

A Warm Welcome to Our Guests

Thank you for joining us this morning! We recognize that you have many choices and we are grateful you chose to be with us. We invite you to sign the guest book in the vestibule, and to learn more about our church community, please visit our website: www.uumedford.org; Facebook: **Unitarian Universalist Church of Medford**; email: office@uumedford.org; or telephone (781) 396-4549.

UU Church of Medford welcomes everyone and is recognized by the Unitarian Universalist Association as a Welcoming Congregation. This means that we are a church that is inclusive and expressive of the concerns of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender persons at every level of congregational life.

Church Staff Ministries:

Rev. Bruce Taylor, Minister: minister@uumedford.org
Mimi Olivier, Director of Religious Education: dre@uumedford.org
Brenda Bonetti, Church Office Admin.: uumedford@uumedford.org
Jim Costello, Sexton
The Caring Team: uucm-caring@groups.io

Sharing Their Ministry in Today's Service:

Service Leader: Mimi Olivier
Music: Hymn Leader and Children's Choir Director: Alex Daum
Keyboard Player: Russell Tripp
Tech Volunteers: Brian Wolf, Mary MacNamee

Sunday, December 17, 2023 ***Unitarian Universalist Church*** ***of Medford***



Season of Giving

We are glad you are among us today.

To honor and be present to this sacred space and time,
please silence your cell phones.

“No one has ever become poor by giving.”
Anne Frank

Morning Songs

***Hymn #347 Gather the Spirit**
Words and music: Jim Scott

***Hymn #95 There is More Love Somewhere**
Words and music: Unknown African-American Composer

***Hymn #1008 When Our Heart is in a Holy Place**
Words and music: Joyce Poley

The Bell Sounds and Candles Are Lit

Prelude Opening Voluntary Caleb Simper

Call to Worship Dr. Martin Luther King
Presented by Macy Hoover

Welcome and Greeting Mimi Olivier

Chalice Lighting Lydia Maria Child
Presented by Demetrius Paisley-Flango

*Covenant

Love is the heart of this church. We commit to:
Being a diverse, welcoming community of mutual care and respect;
Supporting each other's spiritual journey and search for truth and meaning;
Promoting justice and serving the wider community.
We hold ourselves to this promise with compassion and understanding.

***Hymn #1021 Lean on Me Words and music: Bill Withers**

First Reading The Parable of the Good Samaritan
Read by Julia and Sarah Lublin

Children's Choir We're Gonna Sit at the Welcome Table
Traditional Southern Gospel and African-American folk song,
author unknown

Prayer and Meditation Commitment by Dorothy Day
Mimi Olivier

Second Reading The Parrot and the Fig Tree
Read by Boshawn Paisley-Flango and Austin Wolf

Opportunity for Generosity: Mimi Olivier
Music Interlude Caleb Semper

Offering response:

We are grateful for these gifts we have received,
that sustain us and affirm the ministries of our church community.

Third Reading Once the World was Perfect Joy Harjo
Read by Adeline Austin and Sam Graves

Hymn #168 One More Step Words and music: Joyce Poley

***Community Closing and Benediction Saadi**
Read by Evan Lazzaro

***You are invited to rise as you are able.**