

BEHOLD! SMYRNA

May 2026



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Dear Smyrna Folks,

In May we celebrate Pentecost — sometimes called the birthday of the church and the beginning of a 2000-year-old experiment in what it is like to be in community. Thinking about Pentecost has me thinking about how this particular church is one of the many buds and flowers of the mighty tree of Christendom.

What makes a community keep thriving, 2000 (or in our particular case, 135) years after its first ideas are born? One of the most important attributes is **appreciation**. In her book *The Creative Conversation: Artmaking as Playful Prayer*, author Bridget Benton writes, “Remember, too, that appreciating is different from liking. I can be grateful that my friend loaned me a yellow sweater on a cold day, recognize that she made a good point during a discussion, or value the care and attention that went into the meal she made - and not like the sweater, the point or the meal. Yet in every case, I’ve been able to see the value of the exchange and so am ready to return the favor. I’m ready to share, and that builds community.”

Appreciating, being grateful, recognizing, valuing, sharing...all those beautiful active words go into building a community. When you notice something happening that lifts up our community, even if it’s something you don’t particularly enjoy, it makes our community richer when you express it.

If you’d made it this far in this little note — thank you! I appreciate you for taking the time to read these words. See you in church!

Blessings,
Jennifer



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Joshua Barber has been invited to take the next steps to be called as the pastor to Beavercreek UCC, our nearest UCC neighbor. May 17 is called the candidating weekend — after he preaches, the congregation will vote. This comes at the end of a long and careful process by the congregation and Joshua himself.

Joshua was invited to preach at Beavercreek last October, and the search committee connected with him and felt that he was the candidate they had been waiting for after a long search process. After a period of discernment, they sent a message to the Beavercreek congregation today, affirming what we have learned about Joshua in his past two years with us: "We have been impressed with his caring concern, his ability to challenge us to see issues from other perspectives, his sermons and his passion for ministry. From the references we spoke with were consistent comments on his empathy, leadership, ability to connect with everyone young to old, how well he listens and how well he cares for people."

Because Joshua is just beginning his seminary education, he will be first called as a lay minister, and he will continue his schooling and his steps toward ordination while ministering full time. His discernment committee here at Smyrna will be meeting with his advisor from the conference soon to make sure we understand what this change will mean for our ongoing support of him.

There is no doubt that we will miss Joshua and that this move is coming much sooner than we expected. And yet, I'm heartened that he is just down the road — he and I are already putting our heads together about ways we can work together as two congregations. Please join me in praying for Joshua in the weeks ahead and especially on May 16 and 17 as he meets with Beavercreek to affirm the call of the Spirit in him and in our sister congregation.

Warmly,
Pastor Jennifer



Peace In and PEACE OUT!

Peace camp returns and this is the time to register your kids, grandkids, neighbors, and friends. Peace Campers will enjoy arts, music, learning, outside play and visits from Peace Heroes, along with breakfast and lunch every day of camp.

June 22-26 from 9 am-1 pm. Cost is just \$10 to keep it accessible to all. Register today! <https://www.smyrna-ucc.org/peace-camp-registration/>



Mission and Outreach

We learned that 100 pounds of food was delivered on Monday, April 20th, to the Molalla Food Bank. A thank you from them and also they informed us there is a special need for cereal, canned vegetables, and canned meat. Let's see what we can accomplish in May. .can it be more than 100 pounds?

Artful Soul

Beginning at **10:30 a.m on May 9, 2026**, the Artful Soul project will be Hat Decorating with Karyl Carlson.



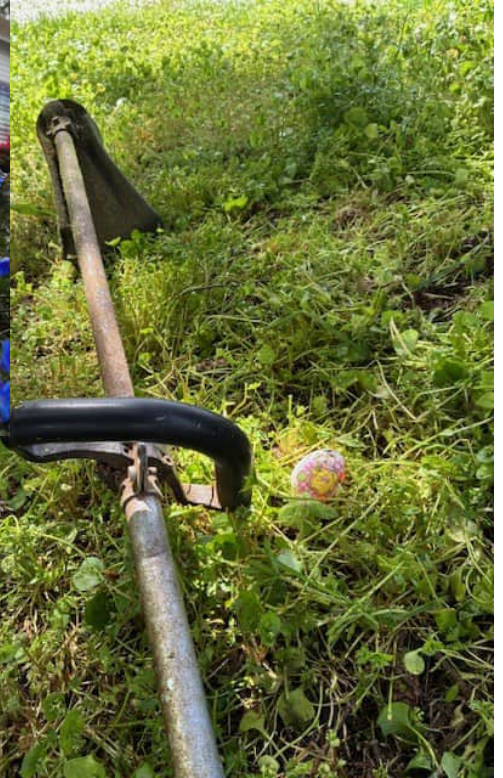
If you have a hat to decorate please bring it, but if not, several will be available.

Do bring silk flowers, ribbons, lace, feathers, butterflies, birds (not real ones, of course), junk jewelry, decorative braid. I was even thinking of tiny plastic animals or dollhouse furniture if you want to get a little crazy with it. A couple more hot glue guns will be useful. Come to Smyrna and let's have fun creatively!

Spring projects at Smyrna

Paul Yoder planted a row of Oregon Grape along the property line between Smyrna's grove and the orchard belonging to Willamette Egg. This will be a helpful visual reminder for the kids and hopefully a noise and dust buffer.

Meanwhile Mary uncovered a treat while using the weed whacker — a leftover from Smyrna's Easter Egg hunt — a prize for Mary's hard work!



Smyrna UCC Road Clean-Up

Our yearly road clean-up on the Canby-Marquam Highway (a.k.a. Hwy 170) is coming up on Saturday, June 20th at 9am.

The one-and-a-half-mile stretch is divided into three zones. I will have these zones listed on the bulletin board in the narthex in late May. Please sign up for the zone you could help clean up. If each side (East/West) of each zone has two volunteers, the clean-up should be quick.

Your assistance is appreciated, Rick

Scripture Readers

I have volunteered to organize scripture readers. I invite anyone interested in reading scripture to contact me karyl_carlson@hotmail.com.

I am in the process of building a master list to draw from.

May readers are:

- May 3, Joshua Barber
- May 10, Karyl Carlson
- May 17, Sheila Daniels
- May 24, Liz Chapin
- May 31, Mary Namit

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.)



**Strengthen
the Church**

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH

SENT FORTH IN
LOVE

A Special Mission Offering of
the United Church of Christ
supporting new church,
leadership, and youth
cultivation through our
Conferences and
National Ministries.



UCC.ORG/STC

The Strengthen the Church Offering furthers the work of our conferences and the national UCC as we work together to strengthen and renew existing congregations, fund leadership development, and provide exciting new programs for youth and young adults. The offering is divided with 50% staying regionally within your conference and 50% supporting the National Ministries.



5th Sunday

Hymnsing

A Community event for Canby

**Worship God and Jesus
Christ
through music and song.**

May 31, 2026 1285 S Elm St, Canby
August 30, 2026 Open
November 29, 2026 Open



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 2026, the committee consists of: Allen Holt, 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

Applications are available in the Narthex at church or email Joel jedaniels40@gmail.com to obtain one. Applications due May 20, 2026



Thursday, April 23, 2026 luncheon marked the second to the last lunch before Women's Fellowship takes a break from cooking.

Our next luncheon will be at noon on **May 14, 2026**, and then we will be on a break until September 10, 2026. We've had a lot of raves about our cooking and we want to continue that tradition as long as we can.

In the fall we will be ready to get back to the kitchen. So look for any updates regarding our group and what we have planned next. Happy Summer!



We had planned a Mother's Day lunch as well as a Father's Day lunch for May and June. We are rescheduling these two events for sometime the last of May or first of June and combining them into one date.

So look for another announcement forthcoming as to when that date will be posted. We thank you for your continued participation.

—The Hospitality Committee —

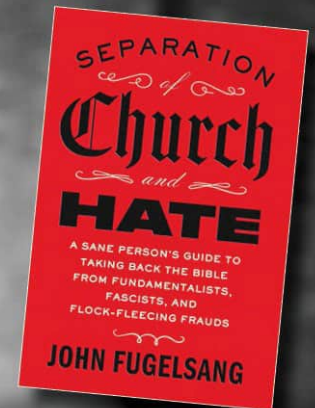
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon presents the 2026 Collins Lecture with

JOHN FUGELSANG

A Conversation on the Separation of Church & Hate

SATURDAY, JUNE 6

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, Portland
(virtual option)



This year the Collins Lecture welcomes John Fugelsang.

John Fugelsang is an actor, comedian and host of “Tell Me Everything” on SiriusXM Progress. He is also the author of *New York Times* bestseller, “Separation of Church and Hate: A Sane Person’s Guide to Taking Back the Bible from Fundamentalists, Fascists and Flock-Fleecing Frauds.”

Fugelsang uses humor and biblical scholarship to challenge far-right Christian ideologies, such as Christian nationalism, and argues for a return to the core teachings of Jesus—love, mercy and service. He provides a toolbox for responding to Christian nationalism on the biggest issues that divide us today: immigration, LGBTQIA2S+ rights, poverty, gun safety, feminism, the death penalty, and more.

If you want to learn directly from John Fugelsang about his approach to using the scripture and Jesus’ teachings to challenge Christian nationalism and authoritarianism, join us at the 2026 Collins Lecture for “A Conversation on the Separation of Church and Hate.”

Saturday, June 6 | 7 p.m.

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 147 NW 19th Ave., Portland, Ore. (virtual option available)

Tickets \$30 (scholarships available)

You are invited to join an All Church Read by reading Fugelsang's book *Separation of Church and Hate*, attending the Collins Lecture on the evening of June 6 either in person or via zoom, and then, on June 7, participating in an all-church conversation about the book.

Speak to Ann Clites if you would like to order a book. There are scholarships available if the cost of the book or the lecture is not possible for you right now — speak to Pastor Jennifer about that.

**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.

May 2026

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May 2026 (Pacific Time - Los Angeles)

Smyrna Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3 CH: HT Mission Strengthen the Church 10:30am - Worship	4 7pm - AA/AO Meeting	5 BD: Isabella R 10am - Office hours 11am - Office meeting -	6 12:30pm - Gentle Yoga 2pm - Bible Study @ https: 6pm - Meaning Makers	7 10am - Office hours 12pm - Memory Cafe	8	9 BD: Mark G 10:30am - Soulful Art @
10 BD: Cheryl S BD: Nancy B CH: CED 10:30am - Worship	11 BD: Jeff H 7pm - AA/AO Meeting	12 BD: Bernadette Y BD: Florence P BD: Judy B 10am - Office hours 11am - Office meeting - 7pm - Diaconate	13 12:30pm - Gentle Yoga 2pm - Bible Study @ https:	14 10am - Office hours 12pm - W.F. Luncheon	15	16 BD: Lauren H
17 BD: Lincoln B CH: WT B F: Joel&Elaine W.A: John & Florence P 10:30am - Worship	18 7pm - AA/AO Meeting	19 BD: Colton F 10am - Office hours 10am - Pastoral support 11am - Office meeting -	20 BEHOLD DEADLINE 12:30pm - Gentle Yoga 2pm - Bible Study @ https: 6pm - Meaning Makers	21 BD: Sherry S 10am - Office hours 7pm - Church Council	22	23
24 BD: Linda D CH: F: Irene S 10:30am - Worship	25 BD: John P 12pm - Cemetery 7pm - AA/AO Meeting	26 10am - Office hours 11am - Office meeting -	27 12:30pm - Gentle Yoga 2pm - Bible Study @ https:	28 BD: Louise A 10am - Office hours	29 BD: Sydney H	30
31 BD: Dan A CH: Diaconate 10:30am - Worship	1	2	3	4	5	6