

# BEHOLD!! SMYRNA

September 2020



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

*Dear Smyrna Friends,*

During the month of August, our theme has been “Continuing the Journey,” because we have been going through this very long journey of getting through this season of trying to stay healthy during a pandemic. And we have been busy working to “be the church” on this journey, as the church scattered rather than gathered. But as we know, the church is not a building – it’s the people. (Although it certainly is nice to see the building, too.) We are closing out the month with a special guest preacher – Rev. Tyler Connoley, our Conference Minister of the Central Pacific Conference of the UCC.

Next month, we are going to start a new theme – “A New Season of Learning.” While the young people are going to try to learn new things through the technology they are using to do school, we will try to learn new things at Smyrna, too. So stay tuned for more information about that!

The news media is telling us that maybe we will have a vaccine sometime next year. It can’t come soon enough for me, and I’m guessing for you, as well.

But in the meantime, let’s take this opportunity to learn new things. Call up a friend and learn something new about their lives. Reach out to the Technology Committee at Smyrna and

ask for help to learn how to use Zoom on your cell phone, or how to call into the Zoom call from your land line. Check out a book from the library on a new subject and write a paragraph about the book for BEHOLD so that we can all learn a little about it. Learn the name of a new bird, or a new flower. Learn a new dance step on YouTube. Meet someone new on a walk (with a mask on). Find a Scripture that you hadn’t noticed before, and learn it by heart.

Here’s one I’m trying to memorize today, from the book of Isaiah, the 43<sup>rd</sup> chapter, the 19<sup>th</sup> verse. God is saying to Isaiah: “I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”

So, hang in there, people of God. God IS doing a new thing – making a way through this wilderness, and rivers of healing and hope in the middle of this long, dusty desert. You are loved.

Blessings,

Pastor Deb

## Gratitude Journal

The Health Committee continues with many different outreach efforts, from Haikus, to suggestions on Facebook for activities that can be done online or with social distancing. This month, they have encouraged us to think of things for which we are grateful. I am grateful for the Health Committee! If you get a card from them, they would like to encourage you to write a card to someone else, and tell them what you are grateful for about them!

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## COFFEE HOUR LIVE IN SMYRNA CEMETERY

Save the date, Sunday, September 6, 2020, to attend Coffee Hour in our cemetery beginning at 11:30 AM.

During our last Diaconate committee meeting it was suggested that we hold an onsite coffee hour and to do that we need to be outdoors and separated from each other by six feet. We suggest you bring your coffee, whatever you wish to eat or snack on at that time along with a chair/table upon which to sit and hold your lunch.

We are counting on clear sky, but if bad weather prevails, the event will be cancelled. If you have any questions, please call Barbara Daniels or any of the other seven members of the committee.

We want to make sure that everyone has access to our weekly online services. Starting Sept. 6, at 5 p.m., Joel Daniels is offering to set up the church's television for viewing of the online worship service at the church for anyone who wishes to come and see it on the big screen.



To reserve one of the limited spaces, you will need to call our moderator, Barbara Daniels at 503-390-4686 if you wish to attend on any given Sunday. You will need to wear a mask and observe appropriate social distancing. The service lasts about 30-40 mins.

## Rev. Linda Jaramillo

On September 20<sup>th</sup>, we welcome the Rev. Linda Jaramillo to be our Guest Preacher at Smyrna and I look forward to hearing her message. Rev. Jaramillo was the Executive Minister of Justice and Witness Ministries of the United Church of Christ and worked out of the National Offices in Cleveland. She has retired to our Conference, and we are very fortunate to have her with us.



## Quilts for Empowerment

Smyrna is one of the sponsors for Quilts For Empowerment, an Organization in Kenya that helps women with fistulas obtain the corrective surgery needed. As most of these women are outcasts, they then teach them marketable skills (quilts, sewing). They also take in abused girls and give them a home and education.



The following from their newsletter:

**We are deeply grateful for all the girls' sponsors who pay for their daily upkeep and school fees.** In addition, QFE allocates \$700 year per girl for their apartment rent and salaries for their matron and tutor. However, needs such as winter coats and medical expenses come from an emergency fund which is supplied by donations. Last year, that fund was depleted when one of our new girls, Ann, was hospitalized twice. Fortunately, it has been replenished by a generous donation from **Smyrna United Church of Christ in Canby, OR**, and another kind sponsor. Please consider supporting our girls by contributing to this fund by specifying 'emergency fund' when donating.

The Children for Change funds for September and October will go to this organization.

## Thank you!!

Thank you to Audrey Yoder, for the wonderful prayer shawl she made on behalf of the congregation, which came with a birthday greeting on my birthday last month. It says, "Smyrna Cares," and I'll include a photo here, so you can see it, too. Thank you for this precious gift!



## Thank You, Jane, for the Face Masks

As soon as the recommendation for wearing face masks went public, Jane Dahl swung into action. By the beginning of August, she had produced 655 masks!

They have been donated to:

- Smyrna friends (available in the Narthex)
- Canby Adult Center
- Aurora Truck Stop
- Navajo Nation







### Greetings from Smyrna Friends!

I've missed you all! So I got in my car this week, and drove around to a few houses in Yoder, and up to the South End of Canby. I took some photos along the way (with social distancing, and I was wearing a mask), and I'd like to share them with you, so you can see some Smyrna friends, too. I'll be driving around in the weeks to come to see others, as well, so stay tuned, and be ready to wave at your Smyrna friends, too!

Pastor Deb



## Annual Gathering of the Central Pacific Conference – “Better Together”

This year’s annual gathering of the Central Pacific Conference of the UCC will take place virtually, because of COVID-19. That’s the bad news. The GOOD news is that we ALL can go, because it is virtual, and because it is FREE!

The annual gathering starts on Friday evening, September 25th and runs in shorter sessions through Sunday, October 4th.

Here is the overview:

Friday, 9/25, 6:00 – 7:00 pm: Opening Worship

Saturday, 9/26, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm: Business Meeting/Keynote Speakers

Sunday, 9/27: Morning Worship

Installation of Rev. Tyler Connoley as Conference Minister

Monday, 9/28, 6:00 -7:00 pm: Knowledge Camps

Wednesday, 9/30, 6:00 – 7:00 pm: Open Space Conversations

Friday, 10/2, 6:00 – 7:00 pm: Happy Hour/Talent Show

Saturday, 10/3, 9:00 – 11:00 am: World Cafe/Circle Way

Sunday, 10/4: Morning Worship

World Communion Sunday

Here is the complete schedule:

**FRIDAY, September 25, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. – Opening Worship LIVE** via Zoom – with worship leadership from *The Many* (<https://www.themanyarehere.com/>).

*The Many* is an uncommon, intentionally diverse collective making music for people to sing together about peace and justice and a world where all belong. Drawing on indie pop and gospel influences, The Many makes music to help give voice to faith and doubt, questions and fears, laments and longings, music that speaks to a non-violent God, a Jesus who is with us and for us, and to a Spirit that can’t be easily defined or controlled. It’s music for a movement of resistance to hatred and division, for reconciliation and restoration, and music that always reminds us “we are on this earth to love.”

**SATURDAY, September 26th – 9 am – 12 noon – Business Meeting** – this is the time when we will hear reports, vote upon nominations of new officers, and delegates discuss and vote on our 2021 annual budget. We will also be discussing proposed **adjustments to our Bylaws**. Registered delegates can expect to receive a “document packet” with nominations, proposed 2021 budget, resolutions, etc. on or around September 14th. Each church gets at least 4 delegates, so please recruit ASAP, as well as invite members and friends of the congregation. Please contact our conference office ASAP and let us know if there are any technical difficulties or barriers that would prohibit your delegates from participating, and we will do our best to make sure they have what they need to participate.

**SATURDAY, September 26th, 1-3 pm – Guest Keynote Speakers** – Rev. Dr. Randy Woodley and Edith Woodley of Freedom Road

(<https://freedomroad.us/who-we-are/dr-randy-and-edith-woodley/>).

Randy Woodley is an activist/scholar and distinguished speaker, teacher and wisdom keeper. He addresses a variety of issues concerning American history and culture, missiology, shalom, postcolonial theology, community-building, faith, socio-justice, diversity, regenerative farming, climate-change and the human relationship to the earth and to Indigenous reali-

ties. Edith Woodley is a teacher/mentor on issues concerning Native American Spirituality and Creation. A full-time mother, grandmother and activist farmer, she has developed a unique relationship with the land, as well as insights concerning how to raise a family on a small farm.



**SUNDAY, Sept 27 – Official Installation of Rev. Tyler Connoley** as our Conference Minister, with worship provided by *The Many*.



MONDAY, September 28 – 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. – **“Knowledge Camps”** – via Zoom. Attendees are invited to let us know in advance of a knowledge camp workshop they would like to host. In the past programs have covered such topics as Healthcare for All, Becoming an Immigrant Welcoming Congregation, and Our Whole Lives. This is the best option for a pre-planned program. A Sign-up form will be available next week to register your Knowledge Camp. Deadline is noon on September 25 to submit.

WEDNESDAY, September 30th – 6:00-7:00 p.m. – **“Open Space” Conversations** via Zoom – Building upon the past success of these self-organizing workshops, we have taken the “Open Space” concept online. You may find that throughout the gathering, a topic comes to mind that you would like to engage in deeper conversation. This space is free and open for self-organizing conversations. We will gather in a Zoom conversation – then split attendees up into **“Breakout Rooms”** for continued dialogue.

FRIDAY, October 2 – 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. – **Zoom “Happy Hour” and Talent Show** – Want to see old friends or make some new ones? Join others across the conference for an informal time of fun and fellowship. BYOB – Bring your own beverage!

SATURDAY, October 3 – 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. – **“World Cafe”** – Going Deeper Together – This moment has raised many significant questions for us as people of faith, and for our churches. The World Cafe offers an opportunity to go deeper – and reflect upon all the Stillspeaking God is bringing to harvest in this time. This time will be facilitated by Rev. Dr. Sara Rosenau, pastor of Waverly UCC.

SUNDAY, October 4th – LIVE streamed over Zoom – Closing Worship – World Communion Sunday – This service will be shared with churches across the conference, and the world, as a way of lifting up the connections we share.

You will need to register to take part in the annual gathering (although we will send out the Worship Services to all). Here is the link to register for this free event:

<http://cpcucc.org/wp14/2020-cpc-virtual-annual-gathering/>

### FUN HISTORICAL FACTS

Here are some more facts about the 1500s:

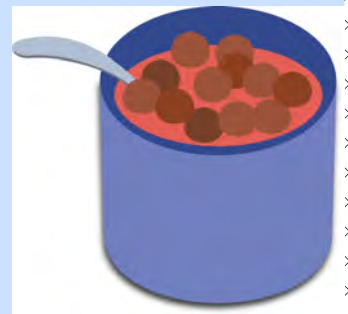
Houses had thatched roofs-thick straw-piled high, with no wood underneath. There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. That posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could really mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence. Maybe the phrase “Don't let the bed bugs bite.”

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying “dirt poor.”

The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on the floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they kept adding more thresh until when you opened the door it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entranceway. Hence the saying a “thresh hold.”

In those old days, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire. Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight and then start over the next day. Sometimes the stew had food in it that had been there for quite a while. Hence the rhyme, “Peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old.”

<http://www.inspirationalarchive.com/1251/fun-historical-facts/#ixzz6PewzyQ7f>





On Thursday, August 20, a group of willing people met at Smyrna to water our infant trees and tackle the tansy growing in the field north of the church.

Thank you!!  
to all those who came and watered the White Oaks and Cedar trees that were planted in our Savannah, and weeded the tansy: Barbara, Rebecca, Levonne, Mary, Joel and Elaine.



Valentina waits,  
Her mask securely in  
place,  
For Covid to end

## EarthCare Committee

In late July, we completed the application for PGE and Energy Trust grants to build a Solar Panel Array to generate an **amount of power to equal our church's electricity use.** We have been working with Chet Zimmer and Grant Lindsley of EnergySolutions in Oregon City to put all the pieces together. On Aug 21, Pastor Deb, Joel, Ginger and Grant met virtually with Jill Eikenhorst, a representative of a third-party evaluator, so she could get to know us better and we could fill in any gaps in the submission. We enjoyed the interview and are energized to proceed. We were informed that the grants for this year will probably not be awarded until December. If we are successful, construction would begin shortly after that time.

A big part of justification for a grant of this type is not only to provide renewable energy, but to use this installation as an educational tool for the community on the costs and benefits of what we are proposing. We will be prepared to conduct guided inspections and field trips with lesson plans for students. We will work with schools and Camp Adams and their curriculum needs. We will provide appropriate signage to highlight the installation. It will be located on the south side of the cemetery and will be surrounded by a chain link fence to protect children using the playground.

The white oak plantation is doing well and was watered recently. A number of trees have grown to the top of the tubes and will soon have them removed.

The cedars are looking good. A crew also tackled tansy. We are hopeful that the populations of predators introduced many years ago will rebuild and take care of this noxious weed.



to Joel Daniels, who led the Solar Panel Array project; to Ginger Redlinger, who brings a wealth of experience in teaching about this and being involved in installations through several

school districts; and to all the Earth Care Committee and the congregation for your support of this exciting project!



**10 Worst Pandemics** — Mass outbreaks of disease have happened throughout human history; some of the most lethal have been caused by cholera, bubonic plague, smallpox, and influenza. In the case of some early pandemics, the cause is unknown. Here are some of the worst pandemics in human history.

**The Antonine Plague, 165 AD, cause unknown (possibly smallpox or measles)** This affected Asia Minor, Egypt, Greece, and Italy. The disease was brought back to Rome by soldiers returning from Mesopotamia and ultimately killed over 5 million people and decimated the Roman army.

**The Plague of Justinian, 541-542 AD, caused by bubonic plague** This is considered to be the first recorded outbreak of the bubonic plague. It affected the Byzantine Empire and Mediterranean port cities. It killed 25 million people in a year, perhaps half the population of Europe.

**The Black Death, 1346-1353, caused by bubonic plague** This outbreak of plague affected Europe, Africa, and Asia. It is thought to have originated in Asia and spread to other regions by merchant ships carrying infected rats with fleas. The death toll is estimated to be 75 to 200 million people.

**The Third Cholera Pandemic, 1852-1860** This was the most deadly of the seven cholera outbreaks. It originated in India and spread throughout Asia, Europe, North America, and Africa and killed over a million people. A British physician, John Snow, was able to identify contaminated water as the means of transmission in 1854, the deadliest year of the pandemic.

**Flu Pandemic of 1889-1890** The first cases were in three separate locations (Turkestan northern Canada, and Greenland) and spread around the world. This was the first true epidemic in the age of bacteriology, and it killed over a million people.

**Sixth Cholera Pandemic, 1910-1911** Like the other cholera outbreaks, this originated in India. It killed over 800,000 people before spreading to the Middle East, North Africa, Eastern Europe, and Russia. This was also the last American outbreak of cholera, due to the rapid isolation of infected individuals (only 11 people died in the U.S. due to the prompt action of health authorities). By 1923, cholera cases had decreased dramatically, although cholera still continues to be a threat in India.

**Flu Pandemic of 1918** This pandemic infected 500 million (over a third of the world's population) and killed up to 100 million. Unlike previous flu outbreaks, this one attacked young, healthy people rather than the elderly or others usually considered vulnerable.

**Asian Flu Pandemic, 1956-1958** This pandemic originated in China and traveled to Singapore, Hong Kong, and the U.S. and is estimated to have killed about 2 million people (69,800 in the U.S.).

**Flu Pandemic, 1968** Sometimes referred to as the Hong Kong flu, this outbreak originated in Hong Kong. It spread to Singapore and Vietnam and within three months had spread to the Philippines, India, Australia, Europe, and the U.S. It killed more than a million people, including 500,000 in Hong Kong (about 15% of the population at the time).

**HIV/AIDS Epidemic, (at its peak, 2005-2012)** This was first identified in Democratic Republic of the Congo in 1976 and spread around the globe. More than 36 million have died, although the death rate has dropped considerably since the development of treatments that allow many to live with HIV/AIDS as a chronic disease.

Many other pandemics have occurred, and continue to occur; but these are among the worst. Please notice that some of them have lasted for years. Influenza outbreaks are a recurring problem due to mutations of the virus from time to time; although vaccines are available, they are not always effective against the current strain of the virus circulating at the time.

In case you were wondering what constitutes a pandemic, the New Oxford American Dictionary defines an epidemic as a disease that quickly and severely affects a large number of people and then subsides; a pandemic is a widespread epidemic that may affect entire continents or even the world.



## September 2020 at Smyrna

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																															
		<b>1</b> b.d. Rachel McKee Wedding Ann: Scott & Angela Sterle	<b>2</b> b.d. Margaret Adams, Dave Clites Wedding Ann. Dan & Beryl Fisher	<b>3</b> Wedding Ann: Dan & Louise Allee	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>																																																																																																															
<b>6</b> Coffee Hour in Smyrna's cemetery beginning at 11:30 AM. During the COVID-19 pandemic, online weekly Worship Services are available <a href="http://www.smyrna-ucc.org/sermon">www.smyrna-ucc.org/sermon</a>	<b>7</b> 7 pm AA/AO b.d. Karyl Carlson <b>Labor Day</b> Wedding Ann: Philip and Barbara Daniels	<b>8</b> b.d. Paula Martin	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> b.d. Audrey Yoder, Lulu Anderson. canceled--12 Noon Women's Fellowship	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>																																																																																																															
<b>13</b> During the COVID-19 pandemic, online weekly Worship Services are available <a href="http://www.smyrna-ucc.org/sermons">www.smyrna-ucc.org/sermons</a> Virtual Coffee Hour Please join us on Zoom (or by phone) for a virtual coffee hour each Sunday at 11:30 pm. Watch for the internet link or the phone number in your e-mail each week.	<b>14</b> 7 pm AA/AO	<b>15</b> 1:30 Diaconate mtg 6 pm Staff/Panish 7 pm Church Council b.d. Ann Clites	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Wedding Ann: Virgil & Christine Foster	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> b.d. Laura Yoder																																																																																																															
<b>20</b> b.d. Paul R. Yoder, Mary Ashton During the COVID-19 pandemic, online weekly Worship Services are available <a href="http://www.smyrna-ucc.org/sermons">www.smyrna-ucc.org/sermons</a> Virtual Coffee Hour Please join us on Zoom (or by phone) for a virtual coffee hour each Sunday at 11:30 pm. Watch for the internet link or the phone number in your e-mail each week.	<b>21</b> 7 pm AA/AO b.d. Josette Waitman	<b>22</b> Wedding Ann: Joe & Josette Waitman	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> b.d. Angela Baker canceled--12 Noon Women's Fellowship	<b>25</b> b.d. Ken Schriever Central Pacific Conference Virtual Gathering	<b>26</b> Central Pacific Conference Virtual Gathering Wedding Ann: Sandra & John Mahar																																																																																																															
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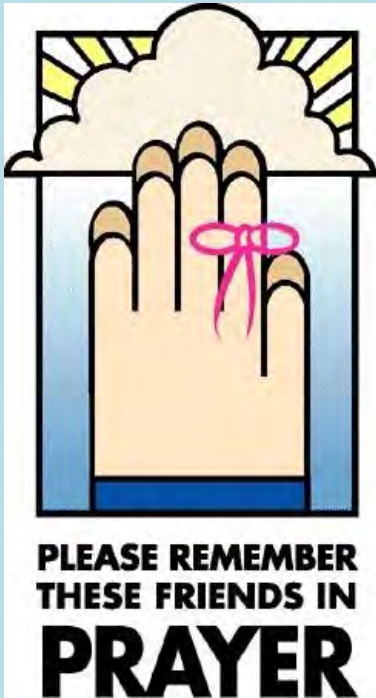


No matter who you are,  
or where you are on life's  
journey, we welcome  
you.

# SMYRNA



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST  
a just world for all



- The family of Mary and Bill Bickers on the passing of their son, Jimmy
- Imani Robinson, for healing following surgery to repair a sports injury
- Paulette Eyman on the passing of close friends due to COVID-19
- Terri Milliren and Lone Jensen for health concerns
- students going back to school on-line and their teachers and families
- and everyone as we go through this pandemic together.

*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 Carly Itami.*

## 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.