

# BEHOLD! SMYRNA

March 2026



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

Dear Smyrna Folks,

On the small bulletin board by my desk at home, I have a quote that I scribbled in a conversation with a wise **mentor years ago**. “**Just remember,**” she said, “**your opinion of me is none of my business.**” Oh, my goodness how many times I have read and re-read, remembered and re-remembered those words. How many times I have forgotten them and had to start over.

Like many pastors, I came into this world a chronic people pleaser, and without that scrap of paper, your opinion of me would be very much my business. Without that constant reminder I would bend over backwards to **make you, as well all the other approximately 8 billion souls in the world, as happy as possible. That’s a lot of souls.** And a lot of failed attempts at creating happiness when it is not my job to do so. The truth is some people will just not agree with me (none of my business), like me (none of my business), or even take my extremely wise and essential advice (sadly, also none of my business).

**We are in the season of Lent, and in this season is...well, it’s a lot like carrying a sign around that says “your opinion of me is none of my business” wherever you go. In this season, the opinion that IS your business is that of Christ Jesus. You may have a Lent practice that you usually pick up at this time of year. If not, try this one — check in with Jesus once or twice or twelve or a hundred times a day, asking “hey Jesus, what’s your opinion of this...(fill in your thought, action, relationship, etc here)”**

There as many ways to get close to Jesus as there are people on this planet (which last I checked was about 8 billion or so, none of whom you have to please!). If you are looking for one, give this a try and see how it hits you. Let me know how it goes.

See you in church,  
Jennifer

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## Calling One and All!!

Have you ever had a birthday? **If yes, keep reading.... this is for you!** After worship service on March 15, 2026, the Christian Education Committee is hosting an All-Parishioners Birthday Party to celebrate diversity and inclusion amongst our wonderful community.



Often, we find ourselves visiting only with members of Smyrna we are very familiar with. Well not at this soiree! Grouped by birthday months, Party-goers will be seated with others. Who knows what you can learn about the fellow parishioners you do not know well or at all? Someone else may also have a paperclip collection. The possibilities are endless.

The committee will be serving up cake and community. We would love to see you all there.



## Lunches at Smyrna

March 5, 2026 at 12 noon— Memory Café serves up lunch in the Friendship House.

March 12, 2026 at 12 noon — Come to the Friendship House for the first Women's Fellowship Luncheon of the month.

March 26, 2026 at 12 noon — Women's Fellowship provides the second of their March luncheons. Good food and good fellowship.



One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is a vital special mission offering of the United Church of Christ. It connects you to disaster relief, refugee assistance, and development efforts around the globe.

Smyrna UCC will be collecting for this mission throughout the month of March. Donations may be placed in the offering basket during worship (marked for OGHS) or through the website:

<https://smyrna-ucc.org/>

## Recently added books in Smyrna's Library



Two books mentioned in recent sermons have been added to the library:

*The Human Being: Jesus and the Enigma of the Son of Man* by Walter Wink.

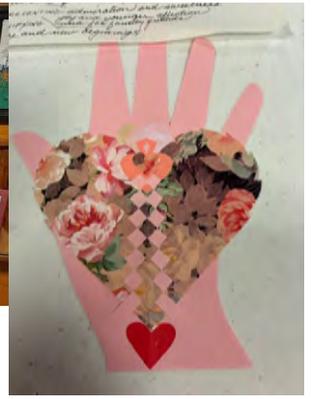
*Into the Magic Shop: A Neurosurgeon's Quest to Discover the Mysteries of the Brain and the Secrets of the Heart* by James Doty, MD. Amazing story of how Dr. Doty's love for magic tricks as a twelve-year-old led to his meeting Ruth who inspired him to wonder at the mysteries of the brain and led to his realizing and working toward his dream of becoming a doctor.

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 on the Resource tab ...





## Soulful Art — formerly Art & Soul

Smyrna's Art & Soul program may have a new name but continues to provide a time for creative souls to come together once a month and make art in various forms.

In February, Christine Foster shared her expertise in crafting various heart inspired art. On display was some of the Heart Art she has created. With that inspiration (and tons of heart supplies) the artmaking began.

Join us on Saturday, March 14, 2026 at 10:30 a.m. as Karen Alexander leads us in building nests out of yarn, wire, **pipe** cleaners, fabric strips, twigs.

The nests can represent Spring, protection, waiting, incubation of new ideas, expectation, home, whatever. There will be enough materials and colors to suit everyone as we play with color and texture. We can use just our hands or try large blunt nee-



## Results of Smyrna's annual Chili Cook-off.

On Sunday, February 8, 2026, we held our annual Chili Cook-off with five teams participating. And the results are in as to the winner or we should say winners.

Two teams tied in winning the prize of the plucked chicken and they are as follows:



the team called Classical Gas (Mary Namit and Ginger Redlinger along with Tina Marshall) and

**the team called It's Chili (Joel and Elaine Daniels, Christine Foster).**

Both of these teams raised \$246 each.

The other teams were:

the Christian Ed group (Rebecca Yoder, Emily Yoder, Liz Chapin) raised \$177

the Beany Cousins raised \$237

our pastor Jennifer who raised \$120.

The total for the event was \$1,026, which at our last council meeting we voted to give to the Deck Fund. Along with the chili various teams offered white chili, refried beans, chips, cornbread, gluten free cornbread and for **dessert we had apple pie in honor of Dave Clite's father.**

We thank everyone who participated in this event.



# Joann Elizabeth Freeman Gribble



*August 26, 1931 to September 9, 2025*

Joann Gribble passed peacefully on September 9, 2025 at her home in Texas with her family present. She had celebrated her 94th birthday two weeks prior, was visited and interacted with family frequently till she passed. She was preceded in passing by her parents and her older sister Dorothy Yoder. Her devoted husband of 62 years, D. Joe Gribble, passed in 2016. She is survived by a younger sister, Emily who lives in East Texas, as well as all three of her children; oldest son, Donald Gribble of Paris, TX, daughter Patricia Rice of Molalla, Oregon, and youngest son, Ted Gribble of Paris, TX, and their combined 6 Grandchildren and 7 Great Grandchildren.

Joann Elizabeth Freeman was born to Theodore and Gertude Freeman on August 26, 1931, in Oregon City, OR. She had an older sister Dorothy, and a younger sister Emily. She graduated from Molala High School in 1949. She then attended Oregon State University, graduating with a B.S. Degree and Registered as a Nurse in 1954. She married D. Joe Gribble in Feb. 1954. Joann was the accountant for Joe's business for many years, as well as a Nursing Instructor. She chose to retire in 1985. Joann had inherited her family farm Molalla, Oregon, so, her and Joe returned to their birth state at that time. There she became certified in Family Counseling and Therapy and began Highgate Counseling, as a final successful career which she did for next 20 years. In 2021, at the age of 89, she returned to Paris, TX to be closer to her sister in East Texas.

We will be celebrating her life in the Molalla area on March 7 at the Smyrna UCC Church west of Molalla, 31119 S. Hwy 170, Canby, OR and would like anyone whose life she touched to join us. Come anytime from noon to 2:30p. Refreshments and snacks will be provided.

**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
- 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.

# March 2026

Smyrna Church

Mar 2026 (Pacific Time - Los Angeles)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 CH: HT Mission F: Ginger One Great Hour of Sharing 10:30am - Worship	2 7pm - AA/AO Meeting	3 BD: Grant S BD: Mary B 10am - Office hours 11am - Office meeting - Jen	4 12:30pm - Gentle Yoga 2pm - Bible Study @ https:	5 10am - Office hours 12pm - Memory Cafe	6 6pm - Meaning Makers	7 Memorial: Joann Gribble
8 CH: CED F: 10:30am - Worship	9 BD: Kaden F 7pm - AA/AO Meeting	10 10am - Office hours 11am - Office meeting - Jen 7pm - Diaconate	11 12:30pm - Gentle Yoga 2pm - Bible Study @ https:	12 10am - Office hours 12pm - W.F. Luncheon	13 WA: Don & Jeannie R	14 10:30am - Soulful Art @
15 10:30am - Worship 11:30am - All Church Bday	16 BD: Kristin W 7pm - AA/AO Meeting	17 BD: Halania C 10am - Office hours 11am - Office meeting - Jen	18 12:30pm - Gentle Yoga 2pm - Bible Study @ https:	19 BD: Donald H 10am - Office hours 7pm - Church Council Meeting	20 BEHOLD DEADLINE 6pm - Meaning Makers	21 Aguilar-King Private Event
22 BD: Katherine H Spring Days of Giving 10:30am - Worship	23 BD: Marina D 7pm - AA/AO Meeting	24 10am - Office hours 11am - Office meeting - Jen	25 12:30pm - Gentle Yoga 2pm - Bible Study @ https:	26 10am - Office hours 12pm - W. F. Luncheon	27 BD: Heather A	28
29 CH: Diaconate F: Palm Sunday Worhsip 10:30am - Worship	30 BD: Patricia R 7pm - AA/AO Meeting	31 BD: Kristin Jane W 10am - Office hours 11am - Office meeting - Jen	1 BD: Dave A BD: Spencer C 12:30pm - Gentle Yoga 2pm - Bible Study @ https:	2 10am - Office hours 7pm - Maundy Thursday	3 Good Friday 6pm - Meaning Makers	4 10am - Easter egg set up