

The Congregational Church of West Medford

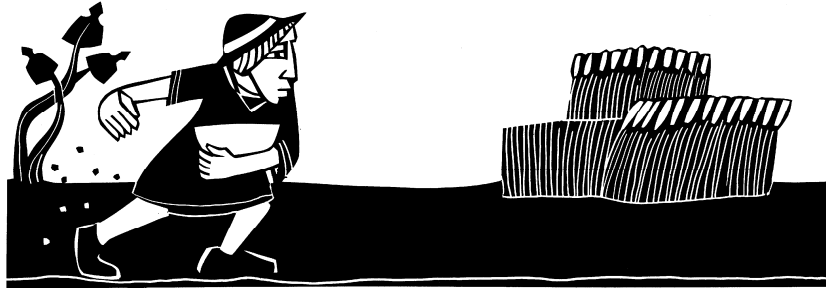
An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

The Season after Pentecost

Ninth Sunday After Pentecost - August 31, 2014 at 10 o'clock am



God is Still Speaking,



SUMMER

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

Lay Led service co-leads with Karen McCune Barca and Vina Williams

Welcome

Church Life and Mission

*Opening Song

How Firm A Foundation

407

Call to Worship

One: As we gather for worship, so let us gather ourselves.

All: As we greet our neighbor, so let us greet God.

One: As we shake hands with a stranger, let us be strangers no more.

All: As we speak openly with a friend, so let us talk openly to God.

One: As the candles are lit, so let our hearts be lit by the warmth of God's love.

All: We gather together to praise God

and offer our thanksgiving for the bounty that is ours.

Alleluia! Amen!

Connecting with God

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: Gracious Spirit, you indeed are the breath upon the waters and the wind beneath our wings. Yet,

All: *how often we think that because we cannot see you, you are not really there. We begin to trust our own strength, make our own decisions, enjoy our own triumphs, succeed by our own hard work.*

One: And we cross an invisible line and turn from your invisible Presence.

All: *No longer do we seek you with all our heart, mind and soul. We neglect the labors of prayer and the work of silence. We cut ourselves off from the fellowship of faith and neglect our searching your Holy Word.*

One: Gracious Spirit, forgive our blind eyes which do not see your hovering presence.

All: *Let us feel once again the breath of life which flows from your constant care. Renew us and all creation. Amen.*

Silence

*Words of Assurance of God’s Presence and Forgiveness

One: Neither this world or our lives are so broken that God cannot restore the wholeness that God intends. Trust and believe that, after separation, reconciliation is possible. God does show us the way home. In the name of love, our sin is forgiven.

All: *Thanks be to God. Amen.*

*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 (on next page):

-3-

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

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

Christ Jesus, Please Be By Our Side

375

Prayer of Illumination (In Unison)

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

Sermon

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

Offering

Invitation to Joyful Stewardship

Offertory

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

***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

We Are Your People

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Benediction

Postlude

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



WORSHIP AT THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WEST MEDFORD

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

Lay Led Service - Karen McCune Barca and Vina Williams

We celebrate the perpetual beauty of the altar flowers.

Special thanks today to:

Our Liturgist for today's worship Karen McCune Barca and Vina Williams

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)

The Deacon of the Month for September is Julie Roberts (heronjulie@yahoo.com)

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**PLANS FOR LEAVETAKING**

**Sunday, September 7, 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time—10:00 am Worship**

With a focus on the sacramental spaces of our sanctuary we will celebrate Holy Communion.

**Sunday, September 14, 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time—10:00 am Worship**

A Journey of our Traditions and our Faith through the Stained Glass Windows.

**11:15 am—Congregational Meeting to Vote on New Name**

**Sunday, September 21, 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time—10:00 am Worship**

Remembering our Joys, celebrating our past and Praying our Goodbyes.

**12:00 pm—Medford Community Day**

**Sunday, September 28, 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time—10:00 am Worship**

Our ministry at 400 High Street comes to a close as we take our leave and process to the new ministry center at 458 High Street, taking with us symbols of our past that will sustain our future and arriving to celebrate our new beginning. A "party" will ensue!!!

## What Gifts Might you Bring to Our Move to the New Ministry Center?

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?

Our history team (Kathy W, Julie, Elizabeth, and others) have been about the process of going through all of our historical documentation and “secret” rooms to secure and store that which should be saved and dispose of that which should not. What a blessing!!



But as we head toward the actual move of Rev. Wendy’s office, the church office and the things we will take with us for our worship life there remains much to do. As well, we are shopping for and making decisions about the furnishings and equipment needed for the new ministry center!

### Volunteers Needed to:

- 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...**



## **THIS WEEK AT YOUR CHURCH**

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

Lay Led Service - Karen McCune Barca and Vina Williams  
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)  
Church Council—7:00 pm (DR)  
AA—8:00 pm (Youth)

#### Thursday

Nothing Scheduled

#### 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)  
PPRC—10:00 am (LR)  
Open House, School Kits, Blessing Backpacks, Ice  
Cream —2 pm @ 458 High St ,Medford  
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 August: Karen McCune Barca

Deacon of the Month for September is Julie Roberts

Clerk: Karen McCune Barca

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