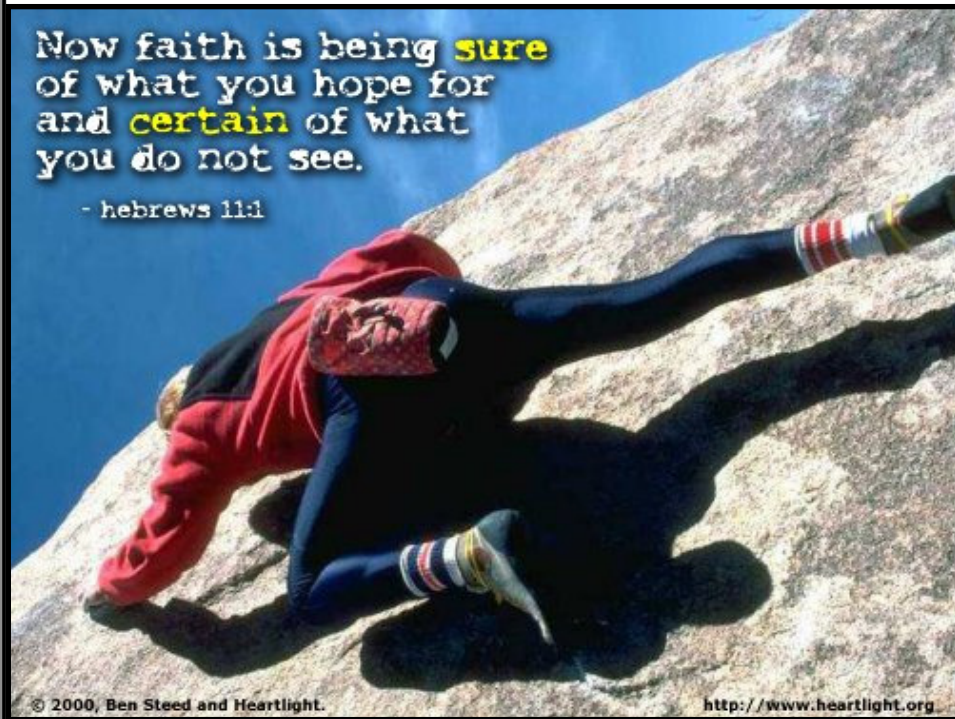


**The Congregational Church of West Medford**  
An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost  
Worship  
August 11, 2013  
10:00 am

## WELCOME

The Congregational Church of West Medford, United Church of Christ, is a community that strives to live according to the teachings of Jesus Christ and to share in the costs and joys of discipleship. We unconditionally welcome and affirm people of every age, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, race, culture, ability, and economic circumstance, and invite everyone into full participation in our church life and ministry.

If you're visiting for the first time, feel uncertain about church, find yourself here infrequently, or attend weekly, there's a place for you here. There are many ways to be involved and if you'd like to know more about our many activities, please speak to a greeter or the pastor.

**We ask that you wear a name tag to help us know each other.  
Blank name tags are available by the door for anyone in need.**

Please be sure to sign the Pew Register which you will find on the center aisle.

## GATHERING TO PRAISE GOD

Prelude *Fantasia in D* —W. A. Mozart

Welcome

**Call to Worship** Bev Cohen

One: Are you ready?

**All: *Every day can be a banquet!***

One: Are you ready?

**All: *Every day can be a "welcome home"!***

One: Are you ready?

**All: *Every meal can be communion.***

One: Are you ready?

**All: *Every drink can ease our thirst for friendship,  
for community, for wholeness.***

One: Are we ready to welcome our God?

**All: *Let us come together to worship, to listen, to learn.***

\*Gathering Song "Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer" # 18

Prayer of Praise

\* Please rise in body or spirit as you are able -2-

## A Time of Confession

### Preparing our Hearts “Spirit of the Living God”

—Iverson

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me, Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me, Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.

### Prayer of Confession

One: Holy, gracious and loving God: we know your many gifts to us.

We delight in connections with friends and family.

We celebrate safe homes and enough to eat.

We treasure beautiful objects and nature’s ever-changing offerings.

**All: *And we confess that sometimes we neglect relationships; sometimes we feel envy and want more than we have; sometimes we postpone saying “thank you” or “I like you” or “could you please help me?”***

One: Sometimes we ignore injustice or unfairness in our desire to “get along.”

**All: *We confess that, no matter what we have or what we lack, we do not celebrate where we can. We worry about the future so much that we do not treasure what we can of the present.***

One: Pause our racing minds. Slow our pounding hearts.

**All: *Remind us that all good gifts come from you. Re-order our calendars, our finances, our focus, our thoughts onto what truly matters.***

### \*The Good News of God’s Grace and Presence

**One:** God sees us, knows us, loves us just as we are. With that love as our haven and our base, let us begin again; let us move ahead;

**All: for we know ourselves forgiven and beloved!**

### \*Passing of the Peace

One: May the peace of Christ be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

### \*Sung Response

#### “Sweet, Sweet Spirit”

#293

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.

## Church Life and Mission

### Hymn

#### “When Peace Like a River”

# 438

Stanzas 1 and 2

## PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

### Prayers of the People and Pastoral Prayer

One: God in your mercy    *All: Hear our prayer*

### 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

From the Bible

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Sermon

LIFE IS DIFFICULT: GOD IS GOOD

Rev. Wendy Miller Olapade

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

Hymn

**"When Peace Like a River"**  
Stanzas 3 and 4

**# 438**

Offering

Invitation to Joyful Stewardship

Offertory

*Ave Verum*

— W. A. Mozart

\*Doxology

\*Procession of Gifts and Prayer of Dedication

\*Closing Hymn

**"Glory, Glory Hallelujah"**

**# 2**

Blessing and Sending

Postlude

*Hallelujah*

— W. A. Mozart



Please join in a time of fellowship and connection immediately after worship in Barnes Chapel. Exit the sanctuary in the front through the door to the left of the pulpit.

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

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WORSHIP AT THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WEST MEDFORD

**Today, Sunday August 11, 2013, Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost**

The liturgist for today is Bev Cohen

The Deacon of the Month for August is Kathy Williams

We celebrate the gift and beauty of perpetual flowers on the Altar.

Rev. Wendy returns from medical leave with a sermon entitled: "Life is Difficult: God is Good". The scripture lesson from the Letter to the Hebrews begins with the oft quoted definition of faith: "*Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.*" Faith is more than mere belief. Rather, faith is about trust, and loyalty, and where we dare to invest ourselves. To say we have faith in God is to do more than simply say it – to have faith means to live a radically different way, trusting that tomorrow is taken care of in the hands of God. So what does that say to how we live today? What impact might that have on our daily living?

**Next Sunday, August 18 , Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Rev. Wendy continues to preach about faith from the letter to the Hebrews, which refers us to "the great cloud of witnesses" that has persevered through tough times. Life is unsettling. We want easy answers, and they are usually The letter to the Hebrews dares to come forward and say, "yes, bad things happen. They have happened for years. And yet God is with us. Always. So we dare not give up." Maybe we would do well to let go of the things that weigh us down, and simply persevere, looking at the example of Jesus who went through suffering and even death to proclaim the message of God's justice. How readily can we set things aside and move forward?

## **Crossroads: A New Beginning The Implementation Plan Mark Your Calendars!!**

*This is what the Lord says:  
“Stand at the crossroads and look;  
ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is,  
and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls.  
—Jeremiah 6:16*



Dear Friend,

It is time! Our team of facilitators has been meeting through the summer and we are very excited to present the implementation plan for our Crossroads Process! As you know, Crossroads is designed to enable our congregation to make a decision that will allow the church to reach sustainable levels for our future witness.

**Everyone** is welcome to this imperative and meaningful conversation about the future of our congregation—whether ‘member’ or friend, whether you have been here 50 years or 50 days, if you have an interest in the Congregational Church of West Medford’s mission and ministry—you are urged to participate. Based on your availability, you will be assigned to a small group (8 –10 people) to allow for effective and thoughtful dialogue.

We are planning an “All-Church Kickoff Picnic” and Crossroad Session I will be an “All-Church” event. The remaining five sessions will be done in small group “House Meetings” which are being offered either Sunday after worship or Monday evening. You will receive a doodle poll, via email whereby you are asked to let us know which of these times works for you.

We are changing the model for our Sunday worship for the duration of Crossroads. It will be a 30-40 minute Intergenerational Worship Service. We will have a light coffee hour for those who are not participating in Crossroads on Sunday. Following worship, the Crossroads small groups will leave the church to go to House meetings while children will remain at the church to participate in a children’s program offered concurrently with the Sunday Crossroads Sessions (and led by professional child care providers).

We welcome and encourage teens from Confirmation age and above to participate in Crossroads at the discretion of their parents/guardians.

Here are the details that you need to know for now. We ask that you mark your calendars and respond to the requests for feedback immediately.

### **The Schedule**

- A. Crossroads Kick-off: Saturday, August 24 (3:00 pm—7:00 pm)**  
**All-Church Picnic at the Parsonage (all ages are welcome)**  
We will serve Blue Ribbon Barbeque for the main meal and invite you to bring:  
Appetizers, Drinks or Dessert! Help needed to get tables and chairs to the parsonage.
- B. Sept. 8—Homecoming Sunday**  
**Worship (10:00 am-10:40 am)**  
**Homecoming “Picnic” — Fellowship Hall (CE and Potluck meal)**  
**Crossroads Session 1 —11:00 am —1:00 pm, All-Church in Fellowship Hall**
- C. Sessions 2 through Session 6—House Meetings (locations to be determined)**
- Crossroads Session 2: Sunday, Sept. 15/Monday, Sept. 16
  - Crossroads Session 3: Sunday, Sept. 22/Monday, Sept. 23
  - Crossroads Session 4: Sunday, Sept. 29/Monday, Sept. 30
  - Crossroads Session 5: Sunday, Oct. 06/Monday, Oct. 07
  - Crossroads Session 6: Sunday, Oct. 20/Monday, Oct. 21

#### ***Sunday Schedule***

*Sunday Intergenerational Worship (10:00 am—10:30 am)*

*Children’s Program at the church (10:45 am—1:15 pm)*

*Sunday Crossroads Session Offsite (11:00 am—1:00 pm)*

#### ***Monday Crossroad Session (7:00 pm—9:00 pm)***

*Offsite location to be determined*

*Monday Session members will determine if meal to be included*

### **What we need from you for now:**

- **Volunteers for hosting the Sunday and Monday house meetings (these could take place at the same location or rotate depending on availability)**
- **Respond to doodle poll (via email) or call the church office with your RSVP for the All Church Picnic and your RSVP for participating in Crossroads and your preferred availability for the house meetings (Sunday or Monday).**

Any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact the church office, Rev. Wendy, Paul Roberts or one of the facilitators (Stephanie Miller, Jenna Nackel, Julie Roberts, Kathy Williams, Karen Barca McCune, and Charlotte Wilensky).

## **THIS WEEK AT YOUR CHURCH**

**August 11 – August 17, 2013**

August 11, 2013 Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

Worship Service-10 am with Holy Communion

Goodland Church-5:30 pm

Goodland Church Fellowship Hall—2:30-5:00 pm

### Monday

(3) Boot Camp Sessions: 5:45 am--6:15 am;  
8:15 am--9:00 am; 5:30 pm—6:15 pm

Yoga- 6:30 pm

### Tuesday

Zumba– 6:30 pm

Gamblers Anonymous- 7:00 pm

### Wednesday

(3) Boot Camp Sessions: 5:45 am— 6:15 am;  
8:15 am--9:00 am; 5:30 pm—6:15 pm

Zumba- 6:30 pm

Alcoholics Anonymous- 8:00 pm

### Thursday

Food Addicts– 6 pm

### Friday

(3) Boot Camp Sessions: 5:45 am--6:15 am;  
8:15 am-- 9:00 am, 5:30--6:15 pm

### Saturday

Alanon - 9 am

Yoga- 9am

Boot Camp- 12:15 pm

August 18, 2013 Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Worship Service-10 am

Goodland Church Worship--5:30—7:30 pm

## **Weekdays**

(M—F) **Bright Stars Afterschool Enrichment Program**, [www.BrightStarsKids.org](http://www.BrightStarsKids.org)

((M-F) **Gentle Dragon Co-op Preschool**, [www.GentleDragonPreschool.org](http://www.GentleDragonPreschool.org)

(M-F) **English at Large** (ESOL/ESL Programs), [www.englishatlarge.org](http://www.englishatlarge.org)

### **The Congregational Church of West Medford, United Church of Christ**

Ministers: All of us!

Pastor and Teacher: Reverend Wendy Miller Olapade

Organist and Choir Director: Dr. Herman Weiss

Church Administrator: Diane Petrelis

Moderator: Paul Roberts

Treasurer: Beverly Roche

Deacon of the Month: Kathy Williams

Clerk: Clarisse Coughlin

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