

BEHOLD!! SMYRNA

December 2020



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Dear Smyrna Friends,

Advent is here! A new church year! A season of waiting, of darkness, of waiting for the light, for a miracle, for newness of life.

This is really a year that we can use some of those things, isn't it? Often the Advent Season is filled with holiday parties, and gatherings with family and friends. It is filled with special programs at church, school, and in the community. But this year, most of those things are going to be very scaled back if they happen.

This is really a season of waiting....for a vaccine, for the threat of the pandemic to wane, for a return to some sense of normalcy. Honestly, I've never felt such kinship with Mary and Joseph on the road to the unknown in Bethlehem as I feel this year. Now imagine being pregnant, and poor, and under foreign occupation.

**"So, come, oh come, Emmanuel, that mourns in lonely exile here...
O come, O Wisdom from on high, and order all things far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge show, and help us in that way to go....
O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by your advent here;
Love stir within the womb of night, and death's own shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel."**

This 18th century hymn, based on a medieval Advent hymn, reminds us that century after century, people have gone through dark and difficult times. **We are not alone. Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to us, as well."**

May peace, love, hope and joy be with you all this Advent season, and always.

Pastor Deb

Ministers: All members of the church

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Mission and Outreach:

The total that was sent to Quilts for Empowerment was \$1067.48. Our donation enabled them to qualify for a matching grant that brought their fundraising to \$30,000.

Children for Change and the coffee fund continues to support the Molalla Service Center and the Canby Food Bank. A thousand dollars was sent for Thanksgiving and another thousand dollars will be sent before Christmas.

We received a request for help from the Molalla Warming Center. This year they have moved to the Nazarene Church gym where **they have access to showers. Women's Fellowship has sent \$100. for shower gel, shampoo, and other supplies.**

\$308.25 was sent to the UCC for Oregon Fire Relief.

We encourage you to support the Reverse Advent Calendar. If you are unable to fill a box, consider making a \$25.00 donation instead. These boxes can be dropped off at the church after Christmas and they will be delivered to the Service Center in Molalla.

Thank you.

Donate Hygiene Items



Donations for the Molalla Service Center -- nonperishable food, toilet paper, hygiene items -- can be left in the Narthex. Paulette will collect them every couple weeks and deliver them to the Service Center.



Just Peace Church Committee

I'm excited to announce that we have six folks who have agreed to serve on the Just Peace Church Committee to explore this concept and designation further.

Those who have agreed to serve are:

Sheila Daniels, Levonne Gano, Ann Clites, Larry Sumpter, Carl Menkel, and Steve Patterson.

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX.
ON CHRISTMAS EVE DONATE THE CONTENTS TO A
FOOD BANK.

- December 1 - box of cereal
- December 2 - peanut butter
- December 3 - stuffing mix
- December 4 - boxed potatoes
- December 5 - macaroni and cheese
- December 6 - canned fruit
- December 7 - canned tomatoes
- December 8 - canned tuna
- December 9 - dessert mix
- December 10 - jar of applesauce
- December 11 - canned sweet potatoes
- December 12 - cranberry sauce
- December 13 - canned beans
- December 14 - box of crackers
- December 15 - package of rice
- December 16 - package of oatmeal
- December 17 - package pasta
- December 18 - spaghetti sauce
- December 19 - chicken noodle soup
- December 20 - tomato soup
- December 21 - can corn
- December 22 - can mixed vegetables
- December 23 - can carrots
- December 24 - can green beans

PASSIONATEPENNYPINCHER.COM

Answers: Bethlehem (G), angel (O), manger (D), donkey (S), Mary (G), Joseph (I), Jesus (F), wise men (O), (T), shepherds (O), camel (F), star (L), census (O), sheep (V), inn (E), God's gift of love

A Note of Thanks

Thank you to the Nominating Committee: Ginger Redlinger, Mary Ashton, Barbara Menkel, and Lisa Havre who worked with me to help identify folks who might be willing to fill open positions on the various board and committees of our congregation. Thanks to Joel Daniels for providing a summary of all the open positions, as well. And a special note of thanks to all who are willing to serve!



Puzzle!

Unscramble the Christmas-themed words below, writing each extra letter on the blank to the right. Then place those extra letters in the correct spots below to discover what we receive at Christmas.



1. TGLBEHHEME _____
2. NEAGLO _____
3. NRMEDAG _____
4. ODEKSNY _____
5. AMGYR _____
6. OHESJIP _____
7. EFJUSS _____
8. ITEENMSW _____
9. SPHDSREEO _____
10. EMCFAL _____
11. TLSRA _____
12. CSSNUEO _____
13. HEVSPE _____
14. ENIN _____

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The Health Committee:
Jane Dahl, Pastor Deb, Ione Jenson,
Mary Ashton, Lois Johnson, and
Christine Foster
 are hereby announcing
 their candidacy for **re-election**
 for 2021 Smyrna Church Health
 Committee

Please reelect us -
we love it here!!!

Smyrna Support during Covid



Smyrna folks are to be congratulated for stepping forward and continuing to support the church during these difficult times when we're not able to meet in person.

Financially, we are maintaining a positive cashflow and have been pleased to be able to continue giving to the wider community. Thank you all so much.

When you send checks to Irene, Smyrna's treasurer, please make them payable to Smyrna UCC.

I am at the church several times a week and can report that everything is in good shape. The cleaning service comes regularly and the carpets received an overdue cleaning. Paul Burkert has done an outstanding job with the leaves.

We just hope that we can return in person in the next few months.

Joel Daniels

DO NOT FEAR.... READ PSALMS

Do you turn to a favorite psalm or Bible passage for comfort during uncertain or fearful times?
Please share it — submit for the Behold or share on Facebook.

Psalm 121

*I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.
My help cometh from the Lord which made heaven and earth.
He will not suffer thy foot to be moved; he that keepeth thee will not slumber.
Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.
The Lord is thy keeper: the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand.
The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night.
The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul.
The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.*
King James version

Advent Series



Please join us each Tuesday evening at 7 pm during Advent for a conversation using the resource, "Christmas is Not Your Birthday" by Mike Slaughter and published by Abingdon Press. You do not need to purchase the book to participate.

We will start during virtual coffee hour on Sunday, November 29 with a session led by John Mason, and the Tuesday evenings will be led by Pastor Deb, Barbara Daniels, Dave Clites, with the last session led by John Mason, as well. Please watch HeartLine for a Zoom link to join in these Advent conversations.

Christmas Service

We will be preparing our Christmas Eve service virtually this year and sending it out in time for you to watch on Christmas Eve (or Christmas Day if you prefer).

Thank you to Tom Daniels for his work compiling the services, and thank you to all who have helped, and are willing to help, put together these services.



Christmas Fund



The "Christmas Fund." This fund, which used to be called, "Veterans of the Cross," has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the UCC for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities, and small Christmas "thank you" gift checks each December to lower-income retirees.

Over the last nine months, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the emergency financial needs of many who serve the UCC have increased dramatically.

In such a time as this, the need for the Christmas Fund is more urgent than ever. UCC congregations and members have blessed the Christmas Fund with their generosity for many years. This year, your care and compassion will be especially appreciated by those servants of the church who are facing a time of need. We will be receiving a special offering during December for this, and we just wanted to bring it to your attention. Thank you for the many ways you support the ministries of our congregation in our local communities, across the denomination, and around the world!

December 2020 at Smyrna

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																								
<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">Nov 2020</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>		Nov 2020							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						<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;"><i>1</i></p> <p>7 pm Advent Series "Christmas is Not Your Birthday" via Zoom link</p> <p>b.d. Ruby Becker, Julia Peterson</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;"><i>2</i></p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;"><i>3</i></p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;"><i>4</i></p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;"><i>5</i></p>							
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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

Please remember all who live alone, those who have health concerns, particularly:

- ◆ Sandra Mahar
- ◆ Paul Burkert
- ◆ **Angie Maurer's brother, Tim**
- ◆ Donna Yenne, her aunts Dee and Dot,
- ◆ and those who are facing other challenges.

We pray for Terri Milliren's loved ones, and for the family of Dan O'Rear (Michael O'Rear's brother.) Let us hold each other in prayer, and give thanks for this Christian fellowship.



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.