

# BEHOLD! SMYRNA

## July 2025



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

*Dear Smyrna Folks,*

We often read the first 5 verses of the book of John at Christmas time, but I find myself praying with them again as I write this on the first day of summer. **It's a rather gloomy one, and these words** are today a reminder of the eternity and strength of the light. They read:

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not overtake it.*

We save them for Christmas, but honestly, we could read these words every single day and find new hope, strength and power in them. What a beautiful image on a cold and rainy day, or on a warm and sunny one, that the Light that was born in the first moments of the universe is born and reborn day after day after day. Whether the chill you feel is from the weather, or from the dis-ease of the current cultural climate, take these words with you. Even in summer, we can rejoice in reminders like these that the Light is right here, right now.

Blessings,  
Pastor Jennifer



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We will meet at the church on August 2nd (Saturday) at 9 am for our next road cleanup on our adopted portion of Highway 170 a.k.a. Canby/Marquam Highway.

Rick will have the road signs, vests, yellow bags, and pickup

devices on hand at 9 am at the church. It would be great to have as many volunteers as possible, which will make the job quicker.

This is a good opportunity for scholarship applicants to provide service to the church. Any questions can be directed to Rick Gano at 503-651-2044.

## Changes in payment & Reimbursement

The church now has a credit card for individuals and committees to make purchases. All charges

using the credit card must go through Leo. There is a special form for you to use Request for Credit Card Order. There are instructions on the back of the form. For the most part the credit card will be for online purchases delivered to the church.

If you have already purchased something, turn in the Request for Reimbursement Form. Make sure you have a signature from the person or committee chair that authorized the purchase and say what it will be used for.

## LONELY? Medical issues? Need Help?



Please visit the Smyrna Resource page. On **Smyrna's website**, [www.smyrna-ucc.org](http://www.smyrna-ucc.org), just click the Resource tab ....



# FUNDRAISER DINNER



You are invited!

The Scholarship program at Smyrna UCC is sponsoring a Mexican dinner on July 19, 2025, with the **proceeds to go towards Joshua Barber's endeavor to attend seminary this fall.** We, at Smyrna, are very proud of our scholarship program which has helped many people, over the years complete their education. We feel very fortunate that we were able to recommend Joshua to the Central Pacific Conference where he was taken into care as a seminary student. He was accepted by the United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities in Minnesota and will be attending online this fall.

The dinner will begin at 4:00 PM Saturday evening and as there will be no charge for the meal we ask that you come prepared to give a donation to this **very important event in Joshua's life.**

If you wish further information you may call upon Ginger Redinger, Joel Daniels or Barbara Daniels with questions. Thank you.



The trustees enjoyed some cool work the first weekend in June. Paul did the real work, while the rest of the crew were his safety inspectors and "gophers"

Thank you Paul and his crew of safety inspectors and "go-fers"!



## Pride Celebrations

Smyrna UCC members helped to make our presence at both the Canby Pride and Silverton Pride celebrations a vibrant and colorful experience.



Are you a chocoholic?



If so, you may be pleased to know that there are some benefits associated with dark chocolate. A British Medical Journal study has shown that people who eat about an ounce of dark chocolate a day have a 21% lower risk of developing Type 2 diabetes when compared to those who don't eat it. Previous studies have shown that cocoa contains compounds which lower the risk of stroke and other cardiovascular disease and contribute to a modest decrease in blood pressure.

One thing to remember, however, eating one ounce of dark chocolate a day does not mean that unlimited amounts are a good idea. No daily Amazon deliveries of Hershey bars for you! The added fat and sugar from all that chocolate will pack on the pounds for sure



# Peace Camp at Smyrna



Undeterred by the road closure for paving, parents found their way to Smyrna, bringing a lively group of 17 energetic and creative kids to participate in an amazing week of songs, discussions of peace, art, crafts, games, songs (see the butterfly song on another page), plant care, and the release of live butterflies in the cemetery. One of the butterflies spent some time on the headstone of an infant.

Thank you to the group of adults and teens who volunteered their time and talents to make Peace Camp not only enjoyable, but a valuable experience for the Peace Campers.

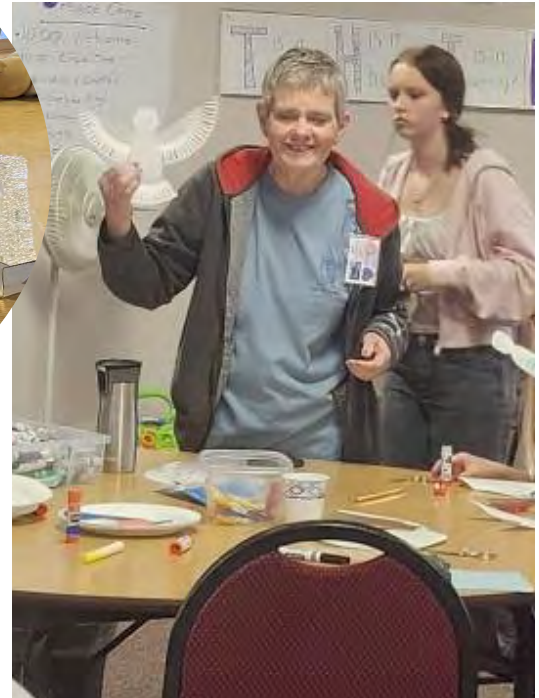
**Liz Chapin may have said it best:** "Peace Camp can be creative and chaotic and wonderful and exhausting but it's always fun every year."



TRUE?  
Helpful?  
Inspiring?  
Necessary?  
Kind?











Butterfly Song By Liz Chapin & Peace Campers 2025  
Sung to the tune of I've been working on the railroad



I've been thinking bout the butterflies.  
At Peace Camp today  
If you think that they are just hairy worms  
That's a big mistake..

They start out as caterpillars  
And turn into chrysalis  
Pretty soon they will be flying everywhere  
To help out all of us!

Betcha you didn't know  
They dont have a nose  
Butterflies smell through their feet-ee-eeet  
Betcha didn't know  
They don't like the cold  
They drink flower nectar cuz it's sweet.

(Dinah verse)  
Butterfly wings are see-ee through  
And they can't fly when it's cold  
Butterflies don't live so very long  
So they don't grow that old

Betcha you didn't know  
They help our gardens grow  
They pollenate our plants and tree-ee-eees!  
Betcha you didn't know  
They can help an oak  
Grow into a great big tree!!!

We will always treasure butterflies  
And keep them safe as they fly  
God sent them here to color our world  
And brighten up our sky!



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



- Paul and Mary Ashton
- Barack Holt and Family
- Anne Stronko and Roger Marin
- The Crispin Family
- Murlene Liechty
- John Farrell (Janet Bess' brother)
- Christine Albright
- Winter Pebley
- **Jeannie Rogers' brothers**  
Steven and John



*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
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
<b>July 2025</b>		10am - Office hours	7pm - Diaconate	10am - Office hours	BD Scott Stierle WA: Ginger R & Mary N	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
CH: Mission & Outreach Preaching: Ann Muir U/R Janet & Pat 10:30am - SS: Jeannie 10:30am - Worship	7pm - AA/AO Meeting	BD: Josh Gorrell 10am - Office hours		10am - Office hours 7pm - Church Council		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
CH: Christian Education Preaching: Joshua Baber U/R Karyl & Barb 10:30am - SS: Kristin 10:30am - Worship	7pm - AA/AO Meeting	10am - Office hours		10am - Office hours	BD: Kristan Rigg 1pm - Bell Choir Practice	BD: Sheila Daniels Mex. Dinner for Joshua WA: Rick & Levonne Ganc
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
BD: Angie Stierle BD: Bryce Crispin BD: Luca Bangs BD: Tracy McKee CH: WF B Flowers: Linda D Preaching: Caroline U/R Rick & Levonne 10:30am - SS: Debi 10:30am - Worship	7pm - AA/AO Meeting	10am - Office hours		BD: John Mahar 10am - Office hours	BD: Don Rogers	BLD USED WA: Paul & Mary Ashton
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
BD: Terry Daniels BD: Tom Daniels Flowers: Barbara D U/R Mary & Barb 10:30am - SS: Rebekah 10:30am - Worship	7pm - AA/AO Meeting	10am - Office hours		10am - Office hours		