

BEHOLD!! SMYRNA

February 2025



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Dear Smyrna Folks,

I'm writing this on January 23 (with apologies to Jeannie, because that means I'm three days late!). A lot has changed already in the past week, and we don't know what will change between now and the time you read this. But, I am pretty sure one reality will remain unchanged: Immigrants to our country will still need our understanding, advocacy and compassion. I asked our conference minister Tyler Connoley how he recommends churches live into their care for immigrants. He suggested exploring the process of becoming Immigrant Welcoming. Similar to our designation of Open and Affirming, which affirms our care and unconditional welcome of members of the LGBTQ+ community, Immigrant Welcoming is a symbol of our open doors and understanding of an all-embracing God.

According to the national UCC Immigrant Welcoming movement: "We live in a world of people on the move. According to the United Nations, there are over 100 million forcibly displaced people in the world – an unfortunate record in world history. The Bible is full of stories about God's people being forced to leave their countries: Adam and Eve, Noah, Sarah and Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Naomi, Esther, Jeremiah, Jesus, Mary and Joseph to name some. We in the United Church of Christ find our grounding in God's Word about how we are to treat the stranger in our midst. We believe we are called to offer an "extravagant welcome."

The church plays an important role in the immigration discussion. Our faith tradition and sacred texts are saturated with stories about immigrants. We have a special ability and calling to reach out and love the neighbor--- all of our neighbors. Loving those on the margins, who often have cultural and life experiences much different **than ours, takes education, courage, and intentional engagement with the sensibilities of our faith."**

If you are interested in working with a small group to explore the possibility of learning about becoming Immigrant Welcoming here at Smyrna, please let me know.

Blessings, Pastor Jennifer

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2025 Chili Cook-Off

Yes folks, it is that time of year again. Cook-off and Super Bowl. Dust off your big skillet and kettle of red beans to begin your preparations for making Chili.



A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the narthex waiting for you to sign up your team and enter the Cook-off scheduled for February 9, 2025, following our church service.

Come prepared to present your chili and the congregation will be waiting to taste and make their selection of the best chili by throwing money into the donation pot set up at each table entered into the contest. We hope to see you there as an entrant and taster — either one or both.



Here at Smyrna we provide ongoing financial, emotional and spiritual support for youth within and beyond our four walls.

2024 was the 20th anniversary of the Glenda Yoder Sano Scholarship fund, which yearly provides awards for members of the church family pursuing a higher education. These scholarships are renewable each year. Here is a double note of gratitude from the Crispin family, one of three recipients of the scholarship this year.

Dear Smyrna Family - Derek and I are beyond grateful for the scholarship opportunities offered to students. Halaina has been so fortunate to be awarded financial support for her scholastic journey. In gratitude, Heidi and Derek Crispin

Dear Smyrna Family - Thank you for the scholarship for my schooling. This is my junior year at Oregon State studying Kinesiology. I appreciate the generosity immensely and I again just want to say thank you all. - Halaina

In the wider community, we are proud to continue to

Memory Cafe, Thursday February 6 at noon. Lunch provided. Free of charge, but please rsvp to PastorJenniferGarrison@gmail.com.

This month, we will hear from NAMI - the National Alliance on Mental Illness. This presentation will provide a personal perspective of mental health conditions, as **leaders with lived experience talk openly about what it's** like to have, or have a loved one whose life is affected by, a mental health condition.

This presentation provides:

- An opportunity to hear open and honest perspectives on a highly misunderstood topic.
- A chance to ask leaders questions, allowing for a deeper understanding of mental health conditions and dispelling of stereotypes and misconceptions.
- The understanding that people with mental health conditions have lives enriched by hopes, dreams and goals.
- Information on how to learn more about mental health and get involved with the mental health community.

support Second Home, a program of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon. This helps high school students who find themselves without the care of a parent or guardian to connect with a host home, so they can focus on school, healing and reconnecting with the community. This year, Smyrna continued our year-end tradition of gifting both a cash donation and homemade stockings for every youth in the program. We received a glowing letter of thanks from them.

Hello Rev. Garrison, All of us at Second Home wish to extend our gratitude for the generous support your congregation gave our students this holiday season. The homemade Christmas stockings gave each of our students a gift of home and personal touch of love. We had warm hearts presenting the stockings. The donation goes directly to the needs the students have throughout the year. Thank you so much for your compassion and support. Warmest wishes for a healthy and peaceful 2025! -The Second Home Team

Camp Adams – Summer of 2025

It is not too early to begin planning for Camp Adams this summer. Registration has begun for this **year's sessions**. Please go to:

[Youth Camps — Camp Adams](#) to check them out. There is something for everyone.

Women's Fellowship will help pay the tuition. Application for camperships through Women's Fellowship should be available soon. Going to the website will also give information about how to volunteer.

There is a surcharge if you register later than April 1, 2025.

Blood Pressure and You —

You have no doubt had your blood pressure checked numerous times, usually during every doctor visit, and you may have your own blood pressure machine at home to check it

whenever you need to or want to. One of the main reasons to monitor blood pressure is to detect the presence of hypertension, or high blood pressure, which increases the risk for heart attack or stroke. There are often no symptoms, and hypertension is sometimes called a silent killer for that reason.

Recommended medical guidelines for normal ranges of blood pressure have changed over the years.

There are two numbers, with the top number being called systolic (when the heart is contracting and pushing blood out into the body) and the lower number being called diastolic (when the heart is resting and being refilled with blood). The old guidelines defined hypertension as being over 149/90.

The new guidelines have the following categories:

- Normal: 120/80 or lower
- Elevated (previously called prehypertension): The systolic pressure is between 120 and 129 and the



SAVE THE DATE ALL CHURCH RETREAT
Friday, April 4 and Saturday, April 5, 2025

Save the date for an opportunity for fun, fellowship and an opportunity to help create the vision for our **congregation's ministry in 2025 and beyond**. We'll meet at Friendship House. Watch this space for



SPRING
RETREAT

details but in the meantime save April 4 and 5th.

diastolic pressure is 80 or lower. Elevated blood pressure can turn into high blood pressure if no action is taken. Lifestyle changes such as weight loss, healthy eating, and exercise can help.

- High blood pressure Stage 1: 130-139 for systolic or 80-89 for diastolic. Your doctor may suggest lifestyle changes or may prescribe medication.
- High blood pressure Stage 2: 140 or above for systolic or 90 or above for diastolic. Your doctor is likely to prescribe both lifestyle changes and medication.

If you do have hypertension, it is a good idea to monitor it at home in between doctor visits and consult your doctor if there is a significant change.

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.)

Sunday, February 2 —
Holy Communion
Preacher Rev. Tyler Con-
noley
Luke 12:54-59

Sunday, February 9
Luke 5:1-11
Preacher Pastor Jennifer

Sunday, February 16
Preacher Rev. Ann Muir
Sunday, February 23
Luke 6:27-38
Preacher Pastor Jennifer

Welcoming CPC Conference Minister Rev. Tyler Connoley

Our guest preacher on Sunday, February 2 will be the Rev. Tyler Connoley.

The Rev. Tyler Connoley was called to be our Conference Minister in November of 2019. They came to the CPC after serving in the conference settings of the Southwest and the Missouri Mid-South. They live in Portland and are a member of Waverly Heights UCC.

Tyler is fifth-generation clergy, so you could say church is in their DNA. They are also fifth-generation North-westerner on their father's side, with ancestors who settled in Star, Idaho and later moved to the Medford area and other parts of Oregon. Tyler grew up in Zambia, where their parents were missionaries in the Wesleyan Church, and came to the United Church of Christ in 2004.

Tyler has spent most of their adult life serving in the church, first as a lay leader and then as an ordained minister, including five years as a chaplain. Tyler loves connecting people, and helping them find their calling, and has years of experience in group and individual discernment processes, which they bring to local churches in times of transition and conflict. Their gentle prophetic voice persistently calls us to relationships of love and responsibility.

A biblical theologian and storyteller, Tyler has a Master of Arts in Religion and a Master of Divinity, both from Earlham School of Religion. Their undergraduate degree is in Business and Economics from Indiana Wesleyan University.

In addition to their ministry activities, Tyler is a small-business owner with their husband, Chef Rob Connoley.

Smyrna Reading Group Reboot

Would you be interested in reading and discussing books with other readers? Have you read a book lately that spoke to you or broadened your thinking about a person, place, event, animal, vegetable or mineral or yourself?

Stop by the library area in the narthex after worship in February and bring your ideas about time and place (meeting in person), frequency of meeting, and suggestions for books to discuss. Or contact Ann Clites (annclites52@gmail.com).



New Books in Smyrna's Library

(Note: Library has moved from Friendship House to the bookshelf in the Narthex.)

Back to the Well by Frances Taylor Gench. John Knox Press, 2004.

This book takes a deep dive into the gospel stories where women meet and sometimes confront Jesus in different ways. These encounters are some of the most powerful yet misunderstood parts of Jesus' story.

First Nations New Testament. IVP, 2021.

This version of the New Testament was translated through the languages of indigenous peoples of North America. Though the story remains the same, the wording and choices made within the text offer a fresh perspective and makes it feel a bit like meeting Jesus again for the first time.

Rescuing the Gospel From the Cowboys by Richard Twiss. IVP, 2015.

This book brings a unique understanding of the way the gospel is paired with cultural colonization. Richard Twiss, a Native American, brings in Native American wisdom and perspective to the gospel and suggests that Jesus may be brought to different populations without asking them to abandon their own culture for the culture of the ones who brought them the gospel.

Danny Paul Fisher

Dan was born October 23, 1940 and passed away January 4, 2025. In his 84 years he lived a great life.

He was born in Livingston Montana and eventually came to Molalla Oregon with his Parents Harold and Marie Fisher. He met his lifelong partner and wife Beryl Marine at a football game at Molalla High School; they were married in 1961 and started their family in 1962.

Dan and Beryl have 4 children. Kara Tellinghusen, Tracy McKee, Kent Fisher and Kimberly Reed. Kent Fisher and Kimberly Reed preceded Dan in death.

They have 14 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren.

Dan lived a life of hard work and good hobbies and interests. He worked for Avison Lumber Mill for 30 Years and retired from there in 1999.

Dan was a Member of Jaycees Club a service organization. While he was involved with this group, they built Bathrooms at Long Park in Molalla, put up a reader board for upcoming events in Molalla, was part of their fundraising with the 4th of July Dunk Tank and fundraising booth for local charity and projects for the community. He also played on their Softball league each summer while he was a member. This group only allows members until they turn 35 years old, later in life he was inducted to the Jaycee I Senate.

Dan and Beryl had a small farm in Canby and raised their own beef, and later Christmas trees

Dan then joined the Elks Club and was part of their bowling league for many years and enjoyed the friendships he made through the club.

Dan also discovered that he enjoyed golfing, and was a member of Ranch Hills Golf Club.

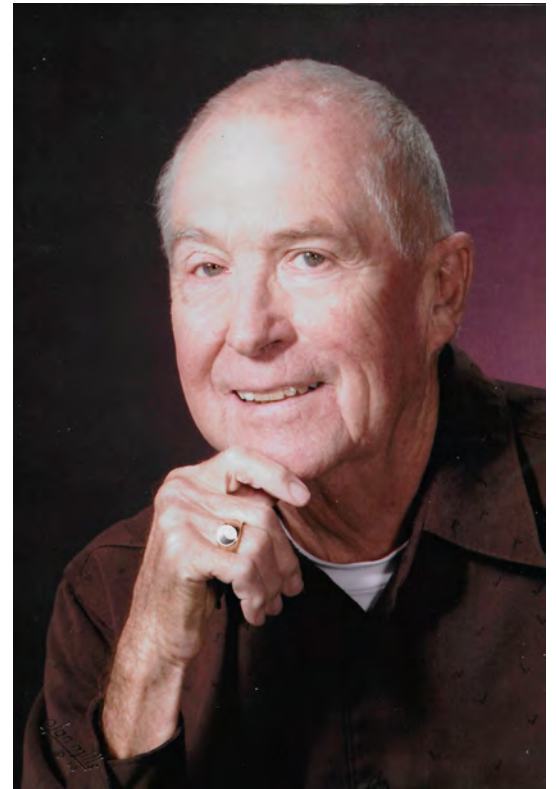
Dan had a love for the outdoors and went hunting every year and provided meat for his family table. He taught his son Kent to hunt and enjoyed taking his family on camping trips. We spent several summers going to 3 Rivers in Central Oregon with friends.

When we had family gatherings the cribbage board would come out and we would all be impressed by his ability to win the game on a regular basis.

Dan and Beryl loved to travel and took many trips. They visited Europe and met relatives we didn't know. They traveled to Australia to visit a friend they made in Hawaii. They went to Hawaii every year for 2 months at a time for over 20 years and met up with the same group of friends to hang out with on the snorkeling beach. They decided to take all of their adult children and spouses on a cruise to Mexico. The family still talks about this trip and fun we all had together.

Dan will be missed very much. His family and friends are richer for having him in their lives.

The family suggests memorials may be made to Smyrna United Church of Christ.



February 2025 at Smyrna

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>Jan 2025</p> <table style="font-size: small; border-collapse: collapse;"> <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>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td></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 style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>Mar 2025</p> <table style="font-size: small; border-collapse: collapse;"> <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></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr> <tr><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></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	29	30	31						1
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<p>10:30 am Worship Services Luke 12:54-59 Holy Communion Rev. Tyler Connoley preaching</p> <p>b.d. Aurora Stanbro, Helen Parker</p>	<p>7 pm AAVAO</p>	<p>b.d. Loretta Wallace</p>	<p>b.d. Jean Akers</p>	<p>b.d. Carl Menkel, Skyler Wilson, Lois Johnson</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



- Liz Chapin
- Jerry and Paul Holbrook
- Mary Namit
- Paul and Mary Ashton
- Pat Bullard
- Beryl Fisher and the family of Dan Fisher
- Genevieve Freeman
- Barack Holt and his family
- ◆ **Jeannie Rogers' brothers**
Steven and John M
- ◆ The Crispin family
- Almeta Peterson



With sorrow for his passing and rejoicing that at long last his suffering is ended, we ask for your prayers for the family of Dan Fisher. He passed away on January 4, 2025.

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.