

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

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

February 02, 2014

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

Voluntary

—Stanley

Welcome

Call to Worship (*Based on Micah 6:8*)

Ose Manheim

One: God has told you, what is good, and what God requires.

All: *What is good? What does God require of us?*

One: To do justice

All: *with God*

One: and to love kindness

All: *with God*

One: and to walk humbly

All: *with our God.*

One: Come, let us worship our God.

*Opening Song

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

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Sharing Ourselves with God

Prayer of Confession (Guided Meditation)

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

-2-

Silence

***The Good News of God’s Grace and Presence (Responsively)**

Based on 1 Corinthians 1:21 (The Message)

One: The world in all its fancy wisdom never had a clue when it came to knowing God, God in wisdom took delight in using what the world considered dumb – preaching, of all things! – to bring those who trust into the way of salvation.

All: Hallelujah!

***Passing of the Peace**

One: May the peace of Christ be with you all. **All: And also with you.**

***Sung Response**

“Lead Me, Guide Me”

—Akers

LEAD ME, GUIDE ME
Irregular

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way,
for if you lead me, I can - not stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

Stanzas included in other editions.
WORDS: Doris Akers
MUSIC: Doris Akers
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PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD

Time with Young Christians

Children may go to Sunday School at this time

Church Life and Mission

Prayers of the People and Pastoral Prayer

You are invited to write your prayers on the blue prayer sheet and pass them to the aisle.

From the Bible

“Blessed”
based on Matthew 5:1—12

Ose Manheim

Micah 6:6—8a

Sung Response

“What Does the Lord Require of You?”

Insert

Sermon

BLESSED ARE GOD’S PEOPLE

Rev. Wendy Miller Olapade

RESPONDING TO GOD’S GRACE

Affirmation of Faith

One: Jesus teaches the crowd about God’s love.

All: *God’s love is liberating.*

One: It breaks open the rules set by society that say: the powerful reach the top, the wise prevail, and the rich are blessed.

All: *God’s love is transformative.*

One: Those the world treats with contempt, see as weak and lowly, are called loved and blessed.

All: *God’s love is revealed to us in the simple life of Jesus of Nazareth,*

One: one who – in the world’s eyes – seemed weak and powerless, yet one in whom God’s power and love are made manifest.

Offering

Ose Manheim

Invitation to Joyful Stewardship

Offertory

Pastorale

—Franck

*Procession of Gifts

*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 Dedication

One: All that we are, O God, and all we are called to be,
we bring to this special moment of offering and hope.

**All: *Receive these gifts and in your wisdom
may they be used imaginatively, for the well-being of all. Amen.***

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*All are welcome. In company with all who hunger for spiritual food,
we come to this table to know the risen Christ in the sharing of this life-giving bread.
The bread is gluten free and the cup is filled with grape juice.*

Invitation to the Feast

Communion Prayers

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.

Breaking Bread/Pouring Wine/Sharing the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving (In Unison)

We praise you for the reminders of your creative word in what we taste, see, smell, and touch. Receiving You through this bread and wine, may we accept the promise that your coming realm is being revealed. May we offer our lives to be a place where its love is made real. Amen.

***Commission and Blessing**

One: Friends, go into this week awakened to God's reality
and way of peace, joy, compassion, justice.

All: We will hold true to our call.

We will continually seek the grace and wisdom of Jesus the Christ.

***Closing Song**

"I Come with Joy"

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Postlude

Devotion

—Mendelssohn



Everyone is encouraged to join in a time of community building immediately after worship in Barnes Chapel—exit the Sanctuary through the door to the left of the pulpit.

The Emerging/Exploration of Ministry Series begins today during Fellowship Time!

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, February 02, 2014 Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

**Prayer with the Pastor (Bean Chapel) 9:15 am—9:30 am
Worship with Holy Communion (Sanc) 10:00 am
Faith Formation/Confirmation (LR) 4:00 pm**

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The Liturgist today is Ose Manheim

Deacon of the Month for February is Robin Baker.

The Deacon for today's worship is Brenda Briggs.

Leadership for Fellowship Hour and Ushers for February is the Christian Education Committee;

Thanks to Karen McCune Barca for this week's coffee hour.

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

Jesus' "Sermon on the Mount" invites us to see God's love in a new light, bend our understanding of the world around us, and take more seriously our response to God's loving welcome and liberation. In fact—God's reality turns the ways of the world upside down. Rev. Wendy offers a four week Sermon on the Mount series from the Matthew Texts:

This week, we will hear of the "Blessed Be" portion of the sermon from Mt. 5:1-12.

The series continues with :

February 9: The People of God's World/Salt and Light -- Mt. 5:13-20

February 16: The Ethics of God's World (1) -- Mt. 5:21-37

February 23: The Ethics of God's World (2) -- Mt 5:38-48

Wednesday Worship/Study: Being Jesus Followers

February 5 (Bean Chapel) 7:00—8:30 pm

This series will help us get at the question, "What is God calling us to Be?". We begin with a consideration of the bible passages in which Jesus says "Follow me."

Sunday, February 9, 2014, Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

**Prayer with the Pastor (Bean Chapel) 9:15 am—9:30 am
Worship (Sanctuary) 10:00 am
Faith Formation/Confirmation (LR) 4:00 pm**

The Connecticut and Massachusetts Conferences
of the United Church of Christ present:

Super Saturday!

March 1, 2014

8:00 AM - 3:45 PM

Ludlow High School, 500 Chapin St., Ludlow, MA



Join hundreds of pastors and lay leaders from across two Conferences for a day of "Risking Vision" through worship, workshops, forums, networking and a marketplace.



Featuring Diana Butler Bass

Acclaimed author and speaker Diana Butler Bass will share a message during the opening worship and will lead a mid-day forum based on her work exploring the dimensions of religion and spirituality in today's world.

Butler Bass is the author of eight books, including *Christianity After Religion: The End of Church and the Birth of a New Spiritual Awakening* (2012) and the best-selling *Christianity for the Rest of Us: How the Neighborhood Church is Transforming the Faith* (2006).

Butler Bass regularly leads conferences for religious leaders, blogs at The Huffington Post and comments on religion, politics, and culture in the media including USA TODAY, Time, Newsweek and various television networks.

Workshops

A total of 45 workshops are being offered related to various aspects of church life, mission and ministries. See descriptions inside this brochure.

Marketplace and Bookstore

A marketplace will give participants a chance to learn about a variety of ministry opportunities and to purchase items from favorite vendors, including Yale Divinity School and SERRV.

Be Green!

We encourage attendees to be green! Please bring your own water bottle and/or travel mug!

Schedule

8:00 – 9:00 AM	Registration, refreshments
9:00 – 10:15 AM	Opening worship
10:30 – 11:45 AM	Morning workshops
12:00 – 12:45 PM	Lunch A
12:45 – 1:30 PM	Lunch B
1:45- 3:15 PM	Afternoon workshops
3:15-3:45 PM	Closing worship together

Attendees will be assigned to one lunch period for eating and visiting the marketplace, and the other lunch period for attending the forum with Diana Butler Bass (her forum will be held twice).

Cost: \$49 per person or \$39 per person in church groups of 5 or more who register at the same time.

Registration deadline is Feb. 20, 2014.

We encourage online registration at www.macucc.org/supersaturday

Workshop registration is limited by space. Those who register online can see which workshops have openings and register accordingly. Online registrations can be paid either by credit card OR by mailing a check. A registration form is also included in this packet for those who wish to register by mail. Mail-in registrants will need to give three workshop choices for each session and will be placed according to available space.

THIS WEEK AT YOUR CHURCH

February 2, 2014 Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Prayer for our Process (Bean Chapel) 9:15—9:30
Cleaning Out The Closets—9:30 am-10:00 am; 11:00 am--12:00 pm
Sunday Worship Service (Sanctuary) 10:00 am
Goodland Church Worship (in Korean) (Sanctuary) 12:30 pm
Faith Formation/Confirmation (LR/DR) 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)
Goodland Church—7:30 pm (Sanctuary)

Tuesday

Girl Scouts w B & J Briggs —6:30 pm (Green Rm)
Gamblers Anonymous 7:30 pm (BC)
Gam-Anon—7:30 pm (YR)

Wednesday

3) Boot Camp Sessions: 5:45 am--6:15 am;
8:15 am--9:00 am; 5:30 pm--6:15 pm (FH)
Spiritual Direction L. Hegner—9:30 am (LR)
(Alcoholics Anonymous— 8:00 pm (YR)
Worship and Study: Being Jesus Followers—7:00 pm
(Bean Chapel)

Thursday

Youth Champions-5 pm (FH)
Food Addicts—6:00 pm (YR)
Girl Scout Leader Meeting —7:00 pm (BC)

Friday

(3) Boot Camp Sessions: 5:45 am--6:15 am;
8:15 am-- 9:00 am (FH)
Strategic Planning—9:30 am (LR)

Saturday

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

February 2, 2014 Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Prayer for our Process (Bean Chapel) 9:15—9:30
Cleaning Out The Closets—9:30 am-10:00 am; 11:00 am--12:00 pm
Sunday Worship Service (Sanctuary) 10:00 am
Goodland Church Worship (in Korean) (Sanctuary) 12:30 pm
Faith Formation/Confirmation (LR/DR) 4:00 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!

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: Robin Baker

Clerk: TBD

400 High St. Medford, MA 02155, www.medfordchurch.org
office@medfordchurch.org, 781-395-3360