

BEHOLD!!

Smyrna

A Newsletter of Smyrna United Church of Christ

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

December 2017



Dear Friends,

November was a time of special guests – just today we had Rev. Jean Doane and Marcia Gilliland, who came to talk about the Palestine YWCA and its work with the women who live in the occupied terri-

tories, some in refugee camps for more than 50 years. A week earlier, we welcomed Dr. Mike Huntington from Corvallis UCC, Dr. Tony Germain from the Salud Clinic in Woodburn, and Lee Mercer from Silverton, who talked about the need for healthcare for all. Connie Morrill from the Safe Driving program of AARP came to talk with folks at Memory Café earlier in the month. We also had guests visit us in worship, come to the Women's Fellowship Bazaar, and the Women's Fellowship Thanksgiving Luncheon.

November was a time of “all hands on deck” to make everything go smoothly for all of the activities mentioned above, along with everything else that happened over the past few weeks. Even Skyler, who has been gathering your money for children for change, knows that he has an important job to do at the church. He was overheard to say, “I need to do my job!”

“God has no hands but our hands,” the 16th century preacher and teacher Rev. Jean Calvin of Geneva, Switzerland, was known to say. Our hands, our heads, and our hearts, are all needed.

But we are not alone. In this Advent season of waiting, which begins on December 1st this year, the first day of the new church year, we wait for the coming of the Christ child. We await the new life to be born among us – even as we know that God is already (and always will be) with us. It is a paradox – this “already, but not yet” time of Advent waiting and watching.

So please join me as we watch and wait for that which is about to unfold! We wait and watch for the miracle of God incarnate with us, bringing goodness and light. “Behold, I tell you a mystery....”

Advent and Christmastide blessings to all,
Pastor Deb

December Worship Schedule:

- **December 3rd** – All church potluck and Advent Crafts following worship
- **December 10th** – All church Christmas Program – Children are invited to arrive at 10:30 am to select a costume, or are welcome to bring one of their own for any aspect of the Christmas story. Everyone is invited to bring a special treat to share during coffee hour following the service.
- **December 17th** – Worship 11 am “Blue Christmas” — we will have a time to reflect on the bittersweet memories of Christmas in years gone by.
- **December 24th** – Worship 11 am (no Adult Ed)
- **December 24th** - Candlelight Service at 9 pm
- **December 31st** – Worship 11 am (no adult ed)



Cold Weather accessories needed

Thanks Jim Daniels and Kristin Daniels Smyrna's Mitten Tree will be up by December 3 and ready to decorate over the first three Sundays in Advent with hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves for local distribution.

Our knitters and crocheters may also wish to create red hats for the below Little Hats, Big Hearts project. Information taken from the website:

http://www.heart.org/HEARTORG/Affiliate/Little-Hats-Big-Hearts_UCM_487734_Su

“Volunteers from around the country are joining the American Heart Association, in connection with [The Children's Heart Foundation](#), to celebrate American Heart Month by knitting and crocheting red hats for babies born in February at participating hospitals. Little Hats, Big Hearts™, honors babies, moms, and heart healthy lives in a very special way. Supporters are knitting and crocheting red hats to be given out to thousands of babies during American Heart Month in order to empower moms to live heart healthy lives and to help their children do the same.”

Yarn specifics for Little Hats, Big Hearts project

- Red
 - Cotton or acrylic
 - Medium to heavy weight
- Machine washable and dryable

Turn in your creations by Sunday, January 7. Copies of patterns for both knit and crochet will be available, contact Amber or Audrey for more information.



Memory Café meets Friday, December 1st with Alice Phalan to have a time to relax and rejuvenate our spirits before the holiday season rush.

We will also have a lovely lunch catered by Louise Adams and Barbara Daniels, and will have brain health information and activities. Please RSVP by Wednesday, November 29th to Pastor Deb at: debpatersonhome@gmail.com or call 503-689-4450.

Avoiding
Holiday
Meltdowns



Meeting Changes

Namaste Café will be on hiatus during December. Look for meeting updates in January.

December Stitch Club

Stitch Club will meet after the Women's Fellowship luncheon, December 14, to make up the traditional Christmas Food baskets.

Tai Chi Changes

There has been a change in the Tai Chi weekly classes in the Molalla area and at our beloved church. 9 am Wednesday classes at Smyrna UCC are now \$3. At the Molalla Adult Center they are now Free. Classes at the ADULT Center are at 9:30 on Tuesday and Thursday.

The Healthcare and Emergency Preparation Committees will not meet in December.

Mustard Seed Parenting will only meet once in December — on the 5th.

Coffee & Friends will not meet the 4th Tuesday in December.

For the Youth —

• Our Whole Lives: Sexuality Education for Teens

The class will meet on December 1 from 4:30-8:30 pm.

Dinner will be served. Other dates:

January 5-6 (Retreat)

February 2

March 2

April 6

May 4

June 1-2 (Retreat, possibly also the 3rd)

June 15

- **Confirmation Class.** The Confirmation class will meet on Friday, December 8th from 4:30 to 6:00 pm to discuss “Stories of Healing: Part 2.”

The deadline for turning in January Behold articles will be on December 15.

Blood Pressure Screenings continue.

Thank you Jane Dahl of the Health Committee for making this possible.



Smyrna Cleanup

A small, dedicated group worked on cleaning up the outside of the church, they even washed the windows!

TO REMEMBER ME

AT A CERTAIN MOMENT A DOCTOR WILL DETERMINE THAT MY BRAIN HAS CEASED TO FUNCTION AND THAT, FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES, MY LIFE HAS STOPPED.

WHEN THAT HAPPENS, DO NOT ATTEMPT TO INSTILL ARTIFICIAL LIFE INTO MY BODY BY THE USE OF A MACHINE, AND DON'T CALL THIS MY "DEATH BED" CALL IT MY "BED OF LIFE" AND LET MY BODY BE TAKEN FROM IT TO HELP OTHERS LEAD FULLER LIVES.

GIVE MY SIGHT TO A MAN WHO HAS NEVER SEEN A SUNRISE, A BABY'S FACE OR THE LOVE IN THE EYES OF A WOMAN.

GIVE MY HEART TO A PERSON WHOSE OWN HEART HAS CAUSED NOTHING BUT ENDLESS DAYS OF PAIN.

GIVE MY BLOOD TO THE TEEN-AGER WHO HAS BEEN PULLED FROM THE WRECKAGE OF HIS CAR, SO THAT HE MIGHT LIVE TO SEE HIS GRANDCHILDREN PLAY.

GIVE MY KIDNEYS TO ONE WHO DEPENDS ON A MACHINE TO EXIST FROM WEEK TO WEEK.

TAKE MY BONES, EVERY MUSCLE, EVERY FIBER AND NERVE IN MY BODY, AND FIND A WAY TO MAKE A CRIPPLED CHILD WALK.

EXPLORE EVERY CORNER OF MY BRAIN. TAKE MY CELLS, IF NECESSARY, AND LET THEM GROW SO THAT SOMEDAY A SPEECHLESS BOY WILL SHOUT AT THE CRACK OF A BAT AND A DEAF GIRL WILL HEAR THE SOUND OF THE RAIN AGAINST HER WINDOWS.

BURN WHAT IS LEFT OF ME AND SCATTER THE ASHES TO THE WINDS TO HELP THE FLOWERS GROW.

IF YOU MUST BURY SOMETHING, LET IT BE MY FAULTS, MY WEAKNESSES AND ALL MY PREJUDICES AGAINSTS MY FELLOW MAN.

GIVE MY SINS TO THE DEVIL, GIVE MY SOUL TO GOD. IF, BY CHANCE, YOU WISH TO REMBER ME, DO IT WITH A KIND DEED OR WORD TO SOMEONE WHO NEEDS YOU. IF YOU DO ALL I HAVE ASKED, I WILL LIVE FOREVER.

BENTLEY'S

The Stranger

There I was, standing on the corner, waiting for the traffic to clear so I could get across the street. Since the accident I'd been on crutches, and it took so long to cross the street that I was afraid to start if anything at all was coming. I had just gotten out of the hospital and was still weak. I really wasn't fit to be out, but I'd had to leave because my insurance had run out and I had no savings and no job to pay the bills any more. I was on my way to see a man my neighbor had told me about, who seemed to have the gift of healing. He had an office in his house, and people with all kinds of ailments went in to see him. He just laid his hands on them for a minute or two, nothing more. Sounded a bit strange to me, and I wasn't too sure he could do anything for me; but my neighbor said his arthritis had gotten a lot better since he'd started going to this man. So I thought I'd give it a try. I had nothing to lose, and really I had nowhere else to go.

While I was waiting on the corner, a stranger walked by. Seeing my crutches, he stopped. "Would you like to be healed?" he asked. "Oh, yes," I said. "I was just on my way to the house across the street to see if he could help me." The stranger smiled. "That's not what I meant. Here, sit down a minute." And before I knew what was happening, he had taken away my crutches and my braces and we were walking across the street together. On the other side I stopped to collect my thoughts. "I must be dreaming," I said. "I can't walk without crutches." The stranger smiled again. "You can now. Try again." And I ran down the street on two sound legs. When I looked around, the stranger was halfway down the block. "Oh, sir," I called. "I thank you more than words can say. But I must tell you my HMO will not pay any more bills until next year." The stranger's smile showed again as he disappeared around the corner. "But, sir," I said, half to myself, "you didn't even ask for my Social Security number."

Adapted from the Gospel according to St. John(son), Chapter 5 by Lois Johnson



Adult Education in December

- ⇒ **December 3** – “What is the Regional Youth Event?”
- ⇒ **December 10** – Getting Ready for the All-Church Christmas Pageant
- ⇒ **December 17** – Christmas Memories
- ⇒ **December 24** – No Adult Ed
- ⇒ **December 31** – No Adult Ed

Treasurer’s Report

| | |
|--------------------|------------|
| Balance 9/30/2017 | (678.08) |
| Receipts | 8,793.17 |
| Expenditures | (9,226.41) |
| Balance 10/31/2017 | (1,111.32) |

The annual Women’s Fellowship Christmas Luncheon will be held on Thursday, December 14th at noon.

The Christmas Fund Offering –

This UCC offering helps to support elderly UCC pastors or their surviving spouses who have very small pensions in case of financial emergencies. We will receive this special offering on Sunday, December 17th.

Mustard Seed Parenting

Mustard Seed is serving 7 families at this time and held two meetings in October. Rebekah led the parents in making footprints of their kiddos and we talked about expectations of the personal, social and cultural type and enjoyed fellowship and food before both meetings.



One meeting has been held in November where we shared baby and toddler food recipes and sampled these foods too. That evening we as well as enjoyed preservative free Alfredo with organic chicken for dinner and shared some easy and nutritious ways to be cooking for our children and ourselves in a semi-homemade way and on a budget. We also washed dishes for the health care summit that evening as our way to give back to Smyrna for allowing us to facilitate such an important group twice monthly.



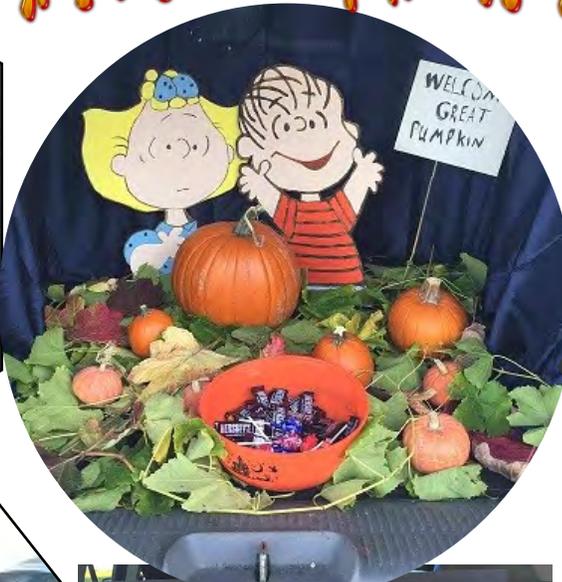
We had over 50 people at our (dare I say first annual) Trunk or Treat. Lots of food and participation as well as a visit from a Mad Scientist aka Kristin W and her Lab Rats aka our very own Youth Group. This event brought old members back to the church and new people into the church. Take a look at the amazing memories captured by many hanging in the Northside of the Friendship House.

We will only be meeting once in December due to Christmas, but look for many of the Mustard Seed Kids in the Christmas Pageant December 10, 2017 during our regular church service.

Want to hold babies? We have OPENINGS! 1st and 3rd Tuesday evenings of the month Sep-June. 6-8PM in the Friendship House of Smyrna!

Email or call/text Carly Itami for more information carly.itami@gmail.com 503-954-6318

HALLOWEEN



December 2017

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Nov 2017</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Jan 2018</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> </div> | | | | | S | M | T | W | T | F | S | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | S | M | T | W | T | F | S | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | 1 | 2 |
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| <p>9:45 am Adult Education 11 am Worship and Sunday School</p> <p>All Church Potluck & Advent Crafts following worship</p> <p>b.d. Michelle Stoneking</p> <p>Flowers: Jane Dahl</p> | | <p>10 a.m. O.A. meeting at Smyrna</p> <p>6 pm Mustard Seed Parenting</p> | <p>9 am Tai Chi @ Smyrna</p> | | <p>4-6 pm Confirmation Class</p> | <p>b.d. Nikolas Peterson</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| <p><i>11 am Christmas Program during worship</i></p> <p>Flowers: Jane Dahl</p> <p>No Adult Education</p> <p>b.d. Beverly Madeiros, Jeff Marshall</p> <p>Bring a treat to share during Coffee Hour</p> | <p>b.d. Chris Bangs</p> | <p>10 a.m. O.A. meeting at Smyrna</p> <p>7 pm Church Council</p> <p>b.d. Jeannie Rogers</p> | <p>9 am Tai Chi @ Smyrna</p> | <p>12 Noon Women's Fellowship Luncheon followed by Stitch Club Basket assembly</p> <p>b.d. Genevieve Freeman, Rebekah Yoder</p> | <p>b.d. Paulette Eyman, Tina Marshall</p> | <p>b.d. Theresa Schuebel</p> <p>Wedding Ann: Keith & Theresa Schuebel</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| <p>9:45 am Adult Education 11 am Worship and Sunday School</p> <p>b.day Josh Marshall</p> <p><i>Blue Christmas Worship Service</i></p> <p>Coffee Hour: Mary Ashton</p> <p>Flowers: Volunteer</p> | <p>Wed. Aniv Bill & Paula Day</p> | <p>10 a.m. O.A. meeting at Smyrna</p> | <p>9 am Tai Chi @ Smyrna</p> | <p>b.d. Kevin Yoder</p> | | <p>b.d. Emma Blatchford</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| <p><i>Coffee Hour and Flower Volunteers needed</i></p> <p>No Adult Education 11 am Worship</p> <p>9 pm Candlelight Service</p> | <p style="color: green;"><i>Christmas Day</i></p> | <p>10 a.m. O.A. meeting at Smyrna</p> <p>b.d. Eileen Boss, Paula Day</p> | <p>9 am Tai Chi @ Smyrna</p> | <p>b.d. Beth Kersens</p> <p>Wedding Ann. Leo & Marsha Sano</p> | <p>b.d. Anna Marine</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| <p>Coffee Hour: Diaconate</p> <p>Flowers: Volunteer needed</p> <p>No Adult Education 11 am Worship</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |



Please remember in prayer:

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Tina Marshall | Jean Epley |
| Lois Johnson | Vonda Stoneking |
| Charlie Odell | Ethel Henderson |
| Dan Fisher | Mickey Hester, |
| Jeff Hammock | Robert Schuebel |
| Murlene Leichty and her family | Jon Schriever |
| Jane Dahl and her family | Robbie and Steve Rigg |
| Joanne Gribble | Debbie Hancox and family |
| Blanche Kober | Steve Watkins |
| Lucia Schuebel | Dick Hall |

Mission Needs —

Filling the Ark: Thank you to all who have helped with this life-transforming project. Check out the table to see the wonderful animals available for purchase, and continue to save your change. Thank you!

Cookware Needed: Please bring new or gently used cookware to share with those who are moving from homeless shelters into new apartments – Kristin Wishon will deliver.

Stitch Club Challenge: The Molalla Service Center still is in need of holiday food items. Thank you for your generous support!

Mission Statement

Smyrna United Church of Christ is striving to be:

- A place of peace, where we offer to all an extravagant welcome wherever you are in your life journey regardless of your ethnicity, marital status, religion, gender, race, age, disability, national origin, or sexual orientation, and where we teach the stories of God's love and call on our lives.
- A spiritual haven, where we accept and care for all people and God's creation in an outreach of grace.
- A lighthouse of God's compassion, 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.