

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

Thanksgiving Sunday

November 24, 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

GATHERING TO PRAISE GOD

front of the sanctuary—for yourself, for a loved one, for peace, for the world.

Prelude

Come, Ye Faithful People

—Metzger

Welcome

*Call to Worship

Jessica Coughlin

One: For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land,

All: A land with flowing streams,

One: With streams and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills,

All: A land of wheat and barley,

One: Of vines and fig trees and pomegranates,

All: A land of olive trees and honey,

One: A land where you may eat bread without scarcity,

All: Where you will lack for nothing.

One: You will eat your fill and bless the Lord your God

All: For the good land God has given you.

*Gathering Song

“We Gather Together ”

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Opening Prayer

* Please rise in body or spirit as you are able

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Sharing Ourselves with God

—from Matthew 25:31-46

Voice 1: I'm thirsty.
Voice 2: I'm hungry.
Voice 3: I'm lonely
 and no one has visited me.
Voice 4: I am so cold and ashamed.
 I have no clothing.
Voice 5: I am a stranger here.
(Pause.)

Voice 1: Give me a drink.
Voice 2: Do you have any food?
Voice 3: Come and visit me.
Voice 4: Do you have a coat
 you can spare?
Voice 5: Will you be my friend?
(Pause.)

Voice 1: I wish I could find
 a kind person.
Voice 2: Do you have
 any spare change?
Voice 3: Don't give up on me.
Voice 4: Life at times
 can be so difficult.
Voice 5: Will life go on
 leaving me behind?
(Pause.)

Silence

The Good News

Voice 1: Let me be as Christ to you.
Voice 2: What is your name?
Voice 3: What is your story?
Voice 4: What is it like being you?
Voice 5: I am here for you.
(Pause.)

Voice 1: Here is a drink.
Voice 2: Please eat this.
Voice 3: I am here to see you.
Voice 4: I hope
 this coat keeps you warm.
Voice 5: Do you need
 help with anything?
(Pause.)

Voice 1: I was thirsty
 and you gave me a drink.
Voice 2: I was hungry and you gave
 me something to eat.
Voice 3: I was lonely
 and you came to visit me.
Voice 4: I was naked and you gave
 me something to wear.
Voice 5: I was a stranger
 and you welcomed me.
(Pause.)

Voice 1: Thank you my friend.
Voice 2: You'll never know
 what this means to me.
Voice 3: I'll thank God for you.
Voice 4: I'll pray for you.
Voice 5: May God bless you.
(Pause.)

Voice 1: This is heaven.
Voice 2: This is a blessing.
Voice 3: This is a sign of God's love.
Voice 4: This is good news.
Voice 5: I have just experienced holy.
All 5: Amen.

As we hear these "Voices of Jesus", you are invited

El Se - nyor és la me - va for - ça, el Se - nyor el meu...
In the Lord I'll be ev - er thank - ful, in the Lord I will re -

cant. Ell m'ha es - tat la sal - va - ci - ó. En ell con -
joice! Look to God, do not be a - fraid. Lift up your

fi - o i no tinc por, en ell con - fi - o i no tinc por. El Se -
voi - ces, the Lord is near, lit up your voi - ces, the Lord is near. In the

first into the spirit of confession and then into the spirit of good news.

***Sung Response** "In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful"

—Taize

Time with Young Christians **Giving Thanks
For Community**

Reception of New Members

Invitation, Sentences, Questions of the Candidates

Affirmation of Faith

One: Do you believe in God?

All: I believe in God.

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

One: Do you believe in Jesus Christ? **All: I believe in Jesus Christ.**

One: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit? **All: I believe in the Holy Spirit.**

***Welcome** (members of the church; standing & in unison)

We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses to our risen Savior.

Greeting of Christian Love and Passing of the Peace

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

All: And also with you.

Children are invited to go to Sunday School during the following hymn

Hymn	"Oh Jesus, I Have Promised"	# 493
	Stanza 1 & 3	

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.

From the Bible	Ephesians 1:15-23	Jessica Coughlin
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Sermon	THANKS FOR NOTHING!?	Rev. Wendy Miller Olapade
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*Offering		Jessica Coughlin
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Invitation to Joyful Stewardship

Offertory Solo

Entr'acte

—Bizet

Act 3, Carmen

Robin Baker, flute

***Procession of Gifts and Pledges (please bring your bulletin)**

You are invited to come forward with your pledge card and offering and form a circle.

***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

***Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication**

One: We praise and thank you God;
for all of the surprising gifts that we have been given!

**All: for earth and oceans, rain and sun, for food and homes.
For the blessings of life and faith and hope.
For the Creator who made us, the Christ who saved us,
and the Counselor who guides us.**

One: We praise and thank you God...

**All: for family and friends, for neighbors and coworkers;
for this faith community;
for God has blessed us beyond all expectations.**

One: We praise and thank you God...

**All: For all blessings which compel us to reach out to those with less,
to be of service to any in need,
to keep company with the unwelcome,
to seek peace and make friends of our enemies...**

One: We praise and thank you God...

**All: For the financial resources that allow us to dedicate these pledges
in your name; and for the faith community that calls us to generosity.**

***Individual Prayers of Thanksgiving**

One: We thank you Lord God, you have enriched us, saved us, loved us.

**All: Open our hearts and minds to your will that we may be free to share
everything we have, to give away whatever holds us hostage in spirit,
that we may always know that possessions are just that: things, lovely
to have, but in the end only good for the good they can do in this
world. Keep us always in that work, the work of Christ and Christ's
kingdom, the kingdom of God. Amen.**

***Closing Hymn**

"Great is Your Faithfulness"

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Blessing and Sending

Postlude

Marche in B Flat

— Tritant

WORSHIP AT THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WEST MEDFORD

Everyone is encouraged to join in a meal of thanks-giving immediately after worship in Fellowship Hall—exit the Sanctuary through the door to the left of the pulpit.

*Nursery Care is provided during the worship 'hour'.
Sunday School is offered today for school aged children..*

Today, November 24, 2013 Thanksgiving Sunday, Pledge Sunday

New Members will join the Faith Community

Worship (Sanctuary) 10:00 am
Soup and Salad Pot Luck Lunch and Congregational Meeting
(FH & Bean Chapel): 11:30 am—1:30 pm
Goodland Church Worship (in Korean) (Sanctuary) 12:30 pm

The Liturgist today is Jessica Coughlin

, Deacon of the Month for November is Kathy Williams.

Leadership for Fellowship Hour and Ushers for November is the Spiritual Life Committee.

This week we thank Joy Harris for her leadership.

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

As we stand on the verge of a new church year we take time to celebrate by giving thanks. Our worship will be full as we celebrate themes of thanksgiving and generosity.

Please bring your commitment card and your thoughts of gratitude!!

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### **Next Sunday, December 1, Advent I, Hanging of the Greens**

Worship Service (Sanctuary) 10:00 am  
Goodland Church Worship (in Korean) (Sanctuary) 12:30 pm

The Spiritual Life and Christian Education Committees are joining to bring a new, old tradition to our worship on the first Sunday of Advent. Using symbols and songs of the season, we will all decorate the sanctuary as we begin the journey to Bethlehem to await the coming of Jesus.

***Rev. Wendy will be off for the holiday.***

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Sunday, December 8, Advent II

Worship Service (Sanctuary) 10:00 am
Christian Ed. Ministry presents Advent Workshop for all ages during fellowship hour (11:00 am)

THIS WEEK AT YOUR CHURCH
November 24-30, 2013

November 24, 2013 Thanksgiving Sunday

Worship (Sanctuary) 10:00 am
Soup and Salad Pot Luck Lunch and Congregational Meeting (FH & Bean Chapel): 11:30 am—1:30 pm
Goodland Church Worship (in Korean) (Sanctuary) 12:30 pm
Faith Formation/Confirmation Class — 4:00 pm

Monday

(3) Boot Camp Sessions: 5:45 am--6:15 am;
8:15 am--9:00 am; 5:30 pm--6:15 pm (FH)
Yoga— 6:30 pm (FH)
Seaside Production Rehearsal —7:30 pm (FH)
Mother's Club— 7:30 pm (BC)

Tuesday

Church Council— 7:00 pm (LR)
Gamblers Anonymous 7:30 pm (BC)
Gam-Anon—7:30 pm (YR)
Seaside Production Rehearsal— 7:00 pm (FH)

Wednesday

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

Thursday

Happy Thanksgiving
Food Addicts—6:00 pm (YR)

Friday

(3) Boot Camp Sessions: 5:45 am--6:15 am;
8:15 am-- 9:00 am (FH)
Girl Scouts E. O'Rourke—7:00 pm (BC)

Saturday

Alanon - 9:00 am (YR)
Boot Camp- 12:15 pm (FH)

December 1, 2013 First Sunday of Advent

Worship Service (Sanctuary) 10:00 am
Hanging of the Greens
Goodland Church Worship (in Korean) (Sanctuary) 12:30 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

Room Legend: (FH) Fellowship Hall; (BC) Barnes Chapel; (YR) Youth Room; (LR) Living Room

The Congregational Church of West Medford, United Church of Christ

Ministers: All of us!

Organist and Choir Director: Dr. Herman Weiss

Moderator: Paul Roberts

Treasurer: Beverly Roche

Pastor and Teacher: Reverend Wendy Miller Olapade

Church Administrator: Diane Petrelis

Deacon of the Month: Kathy Williams

Clerk: TBD

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