

BEHOLD!!

Smyrna

A Newsletter of Smyrna United Church of Christ

Ministers: All members of the church

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

April 2016

Welcome to our New Youth Minister – Adam Ericksen

The Church Council has approved the recommendation to hire Adam Ericksen as the new Youth Minister at Smyrna, who began on Sunday, March 20, 2016.

Adam is an Oregon native, a graduate of Linfield College, with a Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies, and a graduate of Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois with a Masters of Theological Studies. His thesis was "Love and Nonviolence in Christianity and Islam." For the last eight years, he has been the youth pastor at the First Congregational Church in Wilmette Illinois, where he has been doing great things. He and his wife wanted to move back to Oregon, and Walter John Boris, our Conference Minister, recommended him highly, as did the pastor with whom he worked formerly (whom Steve knows well). And his background check is complete.

He is also a writer, and is the Education Director of The Raven Foundation in Glenview, Illinois, and a contributing author to *Sojourners*, among other publications, including *Time* magazine. He's also just a really nice guy! He and his wife, Carrie, who works in the corporate headquarters for Tillamook Cheese, have three kids – Brayden, Gavin, and Abbie. (pictured here). Adam is seeking to become a UCC pastor, and we are really lucky to have him, even though it may be for a short time, depending on how long it takes to find a permanent call.

Adam is planning a one-hour program with the youth to follow the youth sermon (as he will do weekly). He spoke at Adult Education on March 20th and will be preaching on April 17th. Stay tuned for more!

Welcome!



The Rev. Dr. Deborah Patterson and
Smyrna's new Youth Minister Adam Ericksen

Westberg Symposium – April 7-8, 2016

I've been invited to attend the 30th anniversary of the founding of the International Parish Nurse Resource Center at the Westberg Symposium in Chicago, on April 7-8, 2016. Before coming to Smyrna, I spent 15 years with the Deaconess Foundation, and for the last decade, I was the Executive Director of the International Parish Nurse Resource Center, which was an LLC of the Foundation. As this is the 30th year, they have invited the founding director and me to attend as guests for this special celebration. And then I will return for Smyrna's 125th Anniversary Celebration. What an exciting time!

— Pastor Deb —



Meet our new Youth Minister and his family

I'm very excited to be part of the Smyrna community! From my many conversations with members of Smyrna, I can tell that this is a church that practices extravagant hospitality. Thank you for warmly welcoming me into your church.

A bit about myself: I met my wife Carrie while we were students at Linfield College. After graduating from Linfield, we went to graduate school in Chicago. Carrie graduated with a masters in social psychology, while I graduated with a master in theology and ethics. Carrie worked for Nielson, a large market research firm. I was called to be the youth pastor at the First Congregational Church of Wilmette, UCC, in Wilmette, Illinois for 8 years.

Native Oregonians, we decided to move back home to Oregon with our three children to be closer to our families. Our children are Brayden (9), Gavin (7), and Abbie (5). Carrie works for Tillamook Dairy and I am pursuing ordination as a member in discernment in the Central Pacific Conference. I am also a writer for multiple websites – including the Raven Foundation, Teaching Nonviolent Atonement, and Sojourners – where I explore the intersection of faith and culture.

Being a youth pastor has been one of the best things I've ever done. I really enjoy talking with young people about their lives at home, at school, and with friends. I believe that God is working in the world to heal individuals and our relationships with others. The Christian faith excites me because it challenges us to participate in God's healing of the world by loving our neighbors, including those we call our enemies, as we love ourselves. My plan for the youth group is to discuss how we might participate with God in that endeavor.

I'm so grateful to be part of this wonderful community. Thank you for your hospitality. Please feel free to e-mail me if you have any comments or questions.

Grace and peace, Adam Ericksen
adamericksen@gmail.com



Save the Date for Smyrna UCC's
125th Anniversary —
April 10th, 2016.

11 am Worship
catered lunch to follow

Make lunch reservations with Pastor Deb
2 pm special anniversary program
Our Conference Minister,
Rev. Walter John Boris,
will be preaching at the morning service.



For Smyrna's 125th anniversary year, we are beginning a project for oral/video histories of the people of Smyrna. Stay tuned for more details. Julia Peterson and



Joel Daniels are heading up this effort with the help of some outside consultants. We want to preserve people's memories of their association with the

church. What a wonderful gift for the anniversary. The plan includes video recording small groups. Of course, we are always on the lookout for pictures and other artifacts of church life.

April Mission Project



The Mission and Outreach Committee will be collecting stuffed animals through April to distribute to police, Firemen, and memory care facilities.

HEALTH COMMITTEE



The Health Committee is working on establishing a program of visitation for keeping the members of Smyrna close to the church family when they are unable to attend services. We have ten people who have volunteered to be a part of this program and who will be visiting at least one person a month singly or in teams of two. We can always use more volunteers to call, however, there are two other ways you can help with this project.

- (1) If you cannot make calls in person, we would appreciate people who would be willing to make a monthly telephone contact..
- (2) Also, if you are unable to make a commitment for a regular monthly call, but would be willing to be make an occasional call when there is a need, Pastor Deb or a member of the Health Committee could call on you to make a one-time visit on this person. (If you are available at that time.)

Please give some thought to this and let me know if you can do, and are willing, to participate in this ministry. Thank You.

Ione Jenson, The Health Committee
eionejenson@aol.com
503-759-6767

Treasurer's Report — Irene Schriever

Balance 1/31/1016	\$7395.74
Receipts	9,628.17
Expenditures	<u>\$6,150.58</u>
Balance 2/29/2016	\$10,873.33

The Smyrna Discussion and Prayer Group meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month. We meet in Pastor Deb's office at 9:30 a.m.



We are an open group and invite you to come for discussion, support and/or prayer. We're open to discuss any questions or concerns you may have, and you are welcome to come for a one-time visit or to attend as often as you'd like. This is not limited to Smyrna, but others who need prayer are welcome as well.

Stitch Club activities in years past.

At the July 1, 1963, meeting Stitch Club they reported on the bridal shower for Elaine Gottwald to be held on July 12th. The members would contribute toward the refreshments and help with the serving. They also discussed the coming wedding reception for Rev. and Mrs. Holt. Stitch Club set the date for Bible School to be held later in the month and the problem of watering the flower beds. They decided members on cleanup and flower arranging for the coming month would see to the watering. There were 17 members present at the meeting.

At another meeting in September Stitch Club reported they had \$6.90 in their treasury after they paid the telephone bill of \$5.20 and \$20.00 in Camp Adams scholarships for 4 people. The group decided to sell brooms as a money making project.

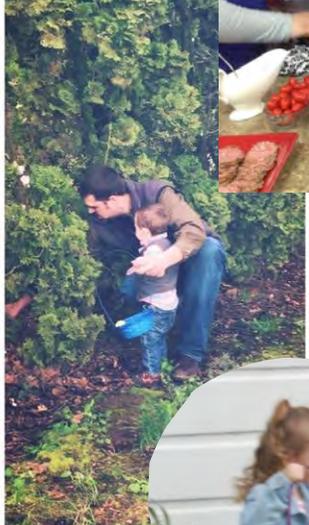
During the October meeting the group discussed what to charge for catering at the Yoder-Frome wedding. After a lengthy discussion they decided on a charge of \$20.00. They also held a silent auction at this meeting and had 38 items which brought in \$31.36 for the club.

At some of the meetings, they enjoyed the refreshments first before they held their meeting and reported on what each hostess served.

Stitch Club also support the Pioneer Home in Colton, which was a home for the elderly, much like Molalla Manor. Stitch Club would take cookies often and make Christmas favors for the residents. Stitch Club also bought presents for some of the elderly people in the community, though the minutes don't say what they purchased.

Stitch Club was responsible for putting up the Nativity scene at this time in the life of the church. More to follow as the Smyrna's 125th year goes by.

Barbara Daniels



Easter at
Smyrna
2016



Plan on joining the spring clean up of the Canby-Marquam Hwy from Heinz Rd to Hwy 211 on April 23. Please meet Rod at the church at 9 am for this fun and entertaining task! Who knows what treasures we will find?



April Memory Café: “Advocating for Yourself and Your Loved Ones” Friday, April 8th from Noon to 1:30 pm

Our very own Kathy Robinson, Director of the Canby Adult Center and an expert on innumerable topics related to older adult well-being, will be the guest speaker for our April 8th Memory Café. It will be held on the **2nd Friday of the month** (this is not an April Fool’s Joke!)

Kathy will speak on the critically important topic of how to advocate for yourself and your loved ones as you navigate through the healthcare system, including assisted living, rehab, and long-term care.



Smyrna UCC’s Memory Café helps middle-aged and older adults learn ways to keep their brains healthy, and to learn about resources available to help them live independently, and/or care for loved ones with cognitive impairment. It usually meets the first Friday of each month from noon to 1:30. There is no cost, although free-will donations are accepted for lunch. Reservations are required by Wednesday, April 6th to:

debpatersonhome@gmail.com or

by calling 503-689-4450.



Adult Education in April

April is going to be Health Ministries Month at Smryna!

April 3rd the Health Committee is going to talk about what they have been doing for the past year.

April 10th is Smyrna’s 125th Anniversary, and we will be looking to the future as we talk about “What’s New in Health Ministry.” I will report on what I have discovered at the 2016 Westberg Symposium in Chicago. (See article elsewhere in Behold).

April 17th “Aging Backwards – Classical Stretches.”

April 24th will be “Earth Care” with our Earth Care Committee, in honor of Earth Day, which is celebrated on Friday, April 22nd.

Scholarship Applications for the Glenda Yoder Sano Church Scholarship Program:



If you know of a church member who is planning on acquiring further education after high school and who would like to apply for a scholarship, they can pick up one of the applications in the Narthex and turn it into Rick Gano no later than **May 2nd**.

While Earth Day is April 22, we'll celebrate it as a congregation on Sunday, April 24 (along with our birthdays).

There are many events happening in April and May concerning Earth



Care — movie screenings, talks, discussions, classes, volunteering, outdoor activities, etc. We'll have information in the Narthex about the events.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) includes many different churches of different denominations.

One of their projects is Oregon Interfaith Power and Light (OIPL). And they are the ones sharing many ideas about Earth Care.

The website is www.emoregon.org.

Email: oipl@emoregon.org

Phone: 503-221-1054 x 214 or 205

Free home energy audits are also available.

At Smyrna we are looking forward to having a



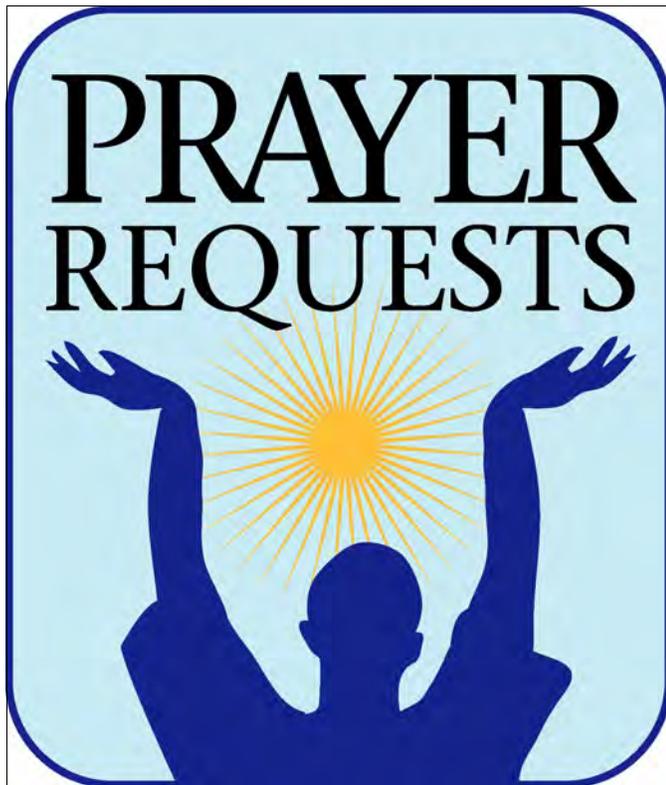
ANNUAL YOUTH GROUP SPRING BREAK SERVICE DAY

Amber Enfield organized the annual Spring Break Service Day for Smyrna's Youth, providing an opportunity for our new Youth Minister, Adam Ericksen, to see the youth in action and get acquainted. March 24 was a busy day of tie-dyeing Easter shirts, stuffing Easter Eggs, doing yard work for the Fishers, and getting in a few games.

*All Church Birthday Party Following Worship
April 24, 2015 in the Friendship House
Christian Nurture invites you to share in food,
fun and fellowship!*

April 2016 at Smyrna

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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Helen and Chuck Odell
Marion Golonka
Lucia Schuebel
Anne and Chris Bangs and
family
Burt Gottwald
Blanche Kober
Joe Gribble
Mickey Hester
Beverly Madieros
Angie and Adam Maurer
Jean Epley
Vonda Stoneking
Larry Grant
Lindsay Miller
Eileen Boss
John Beck

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.