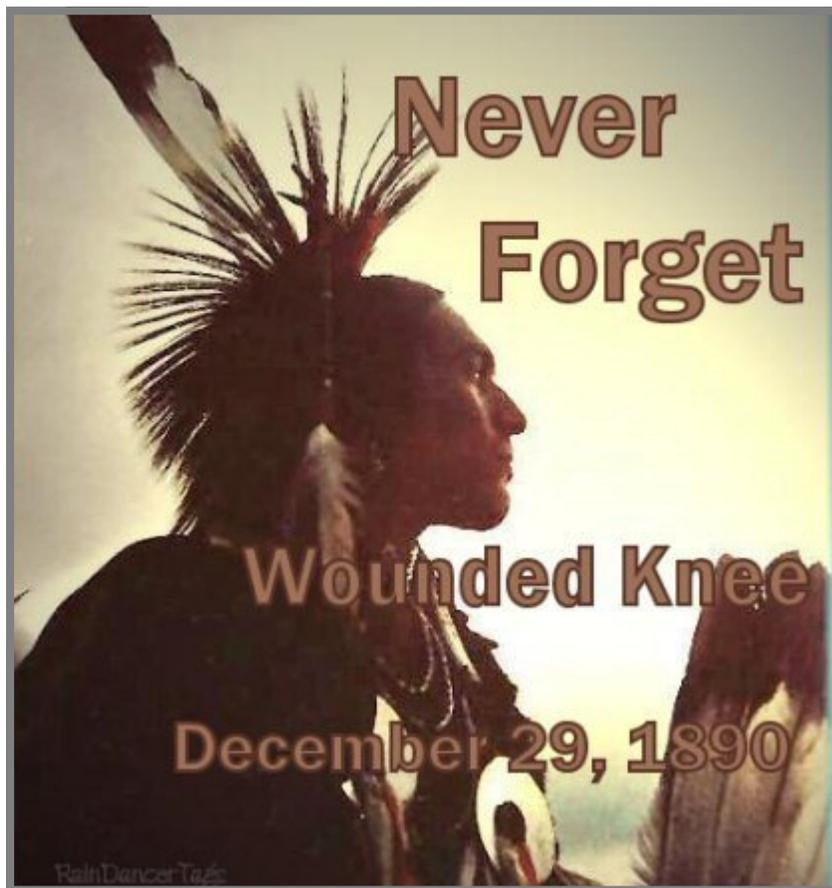


The Congregational Church of West Medford
An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ
Remembering the Anniversary of the Massacre at Wounded Knee
December 29, 2013 10:00 o'clock am



"I Come Before You"

translated from Sioux to English by Lakota Chief Yellow Lark in 1887



Oh, Great Spirit
Whose voice I hear in the winds,
And whose breath gives life to all the world,
as I come before You, one of Your many children
hear me, I am small and weak,
I need your strength and wisdom

Let me walk in beauty and make my eyes ever behold
the red and purple sunset.
Make my hands respect the things you have
made and my ears sharp to hear your voice.
Make me wise so that I may understand the things
you have taught my people.
Let me learn the lessons you have
hidden in every leaf and rock.

I seek strength, not to be greater than my brother,
but to fight my greatest enemy - myself.
Make me always ready to come to you
with clean hands and straight eyes.
So when life fades, as the fading sunset,
my Spirit may come to you without shame.

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

Welcome

Call to Worship (*Adapted from a Lakota Souix Prayer*)

Clarisse Coughlin

One: O our Father, the Sky, hear us and make us strong.

All: O our Mother, the Earth, hear us and give us support.

One: O Spirit of the East, send us your Wisdom.

All: O Spirit of the South, may we tread your path.

One: O Spirit of the West, may we always be ready for the long journey.

All: O Spirit of the North, purify us with your cleansing winds.

One: O Great Spirit, we thank you for coming to us at Christmas.

We come today to worship and adore you.

***Opening Song**

"The First Nowell"

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Opening Prayer (American Indian Lakota Prayer)

Joy Harris

Wakan Tanka, Great Mystery, teach us how to trust our hearts, our minds, our intuition, our inner knowing, the senses of our bodies, the blessings of our spirits. Teach us to trust these things so that we may enter a sacred space and love beyond our fear, and thus walk in balance with the passing of each glorious sun.

Sharing Ourselves with God

Prayer of Confession

One: Holy God, with bright wrappings strewn about and holiday dishes stacked around us, we confess that we fail to recognize that anything is different or reoriented after this holiday season.

All: *Holy God, forgive our weary dreaming that gives up on the hope of seeing justice roll down like waters, a peaceable kingdom, and truth to set us free. Holy God, forgive our tired singing that sets no rafters ringing; help us to remember with hearts that dare to believe, that your Spirit reigns within us, around us, and between us.*

One: Forgive us when, like Herod, selfish ambition makes us willing to hurt and destroy others. Forgive us when, unlike Joseph, we refuse to follow the direction you give us.

All: *Give us grace, O God, that these days of our lives be filled with vision of your new orientation, through Jesus the Christ. Amen.*

***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** "Jesus Our Brother, Strong and Good" # 138
Stanza 1, 2 & 6

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Time with Young Christians

Tee Iron Cloud "Good Voice Wolf"

Children may go to Sunday School at this time

Church Life and Mission

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

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WORSHIP AT THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WEST MEDFORD

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

Today, December 29 - First Sunday after Christmas Worship ***Anniversary of the Wounded Knee Massacre***

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

The preacher today is Kathy Williams.

The Liturgists today are Bruce Roberts, Joy Harris, Clarisse Coughlin and Jessica Coughlin

Deacon of the Month for December is Joy Harris.

*Leadership for Fellowship Hour and Ushers for December is the Building and Grounds
and Stewardship Committees.*

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

As we take a breath on this quiet Sunday in the space-in-between, we will look back on the season and ask the question, "How Does Christmas Work?" Turning away from consumption and spending, we turn toward a foreign land to see the way Christmas really works. We will honor the anniversary of the Massacre of Wounded Knee and our worship service will include a call to action—taking Christmas out of the sanctuary and into the work of Christmas.

Epiphany Sunday

Sunday, Jan. 05, 2014, 10:00 am

As brightly as the story's star, the Epiphany opens up the stellar power of God's coming to humanity, and our awkward, dramatic, unlikely fumbling toward the Divine. We see the rewards of leaving the comfort zone of one's own faith and of interfaith cooperation, the penalties for missing the signs of other seekers, and the ways all of us are Herod, all of us are the magi, and all of us long for power. As we ponder what gifts the Epiphany lays at our feet this year, perhaps we will consider what sorts of power we seek, and how we might be sure we do not fail to see the signs of God's new life born among us.

CCWM Ministry with Pine Ridge Reservation

23rd Annual Bedford VA Hospital Mid-Winter Powwow

Saturday, January 18th

Bedford VA Hospital Gymnasium

200 Springs Road

Bedford, MA 01730

This event kicks off GLICA 2014 series of public events. Here you will have the chance to dance, hear native drumming and singing. This event is open to the public and traders are present so you can browse and purchase their unique native items.



CCWM will participate in this fundraising/awareness event to support our ministry with Pine Ridge. We are looking for one or two people to staff our vendor table and sell Hoka coffee, mugs, totes at this event as well as display information about our volunteer trip, Re-Member, conditions on Pine Ridge, etc. We are not sure of the exact hours yet but probably noon – 4pm on January 18th. Please let Kathy Williams or Joy Harris know if you are available and willing to volunteer for at this fun event. Thanks!

NEW YEAR'S WEEK AT YOUR CHURCH
December 29, 2013-January 4, 2014

December 29, 2013 First Sunday after Christmas

Outdoor Church Sandwich Making (Kitchen) 9:00 am
Sunday Worship Service (Sanctuary) 10:00 am
Goodland Church Worship (in Korean) (Sanctuary) 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 (FH)
Yoga— 6:30 pm (FH)
Church Council—7:00 pm (LR)

Tuesday

Gamblers Anonymous 7:30 pm (BC)
Gam-Anon—7:30 pm (YR)

Wednesday

(Alcoholics Anonymous— 8:00 pm (YR)

Thursday

Strategic Planning —9:00 am (LR))
Youth Champions-5 pm (FH)
Strategic Planning— 9:30 am (LR)
Food Addicts—6:00 pm (YR)
Girl Scout Leader Meeting—7 pm (BC)

Friday

(3) Boot Camp Sessions: 5:45 am--6:15 am;
8:15 am-- 9:00 am (FH)
PPRC—9 am (LR)

Saturday

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

January 5, 2014 Second Sunday after Christmas

Sunday Worship Service (Sanctuary) 10:00 am
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: Joy Harris

Clerk: TBD

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