

BEHOLD!!

A Newsletter of Smyrna United Church of Christ

Ministers: All members of the church

Minister: The Rev. Dr. Deborah Patterson

Editor: Jeannie Rogers

Asst. Editor: Elaine Daniels

Church Phone (503) 651-2131

e-mail: smyrnaucc@canby.com

Website: www.smyrna-ucc.org

31119 S. Highway 170, Canby, OR 97013

January 2015

Smyrna



No matter who you are,
or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.

Happy New Year!

January is an exciting month, isn't it? Not just because spring is on its way, of which we will soon see evidence. Not just because we'll be planning for the Chili Cookoff which will take place on February 1st. Not just because we have the Annual Meeting on January 25th after church.

Oh, who am I kidding? January is the month when we start to think about figuring out our taxes. There aren't any holidays that involve a special meal or chocolate eggs. All those things we put off doing until after the holidays, well, it's after the holidays now. It's kind of depressing, to be honest with you.

January days may be the days when we need each other the most. We can be real with each other and say that sometimes, life is not all that rosy. Sometimes, life is cold, dark, scary and painful. We need a place where we can be welcomed, heard, and held close in God's love.

I pray that Smyrna can always be that kind of place for each of us. I pray that we are brave enough to talk about the things that trouble us, the things that encourage us, the things that bless us. To help each other keep on keeping on.

Remember that old hymn, "Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love?" The second verse says this well: "We share our mutual woes, our mutual burdens bear; and often for each other flows the sympathizing tear."

May it be well with your soul, this January, and always.

Blessings,
Pastor Deb

John, Deborah, Sophia & Stephen Patterson





Thank you to everyone who made the installation service on December 7th such a beautiful occasion. Thank you for the flowers, the cakes, all the lovely food at the reception, the special music, and the warm welcome to so many guests! It was a day I shall treasure always. I am so glad to be here. Thank you!
—Pastor Deb —

Below: Youth Group lighting Advent Candles, December 14, 2014



Thank you!!

From Silverton Area Community Aid—

Thank you so much for your generous donation of \$1815.00. We are so grateful that you thought of us! It is generous people like you who keep our doors open and allow us to help so many people in our community. Thank you!!

From the Molalla Service Center—

Thank you, Smyrna UCC, for your generous donation of \$1815.00. What a wonderful surprise!
—Rise Estergreen, Director, Molalla Service Center—



January 25,
2015—

After worship stay for Smyrna's Annual Meeting and Potluck Lunch.

Annual Reports needed: Deadline January 5, 2015

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| Pastor | Mission and Outreach |
| Moderator | Board of Trustees |
| Grounds Committee | Diaconate |
| Clerk's Report | Building Use |
| Board of Christian Education | Youth Group |
| Board of Christian Nurture | Heartline |
| Memorial Committee | Cemetery Committee |
| Stitch Club — President's Report & financial report | |
| Scholarship Committee | |
| Finance Committee — need 2015 Fundraising dates | |
| Staff/Parish Committee | |
| Women's Fellowship Report & Financial Report | |
| Nominating Committee — Officers, Board & Committee Members | |
| Treasurer Report — separate from annual | |
| Coffee Hour & Volunteers Flower — please sign up | |

If you are on one of these boards & committees, please find out which member needs to turn in the report. The list will be posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex and reports checked off when turned in.

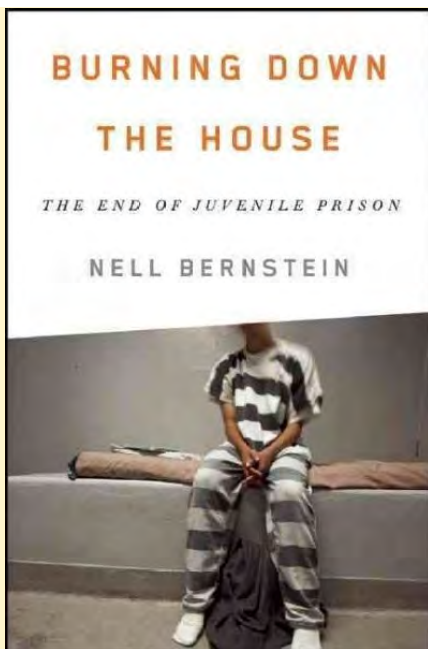
Burning Down the House: The End of Juvenile Prison by Nell Bernstein

Investigative journalist Nell Bernstein spent several years looking into the world of juvenile prisons and the young people – some as young as 10 and others as old as 25 – who live there. What she discovered in this 21st century, was that one in three

American youths are arrested by the time they reach 23, many for “status offenses” such as truancy, drinking alcohol, or disrespecting a policeman – that are not crimes for adults. More than 66 thousand – are currently in prison, more than six times the rate of Great Britain and 18 times the rate in France. Many have been physically or sexually assaulted – most often at the hands of prison staff, not other kids. The use of physical restraints is not uncommon, and many children spend time, sometimes months, in solitary confinement.

Research shows that the most effective treatment for troubled youth is the development of strong supportive relationships – exactly the opposite of what they are getting in prison. And alternative sentencing – probation, community programs, etc., are demonstrating that kids can turn things around and avoid future jail time, even when they have committed equally serious crimes to those done by kids in prison. Those who go to jail are more likely to return than kids who come from dysfunctional families or who are involved in gangs.

The hope in this book is that Bernstein describes a trend toward closing many of these facilities. She also describes some models that seem to be working well for kids who really do need to be in court-supervised settings for rehabilitation, such as the Missouri Model, which houses kids in group homes with on-site counselors and support teams available to help kids turn things around. She also advocates for all parents, teachers, pastors, and community leaders to get involved with the lives of all children to help them navigate their childhood and teen years and take their rightful places as engaged and contributing citizens.



Rivers of Healing: Understanding Intimate Violence

This information is from a handout prepared by Pastor Deb for the Adult Ed class led on November 23rd by Kristin Schlotterbeck, Community Education Program Manager, Clackamas Women's Services. Adult Ed meets each Sunday at 9:45 am in Pastor Deb's office.

BACKGROUND – Clackamas Women's Services

The CWS emergency shelter (in a confidential location in Clackamas county) provides a safe place for women and children fleeing their homes due to domestic violence, sexual assault/abuse, elder abuse, stalking or sexual trafficking or exploitation. The shelter and new annex houses up to 13 individuals and/or families (approximately 27 people at any given time) in a family-style environment where each individual or family unit has their own room and everyone shares the bathrooms, kitchen and communal spaces like living, dining, computer and children's play rooms. Residents generally stay about 60 days before moving into stable housing.

OTHER SERVICES:

- * **Crisis Line** - Available 24/7 and is confidential. Call for help and/or shelter availability: 503-654-2288 or 888-654-2288.
- * **Community Based services:** (Call 503-655-8600) Housing support, Legal Advocacy, Family Violence Advocacy
- * Counseling for women and children, Support groups
- * **Rural Outreach:** Available through CWS satellite offices in Sandy and Estacada and in **partner facilities in Canby and Molalla**. Rural Outreach services encompass all the programs available through their main office, including housing advocacy and support, counseling, referrals to CWS and other agency services, and youth violence prevention presentations. To contact someone on the Rural Outreach Team, call: 503-655-8600

CWS also operates “A Safe Place Family Justice Center for Clackamas County.” Drop-in services available M-Th 8:30–4:30 and F, 8:30–12:30

Primary Mailing Address: 256 Warner Milne Road, Oregon City, OR 97045

Phone 503-655-8600; Email: info@cwsor.org

There are also volunteer opportunities available. More info at www.cwsor.org.

Kristin's contact information: E-mail: kristins@cwsor.org; Phone: 503-557-5822



In the spirit of giving, I wanted you to know we had a very generous donation to our collection of items that will be given to the homeless.

*The Christmas tree in Friendship House is weighted down, thanks to all of you and this anonymous gift. By the way, this person, who lives outside our community, added 23 hand knit caps, 15 scarves, and 19 sets of matching caps and scarves. . . AND one additional cap & scarf with matching Doggie sweater.
-Elaine-*

ADULT EDUCATION IN JANUARY

9:45 am in the Pastor's Study

January 4th – Celebrating the Birthday of Sir Isaac Newton

January 11th – Bible Study – Stephen Patterson

January 18th – Talking about Difficult Things

January 25th – Mystery!!



to the “Smyrna Elves” who do the many tasks that often go unrecognized: parking lot and cemetery clean-up; valances made for Friendship House; carpet cleaning; church entry yard clean-up; flower arrangements for various church events; homemade ice cream; carpentry or building maintenance. “It takes a village”.

Souls in the Hands of a Tender God: Mental Illness and the Church

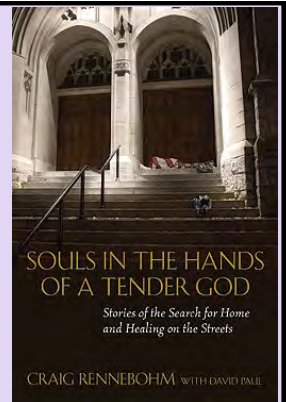
As Christians, we are called to care for others in body, mind, and spirit. This includes spiritual health, physical health and mental health. We do a fairly good job talking about and caring for spiritual health, we support physical health through visiting the sick and promoting wellness, but often don't do so well providing support for mental health issues.

Talking about mental health issues is important for the church and for the wider community. Having the faith community talk about mental illness takes away much of the stigma surrounding this topic, and can provide support for those living with mental illness and their loved ones. We must speak out about mental illness, to help provide information about resources in the community, and also to be welcoming to people who are dealing with mental health concerns and their families. As stated by the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI),

“Religious communities are in a unique position to combat stigma and provide a message of acceptance and hope. Proclaiming the values of social justice, respect for all persons, and non-discrimination, faith communities reach out to individuals and families affected by mental illness in many helpful ways. The faith community is the place for content, support and discussion centered around value of spirituality in the recovery process.”

http://www.nami.org/Template.cfm?Section=Faith_Community&Template=/TaggedPage/TaggedPageDisplay.cfm&TPLID=19&ContentID=20587.
Accessed on-line April 20, 2011.

Craig Rennebohm has written an excellent book: Souls in the Hands of a Tender God. Rennebohm is a UCC chaplain who has worked with the mentally ill in Seattle. His book provides a theological framework for ministry to people living with mental illness, from the viewpoint of someone who has “been there, done that” and has helped others suffering from unmanaged mental illness.



What can we do here at Smyrna? We might consider sponsoring an educational program on a topic of interest, such as eating disorders, suicide prevention, depression, anxiety, bi-polar disorder, or any number of other topics related to mental health. The website of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors (www.aapc.org) can help us locate providers who might be speakers, and we have some mental health providers here who might point us in the right direction.

For further information: Visit the NAMI website, which has a page specifically for faith communities at www.nami.org. You will find a listserve to connect with others (NAMI FaithNet), their newsletter, discussion groups, and other links and resources.

Other faith-based resources include Pathways to Promise (www.pathways2promise.org), which serves all faiths by providing liturgical and educational materials, programs models, and networking information to promote a caring ministry with people with mental illness and their families. Several denominations also have mental health ministries, such as the United Methodist Church (www.mentalhealthministries.net). The UCC has a national Mental Illness Network (www.min-ucc.org).

January 2015 at Smyrna

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																													
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4 9:45 a.m. Adult Education 11 a.m. Worship and Sunday School Coffee Hour: Volunteer needed Flowers: Volunteer needed	5 7:30 AA and AI Anon Annual Reports deadline b.d. Don Blatchford, Tavi Robinson	6 10 a.m. O.A. meeting at Smyrna	7	8 b.d. Christine Foster	9	10 b.d. Liz Chapin																																																																													
11 9:30 a.m. Youth Group 9:45a.m. Adult Education 11 a.m. Worship and Sunday School b.d. Helen Odell Coffee Hour: Stitch Club Flowers: Jeannie Rogers	12 7:30 AA and AI Anon b.d. Morgan Rogers	13 10 a.m. O.A. meeting at Smyrna b.d. Ryan Yoder	14 Wedding Ann. David & Irene Schriever	15 b.d. Nicholas Stanbro	16 b.d. Julie Stanbro	17																																																																													
18 9:30 a.m. Youth Group 9:45a.m. Adult Education 11 a.m. Worship and Sunday School Coffee Hour: Barbara Daniels Flowers: Volunteer needed	19 7:30 AA and AI Anon b.d. Anne Schuebel Bangs Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday	20 10 a.m. O.A. meeting at Smyrna	21	22 12 noon Women's Fellowship Luncheon b.d. Diane Potter, Cari Wooley	23 b.d. Carol Schultz	24																																																																													
25 9:30 a.m. Youth Group 9:45a.m. Adult Education 11 a.m. Worship and Sunday School Flowers: Virginia Yoder SMYRNA ANNUAL MEETING AND POTLUCK AFTER WORSHIP	26 7:30 AA and AI Anon	27 10 a.m. O.A. meeting at Smyrna	28 b.d. Dave Aamodt	29	30	31 2 p.m. Memorial Service for Roger Engle																																																																													

*Smyrna's congregation displayed
their Nativity sets in the Friendship*



A tiny German nativity set discovered by Rebekah Yoder in a thrift store.



Given to Joel and Elaine Daniels by her mother, Florence Gottwald in 1973.



A friend and co-worker at Nike made this puzzle nativity for Carl Menkel



Barb Menkel's mother collected these Avon figures over a number of years.



Minimal yet elegant, provided by Sandra Mahar



Audrey Yoder, her mother, and her sisters each painted a nativity set during a ceramics class.



Reproduction of nativity given by Nellie Eyman to each of her children.
—Diane Kindall Potter—



Carl Menkel and his grandmother created this set during his 3rd grade year.

South American nativity available through SERRV - Rebekah Yoder

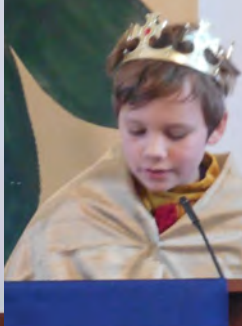


Beryl Fisher

At right:
Origami Nativity
created from patterns in
"The First Christmas
In Origami"
by Geneva



Figures were purchased by Virginia Yoder in the 1950's. Emerson built the stable.



Children's Christmas Program,
December 21

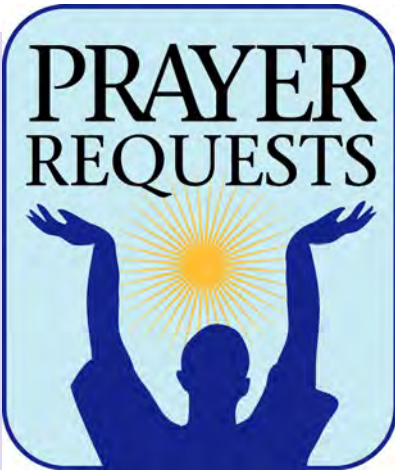


Christmas at
Smyrna ZACC
2014



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service





Don Stoneking
Bob Kyrk
Orville & Dorothy Krebs
Joann & Joe Gribble
Ruth Hepler
Mickey Hester
Mary Namit
Allen & Katherine Holt
Blanche Kober
Chuck & Helen Odell
Virginia Yoder's great-
granddaughter, Aspen

Prayers of sympathy and support for:

Pastor Deborah and Stephen Patterson and family on the loss of Stephen's uncle and also for the family of Roger Engle who died in December.

Mission Statement

Smyrna United Church of Christ is striving to be:

- ♦ A place of peace where we teach the word of God and the story of God's love.
- ♦ A spiritual haven where we accept and care for all humanity in an outreach of grace.
- ♦ A lighthouse of God's light, where worship, teaching, learning and spiritual growth take place in community powered by thought and action.
- ♦ A Christian people, working for God's realm in ecumenical harmony with other people of faith and conviction.