

BEHOLD!! SMYRNA

December 2021



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Dear Smyrna Friends,

As we enter this season of Advent, it is a good time to reflect that Advent itself is a season of blessing, not just a time to do our Christmas shopping and listen to Bing Crosby sing about sleigh bells. During these days which grow ever shorter, and nights which grow ever longer (at least until the 21st of this month), **it's a good time to think about what truly gives us joy, and hope, and peace. It's a good time to give thanks for the miracle of love, which never ends.**

For these things we light the Advent candles, all four, before we light, on Christmas, the Christ candle, which signifies that divine light which has come into the world to bring hope, and joy, and peace and love to us all. Thank you to Jane Dahl for the article elsewhere here in Behold describing the meaning of the colors of the Advent candles.

As we enter this season of Advent, it is also a time for me to reflect on how much I have loved and appreciated being pastor here at Smyrna these past eight years, and how much I shall miss you after my last Sunday with you on January 2nd. I pray for you peace, hope, love, and joy, as you welcome an interim pastor and then a new settled pastor. Remember, at Smyrna we are ALL ministers, and I have peace, hope, and joy knowing that your many ministries will continue in love.

I am grateful.

Many blessings,
Pastor Deb

Special Music –

Thank you to the Ukulele Group, who will be playing special music during the worship service on December 19th as part of the Christmas pageant.

Thanks also to Kathy Robinson for playing the piano when Joel Daniels was out of town, and thank you to Joel Daniels, **Christine Foster and Michael O'Rear for providing music on other Sundays!**



Our Christmas Pageant this year will take place on Sunday, December 19th during Worship. It will be a **Reader's Theatre**, including speaking and

non-speaking parts for all ages. We will learn and practice the program during the Adult Ed time at 10:00 am to get ready for the 11:00 am service. All are invited and welcome!



Ministers: All members of the church

Minister: The Rev. Dr. Deborah Patterson

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

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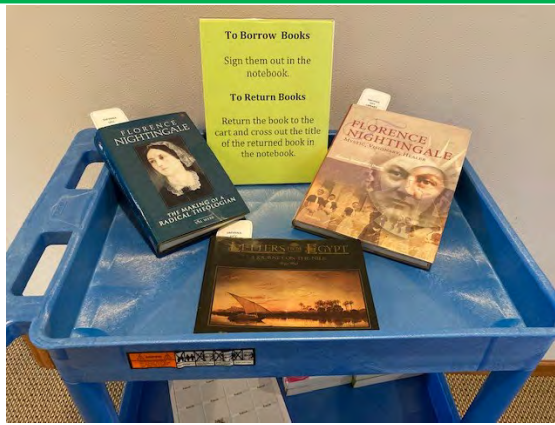
Website: www.smyrna-ucc.org

31119 S. Highway 170, Canby, OR 97013

Church Library Shelf

Pastor Deb recently presented an Adult Ed class on Florence Nightingale and recommended three books for reading more about Nightingale's interest in social activism and spiritual mysticism.

All three titles are now available in the church library. They will be the featured books on the Smyrna's blue library cart parked in the entryway on Sunday mornings.



Florence Nightingale: Mystic Visionary, Healer by Barbara Montgomery Dossey. Springhouse Corp., 2000. Filled with illustrations and photos that enhance an in-depth biography.

Letters From Egypt: A Journey on the Nile 1849-50 by Florence Nightingale. Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 1987. Letters were selected and the introduction written by Anthony Sattin. Illustrated with paintings and sketches of Egypt from the period in which Nightingale travelled there.

Florence Nightingale: The Making of a Radical Theologian by Val Webb. Chalice Press, 2002. No illustrations are in this book but it gives an in-depth picture of a spiritual quest

Adult Education Classes –

Join us each Sunday at 10 am when we meet in the Friendship House for Adult Education.

Here are the classes in December:

- December 5: Celebrating Advent
- December 12: A Look at the Gospel of John
- December 19: Christmas Pageant
- December 26: No class

Hark, How the Bells!

Kristin Wishon is returning to Smyrna to begin working with the bells again to play for the Christmas season (and beyond).

If you are interested, please stay for practice after church during Advent.



The 3 Main Advent Colors Are Full of Meaning

If you've ever noticed that advent candle colors come in three main shades, you might have wondered why that is.

Each of these candle colors – purple, pink, and white – represents a specific element of spiritual preparation that believers undergo leading up to the celebration of Christmas.

The purpose of the season of Advent is to prepare one's heart for the coming of Christ at Christmas.

During these four weeks, an Advent wreath adorned with five candles is traditionally used to symbolize different spiritual aspects of getting ready.

The three Advent candle colors – purple, pink, and white symbolically represent the spiritual preparation that believers undergo to prepare their hearts for the birth (or coming) of the Lord, Jesus Christ.

The Advent wreath, typically a circular garland of evergreen branches is a symbol of eternity and unending love.

Purple (or violet) symbolizes repentance and fasting. Purple is also the color of royalty and the sovereignty of Christ. So, purple demonstrates the anticipation of and reception of the coming King celebrated during Advent

The first candle of the Advent wreath, the prophecy candle, or candle of hope, is purple. The second is called the Bethlehem candle, or the candle of preparation, and it is also purple. The fourth Advent candle is also purple, and is called the angel candle, or the candle of love.

Pink represents joy or rejoicing and reveals a shift in the season of Advent away from repentance and toward celebration. The third Advent candle is pink. It is named the shepherd candle or candle of joy

White is the Advent candle representing purity, light, regeneration, and godliness. White is also a symbol of victory. Jesus Christ is the sinless, spotless, pure Savior. He is the light come into a dark and dying world. He is often depicted in the Bible wearing radiant, intensely white robes, like snow or pure wool, and shining with the brightest of light. The Christ candle is the last of fifth Advent candle, positioned in the center of the wreath.

This Advent candle's color is white.

Women's Fellowship Bazaar

Continues

The Women's Fellowship Fall Online Bazaar began on Saturday November 27, 2021 and runs through Monday December 13, 2021. Do your Christmas shopping from the comfort of your own home!



New items are being added, it's not too late to donate soft goods like knitted/sewn pieces, edible items (for example: baked goods, preserves), handicrafts and similar products like we've sold in the past.

We will need a photo of the item, a description, a price, size, and any additional relevant information. These can be sent to this e-mail address: smyrnaucc.service@gmail.com

Calling All Book Lovers!

Would you be interested in joining an online book discussion group? **Books for discussion will be selected from participants' suggestions by lottery.** An idea for organizing the group in the midst of CoVid as well as being a low-pressure option is to start a private Facebook Group conversation. Questions can be posed and answered at the participant's convenience.

If you'd like to take part in or help organize the discussion group, email Audrey Yoder (yoderstore@canby.com) or Ann Clites (ann.clites@verizon.net)



Mission and Outreach

At the Church Council Meeting, it was voted to send \$500 each to the Canby & Molalla food banks, and another \$500 each for Christmas as we have done in previous years.

Good news from our November Children for Change effort, "Fill a Stocking, Fill a Heart." We have delivered 83 stockings made by women in the church, a check for \$400, and some things to fill those stockings. More will be delivered early next month. The stockings go to various agencies in Clackamas County to be distributed to those in need.



Paulette continues to take food items to the Molalla Service Center, and our container is over half full. Easy to prepare dinners and toilet tissue are still being requested. As winter approaches, continue to bring items to the church.

In October we completed a successful campaign to assist the Quilts for Empowerment organization. We helped them to meet their matching challenge grant. In early November we had the opportunity to speak via zoom with Norah Otondo in Kenya during the adult education time. The children sang "Count Your Blessings," to our delight.

During December we will join with UCC churches across the nation to support the Christmas Fund. For over 100 years, its goal has been to provide emergency grants, to supplement small annuities, to help pay health premiums, and to send thank you gift checks to lower income retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ.

We are thankful that you are so generous in supporting all

John Nilsen Christmas Concert –

Please stay following worship on Sunday, December 19th for a special Christmas Concert by pianist John Nilsen. (See flyer elsewhere in the Behold and at the church). The concert is free, and a freewill offering will be received.

Ukulele Classes –

Ukulele classes have resumed on Thursdays at 11:00 am. Here is a great opportunity to take part in an engaging social activity and to learn a new skill, in a covid-safe way! There are still a few openings for anyone interested in joining. Contact Jane Dahl for more information.

Upcoming Deadlines for the Behold and the 2021 Annual Report:
Because of Christmas, please submit your Behold articles by December 15th. Annual Report submissions are due by January 5, 2022. Thank you!



We continue to pause on Coffee Hour for a time due to the indoor mask mandate triggered by the delta variant of COVID-19. Please stay tuned.

Award Winning Oregon Pianist In Worship

JOHN NILSEN



Smyrna United Church of Christ
31119 S Hwy. 170, Canby
Sun., Dec. 19, 12:30 pm

“The musicianship is flawless.” - **Keyboard Magazine**

WALK TO BETHLEHEM

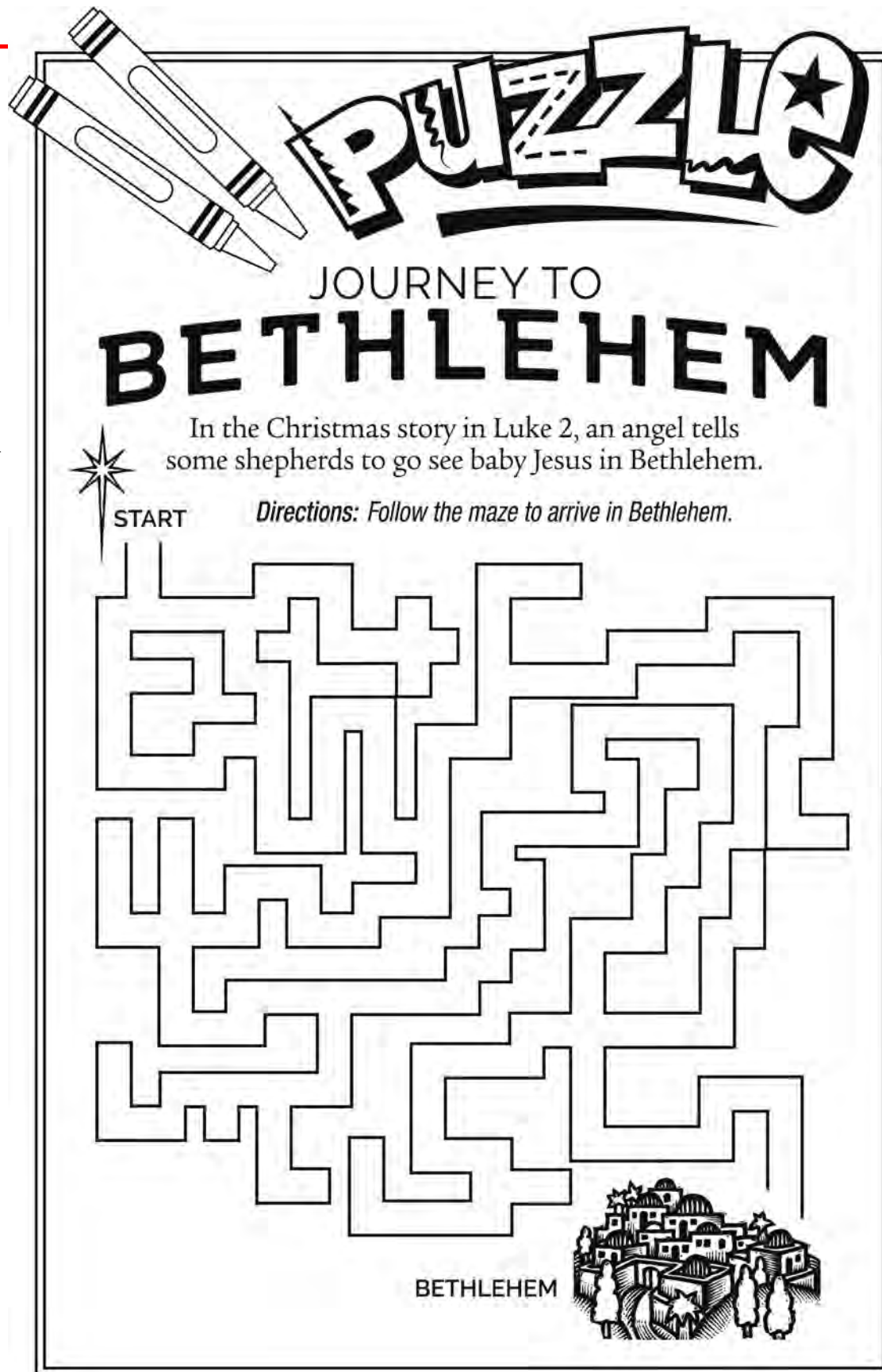
Advent is the start, the arrival, the dawn of a journey that leads us not only to the manger where we find the Christ-child, but to a new understanding of our relationship to the world and to one another as people of faith. Advent is a journey in which the traveling is as full of lessons as the destination. As such, the season is a journey of faith.

An enduring traditional image of the Christmas story for me is Mary sitting on her donkey being led by Joseph who is walking. Walking was as integral to the lives of Mary, Joseph and later Jesus as cars are to us. I am drawn to the discipline of walking as a way to connect Scripture to our lives in a tangible way.

As this is a journey, I hope you will consider walking daily as a symbolic discipline of your Advent journey.

Every week will begin with a psalm and the opportunity to **set a "movement goal" or a reasonable physical challenge** for yourself. There will be short **daily devotions in each week's** bulletin to meditate on while on this journey. Your movement goal may be walking or running miles, taking more steps each

day, going for a daily walk, wearing a pedometer to count the distance you walk each day, sit and be fit class, water aerobics, virtual exercise class, or even housework! 15 minutes of any exercise counts as one mile. We have 6,937 miles from Canby to Bethlehem. We will track our total miles accomplished each week starting the first Sunday in Advent (November 28). Each week during announcements in the service we will announce our progress. If we all work together we can accomplish this!



HOW TO STAY IN CONTACT WITH OTHERS IN AN EMERGENCY

BEFORE A DISASTER: How to prepare your home and mobile device

1. Maintain a list of emergency phone numbers in your cell phone and on or near your home phone.
2. Keep your cell phone close by and charged at all times (you never know when an emergency may strike)
3. Keep charged batteries and car-phone chargers available for back-up power for your cell phones. Consider buying a non electric charger in case of long power outages – charging pacs come solar, electric, and manual winding chargers (these take A LOT of effort!). These are all good for multiple charges
4. If you have a traditional landline (non-broadband or VOIP) phone, keep at least one non-cordless phone in your home because it will work even if you lose power.
5. Prepare a family contact sheet. This should include at least one out-of-town contact that may be better able to reach family members in an emergency.
6. **Program “in case of emergency” (ICE) contacts into your cell phone** so emergency personnel can contact those people for you if you are unable to use your phone. Let your ICE contacts know that they are programmed into your phone And inform them of Any medical issues or other special needs you may have.
7. If you are evacuated and have call-forwarding on your home phone, forward your home phone number to your cell phone number.
8. If you do not have a cell phone, keep a prepaid phone card to use if needed during or after a disaster
9. Have a battery-powered radio or television available (with spare batteries).
10. Subscribe to text alert services from local or state governments to receive alerts in the event of a disaster. Parents should sign up for their school district emergency alert system.
11. In a disaster, your most immediate source of help is the neighbors around you. Consider creating a disaster plan with your neighbors. A comprehensive guide for creating this is the Map Your Neighborhood (MYN) guide in the top slot of literature display at Smryna — across from the entry door.

I burned 2000 calories today and tested the smoke alarm — I left my food in the oven too long.


During and After a Disaster; How to Reach Friends, Loved ones and Emergency Services

1. If you have a life-threatening emergency, call 911. Remember you cannot currently text 911. If you are not experiencing an emergency, do not call 911. If your area offers 311 service or another information system, call that number for non-emergencies
2. For non-emergency communications, use text messaging, e-mail, or social media instead of making voice call on your cell phone to avoid tying up voice networks. In addition to Facebook and Twitter, you can use resources such as the **American Red Cross’s Safe and Well program.**
3. Keep all phone calls brief. If you need to use a phone, try to convey only vital information to emergency personnel and/or family.
4. If you are unsuccessful in completing a call using your cell phone, wait ten seconds before redialing to help reduce network congestion
5. Conserve your cell phone battery by reducing the brightness of your screen, placing your phone in airplane mode, and closing apps you are not using that draw power, unless you need to use the phone.
6. If you lose power, you can charge your cell phone in your car, just be sure your car is in a well ventilated place (remove it from the garage) and do not go to your car until any danger has passed. You can also listen to your car radio for important news alerts.
7. If you do not have a hands-free device in your car, stop driving or pull over to the side of the road before making a call. **Do not text on a cell phone, talk, or “tweet” without a hands free device while driving.**
8. Immediately following a disaster, resist using your mobile device to watch streaming videos, or play video games, all of which can add to network congestion. Limiting use of these services can help potentially life-saving emergency calls get through to 911



Keep a GO bag under the bed on your side. Easy to grab in case you need to evacuate quickly at night. Be sure it includes all needed medications and a pair of hard soled, enclosed shoes in case you need to navigate through broken glass.

December 2021 at Smyrna

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																												
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<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">19</p> <p>10 am Adult Education: Christmas Pageant Practice 11 am Worship: Christmas Pageant 12:30 Christmas Concert by John Nilsen</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">20</p> <p>7 pm AA/AO</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">21</p> <p>1:30 pm Diaconate meeting 7 pm Church Council b.d. Kevin Yoder</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">22</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; color: purple;">Winter begins</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">23</p> <p>b.d. Emma Blatchford</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">24</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">25</p> <p style="color: green;"><i>Christmas Day</i></p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>																																																																																												
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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 hold these Smyrna friends in prayer:

- David Schriever
- Lone Jenson
- Jo Algiers
- Katherine Holt and her grandson, Barak
- Virginia Yoder
- Dan and Beryl Fisher, their daughter Kara
- and others who are in our thoughts and prayers.



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.