

# BEHOLD! SMYRNA

## July 2026



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

Dear Smyrna Folks,

Summer is often “taking stock” season for me, as I look back on what the past year has brought, and what we might plan or prepare for the coming year. One of the things I’m pondering is the best use of the front-page presence here on the Behold. As you think about our monthly newsletter, what would be the most useful or inspiring 300 or so words you’d like to hear from me? You can choose one or many of these, but try to let me know which is your top pick. I will take this seriously and really try to respond to your requests! See you in church. [PastorJenniferGarrison@gmail.com](mailto:PastorJenniferGarrison@gmail.com).

I would like...

- ...information about what’s been happening around church or what’s coming up.
- ...reflection on what’s happening in the wider world and how Smyrna can respond or engage.
- ...a devotional or prayer practice encouraging me to incorporate more spirituality into my life.
- ...reviews of what Pastor Jennifer is reading, watching or listening to.
- ...something else.

Of course, if you’ve made it this far, don’t usually read this column and don’t think you would, no matter the content, truly please let me know that as well.

See you in church

Pastor Jennifer

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# Pastor Jennifer's July Schedule

I will be out of the office for most of July. Here is my schedule - I appreciate your prayers along this journey.

- **July 6-18** — Vacation. I'm looking forward to taking the train to Minnesota to see family and friends.
- **July 19-23** — I'll be in worship on Sunday the 19th to hear Caroline Murphy preach, and then will leave with our group heading to the women's retreat in Idaho
- **July 26** — leading worship and preaching .

## On Hiatus:

- Yoga will meet one more time this season on **July 1 at 12:30 pm**, then both **yoga and Bible Study** will be on summer hiatus for the month of July.
- **Artful Soul** 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.

In June, Artful Soul participants created their own prayer flags using Mandala templates symbolizing wholeness and unity, adding words to create unique expressions of hope, healing, and gratitude.



## Smyrna's Deck Project

Work has begun on the addition of a deck on the west outside Friendship House. The first job is to dig



holes to pour the concrete footings for the posts. To avoid a price hike, all the materials were ordered prior to June 1. All of it has been delivered.

For our part, we have begun a fundraising effort to help with the cost. Now is your opportunity to "buy" a piece of the deck. You can buy boards for the decking, timbers, joists, fasteners, sections of railing, etc.

To participate online, go to [smyrna-ucc.org](http://smyrna-ucc.org) and go to the tile about the deck. There you can click on the "list of items needed" and then click on donate online link which will take you to the deck page. Follow the directions there.



A big THANK YOU to Moderator Carl Menkel, who has spent countless hours getting us this far.

Sincerely, Joel Daniels





## Smyrna UCC Road Clean-Up

I'd like to thank all of those who participated in the road cleanup on Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup>! They are:

- Ann & Dave C,
- Susan & Al Connick,
- Leo, Marsha, & Nick Sano,
- Paul Yoder,
- Mary Namit,
- Pat Bryant,
- Dan Durham,
- Rick, Levonne, and Mark Gano.

The whole process took less than two hours thanks to the number who participated.

Again, much appreciated.



### **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 the Resource tab ....

**RESOURCE Page**

A Helpful page for people in our community.  
(Click here.)



# Peace Camp 2026

It was a week of meeting old friends and making new friends, crafts (knutselen, nest weaving, banner painting, butterfly crafts), chalk painting, learning and practicing peaceful resolution methods to disagreements. Breakfast, lunch, and snacks kept the energy level high.



New songs were written and old songs sung. There was enthusiastic water play on a cloudy, cool day. Visitors included Peace Campers' pets, Mary's therapy dog and rosy boa, and Peace Heroes of the Monitor Fire District.



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
- 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.

# July 2026

Smyrna Church

Jul 2026 (Pacific Time - Los Angeles)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	1 12:30pm - Gentle Yoga	2 10am - Office hours 12pm - Mem Cafe Brainstorm	3	4 WA: Ginger R & Mary N
5 CH: HT Mission 10:30am - Worship	6 Pastor Jennifer Away 7pm - AA/AO Meeting	7 10am - Office hours	8 BD: Josh G	9 10am - Office hours	10	11
12 Pastor Jennifer Away	13	14	15	16	17	18
CH: CED 10:30am - Worship	7pm - AA/AO Meeting	10am - Office hours 7pm - Diaconate		10am - Office hours 7pm - Church Council Meeting		BD: Kirstan R
19 Pastor Jennifer away	20	21	22	23	24	25
BD: Sheila D CH: WF B WA: Rick & LeVonne G 10:30am - Worship	BD: Angie S BD: Bryce C BD: Luca B BD: Tracy M BEHOLD DEADLINE 7pm - AA/AO Meeting	10am - Office hours		10am - Office hours		BD: Don R
26 WA: Paul & Mary A 10:30am - Worship	27 BD: Terry D BD: Tom D 7pm - AA/AO Meeting	28 10am - Office hours	29	30 10am - Office hours	31	1