bennett

Sermon

TOGETHER AGAIN

Rev. Wendy Miller Olapade

A Time for Reflection

Forgiveness is a Lovely Hand to Hold

—Andra Moran

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

Practicing Forgiveness

You are invited to turn to page 5 to reflect on and practice forgiveness.

Pastoral Prayer and Prayers of the People

You are 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.

There will be space during the pastoral prayer for prayer to be named aloud.

Sung Response

“Hold Us In Your Grace”

Insert Page 5

Our Holy Friend...And so we sing to you, our dearest friend,

Sung response

Sometimes, God...And so we sing to you, our dearest friend,

Sung response

We each have spaces in our own lives in which we are longing for forgiveness from you, O God. Help us to name aloud or in the silence of our hearts our deepest longings and prayers.

(Silence)

We gather all of these prayers, both spoken and in silence, and we sing to you, our dearest friend,

Sung response

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.

* Please rise in body or spirit as you are able

Hold Us in Your Grace

A round in 2 parts

Cm Fm Cm Gm7

Hold us in your grace, O God, hold us in your

4 Cm Fm

grace. Hold us in your grace, O God,

7 Cm Gm7 Cm **B** 2nd part starts here

hold us in your grace. Hold

10 Fm Cm7 Gm7 Cm

us, hold us in your grace.

13 Fm Cm Gm7 Cm

Hold us, hold us in your grace.

Offering

Elizabeth Rein Bennett

Invitation to Joyful Stewardship

Offertory

Méditation

—Gliere

*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 Closing Song "Thank Our God for Sisters. Brothers" # 397

Benediction

Postlude

Sarabande

—Stanford



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



Practicing Forgiveness

Think about people who have hurt you, and who you need to forgive for what they've done to you or people or things you care about.

Reflect about what it means to forgive them and how you might ready your heart, mind, and soul to forgive.

Write a short prayer asking God to help you forgive someone:

Write a quick message of forgiveness to the person you need to forgive:

When you've written your message, come to the table, write the word "forgive" on a rock and place it in the water as a symbol of your forgiveness.

Spend a few more moments in silent prayer.

Before you leave take your rock with you as a reminder of your promise to forgive.

WORSHIP AT THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WEST MEDFORD

Today, Sunday, August 17, Tenth Sunday After Pentecost—10:00 am Worship

Listening to the experience of Joseph as he reconciles with his brothers, we consider the blessed (and challenging) act of forgiveness.

We celebrate the perpetual beauty of the altar flowers.

Special thanks today to:

Our Liturgist for today's worship: Elizabeth Rein Bennett

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

The Deacon of the Month for August is Karen McCune Barca [karenmccunebarca@gmail.com]

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### **Sunday, August 24, Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost—10:00 am Worship at the Parsonage—105 Brooks Street, Medford (Rain or Shine)**

#### **Pot Luck Brunch to Follow**

Next week's lectionary texts draw upon the themes of liberation, justice, and the call of God's people to use their gifts for action. In different ways, each reading reminds us that God gives us gifts to use for God's will in the world. On the precipice of something very new, we will wonder together about our call as a community!

**Aug. 24 Worship will be held at the Parsonage and all are welcome.**

**Pot Luck Brunch—please bring a dish to share!!**

### **Sunday, August 31, Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost—10:00 am Worship**

Lay Led Worship — if you would like to participate,  
please contact Karen McCune Barca

## **THIS WEEK AT YOUR CHURCH**

### **Sunday, August 17, Tenth Sunday After Pentecost—10:00 am Worship**

Reverend Wendy Miller Olapade  
Sunday Worship Service (Sanctuary) 10:00 am  
Tibetan Sunday School (Lower Level)—12:00 pm  
Church of God Redemption-Rev. Lucien Nere (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)

#### **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)  
Strategic Planning Team—9:30 am (LR)  
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

Moderator: Paul Roberts

Treasurer: Amanda Coughlin

Pastor and Teacher: Reverend Wendy Miller Olapade

Church Administrator: Diane Petrelis

Deacon for the Month of August: Karen McCune Barca

Clerk: Karen McCune Barca

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