

BEHOLD!! SMYRNA

April 2024



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Dear Smyrna Folks,

The season between Easter (March 31) and Pentecost (May 19) is called Eastertide. During that season this year, we'll be exploring Resurrection Living. In the northern midwest where I grew up, this time of year was really still winter, with freezing temperatures and snow still falling regularly. Flowers in my hometown didn't start blooming until June, with the appearance of the first lilacs. Here in beautiful Oregon, resurrection living is all around us as the world springs into flower. How do we reflect the resurrection promise of the natural world, by living as God's resurrection people? We'll explore this in a number of ways in the coming months.

On April 14, Joel will share with us the living history of our own Smyrna congregation. Guest speakers after worship on April 21 and April 28 will open our hearts and minds with first person perspectives on Gazan genocide in the middle east. The exploration will reach beyond Sunday. On Tuesday afternoons beginning April 9, we'll meet at 2 PM for an afternoon Coffee (and Prayer) Break, guided by the book *40 Days Journey with Bonhoeffer*. And, looking ahead, we'll be celebrating our mutual ministry as a resurrection people at my installation on Sunday, May 5 at 3 PM.

I'm looking forward to all these ways of exploring with you.

See you in church!

Pastor Jennifer

Sundays in April

April 7 - Guest Preacher TBA

April 14 Pastor Jennifer on Resurrection living and bearing witness

Focus Scripture: Luke 24:36b-48

April 21 Pastor Jennifer on Resurrection living and standing firm with mission moment from Marcia Gilliland

Focus Scripture: Acts 17:1-9

April 28 Resurrection living and breaking the rules

Worship co-leaders Pastor Jennifer and Rabbi Brian Mayer

Focus Scripture Acts 8:26-40

Ministers: All members of the church

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Tuesday Coffee (and Prayer) Break

Tuesdays at 2:00 beginning Tuesday, April 9
In person in the Pastor's Office

At our gatherings each Tuesday, we'll be discussing insights from the Book *40 Day Journey with Dietrich Bonhoeffer* by Ron Klug. You are invited to read a short quote by Bonhoeffer each day, followed by scripture and reflection questions. You do not have to read the book to attend the weekly Coffee (and Prayer) Break, but it will deepen your experience.

Why Dietrich Bonhoeffer? I think he lived in times that, 80



years later, are being reflected in our own day. Like us, Bonhoeffer lived in days of political and economic upheaval leading to the rise of Christian nationalism, causing progressive Christians to question how

they might respond. Born in the early 1900's, Bonhoeffer was a voice of faith and dissidence in his native Germany, when laws oppressing the marginalized and restricting the voices of churches were on the rise. He studied in Berlin and New York City at Union Theological Seminary. While at Union, he was radicalized by the plight of Black Americans under Jim Crow, and bolstered by the friendships he made with activist theologians here in the States. Bonhoeffer left the safety of America to return to Germany and continue his public repudiation of the Nazis, which led to his arrest in 1943 and assassination two years later. I hope you will join me!

— Pastor Jennifer

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Smyrna's Spring Days of Giving is scheduled for Sunday, April 14, 2024. Donations (marked Spring Days of Giving) may be placed in the offering plate, mailed to the church, or made online through our website:
<http://smyrna-ucc.org/>

The Cemetery Committee is looking to hire a groundskeeper to mow, trim, rake leaves, etc. in the cemetery. Must be self-motivated and willing to attend to what needs to be done. 10-20 hours/month at \$16-20 an hour depending on experience. Let Joel Daniels or Paul Yoder know if you are interested.



Smyrna Retrospective

On the first Sunday of April, Smyrna had it's first service in the new church building 133 years ago. Plan to stay after church on April 14 for a presentation of slides and a talk about the history of the church led by Joel Daniels, Church Historian during the social hour.



Smyrna's next road cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, April 27, at 9 am. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the Friendship House for people who wish to sign up early for a specific section of the road. We will meet at Smyrna for the distribution of bags, safety vests, etc.

Save the date!
Pastor Jennifer's
Installation will be
held on May 5 at
3:00 pm.



Installation

How to Save Your Own Life if You're Alone and Having Chest Pain

Here are some tips on what to do.

1. Know the symptoms of a heart attack. They are variable for different people and may feel like aching or pressure or squeezing in the chest. There may also be jaw pain, pain in the arm or shoulder or back, nausea, lightheadedness, and/or shortness of breath.
2. **Call 911. Don't try to drive yourself to the hospital or have someone else drive you. When the 911 operator answers, tell them you're having chest pain and they will send an ambulance. Then you can call a family member or friend to tell them what's happening. Keep the conversation short.**
3. Chew an aspirin (one regular 325-mg strength or four baby aspirins of 81-mg strength). This can help reduce clotting in your coronary arteries. Motrin or other pain relievers will not work, so just take the aspirin. If you have some condition that would make aspirin inadvisable, ask the EMTs before taking it.
4. If you can, find your list of medication, your ID, and your insurance cards and take them along with you.
5. Unlock your front door if you are able.
6. Sit down, preferably in a comfortable chair near your front door, and take slow, deep breaths while waiting for the EMTs. Try to stay calm



Image by [OpenClipart-Vectors](#) from [Pixabay](#)

New Books In Smyrna's Library



God Got A Dog by Cynthia Rylant, illustrated by Maria Frazee. This book of illustrated poems imagines God living among us in today's world. Recommended by Jeannie Rogers.

A Nun on the Bus: How All of Us Can Create Hope, Change and Community by Sr. Simone Campbell. The memoir of a Catholic Sister of Social Service who describes herself as a mischief maker. Recommended by Pastor Jennifer.

Still Alice by bestselling author and neuroscientist Lisa Genova is a novel about a cognitive psychology professor who struggles to cope with early-onset Alzheimer's Disease. Recommended by Lois Johnson.

Senior Loneliness Line

The Senior Loneliness Line is a free call service for adults over 55 living in Clackamas County. It provides ongoing support, connects with resources, or just listens. If you or a loved one are experiencing loneliness or isolation, call 503-200-1633 or 800-282-7035. For more information visit www.SeniorLonelinessLine.org or facebook.com/SeniorLonelinessLine.

Smyrna's Reading Group

It's time to start up the Smyrna Reading Group again. In April a book or two will be chosen for reading in the fall. More time to find the books and more time to read! The Reading Group picks will be ready to add to your summer reading list.

Send your suggestions for books to discuss and hopefully we'll be able to try an in-person discussion after church one Sunday this fall. What book would cause you to make a beeline ☘ for an in-person meetup? Would you like to help choose the books? Would you let us know your ideas about the Reading Group and how we can make it better? Email your ideas to:

Audrey at yoderstore@canby.com or
Ann at annclites52@gmail.com.



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.)

Glenda Yoder Sano Scholarship Program

Since 2004, the Glenda Yoder Sano Scholarship Fund, has provided over \$38,000.00 in scholarships for deserving young men and women, who have been actively involved in the life of Smyrna United Church of Christ. All of the recipients have used the funds to further their education, either in a college or a technical program.



As a congregation, we should be proud of being able to support our young people in preparing for their futures. The scholarship fund needs continued donations to survive. The program was started with a large donation from **Larry Sano, in his late wife's memory. Glenda was very involved at Smyrna throughout her life. She loved supporting Christian Nurture and the youth.**

If you would like to donate to this fund to maintain it for our young people please make a donation by making a check payable to the Smyrna UCC Scholarship fund or a cash donation. The scholarship committee will be accepting scholarship applications until May 15, 2024, and will granting scholarships after this date.

Palm Sunday at Smyrna

Following worship and a Palm Sunday Potluck, children took their baskets out to the grove and play area to hunt for eggs.

The Easter Bunny was very generous this year, and as baskets filled to overflowing, enterprising youth pressed jackets and hats into service.

Smyrna Scholarship Program Established in Memory of Glenda Yoder Sano

Purpose: The Smyrna Scholarship program is designed to provide financial assistance to students who are members of the Smyrna Church family who are or will be enrolled in any accredited college, university, technical, or trade school.

Scholarship Award: Selection of award recipients will be made through a scholarship selection committee chosen by Smyrna Church. The committee will have the responsibility for the amount and number of awards which will be determined from written applications and from personal interviews, if requested.

For students enrolled less than full time, the committee will determine the amount of the scholarship based on the amount of class hours enrolled.

Eligibility Requirements: Applicant must be a current or recently graduated high school senior or in a certified program of continuing education making satisfactory progress. Also, the applicant must be an active participant in Smyrna UCC and a member of the Smyrna UCC family.

Application Procedure:

- Complete all the information required and staple together.
- Submit in person to Sheila Daniels, or
- mail to: 5588 S Reatha Ct., Hubbard, OR 97032, no later than May 15th, 2024. If you have questions, please call Sheila at: 503-651-2450



Smyrna Scholarship Program Application 2024

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

G.P.A. _____

S.A.T./A.C.T. _____

High school and/or post high school attended or presently attending:

School or institute you are planning to attend:

Have you been accepted? _____

Intended course of study, if known _____

Attach the following:

1. A one-page autobiography. Tell about yourself and your family, your interests, hobbies, etc.
2. A record of your extra-curricular achievements including your active participation during the past year in the life of Smyrna UCC (Examples would be Participated or assisted with the worship, Sunday School, grounds cleanup, Strawberry Social, Chili Cook-off, Octoberfest, Peace Camp, etc.).
3. A statement of your goals and aspirations.
4. List any financial assistance or awards you have already received for the upcoming year.

Submit in person to Sheila Daniels, or mail to: 5588 S Reatha

Ct. Hubbard, OR. 97032, no later than

May 15th, 2024. If you have questions, please call Sheila at:

503-651-2450.

Awarding the Scholarship: It is the recipient's responsibility to provide verification of high school graduation or post high school continued education depending on the circumstance. This verification must be from a certified program and must include the registrar's copy of enrolled classes along with their student identification number.

The recipient will provide this documentation to the Smyrna UCC treasurer.

The award then will be drafted in the form of a check made out to the recipient's account at the institution, college or university in which you are enrolled. Termination of the student's school program will result in the cancellation of the award.

Two Perspectives on Genocide in Gaza

April 21 - Guest Marcia Gilliland — **One Family's Story**

Ten years ago I was shopping in Bethlehem. I walked into a small store and the owner and I started talking. His name was Mahmoud and we spent two hours discussing our lives and cultures. We found that we shared many more similarities than differences. We both wanted to contribute to making the world a better place for our children. Several days later I saw him and he invited me to his house for lunch and to meet his wife and children.

The whole family lived in a four story building with **parents on the first floor and each brother's family on a different level.** Their life was very simple, but they managed. I continued to connect with the family whenever I **was in Bethlehem and became "auntie" to the kids.**

Since October 6 things have not gone well in **Mahmoud's life. There are no tourists to come to his store** and so he has no income. He has borrowed money to buy food and medicine. His father has diabetes and could not get his medicine and has lost sight in one eye. The children cannot go to school because it is too **dangerous on the streets. As if this weren't enough a month ago an Israeli rocket landed near their house with many injuries and destroyed homes.** His children, who were already living in fear, have become even more traumatized, wondering why their strong father cannot protect them.

The politicians continue to discuss a "peace deal" while millions of people, both Israeli and Palestinian, wait for a time when they can have lives free from trauma and fear. This is just one family's story. Consider how many more have been affected and live through this every day.

Marcia Gilliland has been a member of the Central Pacific Conference Palestine Israel Network (PIN) for 10 years. She has been to Palestine/Israel six times working with the Palestine YWCA teaching sewing in a **refugee camp near Ramallah and a women's center in Dar Salaam.** She has assisted Palestinian farmers in olive picking for two years. She continues to work for equal rights for all people in Israel and Palestine.

April 28 - Guest Rabbi Brian Mayer will be with us during worship to preach from the wisdom gleaned in writing his newest book: **Rabbi Brian's Highly Unorthodox Gospel: A Modern Guide to Compassion, Kindness and Love for Others (and Self).** Following worship, Rabbi Brian will lead us in the hands-on experience of making matzah, one of the traditional foods of Passover.

Rabbi Brian Zachary Mayer doesn't rabbi normally. Educated at Tufts and Pepperdine, they were ordained by HUC-JIR (Reform Seminary), but then left synagogue life to teach math to inner-city high school students. Concurrently, they founded Religion-Outside-The-Box (ROTB.org)—a worldwide, internet congregation of **1,000's of members seeking spiritualigious provisions** without the baggage of mono-dox affiliation. They enjoy writing books, articles, and small bios, making stained glass lamps, and gaining mastery on the French horn. They live in Portland, Oregon and are thinking a lot about **pronouns these days. They'll have copies of their books** with them, for those who want to purchase a copy to take home.



Signs of
Spring at
Smyrna UCC



April 2024 at Smyrna

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| | 1 7 pm AA/AO b.d. Dave Akers, Spencer Chapin | 2 | 3 7 pm Diaconate mtg via Zoom | 4 | 5 | 6 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 11 am Worship – Guest Minister TBA b.d. Robert Holman | 8 7 pm AA/AO | 9 2 pm Tuesday Coffee (and Prayer) Break Wedding Ann. Paul & Melissa Liechty | 10 | 11 12:00 PM Women's Fellowship Luncheon | 12 b.d. Philip Daniels, Kasondra Heilman | 13 b.d. Penelope Enfield, Joshua Barber | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 14 11 am -- Pastor Jennifer on Resurrection living and bearing witness 12:15 pm Smyrna UCC Historical Presentation | 15 7 pm AA/AO b.d. David Howard | 16 2 pm Tuesday Coffee (and Prayer) Break b.d. Violet Humphries | 17 7:00 PM Church Council Mtg on Zoom | 18 b.d. Sarah Philips | 19 b.d. Kara Tellinghusen Larry Sumpter | 20 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 21 11 am -- Pastor Jennifer on Resurrection living and standing firm with Mission Moment from Marcia Gilliland 12-2 pm Marcia Gilliland from the CPC's Palestine Israel Network | 22 7 pm AA/AO b.d. Ginger Redlinger | 23 2 pm Tuesday Coffee (and Prayer) Break | 24 | 25 12:00 PM Women's Fellowship Luncheon | 26 | 27 9 a.m. Road Cleanup | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 28 11 am Worship – co-leaders Pastor Jennifer and Rabbi Brian Mayer 12-2 Rabbi Brian Mayer from Religion Outside the Box | 29 7 pm AA/AO | 30 2 pm Tuesday Coffee (and Prayer) Break b.d. Michael Hall | <table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <tr> <td colspan="14" style="text-align: center;">Mar 2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td style="text-align: center;">M</td><td style="text-align: center;">T</td><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">T</td><td style="text-align: center;">F</td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td> <td colspan="7"></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="6"></td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td><td colspan="6"></td> </tr> <tr> <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;">9</td><td colspan="7"></td> </tr> <tr> <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;">16</td><td colspan="7"></td> </tr> <tr> <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;">23</td><td colspan="7"></td> </tr> <tr> <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;">30</td><td style="text-align: center;">31</td><td colspan="6"></td> </tr> </table> | | | | Mar 2024 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 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 | | | | | | |
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| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | | | | | |

**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

- Paul and Mary Ashton
- Pat Bullard
- Beryl and Dan Fisher
- Genevieve Freeman
- The Holt family
- **Jeannie Rogers' brothers Steven and John**
- Virginia Yoder
- Robin Alexander
- Ginger Redlinger
- Janet Bess Farrell
- Linda Dunn and Barbara Daniels
- Rick and Levonne Gano
- Anne Stronko and Roger Marin
- Paulette Eyman
- Ethel Henderson



*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.