



Medford Congregational **United Church of Christ**

1801 E. Jackson, Medford, OR
541-772-9960

Doing Justice ~ Living Kindness ~ Walking Humbly with God
(Vision Statement from Micah 6:8)



Sunday Worship August 6, 2023

Welcome
Rev. Dr. Joel S.
Garavaglia-Maiorano

Theme: "Mercy Follows"
Matthew 9: 9-13

Fr. Joel is an Anglican priest and Hospice Chaplain with Asante. He is originally from Detroit, Michigan, and a US Army Veteran. Fr. Joel formerly served Rogue Valley Manor for 9 years as their Director of Spiritual Care & Well-

being and Providence Hospital as their Chief Mission Integration Officer. Prior to being in health care, Joel served as the professor and chair of Health at Kansas Wesleyan University. He has two children, Michael and Gian. Michael runs for Gonzaga cross country and track. Gian is starting high school this fall in Medford. Joel enjoys kayaking, hiking, and going bowling with his youngest son.

Join us at 10am online or in person.
You may join us online by going to our website
or click on the links below.
(medforducc.org/livestream or the [Medford UCC YouTube](#)).

The Week Ahead

You can go to Medforducc.org for our website and click on **CALENDAR** to see what's going on in our facility on a daily basis, from month to month.

If your team or committee has meetings scheduled that should be on the Calendar, please contact the office: 541-772-8860

Note: if there is not a link for a meeting or event that you would like to attend, please call the office and we'll connect you to the leader of that group.

NOTE; Red- MCUCC Events; Green - Outside Groups; Gold - Zoom/ Other Location

Pink -- Special Event or Announcement

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### NOTICE:

**PLEDGE FULFILLMENT STATEMENTS: the Church copy machine "blew up" last week. Statements will be available as soon as a replacement copier arrives. Thank you for your patience.**

**Sunday, August 6 -**

**10:00 - 11:00 a.m., Worship & COMMUNION with Fr. JOEL MAIORANO**

**Monday, August 7 -**

**11:30-1:00 p.m., Mindfulness Meditation (Zoom, 1st Presbyterian)**

**4:00-5:30 p.m., Monday Book Group (Zoom, 1st Presbyterian)**

5:30-7:00 pm., **3 A's AIAnon** (Lidgate)  
7:00-8:45 p.m., **LGBTQ+ A A** (Amistad Rm)

**Tuesday, August 8** - 6:30-8:30 p.m., **ACA 12-Step Group** (Amistad Rm)

**Wednesday, August 9** -

8:00 a.m., **SANDWICH MAKING** (Lidgate Kitchen)  
1:00 p.m., **CONGREGATIONAL CARE Team** (private) (Lidgate)

**Thursday, August 10** -

5:30-7:45 p.m., **AA Candlelight Meeting** (Lidgate)  
6:30-8:30 p.m., **AA** (Amistad)

**Saturday, August 11** -

7:00-9:30 p.m., **NA Survivors Book Study** (Lidgate)

**Sunday, August 13**

**10:00 a.m., Worship with REV. DAVID H. BROWN**  
**11:30 a.m.. -ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**  
**5:00 P.M. - Jazz Vespers at 1st Presbyterian**

**Monday, August 14** - ,

11:30-1:00 p.m., **Mindfulness Meditation** (Zoom, 1st Presbyterian)  
4:00-5:30 p.m., **Monday Book Group** (Zoom, 1st Presbyterian)  
5:30-7:00 p.m. **3 A's AI Anon** (Lidgate)  
**6:30 p.m. - MCUCC COUNCIL (ZOOM) (Request link)**  
7:00-8:45 p.m., **LGBTQ+ A A** (Amistad Room)

**Tuesday, August 15**

**6:30-8:30, ACA 12-Step** (Amistad Rm)

**Wednesday, August 16** -

**8:00 a.m. - SANDWICH MAKING**  
**1:00 P.M. - BUILDING & GROUNDS TEAM (ZOOM with Teddie Hight)**

**Sunday, August 20** - Worship with REV. TYLER CONNOLEY, Conference Minister



**Medford Congregational UCC**  
**Standing Committees &**  
**Ministry Teams**  
**2023 Annual Reports**

Instead of the usual news reports, we had planned to publish most of the Annual Committee and Team Reports, however, computer complications have prevented including all of them. You will be amazed and proud of all the work done by our many volunteers. We hope to make all of them available for your reading pleasure early next week. Thanks for your patience,.

**MID-YEAR CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**  
**Sunday, August 13, 2023**  
**Lidgate Hall, 11:30 A.M.**  
**In-person and Live Streamed**

**NOTE: Everyone is invited. Only members may vote.**

**Bylaws, Article 4. Polity: C. Regular Congregational Meeting.**

*There shall be at least two (2) Congregational Meetings of the membership each year: a Meeting in January for the purpose of considering financial matters for the coming year; and, a mid-year Meeting in May or June for the purpose of electing the Church leadership and receiving annual reports of ministry activities.*

**Article 5. Council:**

**A. Function.** *The leadership and oversight function (**episkopeo**) of the Church's ministry shall be vested in the **Council**,*

**B. Authority.** *The Council shall be the executive body of the Church and shall act for the Members between Congregational Meetings..*

**Bylaws:**

**Article 7. Ministry Teams**

**A.** *The ministry and service function (**diakoneo**) of the Church shall be vested in Ministry Teams, either self-assembled and approved by Council, or assembled by Council in consultation with the Spiritual Gifts Commission, to carry out a specific ministry . . . Ministry Teams are responsible to the Council, which provides oversight and resources.*

**Article 9. Standing Committees.**

**D. Building and Grounds Committee.** *This Committee shall have responsibility for the maintenance, repair, and improvement of the Church's buildings, grounds, and building equipment, including supplies and building insurance. The Committee shall have authority to contract or hire custodial services as well as provide for supervision.*

**NOTE: Per Article 9: A and C:** Standing Committee chairs are appointed by the Church Council in consultation with the Spiritual Gifts Commission. Each Standing Committee shall consist of no fewer than four members, inclusive of the chair. All Standing Committees are responsible to the Council, which provides oversight,

At this time the Church Council stands in lieu of all other Standing Committees:  
Pledging and Budgeting Committee; Reserve and Endowment Committee.

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## BUILDING AND GROUNDS STANDING COMMITTEE 2023 Annual Report

**Members: Teddie Hight, Chair;  
Don Hughes, Jenny Stout, Bob  
Wolcott**

August 2nd I walked around the grounds and was delighted to see this monarch butterfly, visiting the various milkweed patches. Last year, I posted my first sighting at our initial patch. Throughout the spring we observed the students enjoying our whole campus, running and exploring the outdoor spaces available for nature connections and exercising their exuberant energies without undue restraint. Mid-June things changed with finding a tic on a child. The ‘meadow’ with wildflowers was no longer a bee and butterfly and kid friendly space. In reality, the wildflowers were invasive, sterile for all except invasive bees and moths. We were in learning curve mode and soon appreciated the Eden-like pollinator garden idea, takes years of labor and many hands to create. Chagrined, I was misguided— from reading about pollinator friendly neighborhood gardens—they don’t just happen in cities, they are planned and planted with native plants that attract native pollinators. If most people would replace part of their lawn grass with native plants, we could provide corridors for birds, butterflies (monarchs) and pollinators to equal the acreage of our national park system. Native grass roots go down 8 to 15 feet which supports healthy soil and all life forms beneath our feet. As a Creation Justice Church it is important to live like everything is connected, because it is. And reducing our carbon footprint is imperative. Roots trap carbon.

Due to computer complications, the rest of the Building and Grounds Report will be included in the next Espire Addendum published Monday, August 7..

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## SPIRITUAL PRACTICES MINISTRY TEAM 2023 Annual Report

**Members: Dolores Scheelen, Rob Hight,  
Susan Binette, Jenny Stout and Vickie  
Nordeen**

Dolores Scheelen, Rob Hight and Susan Binette have officially retired from the committee, Their outstanding work and many hours of Committee work are acknowledged and commended to the Church Council. Vickie Nordeen and Jenny Stout remain.

The Spiritual Practices Committee is pleased to recount contributions to the life of Medford Congregational UCC in the past year.

- Inspiring Earth Day Celebrations which were the result of planning and collaboration between Spiritual Practices committee and the Social Justice teams and pastor.
- The labyrinth at Advent season, again a successful collaboration between S.P. committee, Building and Grounds Committee, and church members with the pastor and musicians.
- Good discussions about inter-faith and collaborations with other congregations in the community that were opening the doors to understanding and collaboration.
- Frequent reflections on the energy levels and demographics that make up our congregation and how to meet the evolving needs and involvement of members at events outside of worship time while honoring our past events.
- Thoughtful development of our prayers and concern time which has evolved into an important part of our Sunday worship and fellowship time and has worked through transitions of pastors and guest pastors.

**Goals** for the rest of the year are to get more direction from Council on what it would like to see the Spiritual Practices Committee do, to recruit new members, and to continue encouraging the everyday spirituality of our congregation community.

Submitted by  
Victoria Nordeen

July 2023

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## Justice and Peace

Justice and Peace Ministry Team Report will be available to read in Monday's Espire Addendum.



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## Creation Justice Ministry Team 2023 Annual Report

**Submitted by Team Co-facilitators: Caren Caldwell and Diane Ware**  
**Members: Pam Allister, Susan Boman, David Brown, Caren Caldwell, Linda Hammer-Brown, Estelle Voeller, Diane Ware**

**Team Mission:** Offering information, education, and encouragement for members and friends to engage in advocacy and actions for the regeneration of the climate.

In March 2023 a group of people who read UCC book *CATHEDRAL ON FIRE* by Brooks Bernstein in a study/action group decided to continue meeting once a month. We are calling ourselves the Creation Justice Team.

Together we can restore nature and correct the injustices of climate impacts. "We work together to support strong and quick action to address the dangers of climate change while ensuring that solutions mitigate rather than compound economic injustices," John Hill, United Church of Christ.

Since March 2023 we have

- participated in the planning and displays of our 2023 Earth Week celebrations
- set up Creation Justice and Justice and Peace bookshelves in our library
- started giving Creation Justice Moments two Sundays a month
- supported youth led Rogue Climate by writing testimony, postcards and making phone calls to prevent GTN Express expansion of natural gas (methane/fracked gas) through our region
- participated in Ashland High student walkout to bring attention to climate emergency and support of proposal to Ashland City Council to electrify all new homes
- worked alongside Rogue Climate youth and Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon to lobby our State Legislators in the Ways and Means Committee to fund HB2990 Community Resilience Hubs and networks around our state
- Gather information on solar financing available to churches
- provide information, resources and a challenge to reduce plastic waste.



## Pastoral Care

*Rev. Caren Caldwell and Rev. David H. Brown are making hospital visits, home visits, and are available for other Pastoral Care needs during this time. They will coordinate with each other on scheduling and, if you would like to be contacted, you can let your Care Team Leader know, or call the Office 541-772-8860.*

*Several folks have expressed their gratitude for the pleasant visits and the opportunity to get acquainted with the retired pastors we are fortunate to have in our congregation.*



## Sunday Morning Coffee Hour

A time to welcome visitors, catch up with old friends and get to know each other better.

**THANK YOU** to everyone contributing to our Fellowship Treat Table after Sunday services. **THANK YOU**, Rob and Teddie, for making coffee every Sunday!

**This is an invitation for everyone to sign up with some friends to take a turn bringing treats to share.**



### Still Talking About COVID & FLU?

**Yep!**

**WASHING HANDS STILL HELPS PREVENT SPREAD OF GERMS!**

**Covid, Influenza, and RSV (respiratory syncytial virus) continue to be contagious and dangerous.**

**Please don't become careless.**

**If you have symptoms, PLEASE get tested.**

**STAY ALERT to any changes to case counts and hospitalizations on the OHA website. <https://govstatus.egov.com/OR-OHA-COVID-19>**

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



## 2023 BUDGET UPDATE

A **Budget Review** will be presented at the mid-year Congregational Meeting. We will let you know how we are doing, where we are spending your money, and where we have the greatest need at this time.

Donations to **Medford Congregational UCC** are tax deductible. We provide Pledge Fulfillment Statements or Miscellaneous Donation Statements quarterly, or upon request.

**The next statements will be available in time for the Congregational Meeting,**

Making your donation directly to the church allows us to apply the funds where most needed. Pledging enables us to budget more accurately for the following year. Anomalous or designated donations are, of course, gratefully received.

Pledge cards are available in Lidgate, and **you can pledge online as well as donate. Thank you so much!**

## CHURCH CALENDAR

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

### **Church Events:**

**Red** = In

**Person/Happening**

**Orange** = Remote/Zoom

**Blue** = Not Happening

### **Outside**

### **Groups/People:**

**Black** = Not Happening

**OR Remote**

**Green** = In person  
happening

[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!

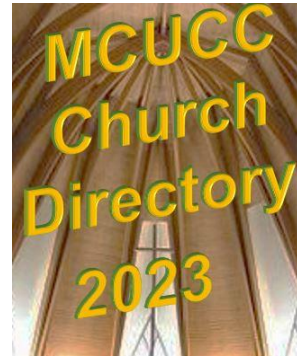


## MCUCC DIRECTORY

If you would like a copy of the Church Directory, please contact the office at **541-772-8860**.

A \$5.00 donation is not required but helps defray the cost of printing. If you are happy with a black and white copy, please let us know.

Check out your picture and contact information in the Directory. If you don't like your picture (or if it doesn't look like you anymore!) email a new one, along with confirmation of your contact phone number & email address, to [office@medforducc.org](mailto:office@medforducc.org).



### *Thank you Kendra Smithhart*



Last Sunday Kendra sang a beautiful rendition of the "The Old Rugged Cross," a song written in 1912-13, by Methodist evangelist George Bennard. He is said to have based the words to the song on John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whosoever believes

in him should not perish but have eternal life."

Kendra promised to sing again for us bringing some of the other old favorite hymns.

## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

We think it won't happen to us again, but we didn't expect it the first time. City of Medford has put out a list of preparations we should make.



- Keep your cell phone fully charged.

- Notify an out-of-area contact of your phone number, location and status. Update regularly.
- Update your information online in "Community Connect."
- Check on or call neighbors to alert.
- Keep pet carrier handy with extra pet food and water.
- Keep extra water and snacks for yourself.
- Be sure your pets wear tags and are registered with microchips.
- In an emergency: dress all family members in long sleeves and long pants; wear head covering, leather gloves, goggles if you have them, something to protect your face. WEAR SHOES (not sandals).
- Have a headlamp and flashlights, even in daylight.
- Carry car keys, wallet, ID, cell phone, and spare battery.

Google "To Go Kits" for a list of things to keep in a tote bag or suitcase in case of all kinds of emergency situation.



## Recycle & Donate!

Bring your bottles and cans to MCUCC  
to help fund the

**Wednesday Sandwich Program**  
**Bottle drop-off location is in Lidgate Kitchen.**

***Susan Boman, Mike Mace, Doug McGeary, and Bob Wolcott***, for years have donated their time to pick up

*our bottles and cans from the church and take them to the Recycling Center.*

***THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS***, and thank you ***Susan*** for coordinating that schedule and making sure the funds get to the Church. It has added up to several hundred dollars this year!

*(Note that the Sandwich program is separate from the Food Bank.)*

## CREATION JUSTICE CORNER PLASTIC BE GONE!

1. Recycle or reuse what you can
2. Rid your home of unnecessary plastic one room at a timer,.
3. Replace with glass containers or paper packaged products

Questions: **Contact Susan Boman** [bomansm67@gmail.com](mailto:bomansm67@gmail.com)



### West Medford Food Pantry

**K.C. McCoy** has been a strong advocate for this program for a long time. She keeps us up to date on how many people are served and what is most needed. Other of our UCC folks who volunteer regularly at the Food Pantry are **Sherry Straus, Vickie, Len, and Kelsey Nordeen, Tom Saydah, Ed Jensen, and Violet Rene.**

Your donations of the requested food of the month help the Pantry serve over a hundred people each week. These faithful volunteers deserve recognition and gratitude. **THANK YOU FROM ALL OF US TO THE VOLUNTEERS!**

**The Pantry currently needs:**

## August - PASTA and MAC 'N CHEESE

### 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...

The First Presbyterian Church is also 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.*

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### MCUCC COUNCIL MEMBERS

Chris Angle-Hobson  
Susan Boman  
Pegi Ellerman, Moderator  
Edgar Hee  
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

<https://medforducc.org>

[contact us](#)



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