

# BEHOLD!! SMYRNA

February 2023  UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*Dear Smyrna friends,*

In the sermon I recorded on January 1<sup>st</sup> that Tom Daniels uploaded to YouTube and Nancy Bryant shared via email along with the **morning's worship service I shared almost a dozen examples of the good news stories from 2022 that were collected and reported** by the organization Good Good Good. To read them all go to [www.goodgoodgood.co/articles/good-news-2022](http://www.goodgoodgood.co/articles/good-news-2022).

Since only 25 people have viewed the sermon, and perhaps even less made it to the end (no judgement!), I thought I would share **my closing words with you (which I've added to!) here:**

Contemplate what Good News headlines we might write, or might be written about us, in 2023. *Smyrna United Church of Christ welcomes new Pastor! Peace Camp for all ages teaches local children, youth, and adults skills in nonviolent conflict resolution*

If you send me an email [not published here] with a sample of what Good News headlines might be written about Smyrna UCC, or that Smyrna might write, I will respond with a personalized blessing for you.

**Also, if you send me an email or text with a personal intention you've set for the year, or your Star Word (see the January 8<sup>th</sup> worship service on YouTube or request more information if you don't know what that is!), I will respond will a personalized blessing in response to whatever you send me.**

**Here's to a good year of reflecting the sacred in all we do. God's peace and power be with you.**

As I was writing this article, I thought *maybe blessing could be Smyrna's Star Word for the year*. Then it occurred to me I could draw a Star Word for Smyrna from the jar (God's will, not mine)! So, I did. Prayerfully, with my eyes closed, I pulled a star from the jar: *ministry*.

**Here's to a good year of reflecting the sacred in all we do, indeed. Pastor Janet and I are so grateful to be in ministry together with each other and with you,**  
Pastor Cat

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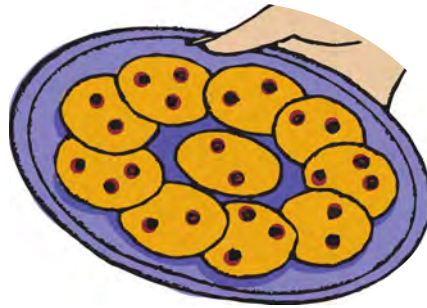




At 7 pm on February 22, 2023, Ash Wednesday Services will be held both in person at Smyrna and via zoom.

## Ash Wednesday Service

### Smyrna's First Annual Cookie Bake-Off and Soup Sunday, February 19, 2023



Who wants to take home the prize and bragging rights for their best take or variation of the classic chocolate chip cookie recipe? The cookie that has the most money donated in its cookie jar at the end will be the winner!!

If you decide to enter the contest you will need to bring at least 3 dozen cookies (max) and have a copy of the recipe at your decorated cookie station!!! Forms with which to enter the contest will be coming soon.

Come join us on February 19th, after church for a sweet and chocolaty afternoon!!!



To go with the cookies, we will have a sign up sheet for soup. The Fund Raising committee will provide **the salad and rolls. Let's**

make this the best ever for the start of 2023.

#### Other Calendar items:

- February 2 — 7:00 PM Search Committee First Orientation Meeting
- February 7 — 7:00 PM - Diaconate meeting via Zoom
- February 1 & 15 at 7:00 PM - Scripture Dialogue with Pastor Cat on Zoom
- February 19 — Cookie Bakeoff and Soup Sunday
- February 20 — Behold!! Deadline
- February 21 — 7:00 PM - Church Council on Zoom



### Mission and Outreach

Smyrna UCC has earned the reputation of being a **"welcoming church."** We proved that to be true on Sunday, January 8, when we were excited to welcome Mary Namit and her dog Jones to our service.

Mary, a Guide Dogs For the Blind volunteer, introduced us to Jones and explained the many services she and Jones perform for them. Mary has been a volunteer in several capacities in the years since her retirement from teaching and was fortunate to be able to rescue Jones when he was unable to continue with guide dog training. Or maybe it would be more appropriate to say that Jones was fortunate to have Mary available to adopt him.

Mary spoke to us about the many services the dogs provide to those who are blind or those who have very limited sight. There is intensive training that both the recipients and the dogs must complete. The best part is that the services, including transportation, housing and care are all completely provided at no cost.

And that is where we come in. We have chosen Guide Dogs For the Blind as our Children For Change recipient for January and February.

For more information on the program, check out their website:

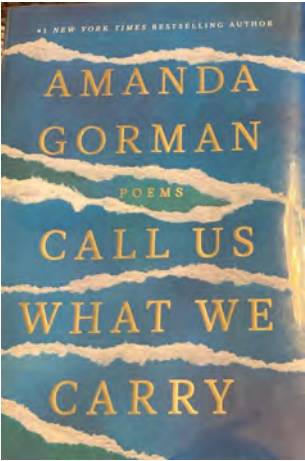
<https://www.guidedogs.com/>

## FEBRUARY WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

February 5 Pastor Cat leading; Pastor Janet assisting;  
Second Home presentation  
February 12 Pastor Janet leading  
February 19 Pastor Cat leading; Kathy Robinson on piano  
February 22 7 pm Ash Wednesday services  
February 26 First Sunday in Lent; Pastor Cat leading; Kathy  
Robinson on piano

## Smyrna Reading Group's Next Book Pick...

Call Us What We Carry by Amanda Gorman is the next read for Smyrna's Reading Group. It's a book of poetry that includes the poem "War: What, Is It Good?" that Pastor Cat read to us in worship on New Year's Day. A reviewer's comment about the book is "Reading these poems, I feel at once haunted, heartened, and formidably ministered to." Join the private Facebook group by asking for an invite from Audrey Yoder or Ann Clites.



The Facebook group is private. Only members of the Smyrna UCC Reading Group can see the posts. If you're not on Facebook, join the group by email. Facebook posts are shared with the email group and email comments are shared on the Facebook page. Questions are posted twice a week to generate comments and discussion. Join the private Facebook group or the email group by contacting Audrey Yoder ([yoderstore@canby.com](mailto:yoderstore@canby.com)) or Ann Clites ([annclites52@gmail.com](mailto:annclites52@gmail.com)).

## New Books in the Library

Call Us What We Carry (Large Print) by Amanda Gorman. A book of poetry by the young woman who wrote and recited "The Hill We Climb" at President's Biden inauguration ceremony.

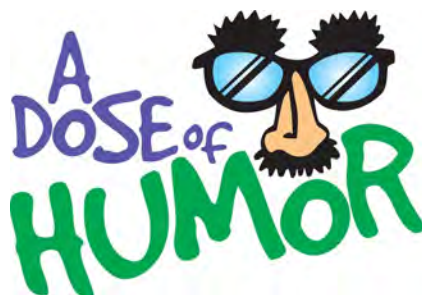
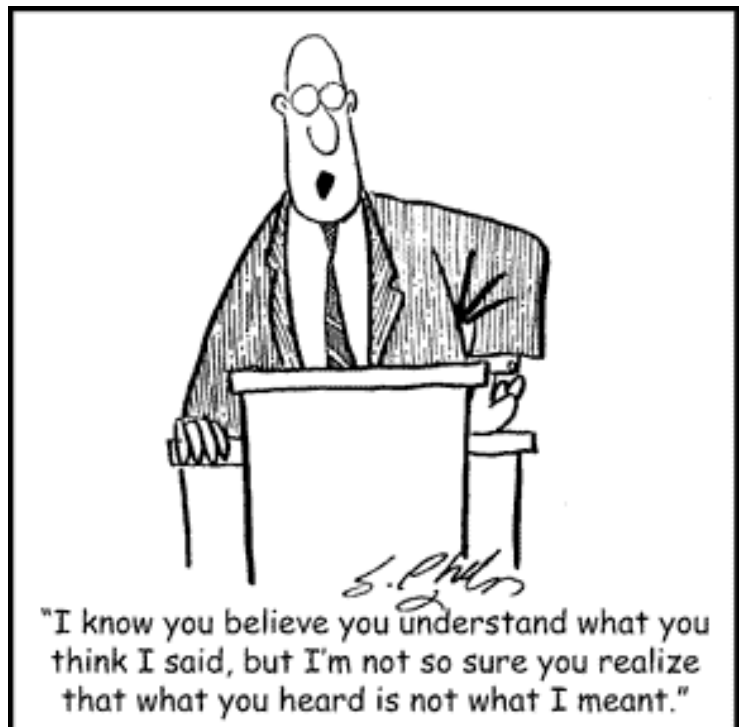
Change Sings by Amanda Gorman. A children's picture book whose theme is "anything is possible when our voices join together. As a young girl leads a cast of characters on a musical journey, they learn that they have the power to make changes—big or small—in the world, in their communities, and most importantly, in themselves."

Have you read a book lately that you'd like to recommend to the congregation or as an addition to Smyrna's library? Let a Library Committee member (Jeannie Rogers, Debi Veatch, Audrey Yoder, Ann Clites) know.



Our thanks to Steve and Jane Dahl for the gift of the nativity set that we have enjoyed for so many years during the holiday season. These beautiful Lenox pieces have been collected over the years by Jane.

After many years of bringing it to the church, setting it up on the organ, and moving some of the pieces toward the manger beginning with the first Sunday in December, Jane Dahl decided it was time for the creche to find its permanent home. We are so pleased to be the recipient of her generous gift



Where do people injured playing Peek-a-Boo go?  
The I.C.U.



## Emergency Tip of the Month:

Keep your lines of vision clear when operating your vehicle.

This includes clean windshields, front and back, and good working wiper blades.



Thank you to:

- The Transition Team and Search Committee Members who have joined forces to finish the work of writing the church profile!
- Everyone who submitted an Annual Report, and to Jeannie and Joel for compiling all of our reports into the Annual Report booklet.
- Barbara Daniels for her thoughtful and tireless leadership as Nominations Committee Chair.
- All the outgoing committee members for the time and talent you gave to support the health and vitality of the church and its ministries (and therefore, the healthy and vitality of the body of Christ).
- All who are continuing your service, and to those who said yes to something new this year!
- Kathy Robinson for covering two Sundays in February while Joel is away!



LONELY? Medical issues? Need Help?

Please visit the Smyrna Resource page. On Smyrna's website, [www.smyrna-ucc.org](http://www.smyrna-ucc.org), just click the Resource tab ....

# IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

## Winter Auto Emergency Kit Recommendations

- Mobile phone with important phone numbers, including personal emergency contacts, family members and emergency services; *be sure to include an extra charger or power storage device.*
- Drinking water or electrolyte-replenishing sports drinks (they have a slightly lower freezing temperature)
- First aid kit, including extra doses of whatever medications are needed by you and your family members in addition to any traveling pets.
- Non-perishable snacks for both human and pet passengers
- Bag of abrasive material (sand, salt, cat litter) or traction mats
- Snow shovel
- Blankets or sleeping bag
- Additional pieces of warm clothing (gloves, hats, scarves)
- Flashlight in addition to extra batteries
- Extra window washer fluid
- Ice scraper with brush
- Rags or roll of paper towels
- Jumper cables, cleaned and recently checked
- Warning devices (flares or reflective hazard signs)
- Basic household tool kit (for instance, screwdrivers, pliers, adjustable wrench, small hammer, electrical or duct tape)
- AAA Newsletter December 2022



"I, not events, have the power to make me happy or unhappy today. I can choose which it shall be. Yesterday is dead, tomorrow hasn't arrived yet. I have just one day, today, and I'm going to be happy in it." Groucho Marx

# February 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;"><b>Jan 2023</b></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;"><b>Mar 2023</b></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></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> </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	29	30	31		<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;"><i>1</i></p> <p>b.d. Barbara Menkel</p> <p>7 pm Scripture Dialogue with Pastor Cat via Zoom</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;"><i>2</i></p> <p>11 am Ukulele Class</p> <p>b.d. Helen Daniels</p> <p>7 pm Search Committee mtg</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;"><i>3</i></p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; margin: 0;"><i>4</i></p> <p>b.d. Loretta Wallace</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



- Pat Bullard
- Steve Dahl
- Richard Daniels
- Genevieve Freeman
- Beryl and Dan Fisher
- The Holt family
- **Jeannie Rogers' brothers**  
Steven and John, and  
family
- Anne Stronko and her  
partner Roger
- 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.