BEHOLD! SMYRNA

October 2025

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Dear folks,
This year, the Mission and Outreach team has decided to dedicate themselves to the theme of immigration and are inviting the congregation to experiences of learning, service, prayer and protest that will help us better understand this issue.

As followers of Christ, we believe that all people are made in the image of God, and deserve dignity, compassion, and protection. We remember that Jesus himself was a refugee, who was forced to flee the country just after he was born, because his life was in danger. Again and again, scripture calls us to welcome the stranger, care for the marginalized, and seek justice for the oppressed. So, we are doing what we can here at Smyrna to live out this call, which is not a political issue but faith and humanitarian one.

Here's one example. One Thursday in September, Janet Bess and I attended a protest against inhumane and illegal deportations. Along with 200 others, we gathered at the ICE building in Portland to pray, sing and learn. In order to leave a memory of the more than 100 people from Oregon who have been deported since June, we wrote their initials in chalk. It was a beautiful, sunny day and we also had a chance to have a conversation with some of the protesters who had been camping there. It was a beautiful day, but one difficult part of our time there was being impacted by tear gas and other chemical remnants that cover the ground around the building - we were sneezing and experienced watery eyes and tingly mouths just from being near where tear gas had been. It was a reminder of the terror that those who regularly protest are undergoing, and made us more determined than ever to continue to add our witness to theirs.

Looking ahead, I would like to invite you to join Ginger Redlinger and I (and hopefully others from our church and conference!) for a weekend of learning at Good Shepherd United Church of Christ in Sahuarita Arizona from JANUARY 15 -17, 2026. This yearly event is called Common Ground from the Border.

This year's theme is "Changes in a Changeless Desert: A celebration of commitment, compassion, and community across the US/Mexico borderlands."

The United States-Mexico borderlands has always been a beautiful mix of culture, language, cuisine, economies, and people. It has also been a place of struggle, high and low temperatures, a fragile environment, and the push and pull of immigration.

The Borderlands is the perfect place to explore the arts, touch the culture, and have deeper conversations about the complicated issues that collide here. We hope you will come and explore with us all the possibilities.

Thursday is a day of engaging field trips to immerse ourselves in the culture, life, and issues along the US/Mexico border. Then there will be an evening film screening of the documentary film, "Samaritans", by David Damian Figueroa. On Friday we will have keynote addresses in the morning, classes in the afternoon, and a great dinner followed by an evening with Dr. Kathy Bullock leading us in a musical journey of gospel music and spirituals. On Saturday we will have keynote addresses and a festival in the morning, classes in the afternoon and another great dinner followed by an evening exclusive documentary film, "Ugly Little Monkeys" — The story of the world-renowned mariachi youth group, "Los Changuitos Feos," and a concert by Los Changuitos Feos.

I plan to travel to Arizona on Wednesday, January 14 and stay through worship at Good Shepherd UCC on Sunday, January 18th. Registration for this event begins on October 15th. Please let me know if you are interested in joining us for this powerful and transformative experience. You can also find out more, including a detailed program, at Common Ground at the Border (https://cgotb01.wixsite.com/my-site-3).

Please let me know how you are feeling about this emphasis on immigrant justice. What does it stir in you? What questions do you have? What hopes does it inspire? I look forward to connecting with you soon!

Blessings,
Jennifer

Following church on Sunday, October 12, 2025, we will hold an Apple give away with a Sausage/Sauerkraut dinner in Friendship House to commemorate the Columbus Day Storm. Where were you on that day, what happened?

Come and share your story. Please plan on joining us for fellowship and food as we begin the fall season. The cost will be a free will offering with baskets on each table. The funds will be pledged toward our deck build, which should be starting soon. Hope to see you there!

At Memory Cafe on Thursday October 2 at noon, besides our usual delicious lunch, Pastor Jennifer will facilitate a conversation on the 5 Wishes. Starting the conversation about advance care planning and end-of-life care can be difficult. But with help, people are beginning the discussion earlier to voice their individual care wishes and plan for the challenges that may come with aging, serious illness, or disability. As America's most frequently used living will, Five Wishes is a legal document that is easy to understand. It addresses the areas that matter most – the personal, emotional and spiritual, as well as the medical and legal. Join us for this important conversation! Everyone will receive a 5 wishes booklet to take home. Donations are always welcome to help cover the cost of Memory Cafe.

October 5 — World Communion Sunday
Pastor Jennifer Preaching
Exodus 16:1-18

October 12
Pastor Jennifer Preaching
1 Samuel 3:1-21

October 19
Joshua Barber Preaching
1 Samuel 16:1-13

October 26
Caroline Murphy Preaching
1 Kings 5:1-5; 8:1-13

October 12. Home Orchard Apple bag

After worship on Sunday, October 12, during and after the Sausage and Kraut dinner, there will be apples available for you to take home. Expect about six kinds to choose from.

Most of the apples are heritage varieties, and not those you would likely see in a grocery store. Exact list depends on how ripe each tree is, but may include: Golden Delicious, Northern Spy, Spitzenberg, Mutsu, Liberty, and maybe Newtown Pippin or Rome Beauty.

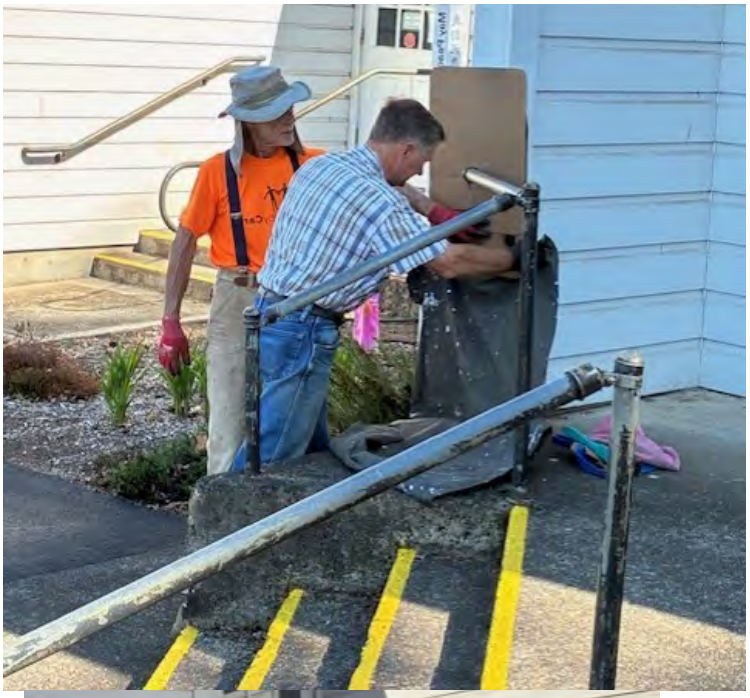
There should be enough that everyone can get 6 - 12 apples each. They will be placed in the narthex or Friendship Hall. Bring a bag or some will be available for you. Enjoy the Sausage and Kraut dinner and afterwards take home some fruit!

Our Trustees have been busy!

Smyrna Trustees removed the white metal sign and loaded it into Mary's truck to take to Hubbard. They will clean it powder coat it which should take about a week.

Then they cleaned, sanded, primed and painted the frame, so it will be ready for the newly powder coated sheet.

Paul put up a temporary sign until we get ours back from the painting in Hubbard.



LONELY? Medical issues? Need Help?

Please visit the Smyrna Resource page. On Smyrna's website, www.smyrna-ucc.org, just click the Resource tab ....

TRUNK OR TREAT

DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS

Bring the whole family for an evening of fun, tradition, and community!
Join us as we combine the playful spirit of Trunk or Treat with the rich cultural celebration of Día de los Muertos.

FREE COMMUNITY EVENT – EVERYONE WELCOME!

Fun for the Whole Family:

🍭 Candy & decorated trunks

🎨 Crafts & games

🌭 Free Lunch

Saturday, Nov 1st 11a-1p

31119 S Highway 170
Canby, OR 97013

SMYRNA
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS & TRUNKS

We're getting ready for our Trunk or Treat event and we need YOUR help to make it a fun and safe evening for our community!

How to help:

✅Decorate your car trunk and hand out candy

✅ Help with setup, crafts, games, cleanup

✅ Donate treats, candy, supplies

Your creativity and generosity make this event possible. Gather your friends, family, or group – Let's make this a SPOOK-TACULAR night for the kids!

Sign up TODAY!

Call (503)-651-2131

Email:

smyrnaucc@canby.com

Flu and Covid Vaccinations

September and October are generally considered to be the best months to get vaccinated against flu and COVID. The latest flu vaccine is ready and waiting, so feel free to go in to your local pharmacy or doctor's office and get it.

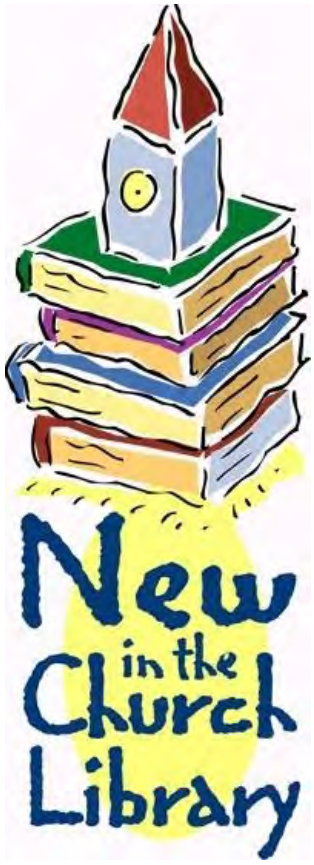
The COVID vaccine, however, has had a tumultuous and uncertain time of it, due to the new Department of Health and Human Services and its change in personnel and attitude toward vaccines. The FDA imposed restrictions on which people were approved for the vaccine; others outside of the approved groups could still try to get it but might have difficulty trying to get a doctor's prescription or might have to pay for it out of pocket.

Various medical groups, such as the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the American Academy of Pediatrics, disagreed with the FDA and issued their own recommendations. Individual states have taken action to increase access to the new COVID vaccine by giving pharmacists the okay to give vaccines without doctors' prescriptions.

California, Oregon, Washington, and Hawaii have formed a health alliance which issues its own recommendations designed to keep vaccine policy rooted in science rather than politics. It is guided by recommendations from major medical groups, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and the American Academy of Family Physicians.

So, any adult Oregonian may receive the COVID vaccine without a prescription. Children over 6 months of age are also recommended to receive the vaccine, although children under 7 years old must go to a doctor's office or clinic to get it. Most state-regulated health insurance plans must cover the vaccine without copays. If you are unsure if you are covered by insurance, ask the provider who administers the vaccine.

Now is the time to get both the flu and the COVID vaccines if you have not done so already.
Have a happy and disease-free fall and winter season



New Books in the Smyrna Library

Help Thanks Wow: The Three Essential Prayers by Anne Lamott. Lamott writes "I do not know much about God and prayer, but I have come to believe, over the last twenty-five years, that there's something to be said about keeping prayer simple. Help. Thanks. Wow." Less than 100 pages long, this book provided a reading at Smyrna's "Art and Soul" first session and is considered a treasure by Lamott fans.

How We Learn To Be Brave: Decisive Moments in Life and Faith by Mariann Edgar Budde.
Decisive moments— to go, to stay, to start, to accept what we didn't choose and to step up to moments that come unexpectedly-- are universal while particular to each of us. Budde shares how to learn to live and respond on the journey called "being brave" in ways that align with readers' best selves.

I Seek A Kind Person by Julian Borger "unearths the astonishing journeys of Jewish children at the hands of fate" in 1938 Vienna. Desperate parents take out advertisements offering their children into the safekeeping of readers of a British newspaper, the Manchester Guardian. Eighty-three years later, Guardian journalist Julian Borger comes across the ad that saved his father, Robert, from the Nazis and begins to investigate this family secret and the stories of other children like Robert and their families.

BONHOEFFER:
with courage and humility

October 25

9:00am – 12:00pm **Workshop (in person only)**
With Courage and Humility: Bonhoeffer's Ethical Approach for Us Today
St. Andrew Lutheran Church
12405 SW Butner Rd, Beaverton, OR 97005

7:00pm – 8:30pm **Lecture (hybrid)**
Life Together as Resistance
St. Matthew Lutheran Church
10390 SW Canyon Rd, Beaverton, OR 97005

October 26

10:00am **Worship & Sermon (hybrid)**
A Miracle of Divine Mercy
11:30am – 12:30pm **Adult Forum (hybrid)**
What Does It Mean to Tell the Truth?
Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
17625 NW Cornell Rd #3275, Beaverton, OR 97006

Register here:

Free will donation will benefit refugee services at Lutheran Community Services NW
Event Specific Questions: Contact the relevant host congregation
Overarching Questions: Contact PastorRobyn@ecofaithrecovery.org

Sponsored by the Sunset Cluster of the Oregon Synod ELCA
(Calvary Lutheran Hillsboro, Christ the King Tigard, Shepherd of the Valley Beaverton, St. Andrew Lutheran Beaverton, St. Matthew Lutheran Beaverton, Spirit of Grace Beaverton, McMinnville Cooperative Ministries), **and EcoFaithRecovery.org**.

SMYRNA

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

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

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

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.

Smyrna Church

October 2025

Oct 2025 (Pacific Time - Los Angeles)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	1 WA: Jeff & Tina Marshall 2pm - Bible Study @ https:	2 10am - Office hours 12pm - Memory Cafe	3	4
5 BD: Susan Buffington CH: Joel & Elaine MOLALLA PRIDE Neighbors in Need 10:30am - SS: Jeannie 10:30am - Worship	6 7pm - AA/AO Meeting	7 10am - Office hours 7pm - Diaconate @ zoom	8 2pm - Bible Study @ https:	9 BD: Levonne Gano 10am - Office hours 12pm - W. F. Luncheon 7pm - Church Council	10 BD: Allen Holt	11 BD: Arlene Peterson 10:30am - Art and Soul @
12 BD: Marann Hagland Columbus Day 10:30am - SS: Joshua & 10:30am - Worship	13 BD: Paul E Yoder 7pm - AA/AO Meeting	14 10am - Office hours	15 WA: Joe & Rebekah Yoder 2pm - Bible Study @ https:	16 10am - Office hours	17	18
19 Pastor Jennifer to preaching conference CH: Womens Fellowship Preaching: Josh 10:30am - SS: Debi 10:30am - Worship	20 7pm - AA/AO Meeting	21 BD: Casey Hampton BD: Ione Jenson BD: Pat Peterson 10am - Office hours	22 2pm - Bible Study @ https:	23 BD: Benjamin Liechty BD: Patricia Bullard WA: Jeff & Brenda 10am - Office hours 12pm - W. F. Lucheon	24 BD: Steve Dahl	25
26 CH: Diaconate Team B Preaching: Caroline 10:30am - SS: Rebekah 10:30am - Worship	27 7pm - AA/AO Meeting	28 10am - Office hours	29 2pm - Bible Study @ https:	30 10am - Office hours	31	1