

BEHOLD!!

October 2026



Dear Smyrna Folks,

For inspiration as I prepared to write this October 2026 newsletter note, I looked back at what I had written last year. As it happens, in October **2025** what I wrote was a long description of a very important-sounding and inspiring-looking conference coming up in a few months. In detail, I described each workshop I would attend at this conference, to be held at a UCC church in Arizona on the topic of immigration. There was even a day trip into the desert to bring water to those crossing the border. I invited anyone who felt called to register for and attend the conference with me.

Reading back, I felt a little sheepish as I remembered that I had not attended the conference I had described in so much enthusiastic detail. Then I turned my thoughts to last year and I remembered. Pretty much immediately after I wrote last year's October newsletter article, SNAP benefits were cut off for many, and the energy of our congregation shifted dramatically to feeding those in our own area. Then, I remembered that funding to the FAA was also cut, resulting in increased fear about the safety of air travel. I remembered how our attention and energy shifted, and what once felt imperative (attending this important and inspiring conference) now seemed impossible.

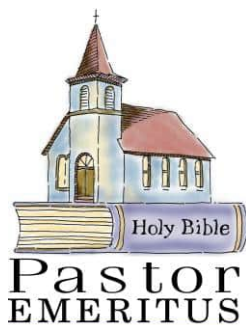
I stopped feeling so sheepish as I remembered, also, that it's both worthy to make plans, and also to be able to shift those plans when the times call for it. The work we were doing was still important and inspiring, it had just shifted focus and met the realities of the new information that presented itself. Holding in balance the integrity of the best laid plans alongside the realities of shifting needs is one of the most valuable parts of discernment. And careful discernment is required for us to be able to make any decision either as an individual or as a community.

My invitation to you is to pause for a moment and consider what you hope for our congregation. What important and inspiring plans have you made - either in your own heart or in a small or large group? How have changing realities or needs shifted your plans or hopes? What plans are still appropriate in this new day, and which need to be reconsidered? Let me know!

Blessings,
Pastor Jennifer

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Pastor Emeritus is a title given to a living pastor who has both served a community and whose ongoing legacy is one of grace and inspiration. While pastors emeritus don't have any rights or responsibilities beyond that of any other member, we remember them by name each week in the bulletin as a sign of their contribution to our community.

We will honor three Pastors Emeritus in worship on **Sunday, October 4** – Deb Patterson, David Akers, and Allen Holt

Guest Musician



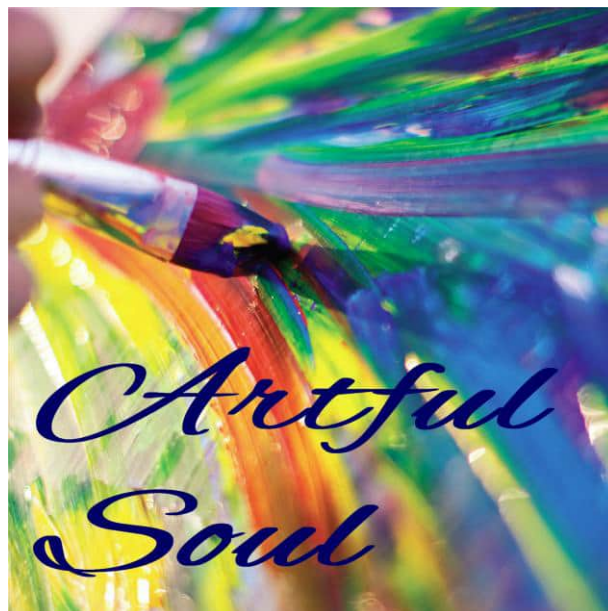
Welcome John Nilsen!

Our friend John Nilsen will be in worship on **Sunday, October 11**, to share his improvisational piano music with us during the sermon time. As always, a free will love offering will help support John's musicianship, and his CDs will be for sale.



Confirmation
Class

CONFIRMATION for youth will begin Saturday, October 24. If you have a young person in your life ages 10(ish) - 13(ish) who would be interested in attending, please let Pastor Jennifer know.



Saturday, October 10, 2026
10:30 am-12 noon

The theme for this month's Artful soul is Little Tokens, Big Ripples. Based on the idea of a woman named Mansi, those gathered will be invited to add their special flair to a large cooperative painting.

Once the painting has dried, it will be cut into bookmark or gift tag size. We will add positive, uplifting and inspiring messages to each one, and then carry them with us to disperse into the world. See you there!

JOIN US
for
LUNCH

On Thursday, September 24th, Women's Fellowship served forty-one lunches to the people of our community. As usual we could have fed more people, so come & check us out next time.

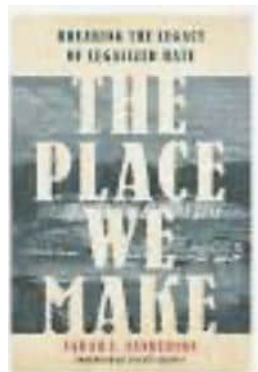
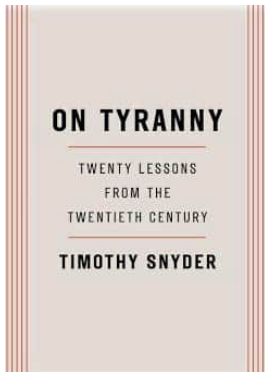
The dates for the next noon luncheons are **October 8th and 22nd**. At our last meeting we voted to change the suggested donation to \$12. Hope to see you here at Smyrna.

Smyrna Library additions

On Tyranny: Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century by Timothy Snyder. Penguin Random House, 2017. Pocket-sized book--4.5" x 6.25", 125 p. long. (pocket-size book). Two copies have been added to the library in anticipation of the Smyrna's adult ed discussion in November. Part of the discussion will include a taped interview with the author.

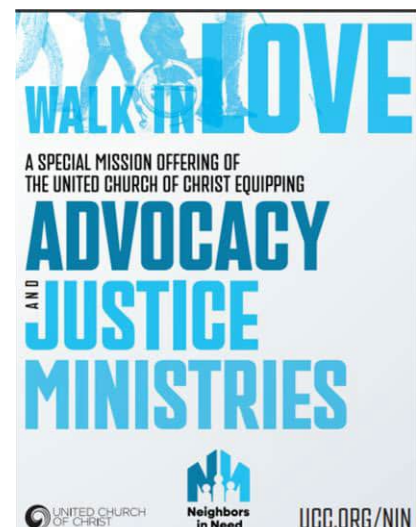
The Place We Make: Breaking the Legacy of Legalized Hate by Sarah L. Sanderson. Waterbrook, 2023. 188 pages. The author has lived in Oregon. Some of her relatives have made names for themselves in Oregon history. Her book tells us more about these relatives and her search for how they were participants in a difficult part of Oregon's history.

On October 17, 2026 Pastor Jennifer Garrison will host an interview with the author, Sarah L. Sanderson, at Smyrna on Zoom. Read the book and come to the interview with your questions. Two copies of each book can be found on the bookshelf in Smyrna's narthex/entryway.



LONELY? Medical issues? Need Help?

Please visit the Smyrna Resource page.
On Smyrna's website, www.smyrna-ucc.org, just click the Resource tab

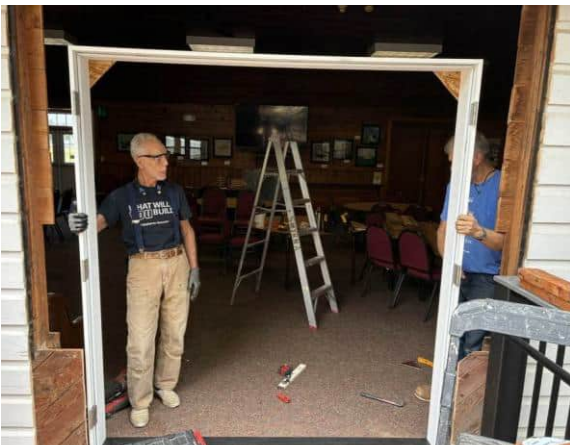


September at Smyrna

Smyrna gave 102 pounds of food to the Molalla Food Bank in September. Paulette delivered our donations the last week of the month.



Women's Fellowship began their Fall - Spring twice monthly Community Luncheons, open to all.



Progress has been made on providing easy access from the Friendship House to Smyrna's new deck!



September's group of Artful Souls spent a morning creating their own varieties of Neurographic art



Smyrna United Church of Christ
31119 South Highway 170
Canby, Oregon 97013



IN OUR
Thoughts and Prayers

- The Akers Family
- Barack Holt and Family
- The Crispin Family
- Juel Russell
- Christine Albright
- Winter Pebley
- Jeannie Rogers' brothers, Steven and John,
and Mother Marjorie

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.



Mary Ashton passed away September 24, 2026. We will miss Mary and ask that you keep Paul and his family in your prayers.

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.

October 2026

Smyrna Church

Oct 2026 (Pacific Time - Los Angeles)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
				WA: Jeff & Tina M 10am - Office hours		9am - CPC Annual (Virtual)
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
CH: HT/M Neighbors in Need 10:30am - Worship	Pastor Jennifer Away BD: Susan B 7pm - AA/AO Meeting	BD: Debra V 10am - Office hours	10am - Office hours 12:30pm - Gentle Chair Yoga 6pm - Meaning Makers	10am - Office hours 12pm - W. F. Luncheon		BD: Allen H 10:30am - Soufuj Art @
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Pastor Jennifer Away BD: Arlene P CH: CE JOHN NILSEN HERE for 10:30am - Worship 11:30am - Allen's Birthday	7pm - AA/AO Meeting	BD: Paul E Y 10am - Office hours 7pm - Diaconate	10am - Office hours 12:30pm - Gentle Chair Yoga	WA: Joe & Rebekah Y 10am - Office hours 7pm - Church Council Meeting		10am - Book Talk - Sarah
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
CH: WF/TA 10:30am - Worship 11:30am - Congregational	7pm - AA/AO Meeting	BEROLD DEADLINE 10am - Office hours	BD: Casey H BD: Ione J BD: Pat P 10am - Office hours 12:30pm - Gentle Chair Yoga 5pm - Meaning Makers	10am - Office hours 12pm - W. F. Luncheon	BD: Patricia B WA: Jeff & Brenda H	10am - Confirmation Class
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
CH: Diaconate 10:30am - Worship	7pm - AA/AO Meeting	10am - Office hours	10am - Office hours 12:30pm - Gentle Chair Yoga	10am - Office hours	5pm - Halloween Party	