



**~Medford Congregational
United Church of Christ**

1801 E. Jackson, Medford, OR 97504

medford.cong.ucc@gmail.com

Website: Medforducc.org

541-772-8860

Doing Justice ~ Living Kindness ~ Walking Humbly with God

(Vision Statement from Micah 6:8)

November 19, 2023

Second Sunday Back in the Sanctuary!

For online viewing, go to Medford UCC link on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/@medforducc6053/streams>

This Sunday's Worship Service:

Liturgist: **ROB HIGHT**

Scripture: ***Thessalonians* 5: 1-11**

Piano and Organ Solos: **MARK ANGLE-HOBSON**

Speaker: "The Meaning of Music in Worship" **KATHLEEN DAVIS**

Fr. Joel is away this week. The following is an article he wrote to share with us.

Hustle and Flow ...

by Fr. Joel Garavaglia Maoriano

I grew up believing there was almost always an opportunity to make money. My father, as a preteen, shined shoes during the Depression to support his family. My grandfather, an immigrant, couldn't find work, and they needed my young father's money to eat. My oldest brother helped my mom and dad pay for the property where they now live. My other brother helped me buy my first computer to begin graduate school. My adopted family, the Grobbels, were and still are the hardest working people I ever met! Like most of the neighborhood families, there was a deep connection between work and self-perception/worth.

It seems my sons inherited this work trait as well. My oldest hustles buying sporting memorabilia and re-selling it on e-Bay. My youngest worked 5-6 days a week this summer at a fast-food joint. Both grew up doing work for neighbors (taking care of chickens, feeding dogs, cutting grass ...) to have some spending cash for the mini-mart. It is safe to say, working also blessed them with some lifelong friends who would become adopted aunts and grandmothers. My sons' work ethic is a source of honor for me.

Unfortunately, just like their dad in his youth, they both spend it almost as fast as they get it. I swear my youngest has unmendable holes in his pockets. Regardless, I value these two young men and their desire to be independent. Working has a way of creating personal pride and self-respect, however, there also can be negatives with this longing to work.

Too often work, or the love of working, has led to an imbalance in life. It can lead to a love for money, not only to buy more things, but to create a pseudo security. I saw this most prominently while working with seniors. The fear of not having enough caused them both to fear and to become anxious.

In full transparency, I have had my own struggles with work. As a child whose father lived through the Depression, I never wanted to be impoverished. However, it didn't really hit home until after taking a vow of poverty while working with the homeless in Austin, Texas. Unlike St. Francis, I wouldn't beg, so I watched myself go further and further in debt. Because of this experience, I vowed never to be broke again. Hence, I worked three jobs, not because I needed the money, but because I never wanted to be poor. Fear has a funny way of manipulating our best intentions.

Today I am again put in a position where money is scarce. It has been thirty years since I lived from pay check to pay check. I am able to pay my bills, but there's not much for putting a down payment on a home or purchasing a new car. Those days are currently over. Nevertheless, this time I noticed I don't want or need much. Apartment living cuts out property taxes, insurance, and a mortgage. And yet, although I still like nice things, being a full time, single parent has a way of making you rethink your priorities. Time, quality time, with both my kids and friends, is worth more than the perceived security of having a stacked bank account.

Off to take a walk with my kid...

MCUCC WEEKLY CALENDAR

Join us at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays in the Sanctuary or on YouTube for
Worship

Go to Medforducc.org for our Website
and click on **CALENDAR** to see what's going on in our facility day to day for the
month.

KEY: RED- MCUCC Events; GREEN - Outside Groups; BLUE -- Special Event

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Sunday, November 19-

10:00 A.M., WORSHIP: Liturgist - Rob Hight; Music - Mark Angle-Hobson; Speaker - Kathleen Davis

9:00-9:45 a.m. - **Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)**

11:30 a.m. - Justice & Peace Sponsored Workshop on Israel-Palestine Conflict (Amistad Room) ... Everyone Welcome

Monday, November 20 -

11:30 a.m. - **Mindfulness Meditation**

5:00 p.m. - **Monday Book Group (1st Pres)**

5:30-7:00 p.m. - 3 A's Al-Anon (Lidgate)

7:00-8:45 p.m. - A A LGBTQ+ (Amistad)

Tuesday, November 21-

6:00-9:00 p.m. - SO. OR PHOTOGRAPHY ASSOC. (Lidgate)

6:30-9:30 p.m. - ACA 12-STEP GROUP (Amistad)

Wednesday, November 22 -

8:00 a.m. - SANDWICH MAKING (Lidgate Kitchen)

4:30-5:30 p.m. - **Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)**

Thursday, November 23 - THANKSGIVING DAY - OFFICE CLOSED

5:00-8:00 p.m. - **A A Candlelight Meeting (Lidgate)**

6:30-8:30 p.m. - AA Group, Queers, Crackpots, Fallen Women (Amistad)

Friday, November 24 - THANKSGIVING VACATION - OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, November 25 -

7:00-9:30 p.m. - N.A. Survivors Book Study (Lidgate)

Sunday, November 26 -

9:00-9:45 - Choir Rehearsal

10:00- WORSHIP with FR. JOEL MAIORANO

11:30 a.m. - CENTERING PRAYER with FR. JOEL MAIORANO

Monday, November 27 -

5:30-7:00 - 3 A's Al-Anon (Lidgate)

7:00-8:45 - A A LGBTQ+ (Amistad Room)

Tuesday, November 28-

6:00-9:30 p.m. - ROGUE VALLEY AUDUBON (Lidgate)

6:30-8:30 p.m. - ACA 12-STEP GROUP (Amistad Room)

Friday, December 1 -

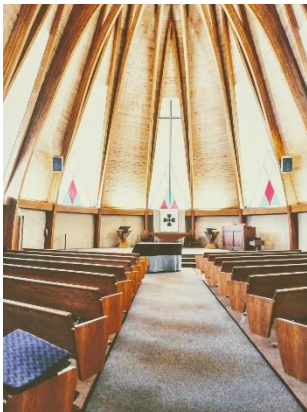
6:30 - 8:00 p.m. - WORLD AID'S DAY (Sanctuary)

Attention: This Sunday, November 19
11:30 a.m., Amistad Room
JUSTICE and PEACE MINISTRY TEAM
sponsors

Israel-Palestine Conflict Workshop

The Justice and Peace Ministry Team will offer a workshop on Sunday, November 19, about the "Israel-Palestine Conflict," following morning worship in the Amistad Room.

Guest speakers will include **Revs. Cheryl and Mark Goodman-Morris**, retired Presbyterian ministers who worship at the Ashland UCC. Also speaking will be **Avram Sacks**, a member of the Jewish community in Ashland who is organizing demonstrations and vigils for peace in Israel and Gaza.



WHAT A SPECIAL DAY!

After almost 4 years of worshiping in Lidgate Hall, last Sunday, November 12th, we celebrated the return to our beautiful Sanctuary.

Last Sunday we celebrated the return to the Sanctuary by rededicating that holy space and by giving thanks for the new HVAC system that will heat and cool both the sanctuary and Lidgate.

It was truly a blessing to gather with friends we haven't seen for a long time. It was spiritually enlightening to hear Father Joel's sermon based on verses from the book of Amos. The piano and organ music was joyful. The choir was wonderful to hear and to see; somehow wearing the traditional choir robes added something extra. Mark's love of the organ was a gift to the congregation, and his talent on the grand piano always leaves us feeling the better for being present. A lovely benediction by AnnElise Bergstrom recounted the blessing of growing up in this church.

The work of so many dedicated church members and friends went into making it possible for Sunday's celebration. This HVAC project began years before we finally gave up meeting in the Sanctuary. That first committee of folks who volunteered their time to meet, research and evaluate the possibilities deserves a great deal of gratitude. They laid the groundwork for the next team. Then came Covid-19. Everything was postponed. We were fortunate to have such a handy and comfortable hall where we could continue our worship and our ministry. Our appreciation goes all the way back to Mrs. Lidgate for whom the social hall is named.

This past year more teamwork, more research, and finally a resolution! Efforts came to fruition. Sunday we saw and felt the benefits of dedication and love for our church. It was warm; friends came together; prayers of celebration were in our hearts..



SOCIAL HOUR!

We all enjoy the Social Hour
after Worship.

THANK YOU to everyone who takes time to bake something or pick up a treat at the grocery store or Costco. This past Sunday, after our celebration in the Sanctuary, it was delightful to take the walk back to Lidgate where refreshments awaited us. Tables and chairs were set up so we could sit and visit while enjoying some tasty treats with coffee, tea, and sparkling cider.

THANK YOU to all of you who make this social time possible. A special thank you to Rob Hight for making coffee every Sunday, and **thank you, THANK YOU** to those of you who stick around to clean up after us!

FROM THE TECH CREW!

There have been a lot of changes in the last few weeks and the Tech Crew has had to make adjustments as well. We have moved away from Live Control for our streaming service and are now streaming directly to YouTube every Sunday. There are still two ways to view our Sunday service, either with us, or later. If you want to watch the service live, please go to YouTube and to the medforducc streaming page. When we go live, the church icon will light up and it will say LIVE. You can click on that and watch us live!

If you choose to watch later, because we are no longer using Live Control, it will take about 24 hours for the service to be published to YouTube. We regret that our Sunday service isn't available to watch immediately, but we feel that this is the most cost effective way for us to continue to offer an online experience to people at home.

We are continuing to work on sound and video and hope to make changes that will improve the online viewing experience.

Blessings to you all and thank you for your understanding!

Christopher Angle-Hobson



The Choir A Note from Mark

I cannot begin to express my deep appreciation for everyone who contributed to making our first Sunday back in the sanctuary such a meaningful worship experience! From 10:00 a.m. Tuesday when the piano movers showed up to return the

piano to the sanctuary (thank you to the generous donor who paid to move the piano to Lidgate and then back to the sanctuary) until worship commenced on Sunday at 10:00 a.m., so many people did so much! From washing choir robes to moving mics and cords, to dusting and cleaning, to arranging and rearranging chairs, to figuring out how to Livestream the service without Live Control ... so many people stepped up in so many ways. THANK YOU!

The unique thing about being a church musician is that the next Sunday is never more than a week away! This Sunday, November 19, Father Joel will be away from the pulpit. During the sermon time, Kathleen Davis is going to share some thoughts about the importance of music in worship, and I'm going to play a couple of piano solos and an organ solo:

"*Here I Am, Lord*" includes this refrain:

*Here I am, Lord
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night
I will go, Lord
If You lead me
I will hold Your people in my heart*

"*Holy God, We Praise Your Name*" begins with these words:

*Holy God, we praise Your name;
Lord of all, we bow before You.
Saints on earth your scepter claim;
all in heav'n above adore You.
Infinite Your vast domain;
everlasting is Your reign.*

"*Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*"

I first heard this piece when it was sung at Princess Diana's funeral. The lyrics include:

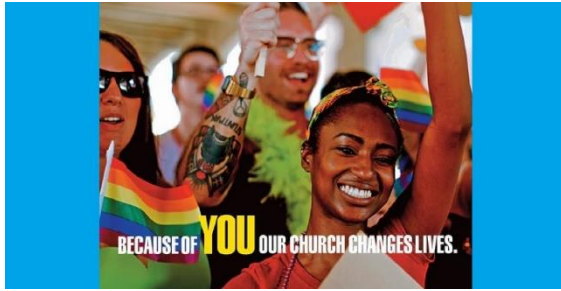
*Make me a channel of your peace
Where there is hatred let me bring your love
Where there is injury, your pardon Lord
And where there is doubt true faith in You
Make me a channel of your peace
Where there is despair in life let me bring hope
Where there is darkness only light
And where there's sadness ever joy
Oh, Master grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console
To be understood as to understand
To be loved as to love with all my soul*

Mark

anglehobson1@gmail.com

or text 304-887-7569

Choir Rehearsal in Choir Room,
Wednesdays, 4:30-5:30 p.m., Christmas *Cantata*
Sundays, 9:00-9:45 a.m., Sunday Anthems



STEWARDSHIP

Let the Celebration Continue!

Last Sunday was an incredible experience with our return to the Sanctuary. There were many highlights: the spectacular sound of the organ and piano, the welcoming banner after years of separation from the Sanctuary, the liturgy and message on Justice for All, and the sharing by AnnElise Bergstrom, Bud & Mary Jo's daughter, on the spiritual impact this church has had in her life. All of us have a personal reason for making this church our home and we rejoice in celebrating our life at MCUCC.

How Can We Have This Celebration Continue?

How can we continue our current strong ministerial presence with a full time pastor? How can we support our music director and choir? How do we demonstrate our commitment to the outreach teams, support groups, and be a strong presence for Justice in our community? The answer is clear: We do it by completing a 2024 pledge card to help our Council and Finance Team form next year's annual operating budget that reflects the ministry of MCUCC. Please take a moment and consider how you will support this vibrant community of faith. We realize that making a pledge is a prayerful, personal decision and everyone's circumstances are different. All pledges are important and valued! We hope to receive a pledge from everyone who considers MCUCC to be their spiritual home. Your giving makes a difference! When I fill out my pledge sheet in the days ahead, it will be done with Gratitude and Thanksgiving for how this church and denomination are able to change lives and nourish me.

Blessings to all,
Marlene Olson, Stewardship team, Council member



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Christmas Fund

The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross is an annual UCC offering that expresses thanks to retired and active UCC pastors and lay church workers and

their families, providing direct assistance to supplement pensions, medical insurance costs, and funds to meet emergency needs

This year's Christmas Fund theme is "**Grace Upon Grace**," from *John 1:16*: "*From Christ's fullness we have all received grace upon grace.*"

Join with others in the United Church of Christ to return "grace upon grace" to those who have given so much to each of us and to our churches. You can donate to "The Christmas Fund" by making a note on the comment line of your check.



HIV ALLIANCE World AIDS Day

Friday, December 1st
6:30-8:00 p.m.
Medford Congregational
United Church of Christ Sanctuary

Join us as we attend the annual United Church of Christ's World AIDS Day acknowledgement service and ceremony. HIV Alliance will be joined by OnTrack and Rogue Valley Peace Choir to honor our combined work to end HIV, celebrate our collective successes, and remember those that we have lost.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

If you are a member of our congregation and would like a Directory, call Shannon in the Office at 541-772-8860 or email her at medford.cong.ucc@gmail.com. The directory is being updated. If you have a new photo or new contact information, let Shannon know right away.

A \$5 donation for a directory helps defray the cost of printing.

NOTE: NAME TAGS . . . If you need a name tag, or want to replace an old one, a donation of \$6.75 is not necessary but will be appreciated.

Thank you.





**HAPPY
THANKSGIVING!
NOVEMBER 23RD!**

**The Church Office will be
closed
Thursday and Friday
November 23 & 24**

**KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR CHILDREN!
STOP for school busses!**

Native American Heritage Month

From the Creation Justice Team:

November is Native American Heritage month. As we acknowledge every Sunday, local Indigenous people were forcibly removed up north in the 1850's. Many of their descendants are now members of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians or Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. We can honor them by learning more about them and considering what we might learn from them about living sustainably, in harmony with Creation.

Our team will have a display for you November 26. Meanwhile, you might borrow a book from our Lidgate or Jackson County libraries (*ie.*, *The People Are Dancing Again*, *Murder at the Mission*, *First Oregonians*, *Doty Meets Coyote*) or watch one of these video clips:

"Grand Ronde - History and Overview" with David Harrelson

(30:39min) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wb7SgetA98Y>

" Success Files"(5:59min) and "Skookum Tillicum: The Strong People of Siletz" (34:27min) from Siletz gallery: <https://www.ctsi.nsn.us/heritage/photo-galleries-videos/>

"Standing Strong: The Tribal Nations of Western Oregon"

(55:25min) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-43tfBzWfDE>

Attachments area

[Preview YouTube video The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Community of Oregon: A History and Overview](#)

[Preview YouTube video Standing Strong The Tribal Nations of Western Oregon](#)



**Covid, Colds & Flu Season . .
Don't forget that masks help!**

Be considerate of those around you!

- 1.Cough or sneeze into your shoulder or elbow,**
- 2.Wash your hands with soap and water often.**

**Covid, Influenza, and RSV (respiratory syncytial virus)
If you have symptoms, PLEASE get tested.**

<https://jacksoncountyor.org/hhs/Public-Health/Welcome>

CHURCH CALENDAR

**Here is the color key for the
online calendar**

Church Events:

Red = In Person/Happening

Blue = Special Event

Green = Outside Groups

[View Our Events](#)

[DONATE](#)

You can make a re-occurring gift, a one-time gift or a designated gift (identify the designation in the comments). Just click on the 'Donate' button above!





LOVE IN ACTION means MAKING SANDWICHES!

Every Wednesday at 8:00 a.m., in Lidgate Kitchen, the *Love in Action* Sandwich Team makes 80-100 sandwiches. The sandwiches go to First Presbyterian Church, where they are added to sack lunches and given out to hungry folks who gather there Monday through Thursday.

THANKS TO GIAN MAIORANO, and BUD BERGSTROM FOR THEIR HELP. (pictured here!)

If you are willing to help make sandwiches, please contact **Mary Jo Bergstrom** at mjb97504@gmail.com -- or just show up on Wednesday morning and offer to help!



LOVE IN ACTION also means raising money to fund THE SANDWICH LUNCH PROGRAM Bring your cans and bottles to Lidgate

A *Love in Action* team takes turns collecting the bottles and cans that people bring to the Lidgate Kitchen. They blue-bag the bottles and cans and turn them in at the Bottle Drop Redemption Center.

This team is looking for a few more volunteers to help. At the present time, each team member collects twice a month. The more volunteers, the fewer times each person has to make a trip. If you can help this team, please contact **Susan Boman** at bomansm67@gmail.com



Church Library

You are invited to check out the wide variety of topics available. Have a seat and enjoy the corner Library.

The Congregational Care Team put a lot of effort into the Library, and it's available to all on a no-checkout basis.

Topics range from Fiction to Non-Fiction, from the Fanciful to the

Profound! You will find Religious, Care Giving, Creation Justice, Justice and Peace, and more.



West Medford Food Pantry

The Pantry currently needs:

**NOVEMBER ~~
CEREAL~ All kinds of**

cereal!

The Pantry also needs:

Paper, plastic or reusable grocery bags
Donations of Unopened Toiletries - NO SOAP
Toilet Paper, Paper Towels

When you go to the store, pick up something for those who need food!
Drop it in the box at LIDGATE HALL!

More ways to give...

Autumn is here and the nights are chilly!

**Think about how it feels to put on a nice warm pair of socks
when days and nights are cold.**

The First Presbyterian Church is collecting **socks and underwear** for the people who come to the Brown Bag Cafe and for those who come to the West Medford Food Pantry!

Make it a habit.



MCUCC COUNCIL MEMBERS

Chris Angle-Hobson
Pegi Ellerman, Moderator
Edgar Hee
Lori Lundine
Marlene Olson
Rich Rohde
Jim Talley



MEDFORD CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Address:

1801 E. Jackson Street
Medford, OR 97504

Office Phone:

541-772-8860

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday | 10 am -1 pm

Email Address:

medford.cong.ucc@gmail.com

<https://medforducc.org>



[contact us](#)
