

For we brought nothing  
into the world, and we can  
take nothing out of it. But if  
we have food and clothing,  
we will be content with that.

1 Timothy 6:7-8



**The Congregational Church  
of West Medford**

**An Open and Affirming Congregation  
of the United Church of Christ**

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 29, 2013

10:00 o'clock 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.

*As an act of prayer, you are encouraged to light a candle on the table at the front of the sanctuary—for yourself, for a loved one, for peace, for the world.*

## GATHERING TO PRAISE GOD

Prelude

*Prelude in C*

— Bruckner

Welcome and Prayer of Praise

**\*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...



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

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## \*Call to Worship

Susan D'Arcy Fuller

One: Wherever we are, we are in the presence of God.

**All: *Whatever is happening to us, we can turn to God, who loves us and cares for us.***

One: And yet, in this place, in this time, we come to feel especially close to God.

**All: *We come to be reminded that God hears our cries,***

One: that God knows our needs,

**All: *that God wants to calm our fears and protect us from all harm.***

One: Always and everywhere, God wants what is best for us.

**All: *Come, let us gather under the shelter of God's wings, and let us worship God!***

## A Time of Confession

Invitation and Prayer

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

**"Somebody Prayed for Me"**

—Darling and Norwood

Somebody prayed for me, had me on their mind, took the time and prayed for me

I'm so glad they prayed, I'm so glad they prayed, I'm so glad they prayed for me.

The preacher prayed for me, ..

My mother prayed for me...

Jesus prayed for me,

## Church Life and Mission

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.

## PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

**From the Bible**

1 Timothy 6:6—12, 17—19

Susan D'Arcy Fuller

**Reflection**

WHY CHURCH?  
REASON THREE: MONEY MATTERS

Rev. Wendy Miller Olapade

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

**\*Offering**

**Invitation to Joyful Stewardship**

**Offertory**

*Toccata in D minor*

—J.S. Bach

**\*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**

**\*Closing Hymn**

**“Take My Life, God, Let it Be”**

**# 448**

**Blessing and Sending**

**Postlude**

*Trio*

—Buxtehude



If you are participating in a Crossroads Small Group today we encourage you to be prompt in getting to your group.

A time of fellowship and conversation will be held immediately after worship in Barnes Chapel, for those who are not in Crossroads today.

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

*In conjunction with our 'Crossroads: A New Beginning' dialogue, our worship this week (and on Oct 6 and 20th) is intergenerational and designed to last 30-40 minutes.*

*Nursery Care is provided during the worship 'hour'.*

*School aged children will remain in worship with their families.*

*The Children's program that was planned for the Crossroads program has been cancelled due to lack of need. If you need this please advise Rev. Wendy.*

### **This Sunday, September 29, 2013, 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Worship 10:00 am—10:40 am**

**Crossroads Session 4 —11:00 am—1:00 pm**

**Blue Group House Meeting—Living Room**

**Red Group House Meeting—Bean Chapel**

**Youth Faith Formation/Confirmation Class: 4:00—6:00 PM (LR)**

The liturgist for today is Susan D'Arcy Fuller

The Deacon of the Month for September is Brenda Briggs.

We celebrate the gift and beauty of the altar flowers given by Ethel M. Winsor in loving memory of her brother George Pike.

The Why Church? Series continues with "Reason Three: Money Matters as we look at some wisdom from Paul's first letter to Timothy about money and our spiritual well being. Paul suggests that we should "give" not only to do good for others but also because it's necessary for our own spiritual well-being. It's part of the way we love God with all our heart, soul and mind.

### **Next Sunday, October 06, 2013, World Communion Sunday**

**Worship with Holy Communion 10:00 am—10:40 am**

**Crossroads Session 5 —11:00 am—1:00 pm**

**Blue Group House Meeting—Living Room**

**Red Group House Meeting—TBA**

**Youth Faith Formation/Confirmation: 4:00—6:00 PM (LR)**

Our worship for this week will be centered on Holy Communion as we celebrate with faith communities all over the world this blessed sacrament of the church.

The Why Church? series concludes next week with "Reason Number Four: Mentors".



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