

# BEHOLD!! SMYRNA

May 2021



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

How many languages can we speak on Pentecost?

The Rev. Linda Jaramillo will be leading worship on Sunday, May 23rd while Pastor Cat is away for professional development. In celebration of the Pentecost story in Acts, she would like to have the scripture read in as many languages as are spoken among Smyrna UCC members and friends. Please email or text Pastor Cat if you would like to participate in reading scripture during worship that day, indicating in what language(s) you could read it.

As Luke tells it, in the Book of The Acts of the Apostles (Acts 2:1-8):  
When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the **native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language?"**

This is the Word of God to us. I invite you to return to it for pondering and contemplation between now and May 23rd!

Blessings, Pastor Cat

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*Dear Smyrna Friends,*

Easter in the Church is not just the Sunday we hear about the **women's discovery of the empty tomb from our Scripture reader, and "Christ the Lord is Risen Today!" from the organ; it's a whole season which starts with "Easter Sunday" and ends on Pentecost** (often celebrated as the birthday of the Church). In **between the good news of Jesus' resurrection (Easter) and the coming of the Holy Spirit (Pentecost) "to clothe [the disciples] with power from on high" (Luke 24:49) is, well, an in-between time.** An in-between time filled with fear, doubt, surprise, and blessing.

We are in an in-between time as a community. We are no longer in the shelter-in-place stage of the pandemic - where, while we **didn't prefer it, we understood that sticking to virtual worship and fellowship time was the best way to help protect our community members from contracting the covid-19 virus.** We are in a stage with more options, the in-between time of figuring out how to **return. It's not as simple as returning to our pre-pandemic ways of being together.** We are not in a post-pandemic time. We are in-between. What that means for us is we will need to return in phases using the data and recommendations available from the CDC, the Oregon Health Authority, and other reliable, well-credentialed sources.

With more and more people vaccinated every day, some have asked, **"Why aren't we worshipping in person yet?" Well, one reason is, your worship leader isn't vaccinated. I wasn't eligible for a vaccination until April 5. By the time this newsletter is published I'll have had my first shot (hallelujah!). 3 weeks later I'll have my second, and 2 weeks after that, I'll have the immunity (or at least best chance at immunity!)** I need to gather more freely and safely in indoor spaces with groups of people. That day of best chance at immunity, will be on or near May 30th. I not only care about my own health, I care deeply about yours.

There is a lot of careful and thoughtful planning to be done to ensure that we continue to prioritize life and health of neighbor in all ministry decisions. Thank you to all who filled out the survey sent out by the Next Steps Committee - it revealed that more people are ready to return to in person worship than not, and that a sizable number of people are not yet ready. The weeks ahead will involve lots of decision making and getting ready for that first return. We have more hand sanitizer stations in place, a touchless thermometer, and a notebook for taking attendance, thanks to Jane Dahl. Sheila Daniels ordered pre-packaged Communion elements. Hymnals and Bibles have **been removed from the pews. Tom Daniels' electronic keyboard is en route to Oregon** (we are simultaneously planning for outdoor worship and indoor worship scenarios). We know that in the first phase of return to indoor worship masks will be **required, and that there won't be any potlucks! But there's some**

**other things we don't yet know, like how long the worship service will be, or exactly how many people will be able to sit within the physical distancing recommendations in the sanctuary.**

We all long for the day of return. As mentioned in a recent zoom fellowship time Q&A, some of you look forward to: driving to church on Sunday mornings, sharing bounty from your own gardens, bringing things for the Molalla food bank, seeing people in person, hugging, having Sunday school before church, live music (and singing hymns), the strawberry social and potlucks after church, being back in the pew, preparing memory cafe and **women's fellowship meals.**

Some of these activities will resume sooner than others, and some will be done differently than they were in the past when they do resume. There may be some fear and some doubt in this in-between time, this on-the-way to regathering in person **time. Let's be gentle and patient with ourselves and each other.** There will be surprises and blessing too - this is our story! Cue hymn: *This is my story, this is my song.* After the risen Jesus reminded the disciples that he would be sending them what his **Father had promised, he led them out...and lifting up his hands,** he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God. (Luke 24:50-53)

The Holy Spirit that came on Pentecost is with us, giving us all the power we need to bless each other, and the world, no matter **what kind of time we're in. I'm looking forward to blessing you, and blessing God together in person, as soon as "all things are ready" for that next step.**

In Love and anticipation of great joy,  
Pastor Cat

## Working towards a safe return to church

The Next Steps Committee is working toward resuming services at the church when conditions are such that it is safe to do so. In order to assist them in this effort, they are asking you to fill out the questionnaire which was emailed in April. It is designed so you can fill it out then print it and send it to the church. If you are able, you can also email it to [smyrnaucc@canby.com](mailto:smyrnaucc@canby.com). If you did not receive the email, copies are available on the table in the Church Narthex, next to the canister for completed forms.



**1 Thessalonians 3:9, NLT:**

*"How we thank God for you! Because of you we have great joy as we enter God's presence."*

What an amazing and caring family in Christ we are! It is finally getting closer to gathering again in person – we just need to be patient a bit longer!

Thanks to Paul Burket and Paul Yoder for all the work they've continued to do to clean up the cemetery after the ice storm, as well as clean up in the grove area.

Thank you to Jeannie Rogers for continuing to send out the bulletin, and to her and Elaine Daniels for putting together the Behold each month.

Thanks to Jeannie, Ione Jensen, and others for posting inspiring and thought-provoking posts on the Smyrna Facebook page; and thanks to all who engage with them!

Thank you to the Health Committee and Mary Namit for reaching out to members and friends with phone calls and cards.

Thank you to Tom Daniels for all the work (technical and creative!) he puts into worship service production each week.

Thanks to all who contribute as liturgists; and to Joel and Christine for their consistent contributions of music and singing.

Thank you for your generous giving to the One Great Hour of Sharing in March; and for continuing to support the ministries of the church with your gifts and offerings.

Thank you to our Church Treasurer, Irene Schriever, for keeping track of our finances.

Thank you to the Christian Nurture team for the bunny bags they made for pick-up at the church, and to all who brought flowers to fill the floral cross, on Easter weekend.

Thank you to Joel Daniels for hosting zoom fellowship with a prepared question week after week!

Thank you to Rick Gano for organizing the road clean-up and his crew: Levonne, Joel, Paul A, Paul Y, Lucia, Anna, Dave, Anne, Mary, Ginger, Carl, Barbara M, Barbara D, Sophie, and Pastor Deb.

Thank you to Ginger Redlinger for stepping up to lead the education component and ground-breaking ceremony for the installation of the Solar Panel array.

# Puzzle!

Unscramble these biblical words and phrases, which all have something in common. Then write the circled letters in order on the blanks below.

1. eivn \_ \_

2. illy fo het elavyl  
\_ \_ \_ \_ \_

3. albm fo dgo \_ \_

4. estmra \_ \_

5. sseju \_ \_

6. okrc \_

7. rdbae fo fiel  
\_ \_ \_ \_ \_

8. htigi fo eth dwlro  
\_

9. voasir \_ \_

10. dorl \_ \_

11. ishcr t \_ \_

12. ehsp rdeh

13. teh dowr \_ \_

14. rncpie fo cepae  
\_

What do these have in common?

\_\_\_\_\_



Outdoor coffee hour at Smyrna, April 18, 2021

## Spring is Here!

Are you tired of being homebound?  
Have the need to get out  
& find a place of nature to walk off  
excess energy?

You are invited on Saturday, May 15  
To the Farm Walk

Where? The Fosters, Virgil & Christine  
On Herman Rd — 4 miles south of Molalla  
follow Sawtell Rd, turn left on Herman Rd.  
last farm on the left (15555) before the road turns into  
Ellis Rd.

You will have the opportunity to stroll through Holiday  
Christmas Trees

Edges of forest lining the Molalla River & see chickens  
View our signature Oak tree

& great view of Mt Hood — if on a clear day

Phone: 503-759-3786

Virgil cell: 971-432-9295

Christine cell: 503-826-4233



## Graduation time is fast approaching



It will soon be time to honor our graduates who  
will be finishing up their time spent earning de-  
grees and then going onto higher learning or  
out into the world of adventure to share their passion.

**Because we don't always stay in touch with each member of our church family, we might not know who will be graduating.** If you are graduating from kindergarten, primary school, middle school, high school, college, trade school please let us know so that you can be honored for your time spent achieving that milestone. We will be honoring all graduates at a date to be set in June.

Barb Daniels, on behalf of Diaconate

## Mission and Outreach:

During May and June our Children for Change offering will be sent to Doctors Without Borders. They have treated millions of people since this organization was founded in 1971. Their goal is to provide medical aid where it is most needed.



Also, any items donated to the food bank can be brought to the narthex and Paulette will check on a regular basis and deliver it to Molalla. Remember, personal items are always appreciated.

Thank you to everyone who helped support our giving to our local Habitat for Humanity during these last two months.

## EarthCare and Cemetery Reports

Ground-breaking is scheduled for Monday, May 10, for the solar panel array at the church. It should be completed before **the end of the month so we can celebrate "throwing the switch"** to hook us up to the grid.

Many hands have joined together to assist in the cleanup of the cemetery and church grounds. We are awaiting the tree service and the repairs to the fence and gate. Thanks so much.



I would like to thank the sixteen volunteers who came out on both Thursday and Saturday this past week to assist in the road cleanup on Highway 170-Canby-Marquam Highway. Because of the large numbers, the activity went quickly and, luckily, the main rain event held off until we were pretty much done. I could not help but think of Rod Bullard who was our former road cleanup coordinator for years. Rod also did the whole of Krupf Road from Highway 211 to Marquam himself. Incredible! We miss you, friend! Rick Gano

## May 2021 at Smyrna

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <caption>Apr 2021</caption> <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></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>29</td><td>30</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <caption>Jun 2021</caption> <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>						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			1
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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

God bless:

- Pat Bullard and all her family
- Paul Burkert
- Karyl Carlson's son Patrick
- Emily Holt and her family
- Brenda Hammock and her family
- Sandra Kober (Blanche's daughter)
- Pastor Deb Patterson
- Ed and Kathy Robinson
- Donna Yenne
- High school seniors and children of every age and stage of education (and teachers and parents too)



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

Answer: Names of God's Son

## 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.