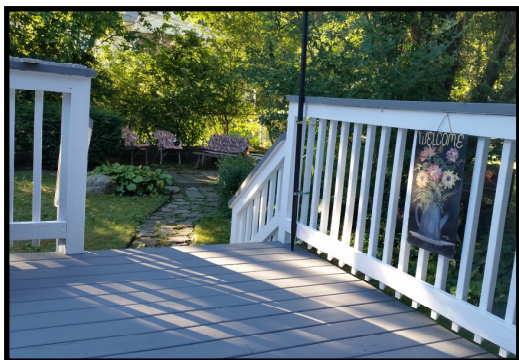


A weekly collection of news, reflections and announcements from the  
 Congregational Church of West Medford  
 an Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



## PASTORAL REFLECTION

*"Trees are sanctuaries. Whoever knows how to speak to them, whoever knows how to listen to them, can learn truth."* --Hermann Hesse



### Being Sanctuary: What's In A Name Part II

This past Sunday we gathered in the sanctuary of 'our' backyard at the parsonage for worship and a moving conversation about Sanctuary as our new name. As I have already shared with some of you, during my time in Atlanta at the National Church Leadership Institute with brilliant, progressive church leaders and teachers like Cameron Trimble, Mike Piazza, Lisa Anderson, Doug Pagitt, Brian McLaren (colleague crush!!), and all of my brave MACUCC-new-church-start mates – my spirit

settled into a clear-eyed awareness of our new ministry as being about sanctuary. Informed by church renewal wisdom that encourages "Slow Church\*", "craft church\*\*" and small groups as well as the vision and values we have already agreed are being called forth by God for our future – the image of us 'being sanctuary' just made so much sense.

One might say, "Duh! Of course it does, Wendy!" The word sanctuary is that which we have applied to spaces and places of worship forever. The Latin root sanct means holy. A sanctum is a private place. To sanctify means to make holy. A sanctuary is a place of protection. Yet as we take leave of the 100 year old sanctuary that was built--stone by stone and made holy--prayer by prayer by our foremothers and forefathers in the faith community known as the Congregational Church of West Medford; as we free ourselves from the weight of the beautiful, sacred space from which those good folk voted to become members of the United Church of Christ and voted to become Open and Affirming and called many a pastor who preached many a sermon (eek, how many sermons have been preached in that sanctuary?); as we follow Jesus out into the light-ness of this ministry-in-the-square with the resources and courage to do a new (old) thing we are not going to have a sanctuary as much as we will be a sanctuary. One author writes:

*Congregations need to awaken to the full meaning of sanctuary: a place marked by the presence of the Holy One, who always speaks for the widow and orphan and who says to the children, Come to me. They need to reclaim sanctuary as a safe place where everyone is covered by the promise of God's providence, where the One who called the slaves out of Egypt again parts the Red Sea and*

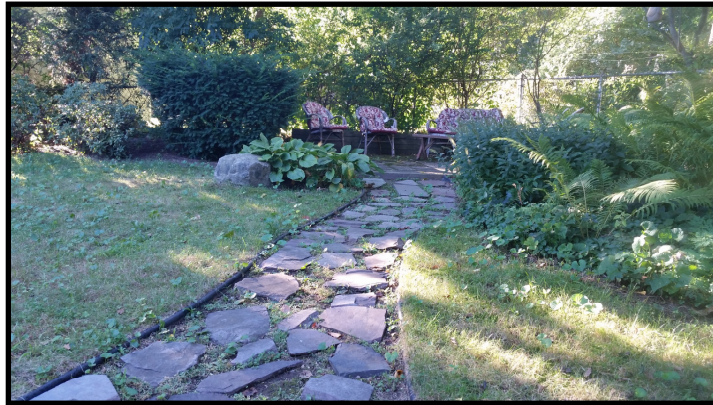
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where impossible acts of protection and provision may still be expected. ...

*Our churches must become safehouses in the midst of the domestic wars that rage in our neighborhoods, claiming so many children as victims. They must open themselves to the fullest meaning of Holy Place -- not simply centers set aside or exclusive, but pure and life-giving centers of human community, oases of shalom where those who thirst may come and be renewed. We need to gather the children in and let them know there is safety in God's house, in the shadow of the steeple, beneath the bell that rings the weekly invitation to come in and remember God's worth -- the mighty, living God who rescues. Let them come and be saved by the bell. Then sanctuary will be a reality in the world once again.* --Charlotte E. Ellison, Perspectives, August-September 1997, quoted in Context, Jan. 1, 1998, 6.

Our conversation this past Sunday was an important one. The group of twenty of us who were gathered this past Sunday ultimately agreed that the name "Sanctuary, UCC" felt like ours. But before that happened, we shared images of how the meaning and idea of Sanctuary spoke to us and our ministry. We prayed over images for sanctuary from the dictionary such as: a sacred or holy place, a place of refuge, safety, haven, harbor, port in a storm, oasis, shelter, retreat, hideaway, asylum, immunity, preserve, protection, shelter, Sabbath, God.

When we shared with each other both the images that resonated with who we feel we are and ideas for ministry engendered from the call to be sanctuary here is what we named: being a port-in-the-storm of people's lives when they are in need; being sanctuary from brokenness and busyness; being a quiet, warm, beautiful, comfortable, serene, joyful gathering place; connecting people, providing commuters comfort; giving commuters a place to give care; a place through which people can find meaning and purpose; respite; spiritual rehab that forms faith; a safe place for questions; a place where you can share without judgment; recovery; studying our faith and scriptures; a place that is "open"; a home that is "unlocked", retreat for onsite refreshment which then inspires action; connection that engenders action which affirms the soul through which faith is formed; receiving peace of the mind and spirit; a place of peace; a getaway with comfort and relaxation; being the gospel which leads to action for "world peace", justice and change; Sabbath as a sanctuary for time; a place to share a tear; a place where we have real relationships; a canopy of trees; surrounded with safety; lapping water on a pier of strength; a place that sits above the turmoil of life/world; a place that reflects the values that Jesus taught (and answers the question "What would Jesus Do?").



We also agreed that while the simplicity of "Sanctuary, UCC" would be great for the sign above the door and a Website URL, it would be important to claim some words after the colon, words that would flesh out what we mean when we claim the name. Here are a couple of ideas:



Be Love, Do Justice, Have Peace with Sanctuary, UCC  
(or) Sanctuary, UCC: Be Love, Do Justice, Have Peace

Sanctuary, UCC: Discover the Spirit of Faith, Hope and Love

Sanctuary, UCC: Open and Affirming of You

Sanctuary, UCC: Being Love and Justice Wherever You Are

Sanctuary, UCC: Safe Space that Forms Faith

Sanctuary, UCC: ???

So, what are your ideas? How do you feel called out of our sanctuary to be sanctuary for all? Join in the conversation and be with us on September 14 immediately after worship in our sanctuary at 400 High Street for a Congregational Meeting of the Governing Body to vote on the use of 'Sanctuary, UCC' as the

name by which we will be known even as we say goodbye to the building that has been our sanctuary and take the bold risk to leave her behind to be sanctuary in the square and in the world.

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

\*"Slow Church is a call for intentionality, an awareness of our mutual interdependence with all people and all creation, and an attentiveness to the world around us and the work God is doing in our very own neighborhoods. Our goal for the Slow Church book and blog is to help inaugurate what we hope is a broad and long and even slow conversation on these topics." [—slowchurch.com](http://slowchurch.com)

\*\*Craft Church is a parable that Mike Piazza takes from the beer industry: Main stream beer sales is declining, especially among millennial generation. Beer consumption on the other hand is at an all-time high. Millennials are not impressed with name brands and seek options and that which is uniquely suited to their taste, what they are eating, where they are....like we have done for a long time with wine, craft beers have been springing up and taking over the market for a while now. What can we learn about this for church? -- video of a workshop on Craft Church from NCLI: <http://vimeo.com/103026678>

**Issued August 31, 2014**

**Call to a Congregational Meeting**

**Sunday, September 14, 2014**

**11:30 am—immediately after worship**

**400 High Street, Medford MA**

The Officers and Church Council of the Congregational Church of West Medford, UCC issue this call to a Congregational Meeting of the Governing Body to:

Vote that the name by which the congregation's ministries will be known is to be: "Sanctuary, UCC." The legal name of the congregation will continue to be "The Congregational Church of West, Medford, United Church of Christ" and she will be doing business as (DBA) "Sanctuary, UCC".

## IN OUR PRAYERS AND PASTORAL CARE



Concerns: We pray for our country and injustice experienced by the oppressed; 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 the recovery of our Bright Starts programs' census and the hard work being put in by her staff; 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.

### Happy August Birthday

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





## MISSION AND OUTREACH

### Church /World Service “School Kits” for Kids

**Sept 5 (2—8 pm) @ 458 High Street: Can you help with School Kits for Kids?** All donations are welcome and help needed on site to guide our guests to make the kits.

#### To assemble each CWS School Kit we 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>



For Details:

<http://medfordchurch.org/open-house-and-kick-off-event/>

**HELP FILL  
SCHOOL KITS  
FOR KIDS IN NEED**

#### 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 assembling and 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, on High Street, etc.
- 5) Watch for an email with all these details and share the invitation with friends and family and facebook/Twitter!!!! Bring a friend!!!

### 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  
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?**

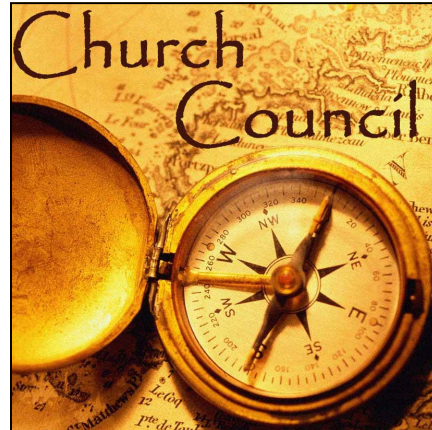
**Contact Rev. Wendy**

## UPDATE FROM CHURCH COUNCIL

### Highlights from August 27 Council Meeting:

1. Elections: Accept Resignation of Rich Carle as Co-Moderator and Trustee of Invested Funds; Elect Bruce Roberts as Co-Moderator; Elect Phil DiSciullo and Deb Soule as Trustee of Invested Funds
2. Leave Taking Worship: Sept 14 – Journey through the Sanctuary: A tour of the Plaques and Windows; Sept. 21 – Healing Sanctuary – a place for our Grief, Praying our Goodbyes; Sept. 28 – Celebrating Sanctuary – walking away to a new Sanctuary and a celebration with Mimosas and chocolate covered strawberries
3. Leave Taking Memories: Susan D'ARcy Fuller taking photos of windows, etc. We will offer Memory Books and Photo/Glass Prints to families
4. Move Out to 458 High Street: Sept 11: Movers coming for all that is not needed for worship
5. Ministry Center Status:
  - Church Name – Congregational Church of West Medford, United Church of Christ, DBA: Sanctuary, UCC; Congregational Meeting Sept 14 to vote on name
  - Construction 85% complete—furnishings, assembly and unpacking through September
  - Current Projected Expense—between \$ 55 and \$ 65 K; including construction, furnishings and AV (Details reviewed with Council; listing available—ask Rev. Wendy)
6. Discerning Worship and Music in Future—Planned for October and November
7. Schedule for ministry roll out
  - Sept 5 – Open House
  - Sept 21 – Medford Community Day
  - Oct 5 – Worship in Ministry /Center
  - October rollout of “Fabulous Friday” BYOB Programs such as Faith and Film, Faith and Art Exhibits, Singing our Faith, Coffeehouse performances; and some of the open office hours being offered to the community. (Pending installation of equipment, etc)
  - November rollout of some of the other small group programs
6. By Laws Rewrite—in process (Rev. Wendy, Gail Airasian and Karne McCune Barca). Will not seek to vote in September.
7. To be discuss at next meeting: Philosophy of presence and hospitality (what additional staff and volunteerism needed for hospitality and ministry?)
8. Council Meeting Schedule 2014.2015? Next Meeting Scheduled for September 16 @ 458 High Street; Beginning in October—Fourth Tuesdays
9. Joint Ministry Meeting Schedule 2014.2015—would like to move to Second Tuesday but need to confirm this will work for those who participate.

*For more details, contact Karen McCune Barca , Clerk—for meeting minutes.*



## THANK YOU FROM PINE RIDGE!!

**Thanks for the New School Clothes:** What a wonderful response you garnered for H'uya and Mink'a, who needed some new school clothes. Joy Harris reports that you gathered 7 bags of new school clothes for these children who are so dear to us. God and the children are smiling! Here are two photos of the kids on the first day of school. In the photo on the left are Raven and Mink'a—Mink'a is decked out in a new dress, leggings, headband and Gap hoodie. It's so great to see her smiling!! H'uya is on the right looking pretty cool in black jeans and V-neck T!

### A Message of Thanks

Inila Wakan, a Lakota man who runs, with his wife and daughters, a Math camp for at-risk girls on Pine Ridge. We were able to donate \$500 from the Pine Ridge fund to the math camp this year.

*"The donation from your church was an incredible gift of love that really helped in our efforts to shine up the precious girls that came to this year's Math Camp. There are no words that can adequately describe how very grateful we are for your love and dedication in helping this year's camp be successful."*

***The kids made a thank-you video—which was posted to Joy's Facebook Time line.***



### Today, Sunday, August 31

#### Outdoor Church Sandwiches After Worship

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.

