

BEHOLD! SMYRNA

August 2025



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Dear Smyrna Folks

I know that immigration is nothing new. But I've recently learned for the first time about the Siddi people, African immigrants who reside in India.

According to historian Zvia Lipkin, Africans arrived in India **in mostly three "waves."** The earliest migration was as far back as the second or third centuries CE, when African merchants and sailors arrived in India. The second occurred in the fourteenth century. Then, under the rule of Arabs and Mughals, more Africans arrived as soldiers, administrators and sailors. The third wave happened in the sixteenth century, when Europeans began bringing African slaves to India. Over time, some of the descendants of these slaves escaped, moving inland to remote, inaccessible areas. There, they created free African Diaspora communities.

Over the centuries, these African migrants to India adopted some local customs, religions and languages, while also retaining and adapting some of their original culture. Despite their assimilation, Indian people still consider Siddis **as "aliens" or "outsiders," even though their ancestors have** been living in India for more than 800 years.

Try to imagine EIGHT CENTURIES of being an outsider, of trying to assimilate but also striving to retain your own customs or language, of trying to find a place to work and a way to support your family.

Whether we are in rural India or rural Clackamas county, as followers of Christ, we are invited and challenged to **ensure that it doesn't have to be like that. Instead, we are** called to welcome those who society would cast out, even as the culture becomes more and more determined to make life as difficult as possible for the immigrants in our midst.

I have recently received an invitation to work toward a societal transformation here in our own area, along with other **clergy colleagues. Twice a month I'll be volunteering at the** federal courthouse in downtown Portland (where we will walk families to their cars after court appts) and the ICE holding facility on Macadam in the South Waterfront (where we will co-host a pop-up support tent before and after families do their ICE check-ins).

This is a small contribution, but by being a public, moral and caring presence, we can send a message to those who are being detained, their detainees, and the public that we believe there is a different way than the terrorizing and lack of due process we have witnessed this summer. If you have any questions or thoughts about this public witness, please let me know. I look forward to letting you know more about it in the months ahead.

Warmly,
Pastor Jennifer



Ministers: All members of the church

Minister: Rev. Jennifer Garrison

Editor: Jeannie Rogers Asst. Editor: Elaine Daniels

Church Phone (503) 651-2131

email: smyrnaucc@canby.com

Website: www.smyrna-ucc.org

31119 S. Highway 170, Canby, OR 97013



On August 10, make the trek to Camp Adams where — following decades of tradition — we will meet for a worship at 11 am.

Bring your favorite potluck dish to share after worship, walk in the woods, and (perhaps) view some wildlife in the great outdoors.

You are invited!

The Scholarship program at Smyrna UCC is sponsoring a Mexican dinner on August 2, 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 call Ginger Redinger, Joel Daniels or Barbara Daniels. Thank you.

Sundays in August

August 3 - Acts 2:42-47
Holy Communion

August 10 - Worship at Camp Adams!
Summer Christmas Celebration

August 17 - Acts 16:11-15

August 24 - Acts 9:1-19

August 31 - Ask the Pastor



We are very excited to be kicking off a new program this month on Saturday, August 9 starting at 10 am — Art and Soul.

Whether you are a seasoned artist, or have never made art before, this gathering is a way to find serenity, creativity and joy in a group of others. Each month we will explore a different craft.

In August, we'll begin with Kiwandi quilting. Kawandi is a hand-stitched quilt, made from scrap fabric, assembled from the outside in, in a spiraling pattern. Our facilitator this month, Karen Alexander, will have all the materials and instructions we need, so please R.S.V.P. to smyrnaucc@canby.com if you are coming.

If you have any questions about the gathering, contact Jennifer Garrison or Karen Alexander (503) 689-4300 or k33alexand@aol.com



In exchange for **using Smyrna's** parking lot during the repaving of Highway 170, K and L Industries agreed to reseal and stripe the **parking lot**. It's been completed!

Open Mic Night



Calling poets,
comics,
musicians, and
performers of all
kinds!

- 🎵 Music
- 📖 Poetry
- 😄 Comedy
- 🗣️ Stories
- 🎸 Instruments

ALL AGES WELCOME

🌟 Free Entry/Snacks 🍪

💎 RSVP OR WALK IN:
SMYRNAUCC@CANBY.COM

AUG 31st @4p

31119 S Highway 170
Canby, OR 97013



Barn Quilt Raffle Winner!

On Sunday, July 20, the final tickets were sold, and the winner drawn for the wooden quilt block created and donated by Jeff Marshall. Linda Dunn held the winning ticket.

\$360 was added to the Deck Fund from this effort. Thanks to everyone who purchased tickets.

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.)



Meet New Member Karen Alexander —

I grew up in a conservative evangelical church. I remember that Sunday was special — we took a bath Saturday night and polished our shoes, we dressed up. I also remember that there were strict rules around whispering and wiggling during church. Everything was black and white with no questions welcomed. The music has stuck with me and has been a fond memory. It took me some years to realize that God was bigger than any faith tradition and **those old rules don't** really matter.

Wilsonville had a very active community UCC church with 100 kids in attendance for Sunday School back in the

80's. I gravitated there for my kids and then stayed for myself. Later Covid happened, the church changed, I changed, and I was ready for something different. Eventually I really missed the caring community, the music and the spirit filled teachings. **I lurked on Smyrna's YouTubes for awhile, and then decided to be brave and show** up in person. You all have welcomed me warmly. **I hope Smyrna's** extravagant welcome will continue and keep reaching out to touch the community and world.

My experiences as a young nursing student exposed me to suffering and dying patients, and also the exhilaration of new birth. My observations and emotions **just didn't compute with my rigid religious** upbringing, and I knew there had to be a wider and more joyful path. I enjoyed my nursing career immensely, especially the last 20 years caring for NICU patients and their families. It was a combination of very high tech and high touch together. It brought me much joy to be able to serve in that capacity with both my mind and heart.

I am happy to include in my family 2 married daughters and 2 teen granddaughters. They live in Portland and Salem. My father was born and raised in Canby, then moved to Seattle where he raised his family. There are still a few Freece folks in the area and the old farm on Mulino Road.

If you visit my home you will think it was decorated by an 8-year-old with a new box of crayons. I am enjoying quilt making, knitting, and painting. The photo shows me and a quilt — both works in progress.



MIND



About 6.9 million Americans over the **age of 65 have Alzheimer's disease**, the most common form of dementia. Although the exact cause is still unclear, **Alzheimer's is associated with the** buildup of amyloid plaques and neurofibrillary tangles in the brain. In time, brain cells die and the brain shrinks.

One of the earliest symptoms is a decline in short-term memory. Over time, memory worsens, and patients become unable to perform activities of daily living and lose the ability to make sound decisions. Many progress to needing 24-hour care by either family members or care facilities.

Although Alzheimer's disease has been recognized since 1906, for a long time no medical tests were available for a definitive diagnosis; therefore, it was diagnosed by neurological exams and cognitive tests. Eventually it was possible to use PET scans or spinal taps and examination of spinal fluid for diagnosis. Now, for the first time, the FDA has approved a blood test to diagnose Alzheimer's. **The test, called Lumipulse, can detect the presence of amyloid plaques in the brain.**

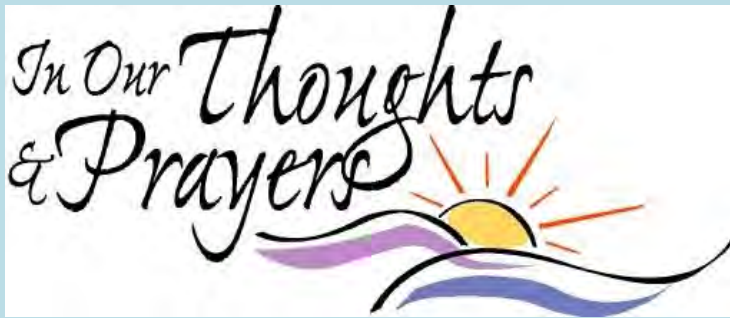
Since the test was approved only in May 2025, it will no doubt take time to be approved by insurance companies and be readily available. The cost is still unknown.

**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
- Barack Holt and Family
- Anne Stronko and Roger Marin
- The Crispin Family
- Murlene Liechty
- 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
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
		August 2025				BD: Andrew Daniels 9am - Roadway Cleanup 4pm - Joshua Dinner
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
CH: Mission & Outreach F: Jeannie Rogers U/R: (Mary)Barb WA: Elaine & Joel Daniels 10:30am - SS: Jeannie 10:30am - Worship 1pm - BLD USED	BD: Lisa Havre 7pm - AA/AO Meeting	10am - Office hours 7pm - Diaconate		10am - Office hours	BD: Emily Yoder	10am - Art and Soul @
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
U/R: Karyl & Ganos 11am - Worship @ Camp	7pm - AA/AO Meeting	10am - Office hours		10am - Office hours 7pm - Church Council		WA: Kyle & Heather
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
BD: Bill Chapman CH: WF(A) Christian Ed MEETING U/R: Karyl/Pat (Janet) 10:30am - SS: Debi 10:30am - Worship	7pm - AA/AO Meeting	10am - Office hours	BD: Adam Maurer	WA: Derek & Heidi Crispin 10am - Office hours	BD: Twyla Blatchford 1pm - Bell Choir Practice	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
U/R: Christine/Pat(Open) 10:30am - SS: Rebekah 10:30am - Worship	BD: Oliver Humphreys 7pm - AA/AO Meeting	BD: Joann Gribble WA: Deb & Steve WA: Kyle & Heather 10am - Office hours	BD: James Yoder	10am - Office hours		BD: Carly Ilami
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
CH: DT (A) U/R: Pat/Barb(Open) 10:30am - Worship 4pm - Open Mic						