

# BEHOLD!! SMYRNA

January 2022



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

*Dear Smyrna Friends,*

Do you remember what you were doing on the first day of the new millennium, January 1, 2000? I remember that it was a rather mild day in St. Louis that New Year's Day, and we went outside for awhile to play in the back yard with John and Sophia, who were 3 and 4 at the time. I distinctly remember one particular moment of us with them on a play structure, thinking that the years ahead would go quickly. And they have. Time passes so quickly.

The same is true for the time I have spent at Smyrna. During this time, many of the young people who were in Confirmation classes have graduated from high school and are in college. New babies were born. More than two dozen people died, and nearly three dozen people joined the church. We have been together for worship, for Women's Fellowship Luncheons, for Memory Café, and Coffee and Friends, and Adult Education. The eight years since the fall of 2013 when I started at Smyrna have flown by.

I shall miss you, far more than you will ever know. I shall hold you in prayer and in my heart. And I shall rejoice with you and for you when you call a new settled pastor to serve with you as part of the wonderful community of faith that Smyrna is. In the meantime, you will be in good hands with an interim pastor who is prepared to lead in the coming months until the next search and call process (or "search and rescue" as I have heard it called) is completed.

Journeys of faith always include transitions. They also include searching, and transitions, and blessings. Whether gathered or scattered, the church continues on the journey of following Christ, and that we will always be doing together. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your pastor these last eight years.

Many blessings  
Pastor Deb

Ministers: All members of the church

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## Mission and Outreach

In November, these amounts were given for mission projects:

- ⇒ Food Banks in Molalla and Canby \$1000.
- ⇒ Quilts for Empowerment—\$768.58
- ⇒ Afghan Relief: \$1,202.00
- ⇒ Fill a Stocking-Fill a Heart: \$678.04

I am also pleased to report that 152 Stockings were made plus a large assortment of items were donated to help fill those stockings.

In January, Children for Change will go to Heifer International. Your gifts will transform struggling parents into successful business owners, enabling them to earn a steady income, feed their families nutritious food, and send their children to school so they can have the bright futures they deserve.

Heifer is committed to long-term help and training, so farmers can provide for their families every day, in good times or bad. Beginning just after World

War II, our church has been involved with Heifer since Paul Burkert Sr. made a donation of an actual cow for the cause. For more information go to Heifer.org



Setting an example for the community, Smyrna continues monthly to contribute items to the Molalla Food Bank. Paulette Eyman delivers this, plus she makes the monthly trip into Portland to pick up donated pet food.

Thank you to everyone for being so generous in supporting all these causes.

-Elaine-



## Smile.Amazon

If you shop online using Amazon, be sure to use Smile.Amazon.com. You can sign in with your Amazon password. If you have not chosen a charity, you will be asked to do so. If you want to support Smyrna, enter the full name Smyrna United Church of Christ. You can support any other charity that has registered.

After you have done that once, just remember to add the **“smile.” to your sign in, and it will be automatic.** When you submit your order, it will tell you how many times you have supported the church and how much the church received. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, Smyrna received \$15.84 for a total of \$162.15 since we joined. Amazon has contributed over \$286 million to charities in the U.S. and over \$320 million worldwide. **We’re not recommending you use Amazon, but if you do....**

## Book Discussion Group to start in January

Questions inquiring Smyrna readers have asked....

What kind of books will you be reading? Fiction? Nonfiction? **The answer is “yes!” The books read will be chosen from suggestions from the group.** Jump in and send your suggestions to Audrey Yoder ([yoderstore@canby.com](mailto:yoderstore@canby.com)) by January 15<sup>th</sup>.

How are you going to meet? Right now, the options are setting up a private Facebook group or using email.

**There’s no long-term commitment.** If you love to read and enjoy sharing good books, email :

Audrey ([yoderstore@canby.com](mailto:yoderstore@canby.com)) or Ann Clites ([ann.clites@verizon.net](mailto:ann.clites@verizon.net))

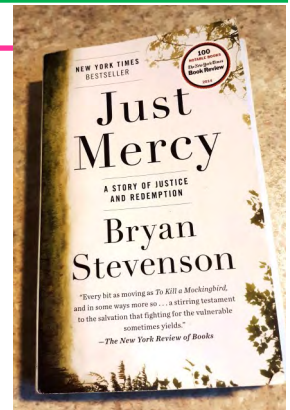
**and tell us: Do you prefer using Facebook or email? What’s the name of a book or two that you’ve read and enjoyed or have on your list to read?**

## Church Library Shelf

Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson. Spiegel & Grau, 2014.

Bryan Stevenson writes about his uphill efforts as a young lawyer to help Walter McMillian. Mr. McMillian has been sentenced to die for a notorious murder he didn’t . This book is a “page-turner” and reminiscent of John Grisham’s legal thrillers. Seeking justice for the wrongly accused has become Stevenson’s life work and led to his founding of The Equal Justice Initiative ([www.eji.org](http://www.eji.org)). Just Mercy is a compelling argument for “the redeeming potential of mercy”, especially for “people trapped in the furthest reaches of our criminal justice system.”

(quotes are taken from the bookcover synopsis)



After January 2nd, and while the Search Committee works to find a settled minister for Smyrna, these preachers will grace our pulpit:

- January 9<sup>th</sup> – Rev. Cat Allard
- January 16<sup>th</sup> – Rev. Dr. Karen Wood Chaplain Emeritus, Willamette University
- January 23<sup>rd</sup> – Rev. Tyler Connolly, CPC Conference Minister

## Preparing for a Power Outage

During last winter's ice storm and power outage, I discovered that I was ill prepared for an outage lasting more than a few hours. I had no heat, no generator, no non-electric stove, and no internet service. I had a cordless phone which went dead relatively quickly. I had a cell phone with no non-electric means of charging it. I had cell phone numbers for relatives but not neighbors, and the ice-covered sidewalks made it hazardous to walk to a neighbor's house to check on them.

I also discovered that my community was ill prepared for a prolonged power outage. There were no warming centers (the inverse of cooling centers in heat waves). There were no community kitchens serving hot food for those who needed it, or at least there was no way of finding them (if they existed) without internet service. There were no generators in some retirement communities, or in some cases there were generators which were inadequate to heat the entire facility. There were no trucks clearing ice off the streets. There were workers clearing downed trees and downed power lines, but it took days and sometimes weeks to restore power to all affected residents.

Some of my neighbors went to stay with relatives living nearby who had power or generators. Some had relatives who tried and failed to reach them due to impassable roads. Some

had propane grills and were able to have hot food and water. A few had generators. Most of us huddled under the heaviest blankets we could find, dressed in the warmest clothes we could find, and ate cold food out of the refrigerator or the cupboards. In my community, the power came back on before the temperature reached freezing level inside our houses. In other places the outage went on for about two weeks, long enough to prove deadly for anyone who was unable to leave or unprepared for emergency survival.

In the event of another winter power outage, all of us would be wise to be better prepared in advance. There are many sources

of information about emergency preparedness, including but not limited to the American Red Cross and FEMA. There are places to buy pre-assemble emergency kits (the Red Cross or Amazon, for instance) or individual survival items to fit your own needs.

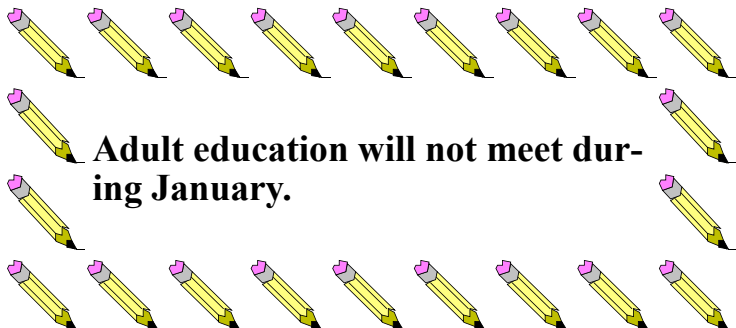
Suggestions for supplies for a basic power outage survival kit vary, but some common items include the following:

- emergency water pouches or bottles
- high-calorie food bars or other non-perishable food that is easy to prepare
- manual can openers
- body warmers, emergency blankets, and/or sleeping bags
- rain ponchos
- tube tents
- flashlights, extra batteries, headlamps, and/or lanterns
- whistle
- emergency supply of prescription medication and OTC medication you may need
- emergency supply of cash
- moist towelettes, garbage bags, and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- a plastic tub or backpack to keep these things together

For a longer term power outage, you may include the following:

- power banks, car chargers, or solar chargers for phones and other devices
- outdoor grill or camp stove
- two-week supply of food and water
- important personal documents
- coolers to store food from your refrigerator and refrigerator
- water purification tablets or filters
- Yaktrax (traction devices to fit on your shoes to walk more safely on icy streets)

Perhaps a good idea would be to form a neighborhood group similar to the neighborhood watch, but focused on community emergencies rather than crime. If neighbors know each other, and know what they all have to offer in time of need, they can pool their resources and help each other survive a disaster of whatever kind.



**Adult education will not meet during January.**

## Preparedness tip of the month — CAR

Always try to maintain at least ½ a tank of gas in case emergency strikes.

Things to keep in your trunk: Flares, flashlight, space blankets, **Small fire extinguisher, water ( in a metal thermos) don't forget** to freshen routinely, some sort of food – sealed trail mix packs, etc ( Pastor Deb recommends chocolate!)

Annual Reports needed:  
Deadline January 5, 2022

**Pastor's Report**

Search and Call Committee  
Trustees

**Moderator's Report**

Staff-Parish Committee  
Board of Christian Education & Christian Nurture

Scholarship Report  
Earth Care Committee

Diaconate Report  
Board of Mission and Outreach

Library Committee  
Technology Committee

**Women's Fellowship Report**

Fund-Raising Dates for 2021  
Camp Adams

Officers and Members of Boards and Committees  
Health Committee

Memorial Committee  
Heartline

Building Use Report

**Clerk's Report**

Grounds Committee  
Cemetery Report

Camp Adams

Treasurer Report — separate from annual

Coffee Hour Volunteers — please sign up

Flower Volunteers — please sign up



*Dear Congregants of Smyrna United Church of Christ:*

Quilts for Empowerment (QFE) received your exceptionally generous donation of \$760.58. Our teams in the US and Kenya, and our amazingly resilient fistula survivors and young survivors of gender-based violence, are deeply grateful.

Smyrna has been a steadfast partner in our work to empower women and girls in Kenya. We could not do our work without the support of community members like yours.

We invite you to follow our progress on [www.quiltsforempowerment.org](http://www.quiltsforempowerment.org). next year, we hope to begin construction on our Community Resource Center that will enable us to increase our capacity to house and educate young survivors of violence and become a community resource to prevent gender-based violence.

On behalf of all of us at QFE, thank you so very much. With warmest wishes and blessings.



Mary Ann McCammon  
Founder and President

**Summer Camping at Camp Adams 2022**

Camp Adams will be working closely with our leadership team and the Oregon Health Authority, to develop policies and procedures to protect the health and wellbeing of our community as we gather in person this summer on site.

Registration will open January 15, 2022, and close June 5, 2022.

More information can be found at: [campadams.org](http://campadams.org)

The week long summer camps are age graded:


- Taller and Smaller for youth who have completed K-Third grade and an important adult in their lives. Three days, July 5-8, 2022
- Genesis /Seekers for kids who have completed grades second-fourth. August 7-12, 2022
- Discoverers for kids who have completed grades fifth-sixth. July 31-August 5, 2022
- Sojourners for kids who have completed grades seventh-eighth. July 24-29, 2022
- Exodus for teens who have completed grades 9th-12th July 10-16, 2022

Smyrna Women's Fellowship will have scholarships available. Watch for more details.





# January 2022 at Smyrna

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <caption>Dec 2021</caption> <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>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <caption>Feb 2022</caption> <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>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td></td><td></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					<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">1</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em;">Happy New Year!!</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 hold these Smyrna friends in prayer:**

- David Schriever
- Ione Jenson
- Jo Algiers
- Katherine Holt and her grandson, Barak
- Virginia Yoder
- Dan and Beryl Fisher
- their daughter Kara
- Lois Johnson
- Pat Bullard
- the Mahar and Stierle families,
- 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.