

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.

February 2020



Dear Friends,

In 1985, during the height of the AIDS epidemic, when many people were dying, and when the underlying cause of HIV and the sources of its transmission were not yet well known, Julian Rush, an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church, who has since served for many years as the director of the Colorado AIDS Project wrote the hymn, "In the Midst of New Dimensions," which was a call to move forward with courage to embrace life with all its changes.

We, too, at Smyrna have had much change...since I arrived in December of 2013, these are Smyrna members who have passed away: Mary Grace Itami, Mary Lee Schuebel, Lucia Schuebel, Helen Odell, Jean Epley, Burt Gottwald, Orville Krebs, Robert Kyrk, Roberta Daniels, Joe Gribble, Ernie Henderson, Thelma Grove, Carl Cline, Ruth Hepler, Mickey Hester, Catherine Mosiman, and most recently, Linda Younger. We also have said goodbye at Smyrna to friends Roger Engle, Dick Cheadle, and Stan Watson, among others.

Yet, among those who knew and loved them, they are not, nor will they ever be, forgotten. We are each, when we are born, as Rush's hymn says, "a love song to be sung," and that music of the spheres resonates into eternity.

There are other love songs who have come to join us and to share their music and gifts with us, and we are grateful for each new child born and new member who has come to us. "We are man and we are woman, all persuasions, old and young. Each a gift in your creation..."

So as we continue into this new decade, we follow where God will lead: "God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar. We your people, ours the journey now and ever, now and ever, now and evermore."

May God bless you and keep you, now and evermore.

Pastor Deb

Adult Education

- February 2nd: "Thoreau and Walden Pond" – Led by Dr. John Mason
- February 9th: "Love, Love, Love – Eros, Agape and Philia"
- February 16th – Mystery
- February 25th: "Waking Up and Finding Myself in the Story of Race, Chapter 20: "The Robin Hood Syndrome"



Memory Café

On Friday, February 7th, we welcome Sue and Scott Goetchius, who have will bring us a program developed by OHSU on how to prevent falls and help to keep your brain healthy. Please join us for lunch and a program from noon to 1:30 pm.

There is no charge, but donations are accepted to help cover the cost of the food. And we need your RSVP by Wednesday, February 5th to help us plan for food and handouts.

Please call Pastor Deb at 503-689-4450 or e-mail her at debpatersonhome@gmail.com.

Ukulele Group

In February the Ukulele group will resume classes at 2:00 pm on Wednesday afternoons. Come join us! The group is taught and led by Pat Kekua, who performed during worship on Sunday, December 15th, and includes Jane Dahl, Rick Gano, Irene Schreiber, and Anne Stronko. Thank you to all!



A Note of Thanks from Pastor Deb

Thank you to everyone at Smyrna for your generous gift to me this past Christmas season. I am very grateful to you, and am very grateful to be serving at Smyrna!



Thank You to Our Church Moderators

Thank you to Carl Menkel, for his faithful service for two years as Smyrna's Church Moderator, for which he did an outstanding job, and we are very grateful to him. Thank you also to Barbara Daniels for stepping up to serve the next two years, and thanks to all who have been, and are, willing to serve on the many boards and committees that do so much of the work of this church, and to all those who serve in many other ways, from providing our music to putting together our Behold each month!

Baked Potato Sunday

February 9, 2020, is designated as Smyrna's annual Baked Potato Sunday. We hold this benefit every year to help with the expenses of operating the church and paying the monthly gas, electricity and water bills. So come and join in following worship to eat a Baked potato with all your favorite toppings. There will be a free will offering. We hope to see you there.



Thank you, The Fund Raising Committee.

If you desire a printed copy of the Behold and/or a calendar each month and you regularly attend church, there will be copies to pick up in the narthex.

The difference is that there won't be one labeled with your name and address.

If you need assistance to read the more colorful copy available online, see Joel.

Children for Change

Gifts to Children for Change in January and February will go to "With Love, Oregon." "Many times, foster parents find out they are receiving a child just hours before bringing them home. We strive to provide families with everything they may need, from clothes to car seats and toys to diapers, so they can focus on loving their little one." You can learn more at: www.withloveoregon.org. Thank you for your generous support!

Are they yours?

There are a few pieces of medical equipment stored in the attic (a wheel chair and a few other items) If they belong to you and you would like to keep them, please take them home. If you no longer need them and would like to see them put to good use we would like permission to donate them to the Molalla Christian Church's medical Equipment loan program as they run a very good loan program (see notice on bulletin board).



Contact Pastor Deb, Jane Dahl or any other member of the Health Committee.



In this fractured and turbulent era, it brings some solace to realize that we have experienced similar events in the past and were able to get through them. Doris Kearns Goodwin in her book *Leadership in Turbulent Times*, 2018, takes four examples from our history exemplifying the steps taken by four U. S. presidents to address times of crisis. She has written extensively over the years about these two Democrats and two Republicans: Abraham Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin Roosevelt, and Lyndon Johnson.

Goodwin first looks at the early lives of these men, and how they were shaped by the adversities they faced. Lincoln's life of abject poverty on the frontier, T. Roosevelt's life of privilege shaken by the loss of his wife and mother on a single day, FDR handicap caused by polio, and Johnson's struggles growing up in a family with hardship led to a fierce determination by each of them to make a difference and shape events at the highest level.

As president, each had profound challenges. Lincoln evolved his thinking to embrace the Emancipation Proclamation and sell it to a nation steeped in racism while successfully prosecuting the devastating Civil War that defined his presidency. T. Roosevelt confronted a coal strike at a time before presidents were involved in settling such disputes. Winter was coming, coal stocks were depleted, and the people would be in revolt. FDR faced the Great Depression that had begun just before he was elected. Traditionally the government just rode it out, but again bold, decisive actions were demanded. Johnson not only had to assume the reins of government after Kennedy's assassination, he was determined to get a civil rights bill passed in the face of defiant senators in control and demonstrations in the streets.

The author uses these events and the actions of these men to examine the various qualities of leadership employed by each one. It is always a pleasure to read Goodwin because she ably tells these stories in a very readable way. I recommend this book, and I am donating a copy to the Smyrna Library.

--Joel Daniels



In January, tree maintenance took place in Smyrna's grove



Join us in Smyrna's Friendship House on Tuesday, February 25, for a Mardi Gras Pancake Supper and worship service followed by Imposition of Ashes for Ash Wednesday.

Everything I need to know about life, I learned from Noah's Ark

- 1 Don't miss the boat.
- 2 Remember that we are all in the same boat.
- 3 Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.
- 4 Stay fit. When you're really old, someone may ask you to do some thing really big.
- 5 Don't listen to the critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.
- 6 Build your future on high ground.
- 7 For safety sake, travel in pairs.
- 8 Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.
- 9 When you're stressed, float a while.
- 10 Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.
- 11 No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.

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Answer to puzzle:

Answer: "You are my friends if you do what I command. ... This is my command: Love each other." John 15:14, 17, NIV

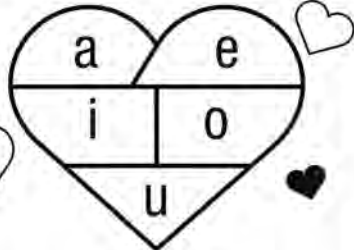
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PUZZLE

A friend in Jesus

In the Bible, Jesus shares what it means to be a true friend.

Directions: Use the heart key to fill in the missing vowels from John 15:14, 17, NIV.



"Y _ _ r _ my fr _ _ nds _ f

y _ _ d _ wh _ t _ c _ mm _ nd. ...

Th _ s _ s my c _ mm _ nd:

L _ v _ _ _ ch _ th _ r."

JOHN 15:14, 17, NIV



Sign-up sheets on the bulletin board in the Narthex offer many opportunities for providing coffee hour refreshments or flowers for the sanctuary. Choose your Sunday now!



"You have made a wide path for my feet to keep them from slipping." 2 Samuel 22:37

By making a point to maintain or improve your balance now you'll help yourself prevent falls and injuries as you get older. Plus, you'll feel more confident doing everyday activities like walking up and down stairs, cleaning the house, and playing with your kids or grandkids.

If you're already exercising regularly, there's a good chance you're working on balance without even knowing it. That's because many classic strength moves don't just work your muscles, but they also require coordination, balance, and stability. The more you move, the stronger your muscles and bones will be - and the better your balance will get. Any movement is always better than none, but to get the biggest balance advantage, try to incorporate a variety of exercise styles in your weekly routine. Pilates, yoga, tai chi, swimming, and biking are all good options for improving balance and reducing the risk for falling.



Watch for additional fall-reducing hints weekly in your bulletin during the month of February.

Now is the time for young people to register for Camp Adams!

Many of Smyrna's youth attend Camp Adams' summer camp programs, assisted by a "campership" provided by Smyrna Women's fellowship.

For more information, please contact Smyrna's Camp Coordinator, Sheila Daniels, at sheiladaniels@earthlink.net.

The summer camps are age graded:

- **Taller and Smaller** - a three-day introductory experience for youth who have completed K- 3rd grade and an important adult in their lives.
Session I: July 5- July 8, 2020 — Session II July 8-July 11 (\$240.00 or \$120.00 per participant)
- **Genesis/Seekers** - for kids who have completed grades 2nd-4th. August 2- August 8, 2020 (\$420.00)
- **Discoverers** - for kids who have completed grades 5th-6th. July 26- August 1, 2020 (\$420.00)
- **Sojourners** - for kids who have completed grades 7th-8th. July 12- July 18, 2020 (\$420.00)
- **Exodus** - for teens who have completed grades 9th-12th. July 19- July 25, 2020 (\$420.00)

Online registration is open now and closes June 2, 2020. To register, simply click on Summer Camp Registration located at <http://campadams.org/youth-camps>.

CAMP ADAMS

MOLALLA - OREGON



- Paul Burkert
- Rod and Pat Bullard
- Virginia Yoder
- Dorothy Krebs
- Ethel Henderson,
- Blanche Kober,
- Asa and Ione Jenson,
- Vonda Stoneking,
- Beryl and Dan Fisher,
- and all who have been mentioned at church.



Prayers of sympathy and support for the family and friends of Linda Younger, a regular at Smyrna UCC, who passed away on January 5, 2020. She will be missed.

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.