

BEHOLD! SMYRNA

September 2026



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Dear Smyrna Folks,

I love the ideals of the United Church of Christ in general, and Smyrna United Church of Christ in particular. We are Christ followers who are inclusive, who welcome all people, and who believe in the sacredness of all creation. In the United Church of Christ there are lots of other opportunities to live out our wide welcome. A few of these are to proclaim ourselves a Green congregation, embracing creation justice; to be a WISE congregation which supports people along the spectrum of mental health; and to be part of the Sacred Conversation on Race as we journey toward anti-racism. Here at Smyrna, we voted some years ago to become Open and Affirming, proclaiming openly our welcome to the LGBTQ+ community.

These ideals are beautiful, but sometimes it's hard to know how to actually DO them. Many of us who have been in churches a long time think we know what actions are needed to make up what some Christ followers call the beloved community. But do we agree on what those behaviors are? How do we actually practice them day to day? Because being the beloved community is for sure a practice. And like practicing anything, the more our actions match our understanding of ourselves, the stronger our beloved community muscles will grow.

During September, we will explore some of the practices that make the beloved community - the church envisioned by Jesus and the first Christians — a lived reality. Each week during worship there will be concrete steps we can take toward the daily living-out of the kind of community we say we are. I'm really looking forward to seeing how this conversation might inform and possibly even transform our little community.

See you in church! Pastor Jennifer

September 6 - Words That Make Room, Matthew 18:15-20

September 13 - Love Means Showing Up, Matthew 18:21-35

September 20 - We're Saving a Seat for You, Matthew 20:1-16

October 4 - Doing As We Say and Saying What We Do, selections from Exodus 20

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Women's Fellowship Luncheons

It is that time of year to begin our Thursday Luncheons prepared by the Women's Fellowship group of willing cooks.

We will begin serving the first meal on the second **Thursday, September 10, 2026 at 12 noon.** So we hope you all can join us for the first lunch of the fall season. With the first Lunch we are suggesting a donation of \$10 per meal; however, we will be needing to raise the suggested donation since the price of food has increased. We will be letting you know at this meal what the new fee will be.

We've been busy changing out the counter top from formica to stainless steel and adding a couple of marble pieces to the backsplash. Friendship hall, when first built, had a fireplace with the marble pieces as a mantel. The fireplace stood about in the middle of the serving counter.



ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Every year, the Central Pacific Conference of the UCC (which as our Conference Minister Rev. Tyler Connolley often says "is

the United Church of Christ in Oregon, Southern Washington and Western Idaho") meets to learn, worship, network, and decide on the business of the conference.

This year, our delegates to the annual meeting are Karyl Carlson, Joel Daniels, Kristin Daniels, and Susan Johnson. Pastor Jennifer and Ginger will also attend. The theme is Story Lines: Our Stories Tell the Story.

Please pray for those gathering in person in Boise September 25-27 and online on October 3. We will all have an opportunity to worship together, as our worship service will be livestreamed from Boise Sunday, September 27.



The Scholarship Committee has made four awards for the 2026-7 season. The \$1,000 scholarships are going to:

- Halaina Crispin, who graduated from Oregon State University this spring and will be starting graduate school at Western Oregon University this fall in Occupational Therapy.
- Alexander Maurer, who has completed his first year at George Fox University. He will be returning to pursue a degree in Finance.
- Majesty Sias, who has recently completed her first year at Western Oregon University. She is returning to work toward a degree in Business and Spanish. Majesty applied for a scholarship as a result of her participation in Second Home, a ministry of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon which we supported.
- Nicholas Sano graduated from Molalla High School this spring and is headed to Oregon State University. He would like to go into the fields of civil engineering and architecture.

The Scholarship Committee made up of Joel Daniels, Amber Enfield, and Allen Holt is proud to help these young people as they go after their goals post high school. There is nothing like reading the applications and getting to know them better to reassure us that the next generation will be in good hands.



September 6
September 13
September 20
September 27

Mary
Joel
Karyl
No reader
needed —
streaming
service



Smyrna's Trustees at Work

We removed some of the hard work the insects have coated the church with and spiffed up the ground around the deck for Fall enjoyment.



Last picture of Smyrna's volunteer "garden" before Mary removed it to clean. She picked all the red and orange fruit and put them in a bowl on the table just inside the front doors. Mary tried to transplant the stock... but we will see if she can survive. She is next to her barn backing in sun and afternoon shade.



Looking ahead to October

In October, we will be doing a deep dive in the book *The Place We Make* By Sarah Sanderson. This book, about a legal decision to evict a black business owner from Oregon City in Clackamas County's early days, is both historical and personal — as Sanderson is a descendant of one of the judges in the case.

We'll be having a discussion and Q&A with the author on Saturday, October 17 at 10:00 am, so mark your calendar now for a lively conversation.



Artful Soul — August & Septem-

Artful Soul meets at **10:30 am** on the second **Saturday** of each month for a time of gentle fellowship and fun. You do not have to be an artist or consider yourself crafty to attend.

In **August**, the Artful Soul Group members chose from a variety of materials to create Knutselen art. The pictures below reveal the many facets of each person's artful soul.

September 12, at 10:30 am, Karen Alexander will guide the group in using Neurodivergent Art to explore another aspect of creativity.



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



- Paul and Mary Ashton
- Barack Holt and Family
- The family of Anne Stronko
- The Crispin Family
- John Farrell (Janet Bess' brother)
- Christine Albright
- Winter Pebley
- Jeannie Rogers' brothers, Steven and John, and 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.

September 2026

Holidays in United States, smyrnaucc.cal@gmail.com

Sep 2026 (Pacific Time - Los Angeles)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
		BD: Karyl C 10am - Office hours 11am - Office meeting - Jen	BD: Dave C BD: Margaret A 12:30pm - Gentle Chair Yoga	WA: Dan & Louise A	6pm - Private Event	9am - Private Event
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
CH: HT/M 10:30am - Worship	Labor Day 7pm - AA/AO Meeting	10am - Office hours 11am - Office meeting - Jen 7pm - Diaconate	12:30pm - Gentle Chair Yoga	BD: Al C BD: Lulu A 10am - Office hours 12pm - W. F. Luncheon		10:30am - Soulful Art @
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
CH: CE 10:30am - Worship	7pm - AA/AO Meeting	BD: Ann C 10am - Office hours 11am - Office meeting - Jen	12:30pm - Gentle Chair Yoga 5pm - Meaning Makers	WA: Susan & AJ C WA: Virgil & Christine F 10am - Office hours 7pm - Church Council Meeting		BD: Laura Y 9:45am - Music Reading
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
BD: Mary A BD: Paul R Y BEHOLD DEADLINE CH: WF/TB Fall Days of Giving 10:30am - Worship	BD: Josette W 7pm - AA/AO Meeting	10am - Office hours 11am - Office meeting - Jen	BD: Elisa D 12:30pm - Gentle Chair Yoga	10am - Office hours 12pm - W. F. Luncheon	CPC Annual Gathering BD: Ken S	
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
CPC Annual Gathering BD: Louise A CH: Diaconate 10:30am - Worship	BD: James D 7pm - AA/AO Meeting	10am - Office hours 11am - Office meeting - Jen	12:30pm - Gentle Chair Yoga			