

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
www.FormingFaith.NET



PASTORAL REFLECTION

***tran-si-tion* noun** *\tran(t)-'si-shən:* **a change from one state or condition to another**

- *passage from one state, stage, subject, or place to another—change*
- *a movement, development, or evolution from one form, stage, or style to another*
- *a musical modulation; a musical passage leading from one section of a piece to another*

Transitions

This week, as we literally moved the operations of the church from 400 to 458 High Street, I was again reminded of the amazing capacity of the human spirit. Despite your own grief and fatigue of it all—you were present with generosity, time, organizational skills, strong backs, ideas for what to take along, how to set up our new home, and your loving commitment to hospitality, kindness and care. Thank you!!!

It has become a reality. We have moved and we are in transition. The sale of the property is still expected to culminate on Sept. 30. Last week the trustees, co-moderators and I met with the Director of the United Church Funds (www.ucfunds.org) to develop a plan for managing the resources from the sale. We received our first piece of mail at 458 High Street—and it was a check for one of our beloved members' pledge! Talk about hope!

It was striking to hear the response (and in some cases incredulity) from vendors, movers, technicians and neighbors. My favorite? The guy who delivered the new café tables who said in a very snide tone, "Well, this is some serious downsizing. What happened?" We will spend time during this transition and as we settle into that which God is unfolding amongst us helping others to understand that this change, this new thing, this "downsizing" is not a bad thing but rather is a freeing-up for ministry and love.

I pray you can experience the excitement of transition—that space which gets you from here to there; from the way it was to the way it will be; from one form to another, from one style to the next; a passage. I know you are tired. I am tired. I am writing this post at 9:30 am on Saturday morning, after believing for the last three hours that I might never be able to get out of bed again. I had literally fallen into bed last night with nothing finished or printed for Sunday—neither my homily for this afternoon's wedding nor the Power point for tomorrow's worship—and my body was screaming, "No, no, no more." But I took care of myself for a bit, opened the window (what a glorious day) and allowed myself to rest into the cool of the morning and here I am, sitting at my desk ready for the transition. Ready for a new day. Ready for a new ministry. Ready for a new space. Ready for a new Sanctuary.

With blessing and prayer, Rev. Wendy (revwdmiller@comcast.net/617.592.5853)



formingfaith.net

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.

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

**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.

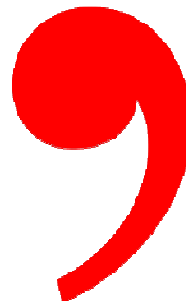
What might we bring, offer, say, project, be, or do that will represent the new ministry we are planting and the ways we want to be God's hands and feet in the world?



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?**



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Contact Rev. Wendy

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

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
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