

# The Congregational Church of West Medford

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

## The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 20, 2014 at 10 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

Welcome

### Church Life and Mission

\*Opening Song      "When In Our Music God is Glorified"      # 561

Call to Worship *(based on Genesis 28)*      Kathy Williams

One: Let the biblical story be the story of our worship today ...

Two: Jacob paused on his journey to Haran, and rested.

**All: *Let us also pause along our journey.***

***May this worship be a time of recreation for weary souls.***

One: Jacob dreamed of a ladder connecting heaven and earth; angels ascended and descended.

**All: *May the space between heaven and earth be thin and transparent; let us enter God's presence in prayer, proclamation and song.***

Two: God said to Jacob: "I am the God of your ancestors. I will provide for you."

**All: *Let us worship the God who governs all time, who holds past, present and future in providential care.***

...continued next page

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

One: Jacob awoke from his dream, and in gladness he cried:

Two: "Surely God is in this place, and I did not know it!"

**All: Surely God is in this place!**

One: Surely, God IS!

**All: Let us rejoice in this assurance! Let us worship God!**

## Connecting with God

Rev. Matt Carriker

### Invitation to Reconciliation

When we fail to live as God's people, we naturally look for places to hide. But God seeks us out, not to condemn or punish, but to comfort, to forgive, and to bring us home. Let us stop playing hide-and-seek, with God, as we confess our sins together, saying,

### Preparing our Hearts

**"Breathe On Me,  
Breath of God"**

—Trentham

Breathe on me breath of God, fill me with life anew  
That I may love the way you love and do what you would do.

### Prayer of Confession (In Unison)

We've tried to hide from your searching gaze, Love's Delight,  
we've climbed mountains, we've gone deep within caverns,  
we've flown to the farthest edges of our souls.  
And wherever we go -- you are waiting for us!  
Even in the darkest recesses of our hearts, your light shines on us.  
Lost -- we are found; afraid to speak of our sin --  
you hear our stumbling words before we shape them;  
unable to help ourselves -- you redeem us through the love and grace  
of Jesus Christ, our Brother and Savior.

### Silence

### \*Words of Assurance of God's Presence and Forgiveness

One: In our deepest sorrow, God comforts us; in our darkest moments,  
God forgives us; in our greatest joy, God is with us.

**All: The One who knows us at our worst, loves us best.  
We trust that God will hold us close, this day and forever.  
Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.**

### \*Passing of the Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you. **All: And also with you.**

**Sung Celebration****Sweet, Sweet, Spirit**

# 293

There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,  
 And I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;  
 There are sweet expressions on each face,  
 And I know they feel the presence of the Lord.

*Chorus (on next page):*

Sweet Holy Spirit, Sweet heavenly Dove,  
 Stay right here with us, filling us with Your love.  
 And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;  
 Without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived,  
 When we shall leave this place. *(repeat chorus)*

**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.

## PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

**Hymn****"Spirit of the Living God"**

# 283

*Repeat*

**Prayer of Illumination (In Unison)**

Kathy Williams

Jesus, you often taught in parables. You used stories to help your listeners understand deeper truths. As we look at your parables today, give us eyes to see the truth you are showing us, ears to hear it well, and hearts that are ready and willing to respond in obedience. Thank you for giving us your words. May they leave a lasting imprint on our hearts and minds today. Amen.

From the Bible

Matthew 13: 24-30

Kathy Williams

Sermon

Rev. Matt Carriker

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

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

### Offering

Kathy Williams

#### Invitation to Joyful Stewardship

Offertory

#### \*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

### \*Closing Song

“Take My Life, God, Let It Be”

# 448

### Blessing and Sending

*The people face each other across the center aisle & extend their hands in blessing.*

One: Let the biblical story be the story of our service in the world ...

Right: God said to Jacob: “Your offspring will spread to the four corners of the earth.”

Left: May the good news of God spread throughout the world;  
let us carry the gospel to the north, south, east and west.

Right: God said, “All the families of the earth shall be blessed  
through your offspring.”

Left: May all that we say and all that we do be a blessing,  
through the grace of God.

Right: And God said, “I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised.”

**All: *Let us venture forth in joy and confidence, knowing that  
God is with us; God is before us; God is among us;  
God is behind us; God is beyond us; God is within us. Amen!***

### Postlude



All are welcome to a time of fellowship  
immediately after worship in Barnes Chapel.

## WORSHIP AT THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WEST MEDFORD

### **Please welcome Rev. Matt Carriker!**

As an ordained Christian minister in the United Church of Christ (UCC), Matt is also an author, spiritual coach, and retreat leader. This fall, Matt will be helping begin a new UCC church start called "Agape" in Waltham, MA. Matt is passionate about altering Christianity today into a spiritual tradition that models the unconditional love of God and the life and teachings of Jesus. The title of his upcoming book is "Giving Christianity back to Love."

Currently, Matt holds several part-time ministries- as the Protestant Chaplain at Brandeis, and also as the Program Director for Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries (CMM), an interfaith social action organization that also runs the Interfaith Youth Initiative program. Matt co-facilitates confirmation and youth retreats, as well as intergenerational and adult spiritual formation retreats through the Massachusetts Conference UCC. More info about Agape can be found here (we'll get our own website soon): <http://www.backtojesusnow.com/AgapeNewChurchStart.html>

### **Sunday, July 20, Sixth Sunday After Pentecost—10:00 am Worship**

*We celebrate the perpetual beauty of the altar flowers.*

#### ***Special thanks today to:***

Our Guest Musician: Wendy Covell

Our Liturgist for today's worship: Kathy Williams

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

The Deacon of the Month for July is Ose Manheim <photose@comcast.net>

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### **Sunday, July 27, Seventh Sunday After Pentecost—10:00 am Worship**

Our beloved friend and former bridge pastor, Rev. Judy Brain will preach.

### **Sunday, August 03, Eighth Sunday After Pentecost—10:00 am Worship**

Rev. Anastasia Kidd, Director of Admissions Boston University School of Theology and UCC Clergy will preach.

### **Sunday, August 10, Ninth Sunday After Pentecost—10:00 am Worship**

Our beloved friend and former bridge pastor, Rev. Judy Brain will preach.

## What Gifts Might You Share in Our Move?

My Pennsylvania Dutch Poppop always said, "Many hands make light work!" and we are ready to start planning and doing the preparations for our move out of 400 High Street and the "nesting" of 458 High Street. We are wondering how you might get involved?

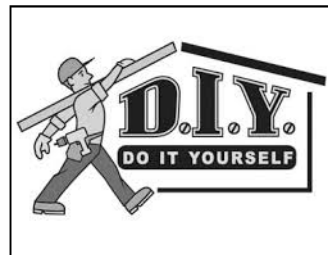
### Volunteers Needed for:

- Shopping for office furniture, chairs, tables, for ministry center—immediately
- Shopping for Signage—immediate
- Leading/Working with team to decide on AV System for ministry center—immediately
- Packing books and hymnals in late July and early August
- Work with Staff to vetting, dispose and pack church office file drawers—July and August
- Packing worship goods—September
- Packing Office Equipment—August

While we are expecting to contract for the construction of our ministry center, there are some things that could be done by church members if there is energy and passion. It could be fun and will certainly add to the investment we experience in our space. **Possible DIY**

### Projects include:

- Painting the Interior of the Center
- Building Storage (IKEA?)—bookshelves for offices and basement storage
- Building Furnishings—pastors desk, church office desk and credenza
- Cleaning and Refinishing existing solid wood storage hutch for our office storage and work center
- *Your idea...*



## Please Note These Important Summer Changes

**Summer Church Council Dates:** Wed., July 16 – 7 pm; Wed., August 27 – 7 pm

### Summer Staff Vacation:

Herman Weiss (Sundays July 11, 20, 27 and August 3)

Rev. Wendy will be on vacation July 20—August 4; at a conference August 7—10 and off on Sunday, August 31

### Summer Office Hours

**The church office will be closed Mon. & Fri. through July.**

## THIS WEEK AT YOUR CHURCH

### Sundays

Cleaning Out The Closets—9:30 am  
Sunday Worship Service (Sanctuary) 10:00 am  
Church of God of Redemption-Rev. Lucien Nere—Bean Chapel  
Tibetan Sunday School (Lower Level)—12:00 pm  
Church of Redemption (Bean Chapel)—11:30 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)

### Tuesday

Gamblers Anonymous—7:00 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)  
Zumba—6:30 pm (FH)  
AA—8:00 pm (Youth)

### Thursday

Zumba—6:30 pm (FH)

### Friday

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

### Saturday

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

*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

Treasurer: Amanda Coughlin

Pastor and Teacher: Reverend Wendy Miller Olapade

Church Administrator: Diane Petrelis

Deacon for the Month of July: Ose Manheim

Clerk: Karen McCune Barca

400 High St. Medford, MA 02155, [www.medfordchurch.org](http://www.medfordchurch.org)

[office@medfordchurch.org](mailto:office@medfordchurch.org), 781-395-3360

Rev. Wendy—[pastor@medfordchurch.org](mailto:pastor@medfordchurch.org)