

BEHOLD!! SMYRNA

January 2023



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Coming in January: Transition to Search!

Smyrna friends, this is news you have all been waiting for. By mid-late January, the Transition Team will complete our Local Church Profile and the Pastoral Search Committee (PSC) will start up again to advertise our next settled pastor position and review candidates. We expect **to get applications starting in late February. Soon, you'll see a wall chart posted at the church that will track the progress of the search and call process at Smyrna from here on out.**

Two members of our Transition Team (Sheila Daniels and Barb Menkel) are also on the Pastoral Search Committee, so they will be continuing on with the work. Rebekah Yoder and Jane Dahl, who had been elected to the PSC, need to step off for personal reasons, so we will need to fill those vacancies. Stay tuned for an announcement for a Special Congregational Meeting to elect two new Pastoral Search Committee members.

I can't thank our Transition Team members enough for all the hard work, devotion, and time they have poured into shepherding the congregation through the process of reflection, conversation, and discernment needed to write the Local Church Profile. I hope you will take the time to thank them as well! They all deserve our gratitude and appreciation. They include: Jane Dahl, Sheila

Daniels, Barb Menkel, Debi Veatch and recently, Ginger Redlinger, who is doing a lot of the writing for us.

Thanks also to the outgoing members of the search committee, Jane Dahl and Rebekah Yoder. Dave Clites will continue as chairperson of the search committee, and Sheila Daniels and Barb Menkel continue as original members.

I know that God has exciting things in store for Smyrna as you prepare to enter a new era of your congregational life. God is still speaking here at Smyrna UCC, and the Spirit is guiding you forward!



JANUARY WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

- January 1 — Sunday after Christmas (Sacred Doing); Pastor Cat leading
- January 8 — Epiphany Sunday; Pastor Cat leading
- January 15 — Pastor Janet leading
- January 22 — Pastor Cat leading; Pastor Janet assisting
- January 29 — Pulpit Supply

Ministers: All members of the church

Ministers: Rev. Cat Allard; Rev. Janet Parker

Editor: Jeannie Rogers Asst. Editor: Elaine Daniels

Church Phone (503) 651-2131

email: smyrnaucc@canby.com

Website: www.smyrna-ucc.org

31119 S. Highway 170, Canby, OR 97013



Dear Smyrna Friends,

The year 2022 is fast coming to a close, and 2023 looms before us with all its promise, possibility and peril. 2022 has brought many blessings into my life, and a few losses as well. Entering into the life of Smyrna UCC as your intentional interim pastor along with Rev. Catherine Allard was definitely one of the blessings. **For a New Year's message to you, I don't think I can do better than offer this remarkably relevant poem from Alfred, Lord Tennyson.** Reading this poem, I am reminded that our current struggles and challenges are not as unique as we might think. Humanity is ever up to its tricks, and as the sage writes in **Ecclesiastes, "there is nothing new under the sun."** Lord Tennyson inspires us to meet these worries and threats with vigorous and joyful faith and the nobility of our better nature—our God-given nature that we see fully realized in Christ. I invite you to spend a few moments dwelling in this poem, allowing it to inspire and elevate your spirits, as it has mine. Blessings and peace to you and yours as you ring out the dying year and ring in the new!

Pastor Janet

The Mission and Outreach Committee Thanks —

Everyone who has contributed time, money and items for our **"Children for Change" efforts.** A check for \$312.55 was given to **"Fill a Stocking, Fill a Heart" which goes to Clackamas County residents.** Besides this, we were able to deliver 77 stockings that were made, which meant many yards of fabric purchased and hours of time spent sewing.

We also encouraged in December supporting the Christmas Fund which goes to retired clergy and lay employees of the UCC. We do not have this total as we go to this month's Behold deadline.

\$678.45 has been sent to the "Hand In Hand Farm" located in Lebanon, OR.

Also, Paulette has made another delivery of 79 pounds of food on December 6th to the Molalla Food Bank. Please continue to bring food as the need is great.

As we begin this next year, our Mission and Outreach Committee is recommending that we focus on supporting **"Guide Dogs for the Blind."** We hope to learn more about this organization as Mary Namit is currently a volunteer for them.

Thank you, once again.

*Annual Reports are due Thursday, **January 5, 2023.** If you are an officer or on a board or a committee, find out which of you will be writing the report for the Annual Reports book — it may be you!*

Smyrna's Annual Meeting will be at noon on Sunday, January 22, 2023, following Worship services.

Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1809-1892)

A New Year's Poem



Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light;
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.
Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow;
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.
Ring out the grief that saps the mind,
For those that here we see no more;
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,
Ring in redress to all mankind.
Ring out a slowly dying cause,
And ancient forms of party strife;
Ring in the nobler modes of life,
With sweeter manners, purer laws.
Ring out the want, the care, the sin,
The faithless coldness of the times;
Ring out, ring out my mournful rimes
But ring the fuller minstrel in.
Ring out false pride in place and blood,
The civic slander and the spite;
Ring in the love of truth and right,
Ring in the common love of good.
Ring out old shapes of foul disease;
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;
Ring out the thousand wars of old,
Ring in the thousand years of peace.
Ring in the valiant one* and free,
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;
Ring out the darkness of the land,
Ring in the Christ that is to be.

*the original word here is "man."

Masking requirement —

Until further notice, masks will be required while we are together indoors at Smyrna.

Oregon health Authority is advising that while indoors we should be masked up as hospital stays are growing by the day and hospitals are at capacity to care for the patients.



January 3, 7:00 PM - Diaconate meeting via Zoom
Wednesdays, January 4 & 18 at 7:00 PM - Scripture Dialogue with Pastor Cat on Zoom
January 17, 7:00 PM - Church Council on Zoom
January 20 - Behold!! Deadline

VIRUS SAFETY (COVID, Seasonal Flu, RSV)

The number of cases of all of the above is on the rise. There are few hospital beds available in Oregon at the present..

GATHERING WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY

- Many gatherings are a time of fellowship and celebration. With vaccinations and boosters now readily available, the risk of infection is different for everyone. If you and the people you gather with are up-to-date with COVID-19 vaccines and boosters, your risks will be lower. But some vaccinated people still get sick with COVID-19 or can spread it to others. So here are some ways to stay safe during gatherings no matter the occasion.
- Get vaccinated and stay up-to-date with a booster when you are eligible to protect yourself and those around you
- **It's OK to ask if others are vaccinated before getting together with people you don't live with. You can choose to stay home or find other ways to connect if you feel nervous.**
- Masks are no longer required in most public settings, but they are still effective at reducing the spread of COVID-19.
- It is recommended you continue to wear a mask and stay 6 feet from others when gathering if you:
 - ⇒ Are not vaccinated
 - ⇒ Are over age 65
 - ⇒ Have a weakened immune system
 - ⇒ Have an underlying medical condition that puts you at higher risk of serious illness from COVID-19
 - ⇒ Live with someone in one of these categories.
- Avoid poorly ventilated spaces, especially when in a crowd.
- Keep the air flowing by opening windows or running a fan or air purifier if possible
- Get tested if you have symptoms of COVID-19 or have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19
- **Stay home if you're feeling sick or unwell, and don't host any gatherings.**
- Wash your hands often
- Take extra care if you have an underlying medical condition that puts you at higher risk of serious illness from COVID-19 or if you take medications that weaken your immune system.
- **It is recommended that you continue to wear a mask that fits snugly over your nose and mouth whenever you're around people even if you're fully vaccinated and have had a booster**

We hope you'll stay safe and healthy during gatherings all year long. Find vaccine and boosters by calling 211, visiting your local pharmacy or doctor's office, or using [GetVaccinatedOregon.gov](https://www.getvaccinatedoregon.gov).

--Oregon Health Authority--

[Voices from the Pandemic](#), by Eli Saslow, is a book well worth reading. Saslow is a journalist who interviewed hundreds of people affected by the COVID pandemic in various ways. People who lost a loved one to the pandemic and were unable even to visit them in the hospital before they died; people who inadvertently passed on COVID to their family, some of whom then died; paramedics who picked up COVID patients, most of whom died in the early days of the pandemic, people who lost their jobs and were unable to pay their rent and in some cases were evicted, landlords who lost rent income and were thus unable to pay their own mortgages, COVID deniers, retail workers who had to deal with COVID deniers who aggressively refused to wear masks, and many other stories. Read it to get a more complete picture of the societal impact of the current pandemic, as told by the people who lived the stories

—Lois Johnson

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:

Pay attention to your neighbors coming and goings to be aware if they might need help or aid. Connect weekly or so with shut in or handicapped neighbors.

Thank You!

Thank you to:

- all who supported the Bazaar/Auction!
- Jane and Steve Dahl for decking the sanctuary with poinsettias, Advent and Christmas banners, and for setting up the Advent wreath.
- Mary Namit for hanging the greens, and Paul Ashton for tending to the Advent candles.
- the Transition Team for diligently working on writing the church profile — they have been meeting weekly and working in between meetings!
- Joel for directing the bell choir and to the bell ringers who delighted us the last Sunday of Advent and during our Christmas services.
- our song leader, Christine
- Virgil for playing the recorder and our trumpeter Adam for enhancing our Christmastime worship with their gifts.
- our technology team, liturgists, deacons, Advent wreath candle lighters
- **Skylar for helping with several “For the Child in us all” messages!**
- Jeannie for her work with preparing the weekly bulletins (an extra one for Christmas Eve!) and the Behold!!; and Elaine for her assistance!
- everyone who has said a faithful yes, and everyone who said a discerning and faithful no, as you were invited to consider serving on a ministry team (or teams) in the year ahead. Thank you to all who give financially to support the ministries and mission priorities of Smyrna UCC.



Twelve Days of Kindness

Most of us are familiar with the song “The Twelve Days of Christmas,” which refers to that period of time beginning the day after Christmas and ending on Epiphany. In other words December 26-January 6. Read the **Artist’s Note** in the beautifully illustrated “The Twelve Days of Christmas” by Laurel Long for some fascinating background on the song.



The questions surrounding the history and symbolism of “The Twelve Days of Christmas” open it up to a variety of interpretations. The Library Committee is offering “Twelve days of Kindness” ideas starting the day after Christmas Day and running through Epiphany, January 6th.

Instead of shopping for twelve more gifts, you could:

- Give a compliment to everyone in your family.
- Make cookies or cupcakes and take them to a neighbor or homeless shelter.
- **Offer to do someone else’s chores around the house for the day/week.**
- Do something nice for a family member or friend.
- **Donate clothing or household items that you don’t need Offer to help someone with a task.**
- Clear the table or kitchen after dinner.
- Smile and say hello to people as you pass them. This simple **act of kindness could make someone’s day.**
- **Say “thank you.”**
- Bake cookies for police officers
- Deliver gifts to shelters
- Offer to take elderly shopping
- Help a friend clean
- Visit nursing homes
- Volunteer or simply donate to a local food pantry
- Give up your spot in line
- Send cards to military
- Invite a friend to dinner
- Donate supplies to a pet shelter
- Grab coffee for the school crossing guards
- Help someone load/unload groceries
- Bring cookies to a local organization
- Leave a treat for your mailperson or garbage person



January 2023 at Smvrna

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
<p>1</p> <p>11 am Worship <i>Happy New Year!</i></p> <p>Sunday after Christmas (Sacred Doing)</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7 pm AA/AO</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7 pm Diaconate mtg via Zoom</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>11 am Ukulele Class</p> <p>Annual Reports Deadline</p> <p>b.d. Don Blatchford, Tavi Robinson</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>																																																																																				
<p>8</p> <p>11 am Worship</p> <p>b.d. Christine Foster</p> <p>Congregational mtg to elect Search Committee members</p> <p><i>Epiphany Sunday</i></p>	<p>9</p> <p>7 pm AA/AO</p>	<p>10</p> <p>12 noon Health Committee via Zoom</p> <p>b.d. Liz Chapin</p>	<p>11</p> <p>11 am Worship</p>	<p>12</p> <p>11 am Ukulele Class</p> <p>b.d. Morgan Rogers</p>	<p>13</p> <p>b.d. Ryan Yoder</p>	<p>14</p>																																																																																				
<p>15</p> <p>11 am Worship</p> <p>b.d. Nicholas Stanbro</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7 pm AA/AO</p> <p>b.d. Julie Stanbro</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7 pm Church Council via Zoom</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>11 am Ukulele Class</p> <p>b.d. Anne Bangs</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Behold!! deadline</p>	<p>21</p>																																																																																				
<p>22</p> <p>11 am Worship</p> <p>Annual Meeting after worship</p> <p>b.d. Diane Potter, Cari Swoboda, Hope Itami</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7 pm AA/AO</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>11 am Ukulele Class</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>																																																																																				
<p>29</p> <p>11 am Worship</p>	<p>30</p> <p>7 pm AA/AO</p>	<p>31</p> <p>b.day Nickson Itami</p>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Dec 2022</p> <table style="font-size: small; text-align: center; margin: 0;"> <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></td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td></tr> </table> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Feb 2023</p> <table style="font-size: small; text-align: center; margin: 0;"> <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> </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				
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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



- Pat Bullard
- The Holt family: Emily, Isabella, Barack
- **Jeannie Rogers' brothers, Steven and John, and family**
- Anne Stronko
- Virginia Yoder
- Beryl and Dan Fisher
- Genevieve Freeman
- Jeff Marshall and family
- Lois Johnson
- **Linda Dunn's granddaughter Emerson**

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.