

Sanctuary | United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Sunday Circle — Annual Congregational Visioning Meeting

October 01, 2017

10 o'clock am



United Church of Christ



WELCOME

Sanctuary United Church of Christ is a diverse community of action-oriented followers of Jesus, who humbly strive through worship, faith formation and the practice of Jesus' teachings to love God and our neighbors as God loves us.

God calls us to care for and meet people where they are; share a life of prayer and joyful service with all; and together--worship, rest in, and serve God. We are seekers of justice and lovers of all of God's creation. Through the community formed by the Holy Spirit, we are consoled, forgiven, refreshed and inspired.

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.

SUNDAY CIRCLE—WORSHIP AND SONG

Opening Prayer

Great Giver God, turn our faces, our voices, and our lives toward you, so we might know goodness, receive what we most need, and share the gifts of life with others.

Opening Music

"Be Still and Know"

Christy Nichols

Scripture

Tensions in the Desert

Exodus 16:2—15

Prayer for the Wilderness

*You are invited to close your fists as the leader prays
and then open them during your spoken response.*

One: God, when we get afraid of what lies ahead, we want to go back to the old ways instead of seeking your new way with us. *(Silence.)*
Help us, forgive us and open us to you.

All: **Holy Giver, our hands are open to receive your gifts.**

One: When we don't see the signs of hope we expect, we complain, we turn to other things, and we blame each other. *(Silence.)*
Help us, forgive us and open us to you.

All: **Holy Giver, our hands are open to receive your gifts.**

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One: When we do have enough, we want even more and, by wanting more, often others have less than enough. (*Silence.*)
Help us, forgive us and open us to you.

All: **Holy Giver, our hands are open to receive your gifts.**

One: When we work so hard to get something, we forget your goodness and think our lives are what we've done, have, or achieve. (*Silence.*)
Help us, forgive us and open us to you.

All: **Holy Giver, our hands are open to receive your gifts.**

All: Our God is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
Trust in God's forgiveness and power to transform our regret to mercy.
May it be so.

Meditation Music

Be Still and Know

John Bell

Reading

Manna

by Steve Garnaas-Holmes

*In the morning there on the surface of the wilderness
was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground.
When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another,
"What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them,
"It is the bread that God has given you to eat." —Exodus 16.13-15*

What gets you through the desert?
What gets you through?
What gets you through the chemo,
the healing from abuse, the bad marriage,
what gets you through
the job that tries to kill you,
the dark alley of the shadow of death,
the rotten places, the placeless places,
the evil you fear, the evil you've done,
your daily inadequacy,
what gets you through?

Reflections

Manna in the Wilderness?

Tell us... when, where, what, was your manna?

How did you find it?

Manna, continued...

What gets you through the desert?
What gets you through?
What gets you through the chemo,
the healing from abuse, the bad marriage,
what gets you through
the job that tries to kill you,
the dark alley of the shadow of death,
the rotten places, the placeless places,
the evil you fear, the evil you've done,
your daily inadequacy,
what gets you through?

Some will call it courage or stamina,
luck or faith or reaching down deep.
But you know it's not you, not yours.
It's given. To you. For you.
From the Holy One.

The thread you follow,
the source you drink from,
the encouraging voice,
the Divine desire that you thrive,
the gift amid the desolation,
you find it anywhere—
the usual, the impossible,
the unwelcome.
You learn to recognize it.
You learn to receive it.

For that grace that gets you through
you learn to say thank you.

You learn to count on it,
and be surprised,
every morning.
Every morning.

Offering (*we welcome your electronic gift via the QR code on the back cover*)

Invitation

Being Sanctuary

World Communion Sunday—The Eucharist

This Table is one of Grace.

All are welcome to join in remembering, celebrating and communing.

If you would prefer—the pastor will provide a simple blessing.

Invitation and Prayers

The Great Thanksgiving

One: Friends, from many pasts and pathways we are gathered...
Rather to remember and be remembered;
to be held and made whole by the grace of Christ,
the mystery of God and the encouragement of the Spirit.

All: **Giver and Redeemer of life,**
we offer our gratitude; we lay down our defenses
for a love that creates — then calls us forth —
often from places of imprisonment and desolation.
Out of the wilderness you are our liberation and hope,
you are our mercy and courage for the journey.

One: And so, ours is the song of countless generations
who have also been captivated by your beauty
and set free in your healing presence:

All: **Holy, holy, holy is God,**
heaven and earth resound to God's glory.
Hosanna in the highest
and blest is the One who comes in God's name.
Hosanna in the highest!

One: Before these symbols of everyday life —
bread for the sharing and grape for gladness of heart — we pause and pray.
For in and through them, we seek a union of heart, mind, and spirit
with the One who has said:

All: **This is my body, eat this in remembrance of me**
(pause as the bread is broken).

One: And after the One said,

All: **This is my life-blood, drink this in remembrance of me**
(pause as the cup is lifted).

One: Christ who calls, rescues, and ennobles, fill us with your spirit of strength and compassion for all.

All: **Equip and inspire us to be your people
in this time and place. Amen!**

Sharing the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving (In Unison)

We came to your table needy; we leave satisfied. We came to your table alienated; we leave in community. We have shared in the blessing of your gospel. Let your Spirit guide us in the week ahead, that we may share your gospel with others.
Amen.

Musical Interlude

"Take Me To The King"

Kirk Franklin

Please fill your cup and plate and return to your seat for our meeting!

Upcoming

Sunday, October 08 - 10 am

Sunday Circle @ Sanctuary

Worship and Song

"A Rule of Love"

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Today's readings offer a glimpse of a world where all patterns of human living are grounded in a rule of love and respect. As we continue to grow as a community of God's people, these rules of love can help to shape our lives together.

What is the role of the ten commandments in our personal and corporate lives?

Sunday, October 15 - 10 am

ARTChurch with Caleb Cole @ Sanctuary

"Other People's Clothes"
with Photographer Caleb Cole



Caleb Cole is a critically acclaimed photographer who captured the essence of what it means to put yourself in someone else's shoes... and shirts, pants, dresses, and even some black leather and dangerous-looking stiletto heels.

**Come connect with the compassion and passion of Caleb Cole's
connection to other people through their clothes!**

CALL TO THE 2017 CONGREGATIONAL VISIONING MEETING

The Congregational Church of West Medford, United Church of Christ
dba Sanctuary UCC

***Sunday, October 01
11:00 am – 12:30 pm (Immediately after worship)
458 High Street, Medford, MA***

The Officers and Leadership Circle of the Congregational Church of West Medford, dba Sanctuary UCC issue this call to the Annual Congregational Visioning Meeting as defined by our [by-laws](#). The purpose of this annual Visioning Meeting is to: a) Review and assess the congregation's mission, ministries, objectives and goals; and b) Make adjustments as called for from the dialogue and discernment. (Article IV. Section B)

The agenda for the 2017 Visioning Meeting and Process will include:

- I. Honing the vision of Sanctuary and the focus of her ministry
 - A. What is God calling us to be? Discussion about what is currently working and what is currently missing
 - 1. Worship and Faith Formation
 - 2. Care and Justice
 - 3. Community Commitment
 - B. A Word about "Who is our Neighbor?"
- II. Functions, Staffing and Leadership for Sustainability – What, Who, How: 2018 and beyond...
- III. Getting to an organizational structure for mission and sustainability – Bylaws and Leadership Development

*Signed by Paul Roberts, Moderator and Bruce Roberts, Vice Moderator
on behalf of the Leadership Circle*

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*The meeting will be accessible via the web or telephone as follows:*

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/205540418>

Phone: 646-876-9923

## Call to the Congregational Meeting

### Blessing to Begin the Congregational Visioning Meeting

**One:** We have been fed by the stories of faith.

**All:** **We turn our faces into the uncertain places so we may know God.**

**One:** We have been sustained in the rituals of community.

**All:** **We turn our lives back to the God of plenty.**

**One:** May the God of bread and justice accompany us.

**All:** May the Spirit surround us with hope **as we walk the way of the Christ.**

## Agenda

### I. Honing the vision of Sanctuary and the focus of her ministry

A. What is God calling us to be? What is currently working and differentiates our ministry

1. Worship and Faith Formation—(*asking*) Deep Questions, (*having*) Deep Conversations, (*making*) Deep Connections, (*building*) Deep Convictions

- Sunday Circle
- Faith and Film
- ArtChurch

2. Care and Justice—Circles of Love and Care of Neighbor;  
Meaning and Purpose—More Faith Formation!

- Lakota YouthStay
- Medford Cares
- Other Volunteerism

3. Community Commitment—Community Chaplaincy, Moral Leadership, Organizational Expertise, Coalition and Partnership Building for a Better Medford

- Medford Overcoming Addiction, Safe Medford, Medford Health Matters, Medford Community Coalition, Medford Conversations Project, Medford Interfaith Clergy, Medford Film Collaborative, Medford High School, Tufts University – Community Relations, Tufts Chaplaincy, Chamber of Commerce - Halloween Block Party



B. A Word about “Who is our Neighbor?”

We need to discern answers to these questions—who is out there (Mosaic Segments), who is attracted to what we are doing, what are the implications of that for our sustainability, if we want to attract other segments—what does that mean for our ministry model?

**II. Functions, Staffing and Leadership for Sustainability – What, Who, How: 2018 and beyond... With Transition Comes Opportunity!**

A. Current Status

1. At current projections for market and spending, with no additional revenue—we will spend down assets to approximately \$2M by year end 2019.
2. Sustainability is everything!
3. We are Learning from our Experiment and Experience
4. Reduce Pastoral Staff—non-renewal of Community Minister Contract
2. Resignation of Church Administrator
3. Several Leadership Circle Members will Complete their Service—including the Treasurer

B. *What and Who and How: 2018 and beyond...* Now that we have three years of experience!! What are the Essential Functions and Staffing/Leadership structure and skills needed to achieve sustainability –

- Pastoral/Clergy Functions
- Church/Business Management and Administrative Functions
- Accounting/Bookkeeping Functions
- Marketing/Social Media Functions
- Development Fundraising Functions
  - Grants/Investors/Sustainers (external fundraising)
  - Stewardship (internal giving)
- Community Organizing Functions
- Leading, Inspiring, Organizing Ministry Functions—Lay Leadership. Volunteerism, Passion for the Purpose and more...

### **III. Getting to an organizational structure for mission and sustainability – Bylaws and Leadership Development**

The Leadership Circle is recommending changes to our bylaws to include (but not limited to)

- Eliminate the Stewardship and Finance ‘Standing Committee’ with the roles and responsibilities identified therein, to be assumed by the Leadership Circle;
- Allow for community members who are invested in Sanctuary’s mission and who bring specific skills and experiences needed by the new model of ministry into which we are living—to serve on the Leadership Circle. The recommended change would include protections to the financial well being (background checks for instant) and require a minimum percentage of LC to be members of the congregation

#### **Big Picture Recommendation**

Continue to tighten our ministry model

Laser-like focus on volunteer development

Continue to develop and live into partnerships

Seek contract expertise that does not exist in our current staffing model  
le: bookkeeping, marketing, social media, financial development.

As we would were we a new church start—

Recruit Community Members with broad expertise  
who are invested in Sanctuary’s success to the Leadership Circle

#### **Short Term Recommendation**

Hire Bonded Bookkeeping Agency for Treasurer and Admin financials

Hire Interim Church/Office Administrator

Recruit a strategic discernment and search team (including folk from outside of the church) for consideration of staffing and skills/expertise adjustments and hiring.



**Sunday, October 15, 3 pm**

**"Allah Made Me Funny"  
Screening & Discussion**

**Medford High School, 489 Winthrop Street, Medford**

**FREE TICKETS:**

**[www.SanctuaryUCC.org/AllahMadeMeFunny](http://www.SanctuaryUCC.org/AllahMadeMeFunny)**

**This Race and Ethnicity Film Series is brought to you by: Medford Film  
Collaborative, Medford Conversations Project, MHS Arabic Club,  
Tufts University and the Office of Community Relations**



# FAITH AND FILM

Suggested donation \$10



**BYOB—Feature Film Screening w/Discussion to Follow**

THIS IS THE STORY OF A LIFETIME  
**MOONLIGHT**

THIS IS THE STORY OF A LIFETIME  
**MOONLIGHT**

THIS IS THE STORY OF A LIFETIME  
**MOONLIGHT**

***“An intimate and haunting drama.....a film of rare grace...  
...a tender, compassionate, restrained  
look at a life lived in the shadows.***

**FRIDAY, OCT 06 - 6:30 PM**

**Sanctuary | United Church of Christ**  
*The Congregational Church of West Medford*



**We welcome your online  
donation to support  
these ministries:  
[sanctuaryucc.org/give](http://sanctuaryucc.org/give)**

Ministers: All of us!

Rev. Wendy Miller Olapade, lead pastor

Rev. Lambert Rahming, community minister

Linda Malik, administration

Ray Santiago, sexton

Leadership Circle Members:

Joanna Begin, Branwen Cook, Amanda Coughlin,  
Bruce Roberts, Paul Roberts, Carvina Williams.

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