

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

**sanctuary** [sangk-choo-er-ee] *noun, plural sanctuaries.*

1. a sacred or holy place.
2. Judaism: the Biblical tabernacle or the Temple in Jerusalem; the holy of holies of these places of worship.
3. an especially holy place in a temple or church.
4. the part of a church around the altar; the chancel.
5. a church or other sacred place where fugitives were formerly entitled to immunity from arrest.
6. immunity afforded by refuge in such a place.
7. any place of refuge; asylum.
8. preserve.

—Dictionary.com

### What's in a Name?

Beloved,

Over the last few weeks an exciting brainstorm has been happening in our congregation over email and in face-to-face conversations. Many of you have offered delightful possibilities about how we might be known as a church in our newly defined ministry model.

The image for our ministry and the name called forth from that—which has the strongest energy and has taken the deepest root amongst you is being “**Sanctuary**.” This feels perfectly right to me as well. As we leave behind the bricks-and-mortar sanctuary and institutional/organizational structures in which we have worshiped and met and ministered for over 100 years—we are called to go out to create **sanctuary** where ever we go. As we carry the gospel into the world—we will express **sanctuary** when we tell the stories of our faith. As we meet people where they are and gather them together to serve others—we will express **sanctuary** through our giving and sharing. As we develop new ways of worship, study and forming faith through the internet and onsite programs—we will be the first **sanctuary** that some folk have ever experienced. As we humbly seek to love God and our neighbor as ourselves—our relationships will be **sanctuary** for those who are lonely, broken, grieving and in need. And as we experience all of these beautiful moments and connections—we will find **sanctuary** in our own hearts—**sanctuary**, that holy place, the presence of God.

This Sunday during outdoor worship at the Parsonage (105 Brooks Street, Medford) our worship will consider the image of **sanctuary**. Might this be our new church name? **Sanctuary, UCC: A Faith Place For You And For Me.**

With blessing and prayer and the spirit of safe places, Rev, Wendy (revwdmiller@comcast.net)

## IN OUR PRAYERS AND PASTORAL CARE



Concerns: We pray for Susan and Mark F. at the sudden death of Mark's mother in Atlanta; about the violence and racism in the world; the people of Ferguson, Israel, Palestine and other places in the world where peace is needed; Ose's full recovery from the flu; Diane's recovery from bronchitis; for all those working on our transition; a client who was in need; Kathy's ministry with the least of these; Paul's best friend's daughter Rebecca, who just started to receive chemo therapy; Ernestine S.; 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; friends and family members lost in yet another act of violence; June L and for Kim caring for her; Carvina prays for guidance when dealing with family situations. 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 's job; Thelma returning home; Brenda and Jenny's help in the church; good news from Wendy's father's treatment; Kim returned from vacation and appreciated all those who supported June while she was away; June - appreciated the phone calls and welcomes more; 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](mailto: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.

**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.

## OUR CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**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



### Sunday, August 31

#### Outdoor Church Sandwiches

#### We love this project!!!

Yeah, yeah it seemed like just last month that we made sandwiches. That's because it kind of was. Strange little twist of the calendar.

Please join in making sandwiches and helping with the prep or delivery.

Contact Elizabeth Bennett if you can help with shopping or delivery.

Always room for more at the prep table! After worship in the kitchen.



### Save the Date: Pine Ridge/Re-Member Event

Sat, Oct 25 from 6:30-9pm.

This will be the date for a special Pine Ridge/ReMember event at the Danvers UCC church with their congregation as well As Winchester UCC members. More information to come!

### Save the Date: November 8, 2014

#### Never Turning Back: Celebrating 30 Years of ONA (in Boxborough)



ONA began with a 1984 MACUCC resolution (via Church of the Covenant in Boston) which was brought to the UCC's general synod the following year. Since the first ONA listing published in 1987, there have been nearly 1200 ONA churches.

Save the date for this celebration with speakers The Rev. Ann B. Day (National Coordinator of the ONA Program from 1987-2007) and Felix Carrion (the former Director of the UCC's Still Speaking Ministry). Watch for more: [www.macucc.org/lgbt](http://www.macucc.org/lgbt)

**Buzz, buzz, buzz...it's almost ready for prime time!**



**Sunday, Sept 28 “Suppertime”: Save the Date for a Forming Faith Feast: forming faith families will work at a local farm and ‘Practice Hospitality’ through their first mission project together—serving a feast for all.**

## MISSION AND OUTREACH

***September 5, 2014 (2—8 pm)***

**Ministry Center Open House and Blessing of the Back Packs  
With CWS School Kits for Kids—Service Project, Ice Cream Social &  
Networking for “FormingFaith.net”**

We are planning an open house and 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 back-packs, laptops, tablets and school year blessed and share in an ‘Ice Cream Social’.

This will also be an opportunity to network and connect with families and share our Faith Formation in the Home Ministry which you can now see online at [www.FormingFaith.net](http://www.FormingFaith.net).

**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! More on the kits:**  
<http://www.cwsglobal.org/get-involved/kits/school-kits.html>

**Here is what we need from you!**

- 1) Schedule the day—all ages are welcome.
- 2) Buys something for the school kits
- 3) Offer to help at the center with scooping ice cream, helping kids create, welcoming guests
- 4) Offer to join Rev. Wendy and Rev. Tom and Minister Eva on Wed, Sept 3 and Thur, Sept 4 to “Leaflet” families outside of Brooks School
- 5) Watch for an email with all these details and share the invitation with friends and family and face-book/Twitter!!!! Bring a friend!!!

**Save the Date  
and Plan to Participate:  
Medford Community Day  
September 21, 2014 (1:00—4:00 pm)  
Let's share the amazing story of our  
faith with our neighbors!**

**Sanctuary: It's Not Just A  
'Sunday-Go-To-Church'  
Kind of Thing  
Anymore!**

The community day is designed to celebrate Medford's wild, wonderful diversity, create a chance for neighbors to meet and know each other and build community.

There will be music, food, fun... schools, churches, community groups.

It is a perfect venue for building visibility and sharing our vision for the future with our friends and neighbors in Medford.

We plan to be present, to have a tent/table, hand out brochures about our new ministries, sign people up for FormingFaith.net, say something about Pine Ridge and...  
**the rest is up to you.**

What might we bring, offer, say, project, be, or do that will represent the new ministry we are planting and the ways we want to be God's hands and feet in the world?



**Do you have a tent?**

**Can you:**

- be part of a planning team?**
- set up/clean up?**
- be present and smile?**
- hand out brochures?**
- represent our Pine Ridge Ministry?**
- Sell Hoka Coffee and raffle tickets for the quilt?**
- show people our FormingFaith.net website?**
- share our story with our neighbors?**

**Contact Rev. Wendy**



## 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**



## NEWS AND EVENTS FROM THE UCC

### **Registration Open for Super Saturday—October 25, 2014**

(Last Spring the event sold out with over 650 participants—Register Now!!)

New Location!! Keefe Regional Technical High School, 750 Winter Street, Framingham MA. Presented by the The Massachusetts and Rhode Island Conferences of the United Church of Christ. Join hundreds of pastors and lay leaders from across two Conferences for worship, workshops, forums, networking and a marketplace!

**Featuring The Rev. M. Linda Jaramillo, Executive Director of the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries**—Jaramillo is responsible for the church's work on human rights and social, racial and economic justice. She is a former president and vice-president of the Council for Hispanic Ministries and former co-convener of the Council of Racial and Ethnic Ministries. She will give the message during morning worship and also offer a lunchtime forum.

**48 Workshops with a chance for two workshops and lunchtime dialogues; a marketplace with SERRVE, books, mission partners and more. Go to the conference home page to register and see a description of all the workshop topics: [www.macucc.org](http://www.macucc.org)**

Here are a few titles to pique your interest: A Creative Worship Journey ~ Advent through Pentecost ; Be The Change - The Nonviolent Response ; Going Up River: Working for Systemic Change ; Healthy Communication in Churches and Life ; Honest Encounters with the "Spiritual but Not Religious" ; I Was In Prison and You Visited Me ; I've Answered the Call of Church Leadership—Now What? ; Joyful Noise: Celebrating and Reinvigorating Your ONA Ministry ; Leave No Parishioner Behind! ; The Myths and Realities of the Latino/a/Hispanic-American: A Challenge and Opportunity for the UCC ; Talking About Faith and Money: Preaching and Testimony ; The Ethical Edges of Baptism ; We Can Do All Things Through Christ: Becoming an Innovative Church: Part 1

And these are just some of the morning sessions—you really need to be at this event.

Let's get a large group of people attending and learn from lay and clergy alike.

**Andover Newton  
Theological School**

**Please join us  
for the Presidential  
Inauguration of The  
Rev. Martin B. Copenhagen**



**Oct. 5, 2014, 3:00 pm  
Reception to Follow**

**Old South Church  
645 Boylston Street  
Boston**

*RSVP by Sept 1, Marjorie Bell  
617.831.2411 or [mbell@ants.edu](mailto:mbell@ants.edu)*