

# BEHOLD!! SMYRNA

## January 2024



## UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*Dear Smyrna Friends,*

I really enjoyed the spontaneous Christmas pageant with you all this year. Our children did a great job in their sheep hats. Mary and Joseph and the Angel Gabriel figured out their parts perfectly, even though they had never seen a script. The shepherds were loyal and dutiful. And our two readers were terrific. I want to especially mention the Magi, though.

The Magi were resplendent in their costumes, but the costumes they were given had not come with gifts. So, on their way to the manger (actually a lovely handmade cradle that has held four generations of Menkels!), they just picked up whatever was at hand **to lay down at the baby's feet. A water bottle. A hymnbook. A phone in a case. The bank bag the offering counter uses to deposit** our weekly offering. I was surprised to find that, although there had been lots of laughter up to that point, I teared up at this unexpected display of creativity and generosity. It felt so genuine, and so...human.

None of us has everything, but each of us has something to give. When the time comes to give, we may fumble a little, or wonder if what we have is enough or will be appreciated. Then we find we have just what is needed, because everyone has given a little of what they have, and it turns out to be just right.

When I first arrived a few months ago, several people advised me not to worry about funding what is necessary for the church, **because "the elves" would take care of it. Watching the Magi bring their improvised gifts to the cradle, I gave thanks for the elves,** who are not magical secret beings, but who are each one of you, bringing what you have and trusting that it will be just the thing to bring about the Reign of Christ right here, right now. And it is.

Blessings,  
Jennifer

Sunday, January 7 Epiphany - The arrival of the Magi  
Pastor Jennifer preaching  
Matthew 2:1-12

Sunday January 14 Baptism of Christ  
Pastor Jennifer preaching  
Focus Scripture Mark 1:4-11

Sunday January 21 "Follow Me"  
Pastor Jennifer Preaching  
Focus Scripture Mark 1:14-20

Sunday January 28  
Ginger Redlinger Preaching  
Pastor Jennifer co-leading worship

**Ministers:** All members of the church

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## Mission and Outreach

In December, the Children for Change collection was earmarked for Christmas Stockings for Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's program for finding homes for young people who need a host family to stay with. Twelve stockings were made and delivered to Second Home for the students and a like amount for their host families along with a check for over \$400 to buy things to fill them.



The Children for Change collection in January and February will go to Habitat for Humanity and Food Banks. The Silverton build is close to having funds to start two houses! Donated food items will be delivered to the Molalla Service Center. Cash is appreciated as well.

The committee appreciates the response to all the causes that are named throughout the year. Thank you.

## Alzheimer's Disease and Ways of Reducing Risk

Alzheimer's disease affects about 6.5 million people in the U.S. It affects the parts of the brain that control thought, memory, and language. Beginning with mild memory loss, it is a progressive disease that can lead to the inability to recognize other people and respond to the environment. It is not a normal part of aging, and scientists are working to understand the causes and develop treatments. There is evidence that healthy behaviors can lower the risk for Alzheimer's. Here are some of them:



1. Prevent and manage high blood pressure.
2. Manage blood sugar to keep it in a normal range.
3. Maintain a healthy weight.
4. Be physically active.
5. Quit smoking.
6. Avoid excessive drinking.
7. Prevent and correct hearing loss.
8. Get enough sleep.

If you notice signs of memory loss in yourself or a loved one, it is a good idea to discuss it with the doctor. Anyone who is on Medicare is eligible for a yearly "wellness exam," which is basically a screening for dementia and depression. Changes over time can help track the progression of Alzheimer's, if present..

## Annual Reports Due!

Hard on the heels of New Year's Day comes the January 5, 2024 deadline for turning in reports to be included in the Annual Reports book. If you are on a board or committee, check with your committee/board members to be sure someone will be writing the report. A list of needed reports will be posted on the Narthex bulletin board.

## Annual Reports Needed:

### Pastor's Report

### Moderator's Report

Trustees

Staff/Parish Committee

Board of Christian Education/Christian Nurture

Scholarship Report

Diaconate Report

Board of Mission and Outreach

Library Committee

Technology Committee

### Women's Fellowship Report

Fund-raising dates for 2024

Health Committee

Building Use

Memorial Committee

### Clerk's Report

Grounds Committee

Earth Care Committee

Cemetery Report

Camp Adams

Heartline



**Treasurer's Report** — separate from annual  
Coffee Hour Volunteers sign-up sheet  
Flower Volunteers sign-up sheet



## Annual Meeting/ Potluck

Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 21, 2023, following worship. Afterwards, in the tradition set in years past, there will be a potluck lunch. Bring your favorite potluck dish to share.



## Christmas at Smyrna



### Thanks to!

- The Advent Bell Choir: Levonne, Nancy, Irene, Lois, Ginger, Mary, Linda and Barbara. And intrepid conductor Joel Daniels.
- **Women's fellowship for the December 14 meal, and especially Rebekah Yoder who came to serve lunch on her birthday.**
- Ann Clites, Tom Daniels, Nancy Bryant and Joel Daniels who came together with Pastor Jennifer to help get clear on copyright and streaming worship. Grateful for this helpful conversation and for the dedication and hard work of these faithful volunteers.
- John Nielsen and all who attended his remarkable concert on December 9. And thanks, Joel, for making the arrangements.
- All who helped make the All Ages Spontaneous Christmas Pageant so memorable — particularly readers Rick Gano and Carl Menkel. Thanks Carl, also, for the loan of **your family's cradle which was a lovely centerpiece to our day together.**
- Mary, Rebekah, Ginger and Kristin who polished off the Sunday School room and nursery cleanup. And to Mary and Carl who arranged for Habitat Restore volunteers to **pick up the world's biggest desk which will find new life in some new office.**



LONELY? Medical issues? Need Help?

Please visit the Smyrna Resource page. On Smyrna's website, [www.smyrna-ucc.org](http://www.smyrna-ucc.org), just click the Resource tab ....

**RESOURCE Page**

A Helpful page for people in our community.  
(Click here.)



# January 2024 at Smyrna

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
	<b>1</b> 7 pmAA/AO	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 7 pm Diaconate mtg via Zoom	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> b.d. Don Blatchford, Tavi Robinson	<b>6</b>																																																																																											
<b>7</b> 11 am Worship -- Epiphany - The arrival of the Magi Pastor Jennifer preaching Focus Scripture Matthew 2:1-12  Pastoral Relations Com. mtg after worship	<b>8</b> 7 pmAA/AO b.d. Christine Foster	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 7 pm Church Council via Zoom b.d. Liz Chapin	<b>11</b> 12 Noon Women's Fellowship Luncheon	<b>12</b> b.d. Morgan Rogers	<b>13</b> b.d. Ryan Yoder																																																																																											
<b>14</b> 11 am Worship -- Baptism of Christ Pastor Jennifer preaching Focus Scripture Mark 1:4-11	<b>15</b> 7 pmAA/AO b.d. Nicholas Stanbro	<b>16</b> b.d. Julie Stanbro	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> b.d. Anne Bangs	<b>20</b>																																																																																											
<b>21</b> 11 am Worship -- "Follow Me" Pastor Jennifer Preaching Focus Scripture Mark 1:14-20  Annual Meeting after Worship, followed by a potluck lunch	<b>22</b> 7 pmAA/AO b.d. Diane Potter, Cari Swoboda, Hope Itami	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 12 Noon Women's Fellowship Luncheon	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>																																																																																											
<b>28</b> 11 am Worship -- Ginger Redlinger Preaching Pastor Jennifer co-leading worship	<b>29</b> 7 pmAA/AO	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> b.day Nickson Itami	<div> <div>Dec 2023</div> <table> <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></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> </table> </div> <div> <div>Feb 2024</div> <table> <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></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	31							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		
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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



- Paul and Mary Ashton
- Pat Bullard
- Beryl and Dan Fisher
- Genevieve Freeman
- The Holt family
- **Jeannie Rogers' brothers Steven and John**
- Virginia Yoder
- Robin Alexander
- Ginger Redlinger

*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.