

BEHOLD!!

SMYRNA



**United Church
of Christ**

A just world for all

November 2026

Dear Smyrna Folks,

In Gentle Yoga on Wednesdays at 12:30, we have been practicing letting go. We share a meditation about the autumn leaves falling to the earth and imagine what it might be like to drift easily and gently like that. So much of life is about hanging on – to stuff, to ideas, to relationships, to identities. When we start to let go, to release – even just practicing relaxing our minds and bodies as we do in yoga – we are able to have much more clarity about what is necessary and important.

I hope you can join us one day at yoga class – no experience is necessary and we enjoy our time together. But if that doesn't work for you, take a minute or two with this poem by Mary Oliver instead. How do her words invite you to release, to let go, to clarify?

Blessings,
Pastor Jennifer

Song for Autumn ~ by Mary Oliver

Don't you imagine the leaves dream now
how comfortable it will be to touch
the earth instead of the
nothingness of the air and the endless
freshets of wind? And don't you think
the trees, especially those with
mossy hollows, are beginning to look for
birds that will come—six, a dozen—to sleep
inside their bodies? And don't you hear
the goldenrod whispering goodbye,
the everlasting being crowned with the first
tuffets of snow? The pond
stiffens and the white field over which
the fox runs so quickly brings out
its long blue shadows. The wind wags
its many tails. And in the evening
the piled firewood shifts a little,
longing to be on its way.



A Newsletter of Smyrna United Church of Christ

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Election Day Prayer offering

If you are looking for a break from your television or social media feed, or maybe just a warm place to rest for an hour or two on **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3**, come on by Smyrna anytime from **10am-6pm**. There'll be some peace prompts available for prayer or reflection in the sanctuary. Hope to see you there.

Community Singalong



We will be hosting a community hymn sing at Smyrna on **Sunday, November 29 at 4 pm**. Invite your friends and family, and please let Susan or me know if you have a hymn you'd like to contribute to this festive occasion. (Hint – it is the first Sunday of Advent, so Christmas songs of the season will be most welcome!).

Women's Fellowship



On **Saturday, November 14**, we will be showcasing quilts and home goods in addition to baked goods throughout the day. There will be a display of live Christmas trees as well as cut trees decorated with ornaments all for purchase. We will have several people spinning wool or weaving items on a loom.

There will be refreshments available for a free will donation. If you have any questions, please call Barbara Daniels at 503-390-4686.



Special ARTFUL SOUL gathering

On **Saturday, November 14**, Artful Soul will meet in a different way, as a complement to the Women's Fellowship Bazaar. Drop in anytime between **10:30 am-2:30 pm** and find the Artful Soul table for a holiday craft you can work on with others gathered there or take home with you to finish later. As always, we'll have a short writing or meditation prompt to accompany your creating time. See you there!



Scripture Readers for November

Nov 1	Mary Namit	Nov 22	Mary Ann Jensen
Nov 8	Rick Gano	Nov 29	Karyl Carlson
Nov 15	Janet Bess		



Allen Holt celebrated his 90th birthday at Smyrna with family and friends.



Have you wondered how Smyrna's tablecloths stay pristine? Recently some Smyrna elves were caught plying toothbrush and a heavy-duty laundry bar stain remover!



Our donation to the Molalla Food bank amounted to 190 pounds this last month. That included 48 jars of peanut butter! Thanks to everyone that made this possible.



Fall Cemetery Report

We have just completed a project to remove some invasive plants and trim back overgrown shrubs. The leaves are falling fast will need to be dealt with, so they don't kill the grass. Thanks to everyone who helps with this. We just caution you not to blow them into the fence.

The spring newsletter may have given the impression that we no longer had burial plots available. What we meant to say is that we no longer sell full-sized burial plots for cremated remains. We have a good number of burial plots left, and if we get to the place where they are in short supply, we will add additional space



LONELY? Medical issues? Need Help?

Please visit the Smyrna Resource page.

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



Mary Ashton

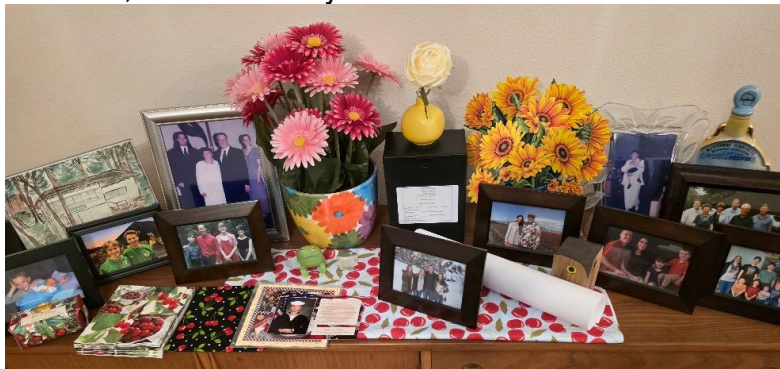
September 20, 1947-September 24, 2026

Mary Ashton, 79, passed away September 24, 2026, after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease. Born Mary Schmelling on September 20, 1947, in Manitowoc, Wisconsin, to Stan and Dorothy, she grew up alongside her older siblings, Jay, Nan, and Paul. After graduating from Glenwood City High School in 1965, her family relocated to Fossil, Oregon.

Following her studies at Eastern Oregon University, she married Mike Christy and became a beloved elementary school teacher in Canby, Oregon, where she spent three decades dedicated to her students and community. In retirement, she enjoyed 23 wonderful years of marriage to Paul Ashton and was active in the Canby United Methodist and Smyrna UCC congregations. Mary deeply cherished family gatherings, volunteering in her daughter Sasha's classroom, and helping care for her grandsons, Tyler and Drew.

She is survived by her husband, Paul; daughters, Sasha Sten and Karen Fritz; and eighteen grandchildren. Mary's warmth lives on in her family and the hundreds of students she inspired.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association.



Smyrna United Church of Christ
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*We always thank
GOD for all of you
and continually
mention you in
our prayers.*

1 Thessalonians 1:2, NIV

- 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.

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.

November 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 CH: HT/M Daylight Saving Time ends 10:30am - Worship	2 7pm - AA/AO Meeting	3 BD: Arlene H BD: John P BD: Melissa L Election Day	4 12:30pm - Gentle Chair Yoga 6pm - Meaning Makers	5 BD: Mary N	6	7 BD: Karen P Kilgore Family Potluck
8 CH: CE 10:30am - Worship	9 BD: Katy B 7pm - AA/AO Meeting	10 7pm - Diaconate	11 Veterans Day 12:30pm - Gentle Chair Yoga	12 12pm - W. F. Luncheon	13	14 10am - Women's Fellowship 10:30am - Soulful Art @
15 BD: Evan R CH: WF/TB 10:30am - Worship	16 BD: Pastor Cat A 7pm - AA/AO Meeting	17 11am - Pastor support	18 BD: Adam W 12:30pm - Gentle Chair Yoga	19 7pm - Church Council Meeting	20 BD: Joel D BEHOLD DEADLINE Trans Day of Remembrance	21
22 10:30am - Worship	23 7pm - AA/AO Meeting	24	25 12:30pm - Gentle Chair Yoga	26 Thanksgiving Day	27 Black Friday	28
29 BD: Steve P CH: Diaconate 10:30am - Worship 4pm - Hymn sing	30 BD: Janet F BD: Rick G 7pm - AA/AO Meeting	1	2	3	4	5