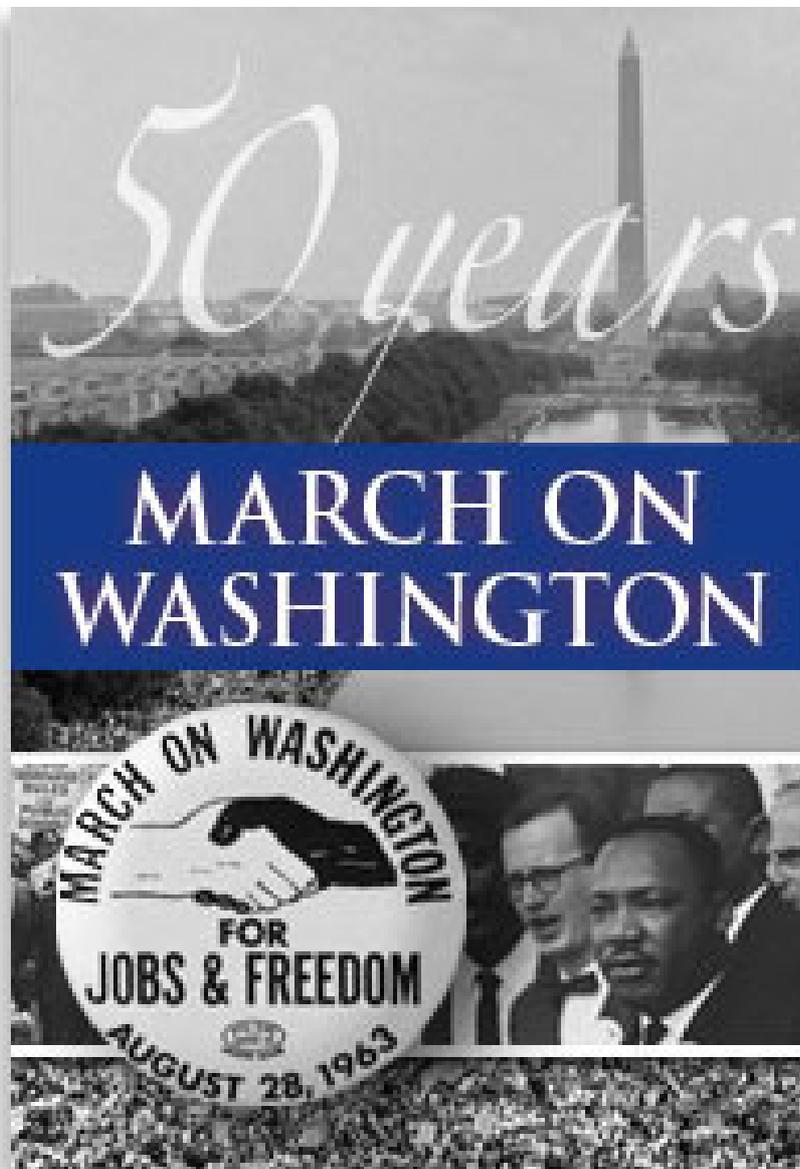


The Congregational Church of West Medford
An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Worship

August 25, 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 *Nocturne in F#* — Chopin

Welcome

Call to Worship Carvina Williams

One: We gather to praise you, O God, even though we don't fully understand you.

**All: *You are a fire we cannot touch. You are a song we cannot quite sing.
You are a sea whose bottom we cannot search
and a sky clouded over in endlessly changing patterns.***

One: But, even so, your fire warms us, your song stirs us,
your waters wash us clean and quench our thirst.

All: *You shine on us and in us. And we praise you.*

***Gathering Song "For the Healing of the Nations" # 576**

Prayer of Praise

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.

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

Prayer of Confession

One: Sometimes we are so certain of what is possible. Sometimes we assume that situations cannot change, that we cannot change.

All: *O God, sometimes we must make you laugh with what we are so sure of. Or, perhaps, we make you weep. In this time of silence, dear God, show us our false assumptions. Teach us that where we see inflexibility, you may see possibility. Where we see endings, you may see beginnings. Open our eyes to what you would have us see.*

Silence

***The Good News of God's Grace and Presence**

One: The good news of the gospel is that we do not face anything alone. In our fears, in our joys, in our routines, God is present with us. As we turn and begin again,

All: *we know that God loves us and we are forgiven! Amen.*

***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.

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Church Life and Mission

Time with Young Christians

Hymn "Oh For a World" # 575
Stanza 1—3

Prayers of the People and Pastoral Prayer

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

WORSHIP AT THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WEST MEDFORD

Today, Sunday August 25, 2013, Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The liturgist for today is Carvina Williams.

The Deacon of the Month for August is Kathy Williams.

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

“Free at Last, Free at Last, Thank God Almighty We are Free at Last! Through a story of healing in the gospel of Luke, Jesus demonstrates that all people are of value, and worthy of enjoying the wholeness of life. Jesus heals and sets the woman free from a heavy burden, in direct challenge to those who see her as a low “priority.” On the 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington, Rev. Wendy preaches a sermon calling us to free ourselves from the burdens of racism and continue the work of setting free all who are captive to its burden. God calls us all, God affirms us all, and God is a refuge for all. With this kind of assurance, we can dare to fling open gates and enter new life.

Next Sunday, September 1, 2013 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Worship with Holy Communion

“Honey From the Rock?” As we ready ourselves for our Crossroads conversation, Rev. Wendy preaches from Psalm 81, which encourages us to “listen” to God. The Hebrew word rendered as “listen” — *shama?* — means “to hear intelligently (often with the implication of attention, obedience).” The old KJV often translated *shama?* as “hearken,” which seems to roll together both a hearing-God meaning and an obeying-him meaning. Yet, while *hearing* and *obeying* are connected, they are also different things. As we enter into a time of discernment and decision making, we will be asked to both listen and hearken to God. How will we participate? How will we listen?

How will we *hearken* to God?

Sunday, September 8
Homecoming Sunday
Blessing of the Backpacks
Crossroads Session 1

Be sure to bring the children and their backpacks for this special blessings of the kids as they head off to school. We will celebrate Homecoming Sunday with a potluck meal after worship and begin our Crossroads conversations.

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 25 –31,2013

August 25, 2013 Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Worship Service-10 am
Goodland Church-12:30 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

Mothers Club-7:30 pm

Tuesday

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

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

September 1, 2013 Fourteenth 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
((M-F) **Gentle Dragon Co-op Preschool**, www.GentleDragonPreschool.org
(M-F) **English at Large** (ESOL/ESL Programs), 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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