

BEHOLD!! SMYRNA

September 2023



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Dear Smyrna friends,

As I was driving to church for worship on Sunday, August 20th, I turned onto Sconce Rd and caught my breath as I noticed yellow leaves scattered across the road way. It was a bold and unexpected reminder that summer is almost over. Our worship that day, inspired by Psalm 67, focused on blessing. We blessed a few backpacks, students, teachers, and A LOT of school supplies. One student had already started the new school year! And here we are now, looking at the September issue of our newsletter.

We're anticipating big changes this fall. Leadership expert Ronald Heifetz said: "People do not fear change; they fear loss." Even with positive change, there is loss. There's a tendency, or pressure even, to focus ONLY on the positive in those circumstances. The Search Committee's top-choice pastoral candidate will hopefully be introduced to the congregation in September. If the congregation affirms the Search Committee's selection, you'll hopefully be meeting, greeting, and getting to know your new pastor this fall. That's a big change, and most certainly a positive one! And yet, with that change comes the loss of our relationship as pastor and congregation. So, yes, emphasis on the joy of having a new settled pastor - at last! And, God bless us and be with us as we (some more than others of course) grieve the change(s) of this season in our lives.

Ecclesiastes 3 is one of the scriptures I return to for support in times of great change. May God add a blessing to your reading of it:

For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven:

a time to be born and a time to die;
a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted;

a time to kill and a time to heal;
a time to break down and a time to build up;

a time to weep and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn and a time to dance;

a time to throw away stones and a time to gather stones together;

a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing;

a time to seek and a time to lose;
a time to keep and a time to throw away;

a time to tear and a time to sew;
a time to keep silent and a time to speak;

a time to love and a time to hate;
a time for war and a time for peace.

I expect to submit an article for the October Newsletter too — so this is not yet goodbye; just an offering of God's Word to accompany you in this season of anticipating change.

God bless you, beloveds.
Pastor Cat

Ministers: All members of the church

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Search Committee Progress

The Search Committee will be finishing up interviews with our current candidates for calling a new settled pastor. After interviews, we will decide if there is a candidate to recommend to the congregation, and if so, which is the top candidate. Once the search committee decides this, other church leaders will be brought into the discussion to finalize the details of the call. Then that person will lead a worship service at Smyrna to introduce them to the entire congregation, with a congregational meeting to follow and a vote on whether to call the candidate.

The committee expects to wrap up interviews before the end of August. The worship service to introduce a prospective new pastor, and vote on calling them to serve, could be as early as September 17. Once that has happened there may be a delay while the candidate gives any required notice time to a current church or employer. We should know how long that will take when they lead the worship for us.

The committee has been working hard to get to this point, and is optimistic that we are near the end of the search process. So we ask that you keep us in your prayers as we go forward.

Dave Clites, Chairperson



Mission and Outreach:



A big thank you to everyone who helped us reach these totals of school supplies that will be given out by the Canby Center.

- ⇒7 backpacks
- ⇒40 spiral notebooks
- ⇒40 packages of crayons
- ⇒12 packages of colored pencils
- ⇒And an assortment of erasers, colored markers, rulers, scissors etc.

In **September and October** we will continue to focus on bringing both food and paper items for the Molalla Food Bank. In addition, all money collected will be sent to the conference to be used for Camp Adams scholarships.



SEPTEMBER WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

***11:00 AM WORSHIP BEGINS SEPTEMBER 10**

- * **September 3 (10:00 AM)** — Lay led; John Nilsen playing The Word in Music
- * **September 10** — Pastor Cat leading
- * **September 17** — Pastor Cat leading
- * **September 24** — CPC Annual Gathering worship at the UCC church in Salem

Upcoming dates of note:

- **Tuesday, September 5, 7:00 PM** — Diaconate meeting via Zoom
- **Wednesday, September 6 & 13, 7:00 PM** — Scripture Dialogue via Zoom
- **Saturday, September 9, 1:00 PM** - Celebration of Life service for Richard Daniels
- **Sunday, September 10** — Blood pressure checks during coffee hour
- **Tuesday, September 19, 7:00 PM** — Church Council
- **Wednesday, September 20** — Behold!! Deadline
- **Thursday, September 28** — Women's Fellowship Community Luncheon

Women's Fellowship Bazaar

Our group of women will be holding the Bazaar in a different format this year. We're going to be live and in person every Sunday following the Sunday Church Service in November and possibly the first Sunday in December.

What this will mean is that we will need to know what is being donated prior to the Sunday the item will be up for sale so that we can let everyone know prior to the Sunday it will (hopefully) be sold. We will be posting on our face page the item for sale, but that is the only place you will see it. We won't be holding the sale on line as we have in the past several years. So come and join us each Sunday in November to pick out your favorite homemade foods, dishcloths and quilt.





Vaccinations recommended this year:

Experts believe that there is a possibility of a tripledemic this year, with flu, RSV, and COVID (all of them respiratory diseases) all circulating at once. There is not a single vaccine covering all three diseases (at least not yet), so you will need to get a vaccine for each disease.

The flu vaccine is recommended to be given in September or October.

The RSV vaccine is newly approved and may be given at the same time as other vaccines. The seniors most at risk are those with chronic heart or lung disease, weakened immune systems, and those living in long-term care facilities. Ask your doctor if he or she recommends it for you.

The COVID virus has been mutating, as you know, and a new vaccine is coming out which is geared toward the latest mutation. It should be readily available before long. Ask your doctor when you should get it. It can be given at the same time as other vaccines

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.)



Smyrna Upgrades —

Over the summer, major work was done around Smyrna.

A berm was created and planted, old plants removed to make room for new plants to come, the building was painted, and the steeple re-roofed.



September 22-24, 2023
First Congregational UCC 700 Marion Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Every year we come together from churches in southern Washington, Oregon, and southern Idaho during the last weekend of September.

We gather to discern and conduct the business of the Conference, meet with old and new friends, and learn and worship together.

This year, we have named our gathering, “Be Still and Go,” with the theme passage of Psalm 46, and an emphasis on being *contemplatives in action*.

Our gathering this year will be both in person & virtual.

Registration opens for this year’s gathering on August 25—watch your inbox for updates!



Smyrna Reading Group

When Breath Becomes Air by Paul Kalanithi is the reading group’s book for September. Written by a neurosurgeon who was in his final year of a 5-year neurosurgery residency and was diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer, Dr. Kalanithi’s memoir “is an unforgettable, life-affirming reflection on the challenge of facing death and on the relationship between doctor and patient from a brilliant writer who became both.”

Several copies are available in LINCC, the library consortium that includes the Canby Public Library and the CCRLS library consortium that includes the Woodburn Public Library. We’ll start the discussion on September 5th on the reading group’s Facebook page and via an email group for those who prefer not to use Facebook.

If you want to join either group, contact Audrey Yoder (yoderstore@canby.com) or Ann Clites (annclites52@gmail.com). This is a low-key, no pressure “book club.” Everyone is welcome!

Thank you to

- * Paul Yoder for supervising the steeple work!
- * Barb Daniels for coordinating and communicating with supply pastors while Pastor Cat was on vacation.
- * Ann and Dave Clites for providing lunch for the Soufull Singing Workshop; and to Janet Bess Farrell and Christine Foster for contributing too!
- * Ann, Dave, Janet Bess, Lois Johnson, and Susan Connick for extending invitations to the workshop beyond Smyrna’s membership - we had 6 participants from the wider community!
- * the Search Committee for continuing the faithful work of discernment in the search and call process!



Hear Ye, Hear Ye, Come one, Come All.

Women’s Fellowship will begin the Fall Season by starting up their luncheons with the first one being held on the fourth Thursday, September 28, 2023 at 12:00 PM. Following luncheons will be held on the second and fourth Thursdays of October and our usual Thanksgiving dinner on the second Thursday of November. In December we will be hosting one luncheon on the second Thursday.

Our group will be meeting in early September to plan and discuss the future of Women’s Fellowship. Please watch for the time and date of that meeting as we begin the month of September.

Thank you. Barbara Daniels-President



A memorial service will be held for Richard Daniels at Smyrna UCC, 31119 S. Hwy 170, Canby OR, at 1 p.m. on Sept. 9, 2023

September 2023 at Smyrna

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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10 11 am Worship -- Pastor Cat leading b.d. Audrey Yoder. Lulu Anderson, Al Connick Blood pressure checks during Coffee Hour Ushers: Lisa Havre, Larry Sumpter	11 7 pm AA/VO	12	13 7 pm Scripture Dialog via Zoom	14	15 b.d. Ann Clites	16																																																																																				
17 11 am Worship -- Pastor Cat leading Fall Days of Giving Ushers: Pat Bryant, Karyl Carlson Wedding Ann. Virgil & Christine Foster, Susan & Al Connick	18 7 pm AA/VO	19 7 pm Church Council mtg. b.d. Laura Yoder	20 b.d. Paul R. Yoder, Mary Ashton Behold!! deadline	21 b.d. Josette Waitman	22 Autumn Wedding Ann. Joe & Josette Waitman	23																																																																																				
24 CPC Annual Gathering worship at the UCC Church in Salem	25 7 pm AA/VO b.d. Ken Schriever	26 Wedding Ann. Sandra & John Mahar	27 b.d. Louise Adams	28 12 noon Women's Fellowship Luncheon b.d. James Daniels	29	30																																																																																				

**No matter who you are,
or where you are on life's
journey, we welcome
you.**



PRAYER LIST

- Students and teachers starting a new school year
- Pat Bullard
- The Daniels family
- Beryl and Dan Fisher
- Genevieve Freeman
- The Holt family
- Carl Menkel
- 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.