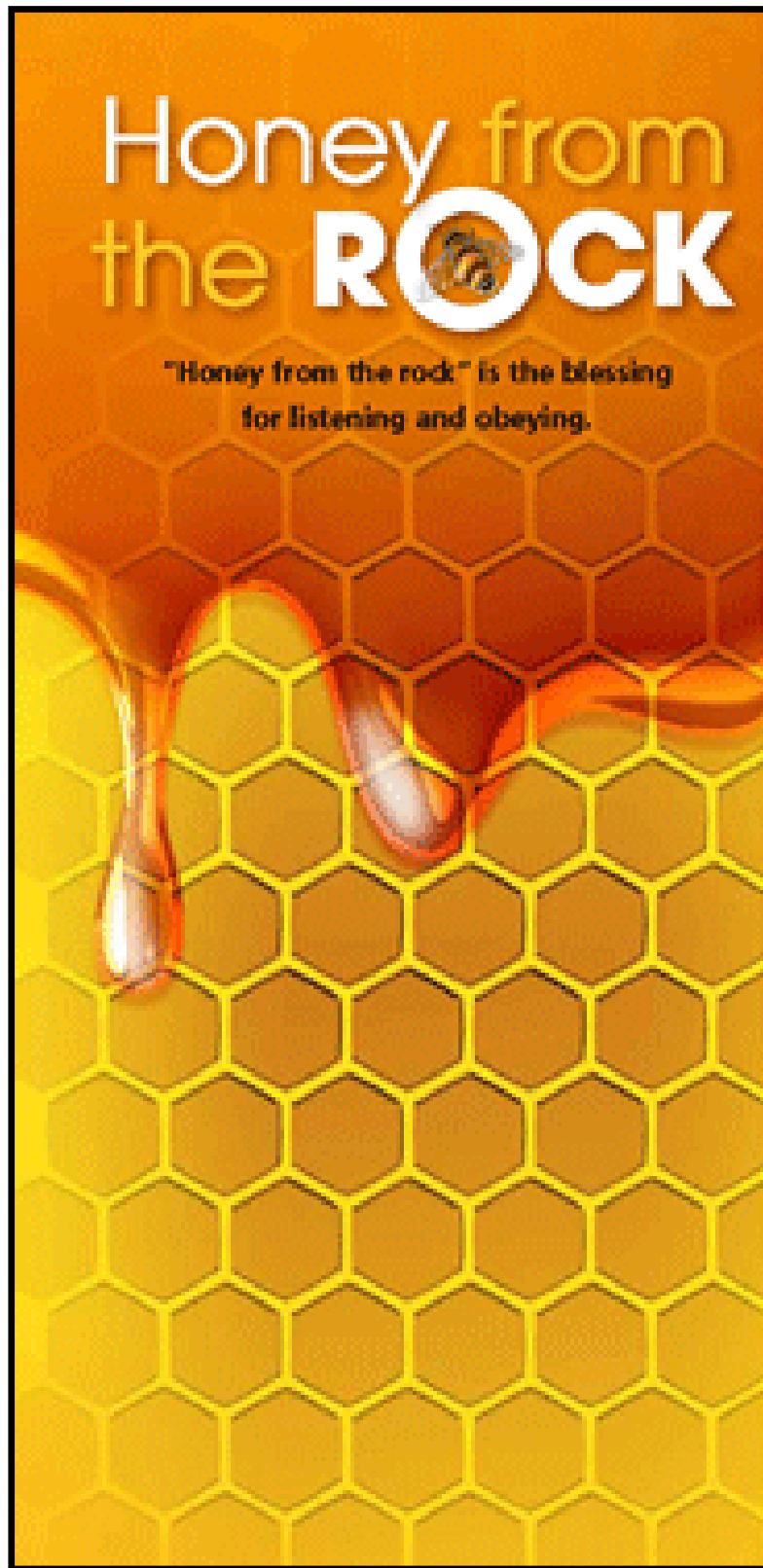


**The Congregational Church of West Medford**  
An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
Worship With Holy Communion

September 01, 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

*Trio*

— Froberger

Welcome

**Call to Worship**

Kathy Williams

**One:** We who have risen to embrace this day,

**All:** *we who are weary in body and spirit,  
all are welcome in this sacred place.*

**One:** We who know the abundance of life,

**All:** *we who are left impoverished by harsh realities,  
all receive a sustaining measure of God's love.*

**One:** We who are strong in mind and soul,

**All:** *we who are challenged by illnesses of many kinds,  
all are whole in the Spirit of God.*

**One:** We who have a voice and the strength to use it,

**All:** *we who whisper prayers in our hearts,  
all are invited to worship the God we love.*

**One:** Come, for you have a place of honour in the heart of God.

**\*Gathering Song**

**“We’re Gonna Sit  
at the Welcome Table”**

—traditional African American

I’m gonna sit at the welcome table,  
I’m gonna sit at the welcome table one of these days—Alleluia.

I’m gonna sit at the welcome table,  
Sit at the welcome table one of these days.

I’m gonna feast on milk and honey...

All God’s Children gonna sit together...

We’re gonna sit at the welcome table...

Prayer of Praise

**A Time of Confession**

**Preparing our Hearts**

**“Hush, Hush,  
Somebody’s Calling My Name”**

—African American Spiritual

Hush, hush, somebody’s calling my name.

Hush, hush, somebody’s calling my name.

Hush, hush somebody’s calling my name.

Oh my Lord, Oh, my Lord, what shall I do? What shall I do?

**Prayer of Confession**

One: Sacred Spirit who moves within and between...

...When we do not look beyond our institutional walls,

**All: forgive us, O God.**

One: When we withhold and restrict the grace of the sacraments,

**All: forgive us, O God.**

One: When we imagine ourselves to be more valuable than others,

**All: forgive us, O God.**

One: When we think only of self-maintenance,

**All: forgive us, O God.**

One: When we do not live as your people,

**All: forgive us, O God.**

**Silence**

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

**\*Passing of the Peace**

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

**All: And also with you.**

**\*Sung Response**

**“Hush, Hush,  
Somebody’s Calling My Name”**

—African American Spritual

Sounds Like Jesus, Somebody’s calling my name. (X3)  
Oh my Lord, Oh, my Lord, what shall I do? What shall I do?  
I’m so glad, Trouble won’t last always (x3)  
Oh my Lord, Oh, my Lord, what shall I do? What shall I do?

**PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD**

**Church Life and Mission**

**Time with Young Christians**

**Hymn** **“Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me”** **# 596**

**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** **Psalm 81: 1, 10-16** Kathy Williams  
NCH Page 673

Luke 14: 1—14

**Sermon** **“HONEY FROM THE ROCK?”** Rev. Wendy Miller Olapade

**RESPONDING TO GOD’S GRACE**

**Hymn** **“As We Gather at our Table”** **# 332**

**Offering** Kathy Williams

**Invitation to Joyful Stewardship**

**Offertory** *Largo* --- Handel

**\*Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ all creatures here below;  
Praise Holy Spirit, comforter; One God, triune, whom we adore. Amen

**\*Procession of Gifts and Prayer of Dedication**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Invitation to the Feast

Prayer of Consecration and Blessing of the Meal

**Sharing the Bread and Cup**

*This meal of love and grace is open to all who wish to participate.  
Gluten Free Crackers are available and the cup is filled with grape juice.  
It is our practice to come forward to the servers,  
to break off a piece of the bread, and to dip it in the cup.  
Those unable to come forward will be served in their seats.*

**Prayer of Thanksgiving (Unison)**

**Let all the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. You have blessed us with life. You have blessed us with love. We have experienced your love at this table. Praised be your name. Amen.**

**\*Closing Hymn**

**“Blessed Assurance”**

**# 473**

**Blessing and Sending**

**Postlude**

*Hymn of Praise*

—Schreiner



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.

**Today, Sunday September 1, 2013, Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Worship with Holy Communion**

The liturgist for today is Kathy Williams.

The Deacon of the Month for August is Kathy Williams.

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

**“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?

**Next 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).