

BEHOLD! SMYRNA

June 2026



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Dear Smyrna Folk,

June is Pride Month, the time of year when many communities recognize and celebrate the LGBTQ+ community. As a progressive community of faith that has proclaimed itself open and affirming, we at Smyrna have a special calling to celebrate Pride events. Why?

First, because much of the damage done to the LGBTQ+ community has been done by churches and people of faith. As Christians, when we stand up and affirm our LGBTQ+ siblings, we acknowledge the damage that has been done in our name, even as we proclaim Christ's good news of love and acceptance for all people.

The second reason people of faith are especially invited to celebrate Pride flows from the first. We believe in an awesome Creator who, upon giving life to our mother Earth and her inhabitants called it good! What a message of hope and amazing wonder in a world which so often tells us that we are less-than, broken, or ugly. We are called to share this good news as widely as we can, and Pride - with its message of beauty, acceptance and joy is a great place to find people ready to receive that message.

Please plan to attend a Pride celebration, or two or three, in 2026. Here are just a few. Smyrna will be tabling at Pride celebrations in Canby, Silverton and Molalla. Are there any we might add to this list? Let us know!

- **Saturday, June 13, 2026**, Wilsonville Pride @Town Center Park.
- **Sunday, June 14, 2026, 12-4** Canby Pride @Wait Park
- **Saturday, June 27, 2026 11-5**, Silverton Pride @Coolidge McClaine Park
- **Saturday, July 18 & Sunday, July 19, 2026** Portland Pride @Tom McCall Waterfront Park
- **Saturday, September 19, 2026** Salem Pride @ Riverfront Park
- **Sunday, October 4, 2026** Molalla Pride @Clark Park

See you in church,
Pastor Jennifer

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Memory Cafe

Planning Task Force

is convening!

If Memory Cafe is meaningful to you, and you would like to be part of a conversation and planning gathering for the 2026-2027 Memory Cafe year, speak to Pastor Jennifer. We are gathering a group to meet in early June to make plans for going forward.



Solar Panel Report

We are getting into the high season for electricity production from our solar panels. They are quite consistent year after year. As expected, December is our lowest month and July is the highest. With a week to go, May has generated \$193 worth of electricity. \$835 for the year so far, and \$10,676 over the life of the system that was put online 5 years ago in May. This is equivalent to 128,000 lbs of CO2 and 145,000 miles driven on sunshine! We are so fortunate that we were able to receive one of the grants given by Portland General Electric. We had to pay 10% of the cost and did that within a few months. Since then, it has been all profit. Joel

Special Artful Soul Gathering!

On Saturday June 13, 2026, we will gather from 10:30 am -1:30 pm for a special Artful Soul Gathering - creating prayer flags with spiritual director Barbara Vanderpas.



Join us for a hands-on, heart-centered workshop exploring the art and Spiritual meaning of Tibetan Prayer flags. Rooted in a tradition that releases peace, compassion, and wisdom on the wind. This workshop offers a way to reflect, create, and release your own wishes and hopes for our community and the world.

Guided by longtime meditation practitioner, educator, Spiritual Director Barb Vandepas, we'll begin with a short historical Tibetan flag overview. We'll have a guided meditation to have a deeper sense of sacred calm for you to imagine your flags fluttering in your yard. Afterward we will begin the creative process of crafting a set of five personal prayer flags. You will receive pre-cut flags and a cord to hang them. Mandala templates symbolizing wholeness and unity can be used to trace patterns and color them in. You will receive possible words and phrases and write ones that are meaningful to you, creating unique expressions of hope, healing, and gratitude. This is a contemplative practice creating flags that will send your intentions on the wind

We will eat lunch during the gathering. Feel free to bring a dish to share if you wish.

Artful Soul will be on hiatus in July, and will resume in August. If you have an art or craft you would like to share with the group that is aligned with our watchwords — meaningful, easy, fun — feel free to talk to Karen, Christine or Pastor Jennifer to be added to the 2026-2027 calendar.

Scripture readers for June

June 7	Karyl Carlson	June 22	Janet Bess
June 14	Mary Namit	June 28	Carl Menkel

Peace in & Out Camp

June
22nd–26th
9AM–1PM

For grades K–5th

Only \$10
Meals+Tshirt!

EMBRACING PEACE

MUSIC
CRAFTS
STORYTELLING
PEACE HEROS



SCAN TO
REGISTER



SMYRNA UCC
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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.)

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)



Conversation on *Separation of Church and Hate*, June 6 at 7pm in Portland and Sunday, June 7 at 9:30 am in Smyrna's Friendship House.

Actor, comedian, and SiriusXM host John Fugelsang, author of *Separation of Church and Hate*, will be giving the Collins Lecture this year on Saturday, June 6 at 7 pm at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in northwest Portland. The lecture will also be

livestreamed by zoom. Since 1967, the Collins Lectures sponsored by EMO (Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon) have brought renowned speakers to Oregon to explore issues related to religion and social ethics.

Tickets are \$30 (scholarships available) at emoregon.org/events and are required for either in-person or online attendance. If you are interested in attending a watch party at Smyrna in Friendship House, please let Pastor Jennifer know as soon as possible. A watch party has also been set up in Silverton. See Dave or Ann Clites, if you are interested.

In his book, 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. The Smyrna Library has 2 copies available for anyone interested in borrowing them.

If you don't have a chance to read the book or attend the lecture, check out this link to hear an interview with John Fugelsang (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YMf-6dCA2lg>) and join in a discussion at Smyrna on June 7 at 9:30 am and possibly at a later date.



The Trustees at work!

The pinhole gas leak has been identified and lights are being changed out... and... the furnaces looked at for options on cooling. Trustees also changed the direction of the fan blades for the coming warmer weather.

Prep for new stainless steel countertops in the next couple of weeks has begun. We took off the rollers, doors, framing, Formica, and sink! As Trustees we lucked out with Pat coming to help !!

**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
- John Farrell (Janet Bess' brother)
- Genevieve Freeman
- Christine Albright
- Winter Pebley
- Jeannie Rogers' brothers, Steven and John, and her mother,
- Marj Watkins

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.

June 2026

Smyrna Church, Holidays in United States

Jun 2026 (Pacific Time - Los Angeles)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
	BD: Justin P 7pm - AA/AO Meeting	10am - Office hours 11am - Office meeting -	12:30pm - Gentle Yoga 2pm - Bible Study @ https: 6pm - Meaning Makers	10am - Office hours	BD: Mason H BD: Paul A	BD: Nick I 7pm - Collins Lecture @
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
CH: HT Mission 9:30am - Separation of 10:30am - Worship	BD: Andrew M 7pm - AA/AO Meeting	BD: David Y 10am - Office hours 11am - Office meeting - 7pm - Diaconate	BD: Amber E 12:30pm - Gentle Yoga 2pm - Bible Study @ https: 7pm - Peace Camp	10am - Office hours		10:30am - Soulful Art @ 2pm - Peace Camp
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
12-4pm Canby Pride CH: CEEd F: Jeannie R Flag Day 10:30am - Worship	BD: Emily H 7pm - AA/AO Meeting	10am - Office hours 11am - Office meeting -	12:30pm - Gentle Yoga 2pm - Bible Study @ https: 6pm - Meaning Makers	BD: Barak H BD: Bill P WA: Steve & Jane D 10am - Office hours 7pm - Church Council	Juneteenth	BD: Elsa A BEHOLD DEADLINE
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
BD: Pat B CH: WF A F: Barbara D Father's Day Summer Days of giving 10:30am - Worship	Peace Camp 7pm - AA/AO Meeting	10am - Office hours 11am - Office meeting -		10am - Office hours		11-5pm Silverton Pride @ BD: Sophia P
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
BD: Pastor Janet P CH: Diaconate F: Linda D 10:30am - Worship	BD: Heidi C BD: Robert S WA: Katherine & Allen Holl 7pm - AA/AO Meeting	10am - Office hours 11am - Office meeting -				