



# The Oasis

News from First Community United Methodist Church  
Medford Massachusetts

August 2019

Dear First Community family,

It is my honor and joy to be part of this beautiful community! I look forward to getting to know each and all of you, absorbing the wisdom and love dwelling in the sacred space on Otis Street.

When I first visited this historic church building, I saw next to the main entrance our stunning rainbow flag, shining in the morning sunlight. We know sunlight contains multiple colors—or the source of colors—which we actually don't even really see. Thus, the light that morning was not only making the flag visible, but also sharing its colors with each part of the flag so they could shine in their unique ways. In other words, the flag was representing the wide diversity of colors embedded in the sunlight.



Our heavenly Parent, the ultimate source of light, created each of us in a unique and special form. This is why our bodies, minds, and spirits differ from one another. They look differently, work differently, and love differently. And the same God who created us has woven us in a flag, so we can live together, worship together, and serve together. As an interwoven team, we are called to create safe spaces for our rainbows where we can represent and affirm the colorful grace of God, embedded in our Christian tradition.

The FCUMC community has already learned and experienced the amazing love of God thanks to historical and modern prophets who have served the congregation. We know how transformative that love is. We know how powerful that love is. Now, it is the time for us to remember how unlimited and uncontainable that love is. It is time for us to proclaim that the love of God is for every one of God's

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children. It is time for us to remind ourselves and others that all our neighbors have a right to the light of love, regardless of the color of their body, mind, and spirit. As we all are worthy to be loved by God, we all have a responsibility to share that love.

Most rainbows form an entire circle, yet we often only see a part of that wide circle in the sky. Countless colors line the rainbow's circle, embracing the center of the circle—an entire world—inside. I see FCUMC as the circle of a rainbow. There are no ends or limits, only connections and bonds. We are all different but sharing the same love. And most importantly, we are pushing the boundary of the circle so more people can enter, not worrying about their life experiences, race, gender identity, sexual orientation, class, nationality, cultural background, age, physical ability, or religious perspective—everyone celebrating the unlimited light of God.

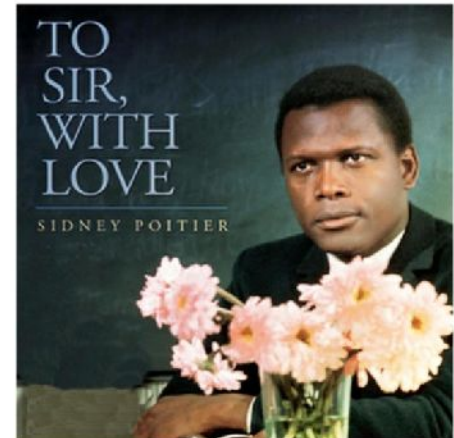
Let us draw the circle wide—the circle of God's rainbow!

Hakuna Matata,  
*Pastor Suji*

## SUMMER IN THE SIXTIES!

Please join us for a showing of

### "To Sir, With Love"



Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup>  
7pm

Ice Cream Sundaes to Follow

**COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH,**

470 FULTON STREET, MEDFORD

[www.communitybaptistmedford.org](http://www.communitybaptistmedford.org)

### An Invitation

Pastor Suji wants to get to know our congregation. She has scheduled Open Office Hours at the Parsonage (41 Central Avenue) on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

If you can't go then, please send her an email at [pastorsuji@gmail.com](mailto:pastorsuji@gmail.com) to arrange another time.

Thank you.

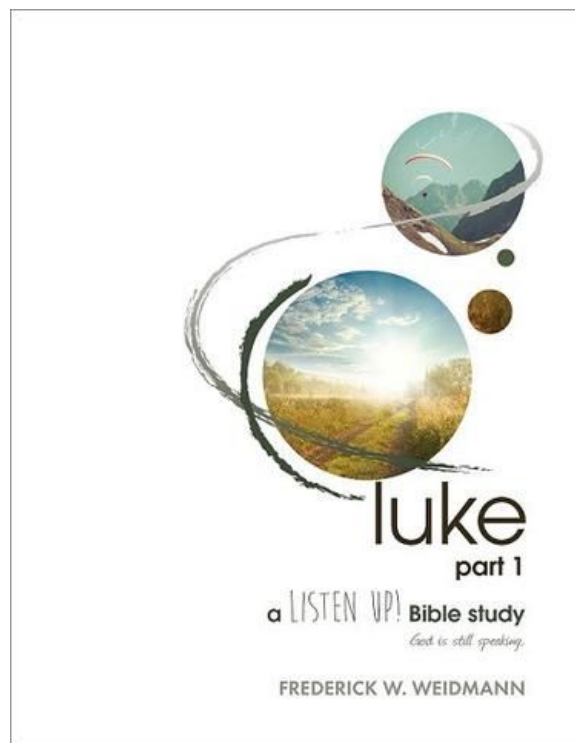
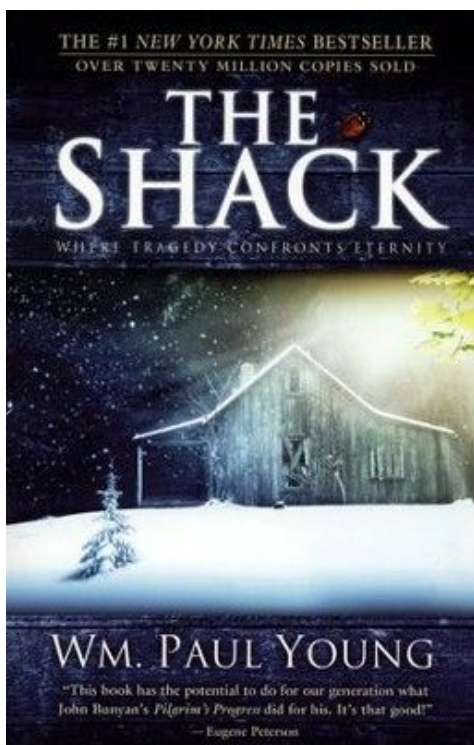
# New Bible Study!

Wednesdays at 7, Starting September 11, for six weeks.

*Have you wondered about the in-depth meanings of Jesus' parables?  
Have you questioned how you can apply Jesus' teachings to your everyday life?  
Have you struggled with any of these themes: forgiveness, grace, or justice?*

If yes, come and join Pastor Suji's new Bible study group! We will explore and learn God's love from one another and two inspiring books, the *Gospel of Luke* and *The Shack* (by William Paul Young).

Interested? Contact Pastor Suji at [pastorsuji@gmail.com](mailto:pastorsuji@gmail.com)!



## WORSHIP LEADERS, GREETERS, & USHERS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship Leader</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
<b>August 4</b>	Stephanie Finley	To Be Announced	To Be Announced
<b>August 11</b>	To Be Announced	Rachel Collins	To Be Announced
<b>August 18</b>	Susan and Autumn Lane	Dot Seamster	To Be Announced
<b>August 25</b>	David Twiddy	Autumn Lane JJ and Mimi Twiddy Theo Koo	To Be Announced

**Dot Seamster** (781-391-5154) is in charge of finding worship leaders, ushers and greeters.  
If you would like to volunteer for a week, please contact her.



**Beach Sunday  
August 25**

Summer is beach season. That's why we're transforming the Fellowship Hall to "Otis Street Beach" on August 25. Our worship will be beach-themed. We'll have beach balls, videos of waves, and more special effects.

Dress is beach casual. Feel free to bring beach chairs, beach towels, and other accessories to help with the transformation of the Fellowship Hall.

Bring a picnic lunch and a side dish or dessert to share. We'll provide beverages and simple sandwiches.



**NEXT  
MONTH**

- September 8 -**  
Welcome reception for Pastor Suji. We will receive communion at worship.
- September 15 -**  
Sunday School Opening.  
Breakfast at 9:30.
- September 21 - 10:00 a.m. -**  
Church Conference.
- September 24 - 7:00 p.m.**  
Church Council Meeting.


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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				Samuel McDonald & Meaghan Morris	Connor Wilson & Chloey Wilson	Cayden Maleszyk & Neville Pottinger
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Cheryl & Keeley Murphy	Nathaniel Murphy & Alexander Murphy	Aarion Perez & Katelyn Perez	Jim Ryan & Kim Ryan	Joan Saniuk & Sharilyn Steketee	Dorothy Seamster & Frank Seamster	Kevin Seamster & Owen Seamster
10:30 AM Worship			6:30 PM Bible Study			
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Jennifer Tappendorf & Sean Tappendorf	Dylan Tappendorf & Genevieve Tappendorf	David Twiddy & Rebecca Stevenson	Lydia Twiddy & J.J. Twiddy	Miriam Twiddy & Luci Rexroad	Chris & Gina Votour	Ronald Votour & Daniel Votour
10:30 AM Worship			6:30 PM Bible Study			10:30 AM 1 <sup>st</sup> Community Sings at Courtyard 7:00 PM To Sir with Love At Community Baptist Church
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Anmole & Jennifer Wassan	Arjun Wassan & Diya Wassan	Patrick Troy & Barbara Wood	Jessica Wood & Sarah Wood	Deanna & Greg Wright	Madison Wright & Benjamin Wright	Barbara Adams & Yola Aurelian
10:30 AM Worship			6:30 PM Bible Study			
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Deb & Steve Alibrandi	Fred & Kathy Aluia	Sam Aluia & Nino Aluia	Kalli Baker & Sylvia Bosselman	Valerie Becker-Nogueira & Wallace Nogueira	James Nogueira & Sharyn Bosselman	Elizabeth Bosselman & Nancy Burbine
10:30 AM Worship			6:30 PM Bible Study			
BEACH SUNDAY						

Please pray for these friends on the designated day.