

BEHOLD!! SMYRNA

October 2020  UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Dear Smyrna Friends,

What a month this has been, and I hope we never have another like it. Yet, there is so much to be grateful for. I am grateful that everyone at Smyrna has been able to return to their homes, and that everyone has a home to return to. So many fire fighters and other first responders and volunteers worked together to fight the fires.

I am also grateful for the rains that have come to us over the past couple of days to help with the fires, and grateful that the air is so much fresher again. We know that this has been particularly hard on farmers and others working outside, and for those with health conditions.

I am grateful for all who have been helping with the services, and grateful to Rev. Linda Jaramillo, who brought us the preaching moment on September 20th and joined us for coffee hour on Zoom.

I am grateful that we were able to gather together in person – outside, with social distancing – on September 6th after church. But those who join us virtually – from across the country – were missed.

We have learned new ways to worship together, to work together, and to simply be the church together. We have new folks joining us – from Canby, to Michigan, every week.

It seems apparent that to be faithful, we will want to continue virtual worship, even after we are together in person again. We will want to be inclusive – in this new way.

So welcome to autumn, and a new season of worship, as together, we seek to “Be the Church.”

Blessings, Pastor Deb

October Worship Theme

Thank you to all who sent in school photos for the September theme of, “A New Season of Learning.” Our theme for October will be, “A Season of Healing.” Please send a photo of a place that is healing for you.



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Thank you!

We couldn't have virtual worship services without the many hours that Tom Daniels puts into editing and putting the services together, and without the many hours that Joel Daniels spends on recording the hymns and the other service music. Christine Foster adds a great deal by singing the hymns, and thanks to all who help by being liturgists, providing special music, or sending in photos to use as part of the service. Thank you!!

Parents!

**Bring your children,
ages 3 and up,
to Smyrna UCC
on Halloween Saturday,
October 31, 2020
for the Drive-by
Trick or Treat grab bags
Treats will be handed out
From 4 to 6 pm.**

**Pass the word to
friends, neighbors,
and relatives!**

**Please wear a mask
that will help pre-
vent COVID 19.**

**Sponsored by
Smyrna CE com-
mittee**



Mission and Outreach:

Children for Change during October will continue to go to Quilts for Empowerment. We also encourage you to consider donating to the UCC Wild Fire Disaster Fund. Money has already been given by the UCC Disaster Fund to Oregon for this. www.UCC.org/2020_wildfires.

We appreciate your continued support for Molalla Food Bank. \$453 was given in Aug. The Neighbors in Need offering of the UCC will be taken Oct. 4, World Communion Sunday.

Women's Fellowship Bazaar 2020

This year because of the pandemic we will not be holding a live in-person auction as we usually do.

We will be holding a virtual auction with pictures of the items for sale. The auction will run from before Thanksgiving to possibly the second week in December so that we can get the items you buy to you before Christmas.

Every week there will new items for sale as well as the items initially posted. Because the auction will be a silent auction, you may want to revisit your initial bid to see if someone else has posted a higher bid over your bid.

So be thinking of what you might want to donate to the auction, such as a quilt, a gift basket, half a lamb butchered.



Further information will be coming as to date and time items will need to be brought to the church for photographing and adding to the auction page

Treasurer's Report

General Fund Balance 7/31/2020	\$14,824.17
Receipts 8,522.63	
Expenditures (6,984.10)	
Ending Fund Balance 8/31/2020	\$16,362.70



2020 VIRTUAL BENEFIT AND AUCTION

ONLINE AUCTION

Bidding opens Oct 11 at 10am and closes on Oct 17 at 4pm

Bid on a beach house stay, original artwork, QFE story quilts and table mats, and much more!

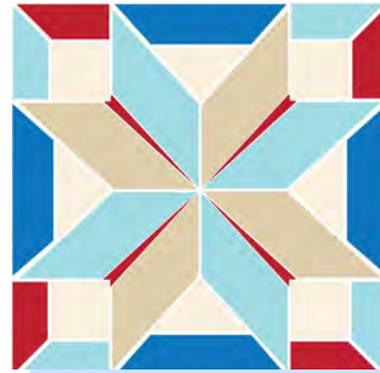
ONLINE BENEFIT

Join us for the Benefit on Oct 17 from 2-3pm

Zoom invite links will be emailed the week preceding the Benefit. RSVP by Oct 16th

RSVP: <https://qfebenefit.app.rsvpify.com/>

Auction: <https://www.32auctions.com/QFE2020>



From a Message from Quilts for Empowerment

The Protect Your Sister Project will match QFE's Virtual Auction and Benefit proceeds up to \$5,000.

Protect Your Sister Project shares many goals with QFE in helping women — sisters, mothers, daughters, and wives — in developing countries through improved health, education and empowerment. By partnering globally with the best organizations, they strive to eradicate obstetric fistula and increase awareness in the US about this problem.

If you would like to know more about them, check their website: www.protectyoursister.org.

“He is your Father, and His role is to protect you; He will comfort you and guide you. He will feed you; He will carry you when you are weak. He will seek you out when you go astray; He will help you in times of trouble. He will not let your enemies go unpunished; He will cherish you like a father cherishes his daughter.

When you fall, He will pick you up; when you don't understand, He will always understand.

When you feel like life is weighing you down, He will lift you up. When you feel like giving up, He will encourage you to keep going. When you are sad, He will lighten your spirits. When you need advice, His line is open 24-7. When you feel unsafe, He will be your safety; when you are worried, He will be an ear to your concerns. When you feel burdened, offer your burden to Him and He will take it. Where you have been burnt, He will make you

beautiful; where you hurt, He will heal. Whenever you feel lonely, He will always be with you.

Where others have not supported you, He will support you. When you feel discouraged, He will be your encouragement.

Where you don't know, He will tell you when the time is right.

When you feel unloved, remember that He has always loved you.

You see limitations; God sees opportunities. You see faults; God sees growth. You see problems; God sees solutions. You see limitations; God sees possibilities. You see life; God sees eternity.”

—From Watch Out! Godly Women on the Loose by Corallie Buchanan,—

Coffee Hour in the Time of Pandemic



While we are social distancing, Smyrna has found new ways to continue our after worship Coffee Hour. Joel has been emailing a weekly invitation to a Zoom Coffee Hour. The picture to the right is of the one held Sunday, September 20, when our sermon was delivered by the Rev. Linda Jaramillo.

On Sunday, September 6, 2020, (a beautiful sunny day!) some Smyrna members put on their masks and enjoyed Coffee Hour in the Cemetery.



Pancakes

As mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin, 5, and Ryan, 3, the boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson.

“If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, ‘Let my brother have the first pancake. I can wait.’”

Kevin turned to his younger brother and said,
“Ryan, you be Jesus.”



– Contributed by Father Pat

Read more: <http://>

www.inspirationalarchive.com/2948/pancakes/#ixzz6PeyPjide



One of Smyrna's elves cleaning up debris from September's windstorm and wildfire. Thanks, Paul!

The influenza pandemic of 1918, commonly known as the Spanish flu, became the most deadly pandemic in history. First observed in Europe, the U. S., and Asia, it rapidly spread around the world and killed millions of people (estimates range from 20 million to 100 million). World War I was occurring at the time, and soldiers were both victims of the flu and carriers of the disease as they moved around the world. More U.S. soldiers, in fact, died from the flu than were killed in the war.

News blackouts were common in most countries during the world war, and reports of the flu pandemic were suppressed as a result. Spain was a neutral country during the war and had a free press which covered the outbreak from the beginning. Because most of the news came from Spain, many people believed the disease originated there. (The Spanish, however, believed the virus came from France and called it the “French flu.”)

The first wave of the pandemic was in the spring of 1918 and was mostly mild, with a low death rate. The second wave, however, occurred in the fall of 1918 and was much more severe. Infected people often died within hours or days of developing symptoms.

When the pandemic started, doctors and scientists were unsure what caused it or how to treat it. There were no vaccines or antiviral drugs at the time. In the U.S., there were shortages of doctors and other healthcare workers due to the war; and many of the medical personnel who were available fell victim to the flu themselves. Hospitals in some locations were overwhelmed with flu patients; and makeshift hospitals were set up in schools, private homes, and other buildings. Funeral homes were also overwhelmed, bodies piled up, and many people had to dig graves for their own family members. Some entire families were wiped out. Businesses were sometimes forced to close because of the number of infected employees. There were not always enough healthy employees to provide basic services such as mail delivery, garbage collection, and harvesting of crops. Even some state and local health departments closed, resulting in inadequate information about the spread of the disease and inadequate record-keeping about the number of infections and deaths.

With no vaccine or effective treatment plan, local city officials were left to decide how to keep their citizens safe. Some communities imposed quarantines, mandated the wearing of masks, passed regulations banning spitting in public, and closed libraries, schools, theaters, saloons, and churches. Some imposed fines for failure to wear masks and published the names of violators in an effort to shame them into compliance. The cities with the strictest regulations fared much better than those which were less vigilant. For instance, the director of public health in Philadelphia believed that the fatalities there were not due to the Spanish flu but to the normal flu. A parade there in September was attended by tens of thousands. Ten days later, over 1,000 Philadelphians had died and another 200,000 were sick. St. Louis, which had imposed much more severe regulations, had a death rate only one-eighth that of Philadelphia.

By the summer of 1919, the flu pandemic ended when those who were infected either died or developed immunity. There have been several other pandemics since then, but none so deadly.



October 2020 at Smyrna

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

SMYRNA



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all

Prayer Requests

This month, I am requesting that we ALL hold each other ALL in prayer, because we ALL need it after the past few months.

But please also remember Donna Yenne, who recently fractured her leg, as well as Terri Milliren for other health concerns and Sandra Mahr, who will be having surgery in early October.

Also, please remember to reach out to all who live alone. I am praying for you all, as well!



If you know anyone who should be on the prayer list in the Behold, please let Jeannie or Elaine know. If they would enjoy receiving cards notify someone in the Diaconate.

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.