

BEHOLD!! SMYRNA

May 2022



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Dear Smyrna Friends,

During one valley-of-despair time in my life, a wise friend or mentor (I can't remember who!) promised me that everything would be different "a year from now." I'm sure she didn't say "everything" – this was so long ago I can't remember her exact words anymore! Nevertheless, the *wisdom* in what she shared has carried me through many other challenging and uncertain times since I first heard that promise. I continue to marvel at the difference a year makes. Notably, the promise wasn't that everything would be *better* necessarily – just that there would be movement (*change*) within me, within the world, within my relationships, etc. etc. etc.

Out of curiosity, I looked back to what I'd written for last year's May newsletter (accessible on the Smyrna website, thanks to Tom!). I encourage you to read it and reflect on it / the difference a year makes.

The in-between time I was referring to in last year's article was specific to the pandemic. Though Smyrna UCC is in an *additional* kind of in-between time this Easter season, the comparison to what the disciples experienced in between the good (at first terrifying) news of Jesus' resurrection and the coming of the Holy Spirit "to clothe [the disciples] with power from on high" (Luke 24:49) still applies. We see in scripture that for the first disciples that in-between time was filled with fear, doubt, surprise, and blessing. So it was for the time of transition from sheltering-in-place to returning to worship in person, and so it is for the period of intentional interim ministry.

What fears, doubts, surprises, and blessings would you list for the past year? How does it feel to know that a year from now so much will be different? For example, if you're feeling impatient with the fact that we're still wearing masks when masks are optional in most other places, does it help to remember that a year ago we still hadn't even returned for outdoor worship yet, and that a year from now everything (or some things) will surely be different?

As a faith community we have the awesome resources of God, Spirit, scripture/story, prayer, the teachings of Jesus, our ancestors in faith, *and each other* to accompany us through all times; and in this time, to help us with the period of transition that bridges the gap between settled pastorates. Pastor Janet and I are grateful for the privilege of being your pastors during this time!

In the Lenten Devotional "A Grounded Faith: Reconnecting with Creator and Creation in the Season of Lent," Rev. Michael Ellick in his reflection for Easter Sunday acknowledged that when the risen Christ appears to Mary and other disciples, he's not recognized as Jesus. Michael says, "[I]t's as if, on some level, Jesus dies and then comes back as everybody so that everybody is now the Christ, everybody is now the savior, and everybody we meet—including ourselves—is God's infinite care incarnated in human form."

As we take our next steps in the journey of transition together, may we have this kind of regard for ourselves and each other – that we are all an expression of God's infinite care in human form.

Eastertide blessings,
Pastor Cat

Ministers: All members of the church

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Solar at Smyrna

Since we installed our solar panels last summer, this is what has been silently happening day in and day out. Instead of paying for kilowatts, we have generated enough to pay all our bill each month except for a \$20 charge for the meter required to monitor the kilowatts going back and forth into the system. Prior to July 2021, we were paying an average of \$141 each month.

The way it works is that first we use the kilowatts we need in real time. **At night when we're not generating anything, we use energy from PGE.** At the end of the month if we have generated more than we needed, the excess is banked. If we used more, we draw on the bank. In March, the banked amount is zeroed out for the year and anything we have not used is turned over to PGE. By law they are required to use it for low-income assistance programs. This spring we ended up with \$111 worth of unused energy and that will be turned over for those in need to apply for. **It's a win-win for us.** We are doing our part to save the planet by harnessing the sun and also helping a charitable endeavor.

As of April 6, our system has generated \$1,596.95 worth of energy which is the equivalent of planting 151 trees and saving 19,991.4 lbs. of CO2 emissions. On a bright sunny day like today, we are generating at maximum capacity since we are so near to the equinox when the panels are at the most advantageous angle. Although the panels degrade slightly each year, we should continue to reap benefits for many years to come.

Smyrna's Spring Days of Giving May 15, 2022

Contributions may be placed in the offering plate on May 15; sent (made payable to Smyrna UCC) to: Irene Schriever, 32914 S Kropf Rd, Molalla, OR 97038; or through the **online contributions service accessible on Smyrna's website:**

MAY WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

- ⇒ May 1 - Rev. Catherine Allard
- ⇒ May 8 - Rev. Catherine Allard
- ⇒ May 15 - Mental Health Sunday: Guest Preacher, Rev. Teresa Holloway-Nunn, member of Ainsworth UCC
- ⇒ May 22 - Rev. Dr. Janet Parker preaching, Rev. Catherine assisting
- ⇒ May 29 - Heritage Presentation Part 2: Joel Daniels; Cemetery tour after worship



Camp Adams Scholarships

Applications for the Camp Adams Scholarships provided by **Women's Fellowship are available in the Narthex.**

Camp Adams offers:

- Experienced and trained counselors and directors,
- Camp staff including nurses and life guards,
- Exciting curriculum focused on multiple forms of stewardship,
- Plenty of outdoor activities including swimming, games, hikes, and campfires,
- Whole foods (locally sourced as available) served family style
- An incomparable setting in a mature temperate rainforest of western Oregon.

Our week-long summer camps are age graded:

- **Taller and Smaller** - a three-day introductory experience for youth who have completed K- 3rd grade and an important adult in their lives. These camps are an age-appropriate length of only 3 days. July 5- 8, 2022 (\$120.00/camper or \$240.00 for each pair)
- **Genesis/Seekers** - for kids who have completed grades 2nd-4th. August 7- 12, 2022 (\$420.00)
- **Discoverers** - for kids who have completed grades 5th-6th. July 31- August 5, 2022 (\$420.00)
- **Sojourners** - for kids who have completed grades 7th-8th. July 24- 29, 2022 (\$420.00)
- **Exodus** - for teens who have completed grades 9th-12th. July 10- 16, 2022 (\$420.00)

For more information, visit Camp Adams' Summer Camp website: <http://campadams.org/youth-camps>

MAY MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

For more than 50 years May has been Mental Health Month, a **time to focus the nation's attention on promoting mental health** and improving access to treatment for people with mental illness. Here are ways to feel good each day this month!

1. Stretch.
2. Fly a kite.
3. Slow down.
4. Re-read a favorite book.
5. Hug someone.
6. Sing in the shower.
7. Plant a flower
8. Have breakfast in bed.
9. Let someone do you a favor.
10. Re-arrange a room.
11. Tell someone you appreciate them.
12. Consider your good points.
13. Watch the clouds
14. Feel the wind.

15. Acknowledge when you are wrong.
16. Refuse to worry for a day.
17. Invite a neighbor over.
18. Clean out your garage.
19. **Say 'no'.**
20. Make a surprise gift.
21. Listen to the night sounds.
22. Let the phone ring.
23. Learn something new.
24. Mend a quarrel.
25. Smile at your own reflection.
26. Tell someone a joke.
27. Tell someone how you feel.
28. Take a nap.
29. Whistle.
30. Dance.

For more help and support visit the Smyrna Website Resource pages. We have help for Mental Health, Military Mental Health, Grief Support, and Caregiver support. Help is available when needed!!!

LONELY? Medical issues? Need Help?

Please visit the Smyrna Resource page. **On Smyrna's website**, www.smyrna-ucc.org, just click the Resource tab



In the foyer of a church, a young boy was looking at a plaque with the names of men and women who had died in various wars.

He asked the pastor, "Who are these people?"

The pastor said, "Those are members from our church who died in the service."

The boy asked, "The early service or the second service?"



Thank you to:

- Jeannie Rogers for preparing the weekly bulletin and to Jeannie and Elaine Daniels for putting together the Behold each month.
- The Diaconate for their thoughtful consideration of member input in decision making about covid protocols.
- **Jane Dahl for leading "the trek to Jerusalem" during Lent with humor and creativity;** and to Jane and whomever else helped beautify the sanctuary with the Easter banners!
- Paul Yoder for recording the weekly service, to Paul Ashton for taking care of the sound, and to all who have served as scripture readers.
- Tom Daniels and Nancy Bryant for editing and publishing the Sunday worship service to our Youtube channel by Sunday evening each week, and for all the work they put into preparing and hosting our Maundy Thursday service.
- Joel Daniels and Christine Foster for their weekly contributions of music and singing, and to Adam Maurer who enhanced our Easter worship with his trumpet!
- Ann Clites for her work in organizing and displaying books in the church library and helping out Joel and the Pastors by looking into copyright permissions for the music we select for worship.
- All who responded **generously to the invitation to give to "Children for Change" on Easter Sunday,** and to Skyler for collecting the offering.
- Christian Nurture team for the bunny bags they made for pick-up at the church
- All who brought flowers to fill the floral cross on Easter Sunday. Thank you to Paul Yoder for setting up the cross before worship and taking care of it afterward; and to Mary Namit for taking and posting pictures of it in all its floral glory!
- Barb Daniels for securing pulpit supply when the pastors are away and for welcoming our guest preachers.

Tips for nominating people to serve on the Transition Team

You may be wondering what's happening with the new Transition Team that is being formed to guide the first part of the interim period. I'm so glad you asked! *The truth is that we have not yet received any nominations or volunteers, so the field is still open for both nominations AND volunteers.* We just need about 2-3 more people in addition to the three members of the Search Committee who will serve: Sheila Daniels, Barb Menkel, and Jane Dahl.

I encourage you to think prayerfully about whether you would be interested in serving in this role and/or whether you can think of one person in the congregation that you would like to nominate. **You don't have to worry about nominating someone who doesn't want to serve because the first thing we'd like you to do is to check with the person you wish to nominate to make sure they are willing to serve.** I've written up some tips to help you as you think about nominating someone (or volunteering yourself) for the Transition Team:



- 1) When considering people to nominate for Transition Team, keep in mind the criteria we put forth in the April Behold article:
 - A. Trusted and respected by the congregation
 - B. Prayerful and spiritually wise
 - C. Able to listen to all perspectivesRegular attender and contributor (with exceptions made for COVID and other factors that may have impeded participation recently).
A couple of members of the team need to be good writers.

As you consider who might be a good fit for the Transition Team, keep in mind that ideally it will be representative of the congregation in its diversity, including age, gender, sexual orientation, etc. plus a mix of long-term and short-term members and theological viewpoints.

- 2) *Please contact the person(s) you are nominating before the May Council meeting to see if they are willing to serve and to explain the following:*

*The Transition Team is composed of 5 or so members who will be selected by Council to lead the congregation in a process of information-gathering, reflection, and discernment around the three core questions of the interim period: Who are we? Who is our neighbor? Who is God calling us to become? The Transition Team will then write the Local Church Profile, which is the tool used during the search process to describe the church to potential pastor candidates. The Transition Team recommends when the congregation is ready to begin the formal search and call process led by the Search Committee.

*Not everyone who is nominated will be invited to serve on the Transition Team by the Council because the Council will seek to ensure good representation of the diverse constituencies of the congregation and so not all who are qualified and recommended will end up being selected to serve. Please know this is nothing personal and that we will look for other good ways to use your gifts if you are not selected to serve on the Transition Team!

*The Transition Team will likely serve from June through the end of 2022 and possibly beyond, depending on how quickly the process moves. It will meet weekly at times and involve more work than other committees and teams you have likely been on before unless you have served on a search committee in the past. But it will be a very rewarding experience because you get to have a **role in laying the groundwork for the congregation's future with a new pastor. And it will allow you to develop deeper relationships in and with the congregation.**

- 3) Finally, please email Moderator Rick Gano (rgano@canby.com) with the name of your nomination and tell him why you have nominated this person (eg. What qualities, gifts, or experiences led you to nominate this person).

Smyrna Scholarships Deadline

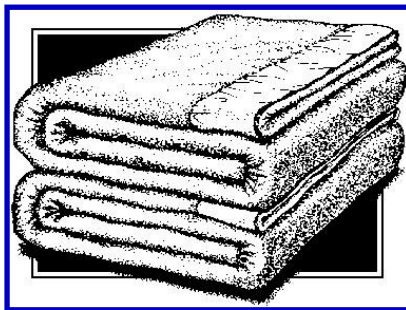
The Smyrna United Church of Christ/Glenda Yoder Sano Scholarship Committee will be accepting applications through *May 15th, 2022*. The applications are available by contacting Rick Gano, rgano@canby.com.

Eligibility Requirements are: the applicant must be a current or recently graduated high school senior or in a post high school program making satisfactory progress, and the applicant must be an active participant in Smyrna UCC with active participation during the past year in the life of Smyrna UCC (Examples would be participation or assistance with the worship, Sunday School, grounds cleanup, Strawberry Social, Canby/Marquam highway cleanup, Peace Camp, etc.).

Mission and Outreach

Children for Change in May will be in honor of Mother's Day, but will continue all month. You may remember a **"Sock it to me Sunday"** when we gathered socks for the homeless or **"Undie Sunday"** when we brought items to be distributed.

This year we will join with other churches working through Church World Service to provide blankets for people in need. In 2021 congregational gifts provided over 183,000 Blankets and Kits to families impacted by hurricanes, tornadoes, flooding and other crises (including homelessness and poverty). **Here's how your gift can make a difference this year:**



- \$10.00 provides 1 blanket
- \$50.00 gives blankets to an entire family
- \$250.00 stocks shelves in a shelter

There are two types of Blankets – Heavyweight which are woolen and water-resistant and flame-retardant. They are durable, warm and great for frigid temperatures or other extreme weather conditions. The Lightweight blankets are appropriate for warmer climates. These fleece blankets are water repellent, durable, warm and soft. These blankets keep families covered without adding bulk. Samples of these **will be available to see on the Sundays in May, so let's see what we can accomplish.** Thank you!

During March these contributions have been sent:

- \$100 to the Molalla Food Bank
- \$100 to our local Habitat for Humanity
- \$314.05 for One Great Hour of Sharing
- \$3,381.31 our total at this time for Ukraine relief.

Library news

Two new books in the Smyrna UCC Library:

Caregiving 101 by Taffy Cannon. Pilgrim Press, 2021. Chapter titles include "Evaluating the Situation", "Getting Organized", "Caring for the Caregiver", and "The New Normal" and offer practical guidance from the author's own experience.

Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard by Douglas W. Tallamy. "Tallamy urges homeowners to take environmental action into their own hands, one yard at a time by committing to a goal to convert half of his or her lawn to productive native plant communities. This could restore the ecosystem function of twenty million acres and create biological corridors in a "Homegrown National Park" which will not be confined to a single location but will be everywhere, helping to preserve lives and ecosystems in all bioregions and all biomes." Google "Douglas Tallamy" and "youtube" to listen to some of his talks about conservation in your own backyard.

These books and others are available on the Library Bookcart each Sunday. Previously parked in the Narthex, the cart will be parked in the Fellowship Hall on Sundays in May. Check-out is self-service. You can also suggest book titles for the library by writing them in the Borrowers' notebook that's on the cart.



Thank you, Carl Menkel for painting the yellow safety lines on Smyrna's steps.

May 2022 at Smyrna

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																			
<p>1</p> <p>11 am Worship</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7 pm AA/AO</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7 pm Diaconate mtg on Zoom</p>	<p>4</p> <p>7 pm Scripture Dialog with Pastor Cat on Zoom</p>	<p>5</p> <p>11 am Ukulele Class @ Smyrna b.d. Isabella Gano</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>																																																																																			
<p>8</p> <p>11 am Worship Health Committee mtg after worship</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7 pm AA/AO b.d. Mark Gano</p>	<p>10</p> <p>b.d. Cheryl Sano-Kirkele</p>	<p>11</p> <p>b.d. Jeff Hammock</p>	<p>12</p> <p>11 am Ukulele Class @ Smyrna b.d. Judy Burbank, Bernadette Yoder, Florence Pease</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>																																																																																			
<p>15</p> <p>11 am Worship Deadline for Glenda Sano Scholarships <i>Spring Days of Giving</i></p>	<p>16</p> <p>7 pm AA/AO b.d. Lauren Humphreys</p>	<p>17</p> <p>b.d. Lincoln Bangs Wedding Ann. John & Florence Pease</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>11 am Ukulele Class @ Smyrna 7 pm Church Council mtg on Zoom b.d. Colton Fisher</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Armed Forces Day b.d. Sherry Skiles</p>																																																																																			
<p>22</p> <p>11 am Worship</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7 pm AA/AO</p>	<p>24</p> <p>b.d. Linda Dunn</p>	<p>25</p> <p>b.d. John Patterson, Ron Lindland</p>	<p>26</p> <p>11 am Ukulele Class @ Smyrna</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>b.d. Paul Holbrook, Louise Allee</p>																																																																																			
<p>29</p> <p>11 am Worship b.d. Sidney Humphreys</p>	<p>30</p> <p>7 pm AA/AO Memorial Day (Observed)</p>	<p>31</p> <p>b.d. Dan Allee</p>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Apr 2022</p> <table style="margin: 0; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td style="text-align: center;">M</td><td style="text-align: center;">T</td><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">T</td><td style="text-align: center;">F</td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td><td></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></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></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></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></tr> </table> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Jun 2022</p> <table style="margin: 0; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td style="text-align: center;">M</td><td style="text-align: center;">T</td><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">T</td><td style="text-align: center;">F</td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> <tr><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></tr> <tr><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;">10</td></tr> <tr><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;">17</td></tr> <tr><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;">24</td></tr> <tr><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></td></tr> </table> </div> </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	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		
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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 in Prayer:

Anne Stronko

Pat Bullard

Lois Johnson

Dan and Beryl Fischer

David Schriever

The Wilson family (Kristin, Adam, Sam & Skyler)

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.