

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.  
[www.medfordchurch.org](http://www.medfordchurch.org)



**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".

Signed, Paul Roberts and Bruce Roberts, Co-Moderators



## **PASTORAL REFLECTION**

### **Back to School, Back to Sanctuary**

This past week my facebook feed has been a flurry of photos of heading back...heck, I am even friends with a couple of folk whose children started kindergarten this year—although many of them are children I baptized ;-). It was so fun to see—the proud, fresh faces; the hope for a great year; the promise wrought by a new pair of shoes—that I posed and posted pics

of my own not-so-little-boy who began his freshman year at Medford High. No tears for me—oddly enough, I have never wept when I sent them off to school.

Then, about an hour after I shushed him out the door (with my own sense of pride and gratitude for what a blessing he is to me) I sat down in my office to tackle the insanity of my day and heaved a huge, spiritual sigh of relief. I felt a palpable shift, the presence of a "back-to-sanity" feeling engendered by the structure and schedule that comes when summer is over and we return to the routine of the school year. And I gotta tell you, that it was, it is, in its own way—a sense of sanctuary.

With blessing and prayer and **great gratitude for educators**,  
 Rev. Wendy ([revwdmiller@comcast.net](mailto:revwdmiller@comcast.net)/617.592.5853)

## IN OUR PRAYERS AND PASTORAL CARE



Concerns: For Wendy Vanderhart and family as they deal with Wendy's mom's cancer; Jeff prays for several road trips planned, an upcoming celebration and his work in community political campaigns; Susan prays in gratitude for the prayers on Mark's father's and recent mother's deaths. Sadly another death this week, Susan's cousin Brian, age 45, leaving a wife and 3 children. So more prayers for family needed;. We pray for our country and injustice experienced by the oppressed; about the violence and racism in the world; the people of Ferguson, Israel, Palestine and other places in the world where peace is needed; for all those working on our transition; a client who was in need; Kathy's ministry with the least of these. We continue to pray for our pastor's father and her family and all who are affected by cancer; friends and family members lost in yet another act of violence; June L and for Kim caring for her; 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 all the back to school moments and new beginnings of members and friends of our congregation; Vina celebrates Tripp's and Drew's starting first day of high school; Dick prays for Ernestine at the Winchester Nursing Home; Eva prays for the beginning of seminary at BU; Kim celebrates is so thankful for help from several CCWM members for June--calls, visits and meals. 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](mailto: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](mailto:revwdmiller@comcast.net).

## Happy September Birthday

4	Brenda Briggs	21	Jenna Nackel
5	Diane Petrelis	23	Rev Wendy Miller Olapade
9	Patty Hutchinson	25	Patrick Coughlin
19	Holly Maloney	29	Joy Roberts
20	Kerry Hutchinson	30	Joe Luongo



**Have you checked out the weekly activities? Have you shared the site with a friend? Have you responded to any of the activities with feedback? Have you signed up for the first gathering?**

**The first monthly service project is scheduled for Saturday, Sept 27 (date change). Everything is online, but to pique your interest, here is what this project entails. Everyone is invited to join the Feast!!**

To celebrate September's theme of hospitality, FormingFaith.NET will hold a feast prepared by families\* in our community. To participate, just follow the steps below:

Sign up for the part of the meal your family would like to make.

As a family, use [Pinterest](#) to find a dish that looks like it'd be healthy, delicious, and fun to make.

Go to the store together to buy the ingredients. Or, better yet, check out what straight-from-the-ground veggies are available at the [Plough & Stars Project](#), a farm co-op right here in Medford.

You can pick the veggies up on the morning of the 27th and meet other folks from the neighborhood.

Have fun making the dish with your family.

Take your time and chat while you cook ([click here for some hospitality-related conversation starters](#)).

At 5 p.m., bring your family and your home-cooked dish to North Prospect Union UCC ([map here](#)).

Once we've gathered, each family will be given a chance to tell the story of their dish. A member from each family will help serve their dish at a buffet line. We feast!

*\* We welcome families of all different shapes and sizes. A family may consist of just you or maybe you and your significant other or maybe you and your (grand)child(ren). All people and all combinations of people are welcome to participate.*

**If you are already on our list, you are receiving the weekly email that is designed to encourage participation and highlight the week's faithspirations (activities).**

**Each activity will engage you and your family in faith conversation and spiritual practices designed to form faith offer growth in the spiritual practice of the week.**

**If you are not already on the list—go to the web site and sign up**

**You do not want to miss this very cool curricula designed to resource your family to form faith at home, engage your life through our culture as a person of faith.**



**FAITH.**  
It's not just a  
Sunday morning  
kinda thing  
anymore!

FormingFaith.NET  
www.formingfaith.net

**FORMING**faith.net

FormingFaith.NET combines fun, engaging, and downright awesome online resources with community activities and service projects to make faith formation an everyday kinda thing.

**GET STARTED TODAY**  
[www.formingfaith.net](http://www.formingfaith.net)

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WEST MEDFORD

**Did you know that the West Medford Commuter Rail Station is in a terrible state of disrepair?**

Especially as compared to the four stations north of here!

Join your neighbors for a meeting about the  
**West Medford Commuter Rail Renovation**  
**Monday Sept. 8, 7:00 PM**  
**Medford Library**

State Senator Sean Garballey and residents of Medford will meet to discuss how to initiate improvements.

Contact: Matt Haberstroh:  
[mattsculptor@yahoo.com](mailto:mattsculptor@yahoo.com)  
617.930.4426

<http://insidemedford.com/2014/08/25/residents-rally-to-clean-up-west-medford-station/>



**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)

**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.*





## 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. Copenhaver**



**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)*

## 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-

### 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 Rev. Wendy's and Joy's Facebook Time line.**



### Save the Date: Pine Ridge/Re-Member Event With Founder Rev. Keith Titus

**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!