

Sunday, Date, 2024
**Unitarian Universalist Church
of Medford**

**The Sacred Work of Not
Knowing**



Rev. Wendy Miller Olapade

To have faith is to live and act in the certainty of uncertainty... Faith is not the clinging to a shrine but an endless pilgrimage of the heart

Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel

Morning Songs

Hymn #1008 When Our Heart is in a Holy Place

Joyce Poley

Hymn #1028 The Fire of Commitment

Jason Shelton

The Bell Sounds and Candles Are Lit

Prelude: You Can Do This Hard Thing

Carrie Newcomer

Call to Worship: Responsive Reading:

One: Come, you who wonder and question.

Come, you who hold stories with loose ends and hopes not yet fulfilled.

Come, you who are certain of very little,

and you who reach with trembling hands for something more.

All: Here, doubt is not judged.

Here, questions are welcome guests.

Here, reaching is honored as faith's truest movement.

One: For Love meets us in the honest places —

in wounds still tender, in graves we thought were final,

and whispers even now,

"Peace. Touch. Believe. I live — and I live in you."

All: So come as you are.
Bring your questions. Bring your hope.
Together, let us worship the Mystery that meets us in the stretch.

Welcome and Greeting

Chalice Lighting: The Light in Our Reaching

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 #361: Enter, Rejoice, and Come In Louise Ruspini

A Time for All Ages:

Children's Parting Song: Go in Peace

Words: Li Kynvi; music: Andey Amata and Molly Ruggles

Our beloveds, we are with you; go in peace.
May the spirit of love surround you; go in peace.
(repeat)

Our Story: Geoff Ward

Opportunity for Generosity: Chorale #80 JS Bach

Offering Response

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

Candles of Joys, Sorrows and Milestones

Meditation: *Reach for the Wound*, Thomas Steve Garnass Holmes

Pastoral Prayer

Readings: John 20:24-28 & Rainer Maria Rilke

Hymn #1021: When I Am Frightened Shelley Jackson Denham

Sermon: The Sacred Work of Not Knowing

Hymn #532: Wake, Now, My Senses

Words: Thomas J. S. Mikelson; Music: Traditional Irish melody, harmony by Carlton R. Young

Community Closing:

Postlude: Enter, Rejoice, and Come In

Louise Ruspini

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.

For more information about the church:

Website: **www.uumedford.org**

Facebook: **Unitarian Universalist Church of Medford**

Email: **office@uumedford.org**

Telephone: **(781) 396-4549**

Welcoming Congregation

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Medford 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

Mimi Olivier, Children's Program Director: dre@uumedford.org

Sage Fogle, Music Director: music@uumedford.org

Jim Costello, Sexton

Sharing Their Ministry in Today's Service

Service Leader: Rev. Wendy Miller Olapade

Worship Associate: Susan Jhirad

Music: Sage Fogle

Tech Volunteers: April Evans; Dennis Keane; Nate Douglas