

BEHOLD!! SMYRNA

October 2022



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Beloved,

The theme of this year's Annual Gathering of the Central Pacific Conference was *Love, Trust, and Responsibility: Living Life in Covenant*. Conference Minister, Rev. Tyler Connoley visited every church in the conference over the course of the year as a guest preacher, focusing his preaching on covenant. Here's the working definition of covenant he shared with the conference delegates in their orientation session before Annual Gathering: "Covenant is a mutual relationship of trust and responsibility that is named in the power and presence of God." He further states that "in relationships of covenant the partners in that covenant must trust one another and they must be responsible to one another." Jesus' covenant with his disciples (whom he calls friends) and God's covenant with us (whom God calls beloved) Tyler asserts "are the grounding for our covenants with each other."

Pastor Janet referenced Smyrna's "Covenant of this Church" as written in the church's Constitution and bylaws in her last Transition Sunday sermon. Two table groups read the covenant during the after-worship table conversations that day and reflected on what in the covenant resonated with them most as true for Smyrna's faith life in 2022. What resonated with them most is underlined in the full covenant below:

We unite in striving to know the will of God as taught in Holy Scripture, and in our purpose to walk in the ways of the Lord, made known or to be made known to us. We solemnly pledge and give ourselves to walk together in worship, stewardship, and fellowship in mutual love and respect, each to

the other. We hold it to be the mission of the church of Christ to proclaim the gospel to all mankind, exalting the worship of the one true God, and laboring for the progress of knowledge, the promotion of justice, the reign of peace, and the realization of human kinship. Depending, as did our ancestors, upon the continued guidance of the Holy Spirit to lead us into all truth, we work and pray for the transformation of the world into the realm of God; and we look with faith for the triumph of righteousness, and life everlasting.

As we walk together – accompany each other – in this season of change, may we lean into our dependence on the guidance of the Holy Spirit to lead us. May we be united in striving to know the will of God. May we give thanks for the opportunity that being a member and/or active participant in the church gives us: the opportunity to be in covenant, a mutual relationship of trust and responsibility *named in the power and presence of God*. Amen.

To learn more about the Central Pacific Conference, with whom we are in covenant, please visit the new (and beautifully designed!) website <https://www.cpcucc.org/about-us>.

I look forward to seeing you in worship, at the Blessing of the Animals service on October 2nd, at an upcoming women's fellowship luncheon, or at a (details coming soon!) Christian Education and Nurture Purpose and Priorities Visioning Retreat...as I give myself to walk together with you.

In Faith,
Pastor Cat

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Smyrna's Women's Fellowship News

Hear Ye, Hear Ye. Women's Fellowship is back in session and we had our first luncheon on Thursday, September 22, 2022. It was a small crowd, but we think the word will get out as time goes by. And we hope you will share the information with others you see and talk with from day to day.



We will continue to cook through this year and look forward to 2023 to see where this takes us. Our next luncheon is on October 13th followed by one on October 27, and the last luncheon of the year will be November 10, 2022, which is our traditional turkey dinner. So come and join us to make this event more than ever.



Our other news is that we will once again hold our **annual Bazaar** online and hope that you will have a chance to donate items for the bazaar and bid on items for sale. We will post the dates once we have everything planned out. So look in your closets and attics

for things to donate. If you have any questions, you may call Barbara Daniels, President of Women's Fellowship.

Autumn

by Monza Naff

Urge me to drop every leaf I don't need
every task or habit I repeat past its season
every sorrow I rehearse
each unfulfilled hope I recall
every person or possession to which I cling-
until my branches are bare, until I hold fast to
nothing.

Tutor me through straining night winds
in the passion of moan and pant,
the gift of letting go
at the moment of most abundance
in the way of falling apples, figs, maple leaves,
pecans.

Show me the way of dying in glorious boldness-
yellow, gold, orange, rust, red, burgundy.



Mission and Outreach

For October "Children for Change" we continue to support the organization located in the Lebanon area, "Hand in Hand Farm." It was established in 2010 and the goal was to provide a day camp for children with autism. After several years of offering this opportunity to individual children, it was decided to run a family camp experience. This camp runs from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. This is 5 days a week during school breaks. At camp parents attend classes focused on rebuilding yourself and your family and the children spend time with volunteers to take part in farm projects and fun activities which put their skills and learning into practice. They work with the Oregon Department of Human Services.

More information can be found on Facebook: www.facebook.com/handinhandfarm or www.handinhandfarm.org

On October 9th, we will be receiving the "Neighbors in Need" offering. Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice.



OCTOBER WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

- ◆ **October 2** - Pastor Cat leading; Pastor Janet assisting
- ◆ **October 9** - Rev. David Zaworski leading
- ◆ **October 16** - Pastor Janet leading; Pastor Cat assisting; Transition Sunday
- ◆ **October 23** - Pastor Cat leading
- ◆ **October 30** - Pastor Cat leading

OCTOBER MEETINGS

- ⇒ **October 4** - 7 pm Diaconate via Zoom
- ⇒ **October 11** - 12 noon Health Committee via Zoom
- ⇒ **October 18** - 7 pm Church Council via Zoom
- ⇒ **October 20** - 7 pm Scripture Dialog via Zoom
- ⇒ **October 27** - 7 pm Scripture Dialog via Zoom

Blessing of
the Animals



Bring your beloved animal
to
the Blessing of the Animals
at Smyrna UCC
2 pm
Sunday, October 2.

LONELY? Medical issues? Need Help?

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



Emergency tip of the month:

Keep a pair of hard soled shoes under the bed for a sudden evacuation in case of broken glass, flames, etc. – store an LED flashlight on of those shoes.

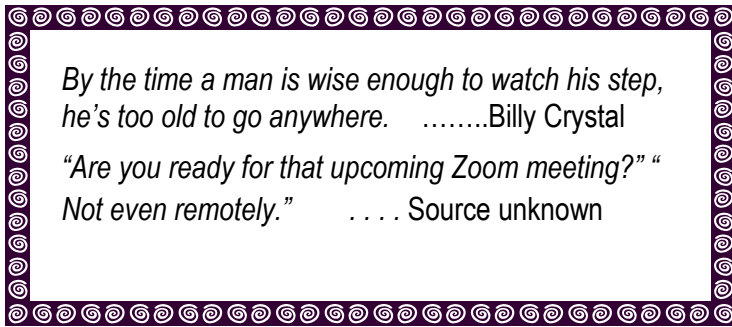
Beavercreek Fall Bazaar



After a two year hiatus, the Fall Bazaar is back! It's happening at Beavercreek UCC, aka "The Ten O'Clock Church" on Saturday, October 15th, 2022. It's a beautiful drive out to 23345 S. Beavercreek Road, Beavercreek, OR and the event goes from 9 am to 4 pm.

There will again be a wide variety of vendors with an abundance of creative handmade items to sell so it's a great time to get started on your holiday shopping. There will be a delicious lunch served from 11 am to 2 pm that will include sandwiches and pieces of homemade pie. There will also be raffle drawings, baked goods, plants and more.

Tell your friends, family, neighbors, and colleagues about the Beavercreek Fall Bazaar and come join us for a great time.



Air Pollution — tips for survival

We have all experienced wildfire smoke drifting from distant (or not so distant) fires, causing hazy skies and the smell of smoke whenever we venture outside.

Sometimes the sky is oddly dark in the middle of the day and the odor of smoke is strong. It is easy to tell that air pollution is a problem, and health advisories are issued telling people to stay inside. However, air pollution is not always so easily identified. Even when the skies are clear, there may be pollution causing health problems for people with and without known lung disease.

Pollution may come from outside the home (pollution from automobiles, for instance) and even inside the home (for instance, from burning coal, kerosene, or wood for cooking and/or heating). The World Health Organization says that nine out of ten people around the world are breathing polluted air and that seven million people a year die as a result. Some of the adverse health effects include increased risk of asthma attacks, worsening chronic emphysema, heart attacks and strokes, lung cancer,



developmental damage to children's lungs, lung tissue irritation and swelling even in people with healthy lungs, low infant birth weight and increased infant mortality, and possibly even adverse effects on mental health.

Some groups of people are more susceptible than others to air pollution:

- children,
- pregnant women,
- the elderly
- those with pre-existing heart and lung disease.
- Living close to industrial sites with high emissions of particulate matter or other toxic materials is also a risk.

Some suggestions for limiting the breathing of polluted air are:

1. Limit walking on busy streets during rush hour.
2. Limit spending time at traffic hotspots such as cars stopped at traffic lights. (This does not mean you should run red lights to avoid breathing the polluted air.)
3. When exercising outside, try to do so in less polluted areas.
4. Limit the use of cars during days of high pollution.
5. Don't burn household waste, in order to avoid causing air pollution.
6. Work together to limit climate change which could lead to even worse air pollution than is already present.

Transition News!

The Transition Team is plugging away at the work needed to write the Local Church Profile and to get the congregation ready for the search process for the new pastor. We have had two Transition Sundays, the most recent being September 18. This last time, we focused on the beliefs and faith commitments of the congregation. I think Dave Clites summed up a sentiment expressed by many when he said that if you had to use just one word to describe Smyrna's faith, it would be "inclusive!"

We are delighted to be able to share with the congregation the results of the History Transition Sunday, thanks to the help of Ann Clites. Ann took the giant history timeline that we created together off the wall of Friendship House and typed it up on a spreadsheet, so we can all see what everyone wrote about the history of Smyrna UCC.

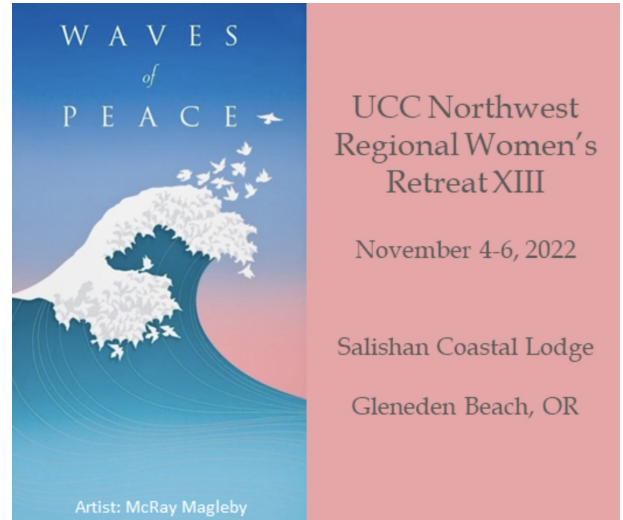
We also know that some of you may be wondering about what this "Local Church Profile" looks like that we keep talking about, and why it takes so long to complete it. So we invite everyone who is interested to check it out online at this link:

[Local Church Profile](#)

You'll see that it's rather complicated! We need help to fill some of it out and Jane has emailed some of you asking for information that you can provide to fill out sections of the profile. We thank you for your support!

Finally, our NEXT Transition Sunday will be on October 16, and our focus will be on Smyrna's PURPOSE AND PRIORITIES!

UCC Northwest Women's Retreat



To the women of the UCC, as our summer winds down we can turn our hearts and minds to the Regional Women's Retreat at Salishan Resort this November. Our keynote speaker Jennifer Garrison has graciously made a 2 minute video, including music from our worship leader Christina Kukuk. Please take time to view the video [HERE](#)

Visit the [Women's Retreat Website](#)

Retreat Registration

- Closes **October 1, 2022**
- \$225 before **August 1, 2022**
- \$250 **August 2 - October 1, 2022**

Guestroom Reservation

- Cutoff Date: **October 14, 2022**
- Guestroom Rate: \$117 + tax = \$130.81/night

Thank you to:

- the Grounds Committee - to Dave Clites for mowing the lawns faithfully, and to Barb Daniels, Linda Dunn, and Irene Schriever for their landscaping work!
- all who provided refreshments for outdoor coffee hour on Sept 11th.
- Ann Clites for getting the first Transition Sunday's timeline data into a digital spreadsheet (see attached).
- the Transition Team for planning and leading our second Transition Sunday
- Ginger Redlinger, Dave Clites, Joel Daniels, Janet Farrell, Debi Veatch, Sheila Daniels, and Barb and Carl Menkel for serving as table group facilitators, and to everyone who participated. The work we did together will help with writing the "who we are" section of the local church profile (see this section on p. xx of the Local Church Profile attached the Transition Team section of this Behold).



October 2022 at Smyrna

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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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

PRAYER LIST

- Pat Bullard
- Jane Dahl
- The Holts' grandson Barack
- Mary Namit and her siblings Pauline and Mike
- Florence Pease
- Jeannie Rogers' brother Steven and family
- Irene Schriever
- Anne Stronko
- Garret and Debi Veatch
- Virginia Yoder



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.