

BEHOLD!! SMYRNA

May 2023



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Beloveds,

I thank my God for every remembrance of you, always in every one of my prayers for all of you, praying with joy for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. Philippians 1:3-5

This is the first scripture verse that came to mind as I considered the completion of my ministry with Smyrna UCC, which I announced at the April Church Council meeting will be at the end of June. It has been a joy to partner with you in the gospel both during my six months with you as your Supply Pastor in 2021, and for the past 14 months as one of your Intentional Interim Co-Pastors. There will be a farewell liturgy incorporated in worship on Sunday, June 25th to release Pastor Janet and I from our responsibilities as your intentional interim co-pastors and to celebrate our time in ministry together.

While I was in Western Massachusetts the weekend after Easter, I received a clear sense of call that it is time for me to return **home to New England. I don't know any specifics of where I will live or work, just that I will make the cross-country trek back to the place I feel rooted in July.** I have a very good feeling about what will be in store for me and am completely trusting in Spirit to guide me every step of the way. I also have a good feeling about what will be in store for you, and trust Spirit will guide you every step of the way!

I thank God for Smyrna UCC and for the Grace that I have witnessed and experienced in abundance through you.

I am grateful that Pastor Janet said yes to my invitation to apply as Co-Pastors in response to your posting for an Intentional Interim Minister in early 2022, and I am grateful that you said yes to our proposal! I believe that you, we, and the Spirit have done good **interim work and I pray that Spirit's prompting for me to move means your next Pastor has also been prompted to take his/her/their next step towards you.**

You are so lovely; I trust it will be easy to find a bridge pastor who will minister to you until your new settled Pastor arrives. In the meantime, we get to enjoy the time we have left together! Pastor Janet and I are excited to help you get ready to receive your new Pastor.

Keep shining the bright light of your faithful witness of a God whose love is all-inclusive and you will attract a pastor (and more friends!) who want to be part of a Christian **community that "loves in public" those who are marginalized.***

The love of God, the grace of Jesus Christ, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you now and always,

Pastor Cat

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Save the date:

On May 7, following the morning service, we will have an informational presentation by NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness. This is a nonprofit organization originally founded in 1979 as a grassroots group by family members of people diagnosed with mental illness. The presentation will be Intro to Mental Health, designed to increase mental health awareness and understanding, and is expected to last about 30 to 45 minutes, including time for questions.

Adult Education:
What the Bible Says About Care for Creation

Sunday, May 21, 9:45-10:45 am—in person at Smyrna before worship and Wednesday, May 24, 7:00-8:00 pm—on Zoom Led by Pastor Janet

Have you ever wondered if the Bible has been more helpful or harmful when it comes to how humans relate to the natural world?

Have you wondered how the ancient stories of Creation in Genesis relate to our current environmental predicaments? Have you wished that you could find resources in the Bible and Christian faith that would support your desire to be a better partner **with and caretaker of God's Creation?**

Join Pastor Janet for two sessions that will help us explore these questions and see the Bible stories of Creation with fresh eyes. On Sunday, May 21st, before worship, Pastor Janet will lead us through an exploration of the Genesis Creation stories, particularly the one that begins in Genesis 2. On Wednesday, May 24th, **during the regular Scripture Dialogue time on Zoom, we'll have time for further discussion and exploration of this important topic.**



Caring for God's Creation

MAY WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

- May 7 — Pastor Cat leading, Pastor Janet assisting
- May 14 — Pastor Cat leading
- May 21 — Pastor Cat leading
- May 28— Pastor Janet leading

PEACE CAMP RETURNS TO SMYRNA!

Smyrna Christian Nurture Committee is thankful to have Peace Camp again, geared toward ages 6-12. It will be held at Smyrna, June 19-23. Registration will be at the door and there will be a \$10.00 charge.



Our theme is : Peace NOW: Nature, Ourselves, Others, and the World. Our committee is working on the details. We will learn about being peacemakers through activities , stories, art , and other activities. Please join us and invite friends.

Potato Salad Cook-Off

May 21, 2023, is the date for our first ever Potato Salad Cook-Off as the next fund raiser for 2023 at Smyrna Church. Following our church service, we will lunch on Potato Salad in addition to sausages, buns, chips and dessert.

Anyone who wishes to sign up to enter the contest and make the salad will need to do so in advance of the date. Forms with which to enter will be in the Narthex. We ask that you provide enough potato salad to serve six people and that you provide the recipe for your salad. The salad can be any style of potato salad.

During the year we hold several fund raisers to help with our mission projects as well as up-keep of our facilities. If you have any questions, please contact the Fund Raising Committee. Thank you.



Dates to remember:

- May 2, 7:00 PM — Diaconate meeting via Zoom
- May 5, 6:30 PM — Peace Camp Planning via Zoom
- May 7 after worship — NAMI Presentation
- May 10 and 17, 7:00 PM — Scripture Dialogue via Zoom
- May 11 — 12 noon **Women's Fellowship Luncheon**
- May 16 — 7pm Church Council via Zoom
- May 20 — Behold!! Deadline
- May 21 — 9:45 am: Adult Ed-*What the Bible Says About Care for Creation*, led by Pastor Janet at church
- May 24 — 7:00 pm: Adult Ed— *What the Bible Says About Care for Creation cont.*, led by Pastor Janet on ZOOM

Learning from the Happiest Country in the World

The World Happiness Report asks people in 156 countries to rate their lives on a scale of 0 to 10, with the worst possible life as a 0. It also looks at factors that contribute to social support, life expectancy, generosity, and absence of corruption. For five years in a row, Finland has topped the list as the happiest country in the world.

Here are some things the Finns avoid:

1. **They don't compare themselves to their neighbors, especially in financial terms.** They tend to focus on what makes them happy rather than looking successful.
2. **They don't overlook the benefits of nature.** Many Finns use their four weeks of summer vacation to go to the countryside in the midst of nature. There are also numerous parks available in the cities.

3. **They don't break the community circle of trust.** They tend to trust each other and value honesty. If someone loses a wallet or a phone, they will nearly always get it back. Children often take a public bus home from school and play outside without supervision.



Even if we don't live in Finland, we can follow their example to try to improve our own happiness and our society: Don't try to keep up with the

Joneses. Spend time outdoors in the midst of nature. Try to become trustworthy and to trust those around you. Spend some time in Finland if you can.



The Communion Tablecloth

Closing a church brings up many questions, not the least of which is, **"what to do with the objects which are precious to the congregation?"**

To me the best answer is to donate them to another congregation. Thus, the new cloth you may have noticed on the Communion table on Easter.

Bill Greene was our pastor at Hubbard UCC for many years. A true artist at heart, he decided that the old cloths from our communion table needed replacing. Not just the Easter one but for each season of the church year. Knowing I was a willing seamstress, he recruited me, and we went shopping together for the fabrics and trims. What a rewarding experience!

I made them all, grey and red for Pentecost, blue for Ordinary time, green for Advent, purple for Lent and of course, a very special white one for Easter. And when the Hubbard church closed, they reverted to me. I am not sure where the others are, but during our recent move the Easter one surfaced, and I knew the time had come for it once again to be part of a sacred service.

May it serve long and well at Smyrna UCC.
Karyl Carlson

Thanks to the Trustees for removing the old speaker from the sanctuary ceiling!

And to our 24 volunteers who helped with the Road Cleanup on April 29th!



LONELY? Medical issues? Need Help?

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

RESOURCE Page

A Helpful page for people in our community.
(Click here.)

CAMP ADAMS

MOLALLA - OREGON



CAMP REGISTRATIONS

It's not too late to register for summer camp. Go to: <http://campadams.org/youth-camps> for the Camp Adams registration website. Registrations will close on June 15 or when a camp is at capacity. Our directors Pam Rossio (Taller & Smaller and Discoverers), Becca Rewinski (Genesis/ Seekers), and Kris Dowell (Sojourners and Exodus) are all working hard to provide a wonderful program this summer. Please join us and make some new memories. Go to CampAdams.org for more information.

READY, SET, GO WORKDAY, June 3, 2023

All are invited to come to Camp Adams on June 3 for our Ready, Set, Go Workday. We will begin at 9 am and finish mid afternoon. Coffee and light refreshments will be available in the morning and lunch will be provided for all volunteers. We will be cleaning buildings in preparation for summer camp, doing some walkway maintenance, and possibly some brush clearing and control of invasives. Come and join the Camp Adams community as we welcome in another season in the forest along the river. Email campadamsed@cpcucc.org if you are interested and let us know how many will be coming.



Search Committee Update

The Search Committee effort continues. We have received profiles of two candidates from the Conference and there may be more in the near term. This is all the information that can be shared right now, due to the need to maintain confidentiality for those who have applied.

Smyrna UCC Reading Group

In May we'll begin discussing *Bookwoman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michele Richardson. It's the fictionalized story of one of the Packhorse Librarians who were part of President FDR's WPA program during the Great Depression. Set in 1936 eastern Kentucky, Cussy Mary, the protagonist, is also one of the "Blue People" of Kentucky. Mary is highly regarded as a Book Woman, but as a "Blue", she is feared and reviled. (Wikipedia).



You're invited to read the book and join the discussion through Facebook or by email. Contact Audrey Yoder or Ann Clites for more information about how to join and how to borrow a copy of the book. We're hoping to have 10 copies of the book to lend from Salem Library's Book Discussion Kit program. If you enjoy reading or are intrigued by the idea of "Blue People", join us!



New books in the church library:

Change Your Questions Change Your Life, 2d ed. by Marilee Adams. This book was mentioned in a recent sermon. It's a quick read, told in story form, about Ben the "Answer Man" who is sinking fast at work and home because of his failed search for the right answers. From a mentor he learns about Question Thinking and how to be a Learner instead of a Judger.

Jesus is the Question: The 307 Questions Jesus Asked and the 3 He Answered by Martin B. Copenhaver. The title of the book is attention-grabbing and continues the theme of questioning Why did Jesus ask so many questions? Are questions an important part of our spiritual growth?

How To Be An Antiracist by Ibram X. Kendi. Racial justice in the U.S. continues to be at the forefront of breaking news so the questions that this book title provokes are "Am I a racist?" and, if I am, "How do I become an antiracist?" Kendi, an academic historian, asks himself these questions as he looks back at his high school, college, and graduate school years and interweaves these memories with his knowledge of U.S. history.

May 2023 at Smyrna

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																															
	1 7 pm AA/AO	2 7 pm Diaconate meeting via Zoom	3	4	5 6:30 pm Peace Camp mtg via Zoom b.d. Isabella Rigg	6																																																																																																															
7 11 am Worship Flowers: Ann and Dave Clites Coffee Hour: Health Committee Informational presentation by NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, after worship	8 7 pm AA/AO	9 b.d. Mark Gano	10 7 pm Scripture Dialog via Zoom b.d. Cheryl Sano-Kirkele, Nancy Bryant	11 b.d. Jeff Hammock 12 noon Women's Fellowship Luncheon	12 b.d. Judy Burbank, Bernadette Yoder, Florence Pease	13																																																																																																															
14 11 am Worship Flowers: Jeannie Rogers Coffee Hour: Ann and Dave Clites	15 7 pm AA/AO	16 b.d. Lauren Humphreys 7 pm church council via Zoom	17 7 pm Scripture Dialog via Zoom b.d. Lincoln Bangs Wedding Ann. John & Florence Pease	18	19 b.d. Colton Fisher	20 Behold!! deadline																																																																																																															
21 11 am Worship 9:45 am Adult Ed – What the Bible Says About Care for Creation b.d. Sherry Skiles Flowers: Audrey Yoder Potato Salad Cook Off and Sausage Sunday	22 7 pm AA/AO	23	24 7 pm Adult Ed -- What the Bible Says About Care for Creation via Zoom b.d. Linda Dunn	25 b.d. John Patterson, Ron Lindland	26	27																																																																																																															
28 11 am Worship b.d. Louise Allee Flowers and Coffee hour Volunteers needed	29 7 pm AA/AO b.d. Sydney Humphreys	30	31 b.d. Dan Allee	<table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="7" style="text-align: center;">Apr 2023</th> <th colspan="7" style="text-align: center;">Jun 2023</th> </tr> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">S</th><th style="text-align: center;">M</th><th style="text-align: center;">T</th><th style="text-align: center;">W</th><th style="text-align: center;">T</th><th style="text-align: center;">F</th><th style="text-align: center;">S</th> <th style="text-align: center;">S</th><th style="text-align: center;">M</th><th style="text-align: center;">T</th><th style="text-align: center;">W</th><th style="text-align: center;">T</th><th style="text-align: center;">F</th><th style="text-align: center;">S</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">1 2 3</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td><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;">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;">9</td><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;">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;">16</td><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;">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;">23</td><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;">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> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </table>			Apr 2023							Jun 2023							S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S							1							1 2 3	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	25	26	27	28	29	30	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



PRAYER LIST

Pat Bullard
Richard Daniels
Genevieve Freeman
Beryl and Dan Fisher
Ethel Henderson
The Holt family
Jeannie Rogers' brothers Steven and John,
and family
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.