

The Congregational Church of West Medford

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Second Sunday of Eastertide Worship

April 27, 2014

10:00 o'clock am



God is Still Speaking,



WELCOME

The Congregational Church of West Medford, United Church of Christ is in a time of transformation as we move toward God's new direction for our ministry and our future. Thank you for your patience with and your participation in our experimentation and exploration.

We extravagantly welcome all people; believers, non-believers, doubters, questioners, no matter who they love, their gender identity or expression, their race, culture, ability, or economic circumstance. All are a blessing to our journey of faith and we seek to share God's love and grace with all.

We pray that you might meet God here today—and connect with another seeking the same.

We invite you to participate in the acts of worship that work for you and encourage you should you choose not to participate in others.

Prayers of the People: Joys and concerns are often offered openly as an act of worship. Our pastor and deacons pray these requests through the week. You are also welcome to request prayer via the blue sheet in your bulletin, leaving it in the offering plate or with the pastor or a deacon. Please note if any requests are confidential.

GATHERING TO PRAISE GOD

Prelude *Hallelujah! Christ is Arisen* —Hall

Welcome

Church Life and Mission

One Great Hour of Sharing, 2014

*Opening Hymn "Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day" # 241

Call to Worship

Charlotte Wilensky

One: Peace to you this day, as you come through open doors;

All: *God's peace to you.*

One: Peace to you who hide behind locked doors;

All: *God's peace to you.*

One: Peace to you who come with more doubt than faith;

All: *God's peace to you.*

One: Peace to you who seek the path to life;

All: *we come, trusting God's goodness and grace.*

* Please rise in body or spirit as you are able

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Preparing our Hearts "The Peace of the Earth"

—Iona

The peace of the earth be with you, the peace of the heavens too
The peace of the rivers be with you the peace of the oceans too
Deep peace, falling over you; God's peace, gro-o-wing in you.

Words: Guatemalan traditional; trans. Christine Carson
Music: Guatemalan traditional; arr. John L. Bell

gently

The peace of the earth — be with you, the peace of the hea - vens too; — the
 peace of the riv - ers be with you, the peace of the o - ceans too. —
 Deep peace fall - ing ov - er you;
 Deep — peace, deep — peace — fall - ing ov - er you;
 God's peace grow - ing in you.
 God's — peace, God's — peace — grow - ing in you.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Confession

Silence

*Words of Assurance of God's Presence and Forgiveness

One: People of God, fearful and faithful, doubting and dutiful, the Holy Spirit of God breathes life, healing and forgiveness into us.
Receive God's peace and wholeness.

All: *In trust and joy we receive God's peace. Amen.*

*Passing of the Peace

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

Sung Response

"Halleluia"

—Caribbean Melody

Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-ja, Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-ja

Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-ja, Hal-le-lu-ja, hal-le-lu-ja.

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

The Word with God's Beloved Children

Prayers of the People

Our worship includes an open prayer time today.

You are also invited to write your prayers on the blue prayer sheet in your bulletin and place them in the offering plate later in the service. Please note if confidential.

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.

Hymn

"Peace I Leave with You, My Friend"

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Prayer for Illumination (Unison)

We give thanks, O God of sacred stories, for the wisdom of holy scripture. Through it, you nurture our imaginations, touch our feelings, increase our awareness, and challenge our assumptions. Bless we pray, our hearing of your Word this day. Speak to each of us; speak to all of us; and grant that by the power of your Spirit, we may be hearers and doers of your Word. Amen.

* Please rise in body or spirit as you are able

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From the Bible

John 20:19—31

Rev. Wendy Vander Hart

Sermon

SHOW AND TELL

Rev. Wendy Vander Hart

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Affirmation (In Unison)

Charlotte Wilensky

We believe in an Easter God who creates and re-creates, who gives abundant life and is with us through all that life may bring.

We believe in Christ of the Resurrection who appeared to his disciples and became present in a new way to those who follow him.

We believe in the Spirit foretold by Jesus who came with power and wonders who gives strength and consolation and empowers us. Amen.

Offering

Charlotte Wilensky

Invitation to Joyful Stewardship

Offertory *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*

—Froberger

*Procession of Gifts

*Easter Doxology

**O Jesus, risen now to bless, do thou thyself our hearts possess,
that we may give you all our days the willing tribute of our praise!**

*Prayer of Dedication

*Closing Hymn "At the Font We Start Our Journey"

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Blessing

One: The God of resurrection does not abandon you;
the One with wounded hands speaks peace to you;
and the Spirit who brings new birth fills you with joy.

All: *We go as witnesses to all that God has done! Amen.*

Benediction

Postlude

Awake, My Heart With Gladness

—Buxtehude



All are invited to a time of fellowship, refreshment and conversation as we share a Q&A about the draft recommendation (Barnes Chapel)

WORSHIP AT THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WEST MEDFORD

Sunday April 27, Second Sunday of Easteride/Holy Hilarity Sunday!

Worship in Sanctuary at 10:00 am

Worship with Special Guest Preacher Rev. Wendy Vander Hart—10 am

We will consider the story of Thomas who seeks evidence of Jesus' resurrection.

Worship will be followed by an open Q&A Session during Fellowship Hour
with Wendy Vander Hart and the CCWM Leadership Team

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***Altar Flowers given by Charlotte Wilensky, in loving memory of her father, Eugene Brierre***

***Special thanks to:***

The Liturgist: Charlotte Wilensky.

Karen McCune Barca for-ever being the set-up and clean-up maven.

Sexton, Steve Smith for his faithful presence.

The Deacon of the Month for April is Julie Roberts (heronjulie@yahoo.com)

The Deacon of the Month for may is Karen McCune Barca (karenmccunebarca@gmail.com)

**Wednesday, April 30 Online Worship/Study—7:00 pm; via Fuze meeting**

**<http://fuze.me/23459647>**

Our Online Wednesday Worship and Study resumes this Wednesday with the Rob Bell Nooma Film entitled "Trees." This discussion will help us to think about living a life (and having a faith) that is not about that "someday" when I go to heaven, but is about life that has meaning and purpose today! The Kingdom of God—right now, right here.  
to discuss our recommendation for "The Bold Decision."

**Next Sunday, May 4—No Worship at 10:00 am**

**Third Sunday of Eastertide Worship, with Holy Communion**

**5:00 PM at North Prospect Union UCC: 144 North Street, Medford**

Our exploration continues with worship at our sister congregation on North Street.

This third Sunday of Eastertide presents us with the Emmaus Road appearance of Jesus to two disciples. Jesus is first a stranger, then a guest and finally becomes the host in this powerful call to extravagant hospitality. It is a great lesson for us as we consider the call on our hearts to love our neighbor and care for the least of these.

Rev. Wendy will be preaching and we will plan a brief fellowship time after worship.

**Wednesday, April 30 Online Worship/Study—7:00 pm; via Fuze Meeting**

**<http://fuze.me/23459647>**

Nooma Film topic to be announced

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

**Watch for Changes as our Exploration Continues  
Upcoming Schedule for Worship**

|        |           |                                                                                                            |
|--------|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday | 4/27/2014 | 10 am: Wendy Vander Hart Preaching, Worship in Sanctuary<br>Q&A Session after worship about recommendation |
| Sunday | 5/4/2014  | <b>No Worship at CCWM</b><br>5 pm: Worship w/Communion, at North Prospect Union                            |
| Sunday | 5/11/2014 | 10 am: Worship in Sanctuary, Mother's Day and Baptism                                                      |
| Sunday | 5/18/2014 | 10 am: Worship in Sanctuary                                                                                |
| Sunday | 5/25/2014 | 10 am: Worship in Sanctuary                                                                                |
| Sunday | 6/1/2014  | 10 am: Worship at CCWM<br>Congregational Decision Making Meeting—Bold Decision                             |

**Please Save These Additional Dates**

- Sunday, May 16--18: Church Council will email and distribute a written "Call to Congregational Meeting and the recommendations for a) the offer and sale of 400 High Street and b) model and plan for future ministries."
- Saturday, May 17 (9 am to 12 noon) and Tuesday, May 27: Leadership Team will offer all church gatherings to answer questions and discuss the proposal(s)—to be voted upon June 1. In addition, one-on-one conversations will be offered.



**Wednesday Worship and Study: Online Via Fuze Meeting  
'Nooma®' Films and Discussion  
Led by Rev. Wendy, reflection by Rob Bell**

*www.nooma.com: a series of short films,  
(10 minute-ish) about God and our lives.*

Like parables, these films use the experiences of our lives to teach about the fullness of life through Jesus, tackling issues like forgiveness, discipleship, and unconditional love.

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Wed., April 30—Online Worship and Discussion: "Trees"—living a life with meaning and purpose

Wed., May 7—Online Worship and Discussion: Film topic to be announced

For more information about this exciting online ministry, contact Rev. Wendy.

ALL are welcome, tell your friends.

THIS WEEK AT YOUR CHURCH

Sunday, April 27, 2014, Second Sunday of Eastertide

Worship with Special Guest Preacher Rev. Wendy Vander Hart—10 am

Q&A Session after Fellowship Hour with Wendy Vander Hart and the CCWM Leadership Team
to discuss the recommendation for "The Bold Decision."

Tibetan Sunday School (Lower Level) 12:00 pm Church of Redemption (Bean Chapel) 11:30 pm
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—6:30pm (FH)

Tuesday

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)
On Line Worship/Study—7:00 pm (Fuze Meeting)
Alcoholics Anonymous— 8:00 pm (YR)

Thursday

Food Addicts—6:00 pm (YR)
Girl Scouts—7 pm (BC)

Friday

(3) Boot Camp Sessions: 5:45 am--6:15 am;
8:15 am--9:00 am; 5:30 pm--6:15 pm (FH)
Strategic Planning—9:30 am (LR)
PPRC—10 am (LR)
Church of God of Redemption—7:00 pm (Bean)

Saturday

Alanon— 9:00 am (YR)
Yoga—9:30 am (FH)
Boot Camp—12:15 pm (FH)

Sunday May 4 , Third Sunday of Eastertide

NO WORSHIP AT 10 am

Worship at North Prospect Union with Holy Communion—5:00 pm

Tibetan Sunday School (Lower Level)—12:00 pm Church of Redemption (Bean Chapel)—11:30 pm
Goodland Church Worship (in Korean) (Sanctuary)—12:30 pm
MBA-UCC Spring Meeting, Molly Baskette Keynote Speaker—2:30 pm (Needham UCC)
Faith Formation/Confirmation Class—to attend MBA-UCC Meeting

Room Legend: (BC) Barnes Chapel; (Bean) Bean Chapel; (DR) Dining Room; (LR) Living Room; (YR) Youth Room

The Congregational Church of West Medford, United Church of Christ

Ministers: All of us!

Organist and Choir Director: Dr. Herman Weiss

Co- Moderators: Paul Roberts & Rich Carle

Treasurer: Beverly Roche

Pastor and Teacher: Reverend Wendy Miller Olapade

Church Administrator: Diane Petrelis

Deacon of the Month: Julie Roberts

Clerk: Karen McCune Barca

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Rev. Wendy—pastor@medfordchurch.org