

BEHOLD!

SMYRNA

May 2025



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Dear Friends,

Christ is on the loose! He can't be contained as he pops up here in a garden, there on a road, again at a dinner party and one more time cooking breakfast on a beach. He appears to his closest friends, but he's so transformed that they require proof that it's really him. These are just some of the accounts of Jesus appearing to his friends and disciples after the resurrection. During the month of May, we'll explore four of those interactions to see what they reveal to us about how we encounter the Living Christ in our everyday lives. I look forward to exploring these compelling stories with you.

In the UCC, we have room to hold many beliefs about the resurrection. For some, the bodily resurrection of Christ is an important cornerstone of faith. For others, the stories are powerful metaphors. And for others (our founding father Thomas Jefferson was among these) the post-resurrection appearances are too kooky to be needed by modern people at all. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, these stories have hung around for a couple of thousand years for a reason — together let's figure out why. See you in church!

Blessings,
Pastor Jennifer

May Worship

	May 18
May 4 - Holy Communion	John 20:19-29
John 20:11-18	
	May 25
May 11	John 21:1-17
Luke 24:13-32	

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WOMEN'S RETREATS IN 2025:

Are any Smyrna women interested in attending a retreat in 2025? This year our conference will host a smaller, July retreat at Pilgrim Cove camp in Idaho or a larger, November retreat at Skamania Lodge in Stephenson WA for all women. Brief descriptions of both retreats follow. If you are interested, let me know in the next month or so. I'd be happy to put together a carpool to one of those events. -Pastor Jennifer

July 28- 31, 2025 in Idaho

Our Annual Women's Retreat is our gathering of ladies from across the conference who come to Pilgrim Cove Camp in Idaho to retreat, relax and have a wonderful time in the splendor of the mountain beauty. There will be bible study, worship singing and presentations planned with ample free time to enjoy the lake, the outdoors, time with friends and much more. Come and see old friends and new ones in the wonders of the outdoors.

November 7-9, 2025 in Washington

The Pacific Northwest & Central Pacific Conferences of the United Church of Christ join together every three years to offer a spiritual and motivational retreat. Plan now, mark your calendars, register, and get set to join us November 7-9, 2025 for a fantastic event at Skamania Lodge in Stevenson, WA! What a perfect time to Embrace Joy! Come and take time just for yourself. Breathe deeply, relax fully, and explore, enrich, and rekindle your spirit. This is a retreat created for YOU.

The Fund Raising Group has designated **May 11,**



2025, as the date for a Mother's Day Brunch. This will be held in Friendship Hall following our Church Service which ends at 11:30 AM. Please stay and join in with the celebration of all Mothers near and far. Brunch will continue until 2:00 PM. We hope you can include us in your plans for this Day.

Smyrna Scholarship Program Established 2004 in memory of Glenda Yoder Sano

Purpose: The Smyrna UCC Scholarship program is designed to provide financial assistance to students who are part of the Smyrna Church family who are or will be enrolled in any accredited college, university, technical or trade school. The committee at its discretion may add others who are eligible to apply.

Scholarship Award: The selection of award recipients will be made by the Smyrna UCC Scholarship Committee chosen by Smyrna United Church of Christ. For 2025, the committee consists of: Ann Stronko, Amber Enfield, and Joel Daniels.

Eligibility Requirements: Applicants must be a high school graduate with diploma or a G.E.D. or already enrolled in a certified program of continuing education and making satisfactory progress. The applicant must be a participant in the Smyrna UCC community. Applicants are expected to enroll full-time or are already enrolled full-time in any accredited college, university, technical or trade school. Although there is no required GPA, the applicant must have a satisfactory school record.

Application Procedure: Complete all the information required (see application) and staple together.

If you have questions, please call Joel at: 503-651-2694 or jedaniels40@gmail.com



A Message from UCC General Minister and President Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson

Lately, there has been much conversation about immigration policies in the United States. The issue remains front and center as deportation orders are implemented and concerns continue to mount with reports of the wrongfully deported, the revocation of residence status, and the images of individuals being detained after being accosted on the street. The fear and anxiety resonate for those who are concerned for themselves, for friends, and for their families.

Certainties regarding interpretation of the law seem to be fleeting as Executive Orders take primacy over the Constitution and the rights which have been foundational for the United States of America. The history of the United States and its independence are rooted in protests **against empire** and unilateral decision making, pushing back **against British** monarchy and the British government. Lest we forget, ["In the early 1770s, more and more colonists became convinced that Parliament intended to take away their freedom. In fact, the Americans saw a pattern of increasing oppression and corruption happening all around the world. Parliament was determined to bring its unruly American subjects to heel."](#) Where history is forgotten, history is bound to repeat itself.

In a country of people whose ancestors crossed the waters for their freedom and created ways to ensure that those freedoms were protected, we find ourselves in a quandary over upholding freedoms and human rights. In a country where government was created with the intent of protecting freedom and rights, the government is the creator of the fears and anxieties, along with denying the rights including the right to due process. Where do we go from here?

Tears are pooling at our feet as we weep for justice. The cries for justice continue. Justice for those detained without due process. Justice for those whose lives have been disrupted by deportations. Justice for those who are being sent to countries that are not their countries of origin. The disputes over who belongs and who does not have become tangled with religiously undergirded nationalistic inclinations which are being confused with patriotism. [**Patriotism and nationalism are not synonymous.**](#) Even as claims are being made over the ownership of country there are denials of the rights of the first peoples of the lands that are a part of the United States. That in-

cludes the rights of the indigenous people of the contiguous 48 states, Alaska and Hawaii. The creation of new tales of how the United States came into being and the denial of the history of the United States including the atrocities of settlers perpetrated against indigenous peoples, Africans bought and sold as chattel, and those brought in as indentured workers cannot erase the history of oppression and the current realities in the US. Where history is forgotten, history is bound to repeat itself.

I woke up the other morning with the [lyrics](#) of [My Country, 'Tis of Thee](#) rolling around in my head. Well, to be honest, parts of the first stanza, which is what is most familiar. "My country 'tis of thee/Sweet land of liberty/of thee I sing... Let freedom ring." The song which appears in some hymnals originally had five stanzas, one of which is said to have been removed by Smith. The stanza speaks to the tyranny early residents of the United States experienced at the hands of the British. This oppressive history should not be repeated. The freedom desired for all in these United States is yet to materialize. The patriotism in the song rings loud, an understanding of the freedom possible. This possibility was being sung even as people were yet enslaved. Then, as now, all are not free in this country. The song was written in 1831 by S. F. Smith, a Baptist minister who was a graduate of [Andover Theological Seminary](#), which was created in 1807 to educate congregational ministers. The song was written 30 years before the start of the Civil War in 1861 and the subsequent Emancipation Proclamation in 1863. It spoke then to freedom enjoyed by some and yet to be realized by others. These are freedoms we still yearn and long for in this land of which we sing: "My country 'tis of thee/Land where there's no liberty."

"Nobody's free until everybody's free" is attributed to Civil Rights activist Fannie Lou Hamer. We are not all free. The work of justice is not yet done. The work ahead is to ensure that freedom is not just possible, but that freedom is present for all. The work ahead is the call to ensure that the vision and accomplishments of the ancestors are not rolled back at a whim. The quest for justice must continue until all are free. We must not grow weary in the presence of tyranny, nor should we lose our voices and claim silence in the presence of fear and anxiety. Instead, the tears we shed and the justice we seek should provide the courage we need to continue seeking a just world for all.

CHAIR YOGA IS FOR EVERYONE!

FREE!

TUESDAYS AT 11:30, APRIL 29 - JUNE 3

Eryl Kirkele



If you would like to experience the mental and physical health benefits of yoga, without having to get down on the floor, join us!

This class will be led by Pastor Jennifer as part of her 200 hour Yoga Teacher Training course.

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 Scholarship Program Application 2025

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Email: _____ G.P.A. _____

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

School 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 participation in the life of Smyrna UCC (Examples would be attendance or assistance with the worship, grounds cleanup, Chili Cook-off, Peace Camp, Road Cleanup, etc.).
3. A statement of your educational goals and career aspirations.
4. A copy of your High School or College transcript.

The application is due no later than May 15th, 2025.

Submit in person to Joel Daniels

or mail to:

Smyrna UCC, 31119 S Hwy 170, Canby, OR 97013, ~~attn:~~ *Scholarship,*

or email to:

smyrnaucc@canby.com

note: If you do not hear back within a few days after submission, contact Joel Daniels, jedaniels40@gmail.com, or 503-651-2694 to make sure your application was received.

Selection will be made by May 31, 2025, and you will be notified by letter with instructions about how to receive your award.

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



- Paul and Mary Ashton
- Pat Bullard
- Beryl Fisher
- Genevieve Freeman
- The Holt family
- Murlene Liechty
- Jeannie Rogers' brothers
Steven and John
- Anne Stronko and Roger
Marin
- Dale Skiles
- The Crispin family
- Kevin 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.

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

May 2025

1

10am - Office hours

2

12pm - Celebration of

3

4

C.H: Joel & Elaine
10:30am - SS: Jeannie
10:30am - Worship

5

BD: Isabella Rigg
7pm - AA/AO Meeting

6

10am - Office hours

7

8

10am - Office hours
12pm - W. F. Luncheon
7pm - Church Council

9

BD: Mark Gano

10

BD: Cherly Sano
BD: Nancy Bryant
BD: Cheryl Kirkele

11

BD: Jeff Hammock
Mothers Day Brunch
10:30am - SS: Kristin
10:30am - Worship

12

BD: Bernadette Yoder
BD: Florence Pease
BD: Judy Burbank
7pm - AA/AO Meeting

13

10am - Office hours

14

15

10am - Office hours

16

BD: Lauren Humphreys
1pm - Bell Choir

17

BD: Lincoln Bangs
W.A: John & Florence

18

C.H: Womens Fellowship
F: Joel & Elaine
10:30am - SS: Debi
10:30am - Worship

19

BD: Colton Fisher
7pm - AA/AO Meeting

20

10am - Office hours

21

BD: Sherry Skiies

22

10am - Office hours

23

BD: Linda Dunn

24

25

BD: John Patterson
BD: Ron Lindland
C.H: Diaconate Team A
10:30am - SS: Rebekah
10:30am - Worship

26

Cemetery Clean up Day
7pm - AA/AO Meeting

27

10am - Office hours

28

BD: Louise Allee

29

BD: Sydney Humphreys
10am - Office hours

30

BD: Dan Allee

31