

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.

January 2018



Dear Friends,

Many people have heard of Oberlin College, but few today recall that Jean Oberlin, for whom that institution is named, was a minister who cared about the holistic health of the community of which he was a part. He worked with parishioners to improve their food and livelihoods by mulching and planting fruit trees on their rocky farms. He recruited those who could teach others, started the first kindergartens, and built grade schools for the area. He knew better roads were needed for trade, so he picked up a shovel and started to dig, and soon others were joining him.

Why did Oberlin do this, instead of just caring for souls? One biographer writes, "Oberlin was a full century in advance of his day in this realization of the fact that...the gospel can mean relatively little to a people who by the state of things about them are merely existing, that the human soul cannot be adequately considered apart from its food, its home, its work, and its wages..." *

In this New Year, we too, are reminded that we are called to care for each other, and for our communities, in holistic ways. That's why we have classes for all ages, and collect food, clothing, household wares, send animals through Heifer Project, support for women being helped at the YMCA in Palestine, send kids to Camp Adams and Youth Events, and much, much more.

We, too, are part of that "great cloud of witnesses," who are called to serve God in all that we do. When we gather to hear the stories about our church's mission at our Annual Meeting on January 21st, it will be a good time to pause and reflect on that which was, that which is, and that which may be, in the year ahead.

Blessings to all in this New Year and always,
Pastor Deb

* Augustus Field Beard: The Story of Jean Frederick Oberlin (New York: The Christian Rural Fellowship), 1946, p. 69.

THANK YOU

to Paulette Eyman for taking the items from our Christmas Tree in Smyrna's Friendship House to the Molalla Schools to be distributed to children in need.

51 hats, 48 pair of gloves, 5 scarves, and 14 pair of socks

Any other items brought the last week of December will be taken to the service center in Canby.

Thank you so very much to the Smyrna Congregation for the very kind and generous gift which I received, along with the wonderful cards. It is hard to believe that I am starting my fifth year at Smyrna – it feels like I just got here, and every week, there is something new and wonderful happening. My family and I are so blessed to be here, and we look forward to what the future will bring.

The deadline to turn in reports for Smyrna's Annual Reports book is January 5. You may e-mail them to the church at smyrnaucc@canby.com, or Jeannie's personal e-mail (listed in the last report book)

Memory Café

Memory Café met Friday, December 1, 2017 with 38 in attendance, to hear Alice Phalen from Salem talk about meditation to reduce stress over the holidays.



Our next gathering will be Friday, January 5th with Wendy May from the Canby Adult Center talking about senior nutrition. Please RSVP by Wednesday January 3rd to Pastor Deb at debpatersonhome@gmail.com or call 503-689-4450.



in January

We are going to try a new format for Adult Education in the New Year! We will meet on Sunday, January 7th at 9:45 am to discuss upcoming topics and the new format. I'm proposing

that we meet for a potluck salad dinner on the 3rd Tuesday of each month starting in January (the same night as Mustard Seed Parenting), and then have conversation together around different topics. Our topic for January will be, "Change: Metanoia in Ourselves and in our World."

I would also like to add a monthly noon-time "Lunch and Learn" – stay tuned for more information about that in the New Year. —Pastor Deb—

The Ark is Ready to Sail!

Thank you SO much to everyone who donated change, bought animals, and contributed to help us fill the Ark for Heifer Project International. It took \$5000 to fill the ark, which contains the following: two water buffaloes, two cows, two sheep, and two goats, along with bees, chicks, rabbits, and more.



Heifer Project tells us that "This gift will help to care for entire communities by providing them with milk, eggs, honey, wool, and more, and will provide income by supplying an abundance of goods to sell. In addition, it will sustain farming by providing livestock to work the land, and will improve the lives of families for generations by multiplying and passing on the gift."

A special word of thanks to the Stitch Club and to Pastor Dave and Jean Akers for contributing enough to finish filling the Ark!



Our Whole Lives: Sexuality Education for Teens

OWL will be holding a retreat at the church January 5-6 and more information

will be coming to the participants from the leaders – Heather Anderson and Kristin Wishon. Future dates for classes: February 2, March 2, April 6, May 4, June 1-2 (Retreat, possibly also the 3rd), and June 15th. Please contact Heather or Kristin if you would like more information.

Confirmation Class



The Confirmation class will meet on Friday, January 12th from 4:30 to 6:00 pm to discuss Part Two "Stories of Healing" (New Testament Stories).

Aloha from Our Youth!

Three youth have confirmed their interest in attending the National Youth Event on June 25-29, 2017.

Theme: *Come to the Water = E*

Hele Mai I Ka Wai. More information will be coming soon. Anna Maurer, Halaina Crispin, and Lucia Schuebel are for certain interested, along with the Maurer family, and Heidi Crispin. There is also interest from a couple others among our young people, as well as Youth Director Kristin Wishon.



Thanks a ton!

102 pounds of food was delivered to the Molalla Food Bank the week before Christmas, making a yearly total of 2,575 pounds for the year. Thanks to everyone who contributed!

Gift for Smyrna

Smyrna received a very generous donation recently of two Eastlake upholstered chairs from the 1890s. They are a gift of Pam Lindholm Levy, a great-granddaughter of John P. and Rebecca L. Yoder, who joined the church shortly after it was organized in 1891. It is very possible that these chairs were the ones given by Rebecca and used until the 1930s when they were replaced. They are a beautiful addition to the church.



Regular Meetings

Tai Chi meets Wednesdays at 9 am.

Memory Café meets the first Friday each month.

Coffee and Friends continues to meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month from 2-3:30 pm.

Church Council will meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 7-8:30 pm in the Church Library.

Stitch Club will not meet in January. The next meeting will be on February 6 at Barbara & Linda's in Keizer.

Earth Care Committee meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 2:30 pm.

The Diaconate meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 3:30 pm

Women's Fellowship Luncheon will resume on Thursday, January 25.

Mustard Seed Parenting Group continues to meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 6 pm. The first Tuesday of the month is for the parent/primary caregiver and child or children, and the 3rd Tuesday is for the parent/primary caregiver, partners, and other family supports, along with the children.

Happy New Year from Carol Loe and her Cabbage Patch doll family —

Carol has had a number of health issues and hospitalizations this past year. After a fall in Oct. 2016, she has never been able to get back on her feet and is now in a wheelchair.

She was in and out of the hospital and nursing home and eventually moved to a new foster home because of the need for an increased level of care. It is a wonderful newly remodeled and licensed home, operated by a well respected family who is very experienced in caring for those with high needs. Carol likes her new home, a very nice room with large picture window, and fresh foods. Her needs are monitored by Providence ElderPlace, and staff are devoted to her well-being. Members of her church, St Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church, regularly visit her.

The Foster home is very welcoming of visitors, and Carol would like friends to visit her. The home is on SE 160th between Division and Powell.

Carol Loe, 3206 SE 160th Ave, Portland OR 97236

Home's phone: 503-954-1990

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call Carol's friend Judy Kennedy, 503-232-4045

24 Months to

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS



When disaster strikes, what should you do? You could move away from the Northwest, but that would just allow more Californians to move in. You could build an apocalypse vault and fill it with dried elk meat, but who has the time? You could curl up into a ball, close your eyes and plug your ears, but you're smarter than that.

There's a sensible, cost-effective way to prepare. It involves taking things one step at a time over the course of a year. Breaking down tasks and shopping lists will make the work manageable and help you avoid overwhelming your schedule and your bank account.

With the help of disaster preparation experts, we've crafted a month-by-month guide to get you fully prepped with the basics by this time next year.

Month 7

Grocery Store:

- 1 Gallon water*
- 1 box energy bars
- 1 can soup*
- Extra baby bottles, formula and diapers, if needed
- 1 can fruit*
- 1 can vegetables
- sewing kit

To Do:

- ⇒ Make arrangements for your family and neighbors to check in on each other immediately after earthquake
- ⇒ Place a pair of shoes and flashlight near bed so they'll be handy after disaster

Blood Pressure Screenings continue.

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

Custodian Change

After a long career or faithful service to Smyrna, Sandra Mahar has resigned as the church custodian to take another position as an in-home caregiver.

Sandra was honored by the church during worship in December for the many years she has held this position.

The Staff Parrish Committee is reviewing the job description and will be advertising for a new custodian in early January.





Christmas Pageant

On December 10th, we finally got to use the Christmas pageant Pastor Deb had penned for last year. Thanks so much to Sheila Daniels for narrating, to Audrey and Paul Yoder for hanging decorations and bringing up the manger, to Jane Dahl for the flowers and banners, and to all the children and youth, parents, and grandparents, along with the whole congregation, for making it a wonderful celebration.



The Christmas Fund –

Thank you to all who donated to this United Church of Christ offering on December 17th. These funds go to help retired clergy and other church staff, or their spouses, if they are deceased, with emergency expenses. Thank you to Smyrna for being a 5 for 5 church!



Thanksgiving and Christmas Baskets

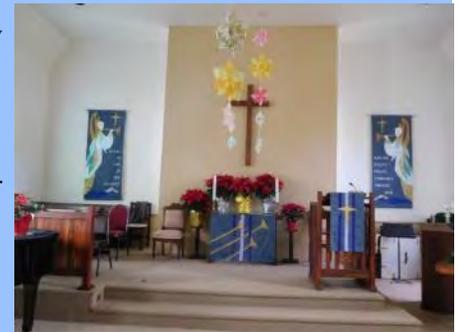
Thank you all for your generous contributions to the Coffee Fund, which, surprisingly enough, does NOT buy Coffee! It enables us to donate funds at the end of the year to the St. Vincent de Paul Center and the Molalla Service Center for Thanksgiving and Christmas Baskets for families in need. This year again, we were able to share \$1000 to be divided between the two centers at Thanksgiving, and another \$1000 to be divided between the two centers at Christmas. Thank you to all who have helped make some other families' holidays a little brighter!



Do You See What I See?

Have you noticed the beauty of the sanctuary and narthex, from the amazing new banners made by Jane Dahl, to the Lectionary Art Display in the entryway facilitated by Audrey Yoder, to the stars made at the Advent

Potluck under the direction of Christine Foster, to the beautiful garlands hung by Ginger Redlinger and Mary Namit, to the Advent Candles and ring arranged by Rod Bullard (who also hung the banners), along with the beautiful Christmas tree in Fellowship House, decorated with hats, mittens, scarves, and socks for homeless families? And a table with food for the Molalla Service Center. What a beautiful Christmas!



JANUARY 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																								
<p>There is a need for Coffee Hour and Flower Volunteers</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Happy New Year!!</p>	<p>2</p> <p>10 a.m. O.A. meeting at Smyrna b.d. David Schriever, Linda Younger</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9 am Tai Chi @ Smyrna Deadline to RSVP for Memory Cafe</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>12 noon Memory Cafe b.d. Don Blatchford, Tavi Robinson</p> <p style="text-align: right;">OWL Retreat@Smyrna</p>	<p>6</p>																																																																																																								
<p>7</p> <p>9:45 am Adult Education 11 am Worship and Sunday School Coffee Hour and Flower Volunteers needed <i>Deadline to turn in Little Hats, Big Hearts projects</i></p>	<p>8</p> <p>b.d. Christine Foster</p>	<p>9</p> <p>10 a.m. O.A. meeting at Smyrna 2 pm Coffee and Friends 7 pm Church Council</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9 am Tai Chi @ Smyrna b.d. Liz Chapin</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>4:30 pm Confirmation class b.d. Morgan Rogers</p>	<p>13</p> <p>b.d. Ryan Yoder</p>																																																																																																								
<p>14</p> <p>9:45 am Adult Education 11 am Worship and Sunday School Coffee Hour and Flower Volunteers needed Wedding Ann. David & Irene Schriever</p>	<p>15</p> <p>b.d. Nicholas Stanbro Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday</p>	<p>16</p> <p>10 a.m. O.A. meeting at Smyrna 6 pm Mustard Seed Parenting b.d. Julie Stanbro 2:30 pm Earth Care Committee 3:30 pm Diaconate</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9 am Tai Chi @ Smyrna</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>b.d. Anne Schuebel Bangs,</p>	<p>20</p>																																																																																																								
<p>21</p> <p>9:45 am Adult Education 11 am Worship and Sunday School Flower volunteer needed Annual Meeting Following potluck lunch</p>	<p>22</p> <p>b.d. Diane Potter, Cari Wooley, Hope Itami</p>	<p>23</p> <p>10 a.m. O.A. meeting at Smyrna 2:30 pm Coffee and Friends 3:30 pm Emergency Preparedness</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9 am Tai Chi @ Smyrna</p>	<p>25</p> <p>12 Noon Women's Fellowship</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>																																																																																																								
<p>28</p> <p>9:45 am Adult Education 11 am Worship and Sunday School Coffee Hour: Diaconate Flower Volunteer needed Wed. Anniv. Rod & Patricia Bullard</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>10 a.m. O.A. meeting at Smyrna</p>	<p>31</p> <p>9 am Tai Chi @ Smyrna Nickson Itami</p>	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; margin-right: 20px;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">Dec 2017</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">Feb 2018</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Dec 2017							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							Feb 2018							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			
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Please remember in prayer:

Lucia Schuebel
Charlie Odell
Tina Marshall
Lois Johnson
Joanne Gribble
Blanche Kober
Jean Epley
Vonda Stoneking
Ethel Henderson

Mickey Hester
Robert Schuebel
Jon Schriever
Steven Watkins
Don Blatchford
Robbie and Steve Rigg
Debbie Hancox and family
the Maurer family
Dick Hall

**Little Hats,
Big Hearts
Deadline Is Near**

Have you have been knitting and crocheting red hats for the American Heart Association to give to babies during American Heart Month? Turn in your creations by Sunday, January 7. Contact Amber or Audrey for more information.



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.