

# BEHOLD!! SMYRNA

December 2024



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

*Dear Smyrna Folks,*

A couple days ago, I turned on the radio and was delighted to hear that 103.3 is playing Christmas music already. **I'm not one of those people who despairs of Christmas music being played too early. Honestly I've** been known to break out Joy To The World at all times of year. The music of Christmas is one of the gifts of the season, and it's distinct from the music of other seasons because people of faith can hear it everywhere.

**Unlike, say, Easter music, we don't just experience it in worship.** Christmas music spills out of the church doors and down the road. You can hear it on your car's radio, in a concert hall, in a mall elevator. Christmas music reminds us of the church season everywhere we go. By its presence everywhere, the carols of the season are a good reminder of how we can live the Christian life. We can spill out the doors of church and make **our voices heard everywhere! We can practice being "Christmas music" people all times of year** – not just during Advent. Like the music that hails us from every speaker this time of year, we can practice being Christians in our cars, while having fun and even while shopping.

**In case you want even more Christmas music, you'll find information in the Behold about some extra-musical activity this year.** Our friend Rev. Caroline Murphy, who's filled in as our preacher quite a few times this year, will take part in presenting part of the Bach Christmas Cantata in Portland. Our friends up the road at Alton-Collins Retreat Center will have a fun christmas carol sing-along and lunch, at which invitees are encouraged **to dress festively.** And last, but most certainly not least, if you don't want to travel so far afield, our favorite John Nilsen will delight us with music right here in our own sanctuary.

I pray the music of the season wherever you hear it, will encourage you, uplift you and inspire you this season.

Blessings,  
Pastor Jennifer

**Ministers:** All members of the church

**Minister:** Rev. Jennifer Garrison

**Editor:** Jeannie Rogers **Asst. Editor:** Elaine Daniels

**Church Phone** (503) 651-2131

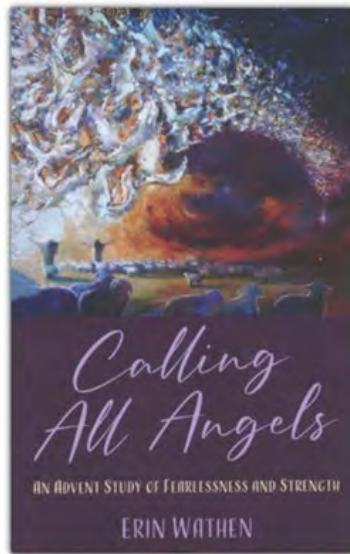
**email:** [smyrnaucc@canby.com](mailto:smyrnaucc@canby.com)

**Website:** [www.smyrna-ucc.org](http://www.smyrna-ucc.org)

**31119 S. Highway 170, Canby, OR 97013**



Calling All Angels - Book for daily devotion and group study



During December, you are invited to join your church family Sunday morning from December 8-December 29 at 9:45 for a study of the book *Calling All Angels* by pastor Erin Wathen, who asks:

What would you do if you were not afraid?

Life can be daunting, filled with uncertainty and fears. It **wasn't any different two thousand years ago when Jesus was born**. An aged priest is told he is about to become a father for the first time. A young woman is told she is going to give birth – outside the protection of marriage. A simple carpenter is asked to believe the **impossible**. **A group of shepherds' night on a hill is interrupted by a bright host of angels in the sky**. Yet, each of these encounters begins with the same refrain: do not be afraid.

Those words, though, are not just words of comfort; they are an invitation and a calling from God. In this captivating Advent study and devotional, pastor Erin Wathen challenges us to take this timeless message and apply it to our lives today. *Calling All Angels* asks us to contemplate what would change in our relationships, vocations, congregations, and communities if we have the courage to overcome our fears like Mary, Joseph, Zechariah, and the Shepherds in the story. Books are available in the narthex. If you pick one up and are able to pay for it, the cost is \$15 each to the church.

## Women's Fellowship Luncheon



On December 12, 2024 Women's Fellowship will be serving their Christmas Luncheon in the Friendship House at Smyrna. This is the only luncheon in December — don't miss it!



Bring your favorite potluck dish for **Smyrna's traditional First Sunday in Advent potluck meal** stay to make crafts for the season.

Memory Cafe — Thursday December 5 at noon.

The last time you made a Christmas ornament with a photo on it, you probably did it for (or as!) a kid. But you deserve to be memorialized and celebrated at every age!



Memory Cafe on Thursday, December 5, at noon will feature a festive meal from chef Louise, followed by the opportunity to make your own photo Christmas ornament, led by crafty queen Debi Veatch. Christmas music will be playing, too! Hope to see you there!

December Worship	Sunday, December 22
Sunday, December 1	Matthew 1:18-25
Luke 21:25-36	
Sunday, December 8	Tuesday, December 24,
Luke 1:1-25	4:00 pm Festival of Lessons and Carols
Sunday, December 15	Sunday, December 29
Luke 1:26-55	Matthew 2:13-15

## Library News

Three books by Fr. Gregory Boyle, founder of Homeboy Industries the largest gang-intervention and rehabilitation and reentry program in the world, have been donated to the library:

*Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion*, Free Press, 2010.

*Barking To The Choir: The Power of Radical Kinship*, Simon & Schuster, 2017.

*The Whole Language: The Power of Extravagant Tenderness*, Avid Reader Press, 2021.

These inspirational books are soaked in grace, humility, grit and humor—**not just the author's but also of the gang members he serves**. Writer Elizabeth Gilbert says of *Barking To The Choir*, but it applies to all 3 books, **"A beautiful and important and soul-transporting book.... This book is about how to love people. How to really love people. And how to know God when you see God."**

In May of this year, Fr. Boyle received the Presidential Medal of Freedom. After receiving the award, Fr.

**Boyle expressed what the honor meant to him: "For me, it represents standing at the margins so that the margins erase and especially representing thousands and thousands of men and women who've walked through our doors wanting to reimagine their lives."**

Inspiration, hope, reimagining the impossible and great story-telling make the three books great reads.

A display of these books will be on top of the pop-up library in Friendship House. To check one out, please find the notebook on the blue cart next to the bookcase. Write the title you borrow and your name and date. **There's no definite loan period other than "please read and return when you're finished."**

### 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 ....



## Driving After Dark

**Perhaps you've noticed that many senior citizens don't like driving after dark**, because night vision decreases with age. One reason is the loss of rod and cone receptors within the eye, which decreases the amount of light that reaches the retina. Another reason is that our pupils (which regulate how much light enters our eyes) shrink with age. By the time we reach our 60s, the backs of our eyes receive only about a third of the light they did when we were about 20.

Yet another reason is that we also become less sensitive to changes in contrast and thus are less able to see pedestrians and road signs along the way. In addition, there is the matter of cataracts, which affect virtually everyone who lives long enough. More than half of people over 80 have cataracts (which, of course, can be corrected by surgery after the surgeon believes they are bad enough to warrant it).

Automobile headlights are in some cases worsening the problem, with the prevalence of SUVs and their headlights being mounted higher than the smaller cars they are meeting on the road, so that the lights may shine directly into the eyes of the drivers of the smaller cars. And recovery from glare also takes longer for the older driver. A new technology on the horizon may be of help.

Other parts of the world have been using adaptive driving beam headlights, which use a camera that helps direct LED bulbs away from oncoming cars and still light up your side of the road and give you an extra 165 or more feet of visibility.

Until the adaptive beam headlights become common in the U. S., here are some things you may do to help yourself out.

1. Drive at night as little as possible.
2. If you do need to drive after dark, use your bright lights as much as possible (while remembering to dim them when meeting or passing other cars).
3. When you buy a new car, look for a model with top-rated headlights. There is, of course, a website for this (go to [iihs.org/ratings](http://iihs.org/ratings) to find a car's safety rating).
4. If your car is several years old, think about getting your headlights and casings replaced. A study by AAA found that in some cases old headlights and casings were putting out only 22 percent of the light that new ones would provide.
5. Keep your windshield and headlights cleaned.
6. Adjust the illumination levels of your dashboard lights to low; bright light inside makes it harder to see outside.
7. When you are out at night, skip the cocktails and drink coffee to avoid drowsiness.



Pacific Bell Ringers  
Concert  
4 pm  
Saturday, December 7,  
2024  
Hope Village  
S Ivy St, Canby, OR



Alton L. Collins Retreat Center invites you to  
a special Christmas Edition of  
**GREAT HYMNS OF THE FAITH**

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2024**

Learn a bit about the history of some familiar Christmas songs  
and enjoy singing with an enthusiastic group of carolers in the  
beautiful Collins Chapel.

Program begins at 10:30am  
Festive holiday feast at 12:30pm

After lunch you are welcome to stay as long as you like, visiting  
with new and old friends, enjoying the sights of the season,  
and browsing our Christmas gift shop.

**REGISTRATION:**

The cost is \$25.00 for the day, including lunch.  
Seating is limited so register early for this popular  
program by scanning the QR code or visiting  
[collins.gocamping.org/campsessions](https://collins.gocamping.org/campsessions) to register.



Alton L. Collins Retreat Center  
32867 SE Highway 211, Eagle Creek, Oregon 97022  
503-637-6411, [office@collinsretreatcenter.org](mailto:office@collinsretreatcenter.org)

Yamaha Piano Artist in Concert

# JOHN NILSEN



Smyrna United Church of Christ

31119 S. Hwy. 170 Canby, Or.

Sun., Dec. 15, 1 pm

"The musicianship is flawless." - Keyboard Magazine

A light lunch will be served following church services and before the concert begins.

emphasizes Nilsen's superb piano compositions with orchestral backing. The newest Nilsen release is titled, *Two Stories*. Released in Dec. 2022, *Two Stories* is with Nilsen's band, SWIMFISH, and not be missed. A forthcoming album with SWIMFISH is currently being recorded. Nilsen has performed in all fifty U.S. States and on four continents. Nilsen splits his performances between touring internationally as an in demand pianist combining elements of classical, folk and jazz, performing with the John Nilsen Trio, featuring Jeff Leonard/bass and Jason Moore/percussion, and with John's guitar/vocal rock band, John Nilsen & SWIMFISH, featuring Dave Captein/ bass, Mike Snyder/drums, percussion, Bob Logue/ guitar, vocals and Don Woodward/guitar, mandolin, harmonica, vocals. SWIMFISH includes John's piano, but features his acoustic and electric guitar work tucked into a bed of a uniquely great supporting cast. Nilsen was been a member of Ten Grands since its inception in 2001 and through 2022. He has given back to his community by teaching songwriting residencies and speaking to students in schools throughout the country, and locally including every school in the West Linn/Wilsonville School District over the past twenty-five years.

John Nilsen was born in Seattle, Washington in 1956. The Nilsen family moved to Portland, Oregon, USA in 1960. Nilsen began studying classical piano from his mother at age six. Continuing his musical education, he began playing guitar at age fourteen. John moved to Ashland, Oregon in 1974 to attend Southern Oregon College (Southern Oregon University), graduating in 1979 with a Bachelor of Arts in English. He was honored by the institution in 1995 with the Distinguished Alumnus Award in recognition of his outstanding achievements, dedicated efforts and leadership in the field of the performing arts. An accomplished pianist, guitarist, composer, lyricist and vocalist, Nilsen was also selected to be a Yamaha Signature Piano Artist in November, 2021.

Nilsen was inducted into the Oregon Music Hall of Fame Oct. 12, 2024. Nilsen founded the Magic Wing recording label in 1987. The label has a catalog of nineteen successful titles, each with international distribution. Before founding Magic Wing, John recorded three successful solo piano records on LA's, Eagle Records from 1983 to 1985. He has had fifteen other CDs licensed in countries including Germany, Great Britain, The Philippines, Canada, Taiwan and Singapore bringing reported total record sales to well over one million copies sold

John Nilsen has two hundred and fifty of his compositions and musical arrangements receiving airplay royalties world wide. *Foreign Films* was released August 23, 2019 and em-



## Mission and Outreach

Smyrna UCC spent the month of November working in conjunction with an AA group from Molalla to gather toys, games, books, etc. and socks. At the end of November we will meet and share what has been collected. We will donate to Molalla our toys/game supply for them to distribute and they will donate their sock supply to us. It has been so nice to work in conjunction with another church to be able to help each other out in this way. Sunday, December 1 will be the final day for those contributions.



During the month of December, as has been a tradition at Smyrna, we will continue to collect socks, hats, scarves to add to the Christmas tree and then to donate to those in need.

A sincere thank you to all who have helped out in the project. We sincerely appreciate your generosity and caring spirit

## Results of the Cookie Bake Off.

On November 10, 2024, we held our Fund Raising Event of a Cookie Bake Off in addition to serving several kinds of soup to the congregation following our church service led by Caroline Murphy.



We raised a total of \$423 drawing from five people who made and served cookies to everyone. Barbara Daniels came in first place collecting a sum of \$105. Asked about her success, she says she throws everything into a bowl and whips it up, why everyone likes it is a mystery to her. **Linda Dunn raised \$104 and says she uses what's on hand such as maple flavoring when the recipe calls for vanilla flavoring.** Next in line for money raised is Elaine Daniels who garnered \$85. **Elaine's cookies are made with precision and will grace a food magazine cover's anytime or place.** Karyl Carlson's peanut butter and jam bars was an added addition raising \$65. Patti and Joanne brought cookies to the event and took in \$64.

The Fund Raising committee wants to thank the participants and the tasters for their involvement in the event.

Christmas Eve brings to mind memories of favorite carols, the old stories told anew and of course lights held by each person in attendance. Please join your church family for A Festival of Lessons and Carols at 4:00 pm on Christmas Eve — December 24. If you have a special piece of seasonal music (vocal or instrumental) that you would like to share as part of this sacred and beautiful evening, please let Pastor Jennifer know by December 11th. See you then!



Bach Cantata Choir Baroque Holiday Concert Featuring JS Bach Christmas Oratorio; Bach's Music Tells the Christmas Story

Fri Dec 20, 2024

7:30 PM - 10:30 PM

Rose City Park Presbyterian Church, Portland 97213



The Bach Cantata Choir presents its annual Baroque Holiday Concert at 7:30pm at Rose City Park Presbyterian Church, 1907 NE 45th St. in Portland Oregon. The concert features J. S. Bach's Christmas Oratorio (parts 1, 2, 5 and 6). Ralph Nelson conducts the 45-voice choir and 15-piece chamber orchestra.

Rose City Park Presbyterian is located in the Hollywood District at the corner of NE 44th St. and NE Sandy Boulevard. The church has an elevator from the parking lot to assist patrons who need handicapped access. All tickets are \$35 general admission seating. Students may purchase \$10 at the door on the night of the concert.

J. S. Bach wrote his famous Christmas Oratorio in 1733 in Leipzig, Germany. Parts 1-2 tell the Christmas Story from the Gospel of Luke. Parts 5-6 tell the Christmas Story from the Gospel of Matthew. The performance will be sung in German. Extensive translations are found in the program book. As part of the concert, the audience will be invited to sing three chorales (hymns) that Bach wrote as part of the Christmas Oratorio.

For Link to tickets visit <https://www.bachcantatachoir.org>

## *Virginia Wilson Yoder*

*October 10, 1927-November 4, 2024*



**Virginia Rosemary (Wilson) Yoder** was born in her grandmother's kitchen in Barlow, Oregon on October 10, 1927. She was the eldest of seven and spent her early years in Siletz, Oregon. Following her freshman year of high school, to pursue an interest in Chemistry, Virginia moved in with her aunt and uncle in Yoder to attend Molalla Union High School. After Virginia graduated from M.U.H.S. in 1945, she attended one year at Oregon State University, briefly worked in Portland, and then returned to Yoder, marrying Emerson Yoder in September 1946.



As a young mother, Virginia had her hands full caring for 6 children, expansive gardens, orchards and various animals. She preserved all varieties of harvests to use and share throughout the year. Virginia also wrote columns for the Molalla Pioneer and Canby Herald, filled with news of family and friends' adventures. She later taught Kindergarten and 4-H, volunteered at Rural Dell Elementary, was a lifetime FCE member, a Master Preserver and an exceptionally active member of Smyrna U.C.C., including the Stitch Club, choir and Women's Fellowship groups.

Virginia enjoyed people. She corresponded with friends and family all around the world and was able to visit many in person. She opened her home to numerous exchange students, several of whom became beloved members of the family. She had a deep, sincere interest in what could be learned from others, their cultures and their life experiences. Virginia was a gracious host, invited people without local family to join hers for special events and holidays, threw memorable birthday parties, had countless overnights and visits with grandchildren and great-grandchildren, hosted students for school outings and made each and every person who entered her home feel valued and welcomed.

Virginia loved to learn. She was a skilled baker, cook, gardener and seamstress who created beauty in the practical: intricately embroidered dish towels and pillowcases, that special finishing touch on a salad or dessert, colorful flowers alongside her vegetable garden. She loved to travel and packed delicious homemade picnic lunches and creative care packages to keep the children entertained. She was interested in history and genealogy. She was an avid reader and book club member. She sought out new experiences through trips, food, theater, art classes or simply good conversation. She approached life with a curiosity that helped her find joy in all things. She always chose to focus on the positive.

Virginia lived a life of generosity and love in action. She made room at her table for anyone, ensuring all were well-fed and inevitably sent home with a little something for later. She showed how much richer life becomes when you add another plate, move a little closer together and open your heart to share with whomever may show up at your door.

*The family of Virginia Yoder would like to thank their Smyrna family for your outpouring of love and support upon her passing and for all the help in making Virginia's memorial so lovely!*





# December 2024 at Smyrna

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																												
<p><b>1</b></p> <p>b.d. Julia Peterson</p> <p>Christmas Fund for Retired Clergy Appeal Month of December</p> <p>First Sunday in Advent 10:30 AM Worship Service</p> <p>Luke 21:25-36</p> <p><i>Patluck and Advent crafts after warship</i></p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>7 pm AA/AO</p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>7 pm Diaconate mtg via Zoom</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>12:00 PM Memory Cafe at Smyrna</p>	<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>4 pm Pacific Bell Ringers Concert @ Hope Village</p> <p>b.d. Barbara Daniels</p>																																																																																																												
<p><b>8</b></p> <p>9:45 am Calling All Angels book study group</p> <p>Second Sunday in Advent 10:30 AM Worship Service Luke 1:1-25</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>7 pm AA/AO b.d. Nikolas Peterson</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>bd Jeff Marshal</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>b.d. Chris Bangs</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>12:00 PM Women's Fellowship Luncheon</p> <p>b.d. Jeannie Rogers</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>Great Hymns of the Faith at Alton L Collins Retreat Center, Eagle Creek OR</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>b.d. Genevieve Freeman, Rebekah Yoder</p>																																																																																																												
<p><b>15</b></p> <p>1 pm John Nielsen Concert at Smyrna</p> <p>10:30 Worship</p> <p>b.d. Paulette Eyman, Tina Marshal, Steven Rigg</p> <p>Luke 1:26-55</p> <p>Third Sunday in Advent</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>7 pm AA/AO</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>b.d. Josh Marshall, Garrett Veach</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>7:00 PM Church Council Mtg on Zoom</p>	<p><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>Bach Cantata Choir Baroque Holiday Concert at Roce City Park Presbyterian Church, Portland OR</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>b.d. Kevin Yoder</p>																																																																																																												
<p><b>22</b></p> <p>Fourth Sunday in Advent 10:30 Worship Matthew 1:18-25</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>7 pm AA/AO</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p><i>4:00 pm Festival of Lessons and Carols @ Smyrna UCC Christmas Eve</i></p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p><i>Christmas Day</i></p>	<p><b>26</b></p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>Wedding Ann. Leo &amp; Marsha Sano</p>																																																																																																												
<p><b>29</b></p> <p>10:30 Worship Matthew 2:13-15</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>7 pm AA/AO</p>	<p><b>31</b></p>	<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="7" style="text-align: center;">Nov 2024</th> <th colspan="7" style="text-align: center;">Jan 2025</th> </tr> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">S</th><th style="text-align: center;">M</th><th style="text-align: center;">T</th><th style="text-align: center;">W</th><th style="text-align: center;">T</th><th style="text-align: center;">F</th><th style="text-align: center;">S</th> <th style="text-align: center;">S</th><th style="text-align: center;">M</th><th style="text-align: center;">T</th><th style="text-align: center;">W</th><th style="text-align: center;">T</th><th style="text-align: center;">F</th><th style="text-align: center;">S</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td><td style="text-align: center;">3</td><td style="text-align: center;">4</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">5</td><td style="text-align: center;">6</td><td style="text-align: center;">7</td><td style="text-align: center;">8</td><td style="text-align: center;">9</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td><td style="text-align: center;">6</td><td style="text-align: center;">7</td><td style="text-align: center;">8</td><td style="text-align: center;">9</td><td style="text-align: center;">10</td><td style="text-align: center;">11</td><td></td><td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">10</td><td style="text-align: center;">11</td><td style="text-align: center;">12</td><td style="text-align: center;">13</td><td style="text-align: center;">14</td><td style="text-align: center;">15</td><td style="text-align: center;">16</td> <td style="text-align: center;">12</td><td style="text-align: center;">13</td><td style="text-align: center;">14</td><td style="text-align: center;">15</td><td style="text-align: center;">16</td><td style="text-align: center;">17</td><td style="text-align: center;">18</td><td></td><td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">17</td><td style="text-align: center;">18</td><td style="text-align: center;">19</td><td style="text-align: center;">20</td><td style="text-align: center;">21</td><td style="text-align: center;">22</td><td style="text-align: center;">23</td> <td style="text-align: center;">19</td><td style="text-align: center;">20</td><td style="text-align: center;">21</td><td style="text-align: center;">22</td><td style="text-align: center;">23</td><td style="text-align: center;">24</td><td style="text-align: center;">25</td><td></td><td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">24</td><td style="text-align: center;">25</td><td style="text-align: center;">26</td><td style="text-align: center;">27</td><td style="text-align: center;">28</td><td style="text-align: center;">29</td><td style="text-align: center;">30</td> <td style="text-align: center;">26</td><td style="text-align: center;">27</td><td style="text-align: center;">28</td><td style="text-align: center;">29</td><td style="text-align: center;">30</td><td style="text-align: center;">31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </table>				Nov 2024							Jan 2025							S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S							1	2					1	2	3	4	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	5	6	7	8	9	10	11			10	11	12	13	14	15	16	12	13	14	15	16	17	18			17	18	19	20	21	22	23	19	20	21	22	23	24	25			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	26	27	28	29	30	31			
Nov 2024							Jan 2025																																																																																																											
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																																					
						1	2					1	2	3	4																																																																																																			
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	5	6	7	8	9	10	11																																																																																																					
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	12	13	14	15	16	17	18																																																																																																					
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	19	20	21	22	23	24	25																																																																																																					
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	26	27	28	29	30	31																																																																																																						

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



- Liz Chapin
- Jerry and Paul Holbrook
- Mary Namit
- Robert Schuebel
- Pat Peterson
- Paul and Mary Ashton
- Pat Bullard
- Beryl and Dan Fisher
- Genevieve Freeman
- The Holt family
- **Jeannie Rogers'** brothers Steven and John
- **Virginia Yoder's** family
- Anne Stronko and Roger Marin
- The Crispin family

*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.