

# BEHOLD! SMYRNA

## Sept 2025



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

### ***Dear Smyrna Folks,***

I want to thank Carl Menkel and all the trustees for all the hard work they have put into bringing the back deck project closer to reality. Having Carl act as essentially a contractor on this project has meant that someone with intimate knowledge of our church community, as well as considering wisdom in building, is at the helm. Thank you Carl! Now that the long hard work of planning and preparation is wrapping up, we will soon begin to see the fruits of all the labor of so many.

The deck is not just a porch, or private resting spot. This project will provide an accessible exit out the back of the building, as well as a gathering space with a focus toward the outdoors. When you think of our community gathered in the sanctuary looking one direction, the deck will literally help us to look another way. What might we see?

Well, first of all, the deck will make our building much more accessible. One of the watchwords of new building projects in public spaces is to always ask if the renovation or addition will provide “equivalent experience” for all users. Equivalent experience means that those in wheelchairs or using walkers would not have to hike around the building to access the cemetery, while those using their feet can take the stairs out the back door. While our building is technically accessible right now, it is not equivalent, because those in wheelchairs and walkers have a longer journey. With the new deck in place, every person will be empowered to use the same doors, and will have access to every part of the property in the same way as every other person.

But improved accessibility is not the only gift of the deck. At our planning retreat in Spring of 2025, there was great interest in making more use of the building and grounds to benefit the community. The deck will allow us to truly face in a new

direction, and perhaps to see new possibilities for our property that we haven't seen before. For example, our playground is about three decades old. While it's sturdy enough, it's tired, is suitable only for “big kids” not for toddlers and does not in any way abide by the philosophy of equivalent access. Spending time on the deck might allow us to gaze at and dream of future possibilities on the south side of our property — possibilities like an improved playground that would make our facility more attractive and usable for our congregation as well as others.

How might the prospect from the deck help us see in a new way what we have not seen before? Looking toward the northwest and north, we might be able to better envision a community garden or farmer's market. Or, to consider the deck as a launching point for a meandering meditation walk through the oak trees.

We might want to worship in the outdoors from time to time - not because we have to but because we want to. Perhaps the deck might be a stage for community music or theatrical productions. Or, it might become an exercise platform. And of course, it will be a leisurely place to gather for coffee and conversation, not just on Sunday morning but at other times.

I can envision the deck being a springboard for many ways to engage our congregation and the wider community. How about you? What other ways can you imagine the deck being more than just a porch? Let's be in conversation about it.

Warmly,  
Pastor Jennifer



Ministers: All members of the church  
Minister: Rev. Jennifer Garrison  
Editor: Jeannie Rogers Asst. Editor: Elaine Daniels  
Church Phone (503) 651-2131

## Lunch opportunities at Smyrna begin again this month!



### Women's Fellowship Group Luncheons

Fall is right around the corner and so are the many meals the ladies of Smyrna will be preparing for the community every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month

beginning with **September 11, 2025**. We will begin the luncheons promptly at **12 PM**. Our suggested fee is still \$10 per person. We hope you all can come and enjoy a meal with us. See you then.

### Looking ahead:

First Thursdays of each month at noon we will resume Memory Cafe! Come for a delicious local lunch on **Thursday, September 4**, prepared by Louise Adams and an engaging conversation with an expert on topics ranging from financial planning to staying healthy.



**HAS SOMEONE IN YOUR FAMILY BEEN DETAINED BY ICE OR ARE YOU A WITNESS OF AN ICE RAID IN YOUR COMMUNITY?**



**WITH THIS NUMBER WE CAN ALSO INFORM YOU ABOUT:**

- Finding services of an immigration attorney
- Mobilizing the community if someone in your family is detained by ICE
- Finding accompaniment for immigration appointments
- Finding other community resources to help

**IF SO, CALL THE PIRC HOTLINE**

**1-888-622-1510**





# a Big Thanks

I would like to thank the 18 volunteers who came out on Saturday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> to assist in the road cleanup on Hwy 170 /Canby-Marquam Hwy. Because of the large numbers, the activity went quickly and, luckily we had excellent weather. Again, thank you!

—Rich Gano







## Camp Adams Sunday

On a hot August Sunday, we gathered to worship in a surprisingly cool lodge at Camp Adams.

Here we sang Christmas Carols and were treated to a living Advent Wreath before the traditional potluck lunch and (for some) walk in the woods— a shorter walk than that taken in cooler years.



## Joshua Barber Benefit Dinner

Ginger and her crew of cooks prepared a tasty Mexican Dinner on August 2. Funds raised that evening are intended to assist Joshua in his seminary studies this fall.

## Hiya Allies!

We need your help.

Here's the most effective ways to support the work we're doing defending the rights of the immigrant community.

If you see someone detained by ICE,  
contact the PIRC hotline at 888-622-1510

Get Involved with PIRC  
(Portland Immigrant Rights Coalition)  
<https://pircoregon.org/get-involved>



**Take** a skill building class with ECO  
(Equity Corps of Oregon)  
<https://equitycorps.org/skill-building/#more-info>



If you know someone having trouble  
navigating legal issues with immigration  
justice contact the CLEAR Clinic  
<https://clear-clinic.org>



Print Know Your Rights (KYR)  
documents and distribute them  
<https://pircoregon.org/resources>







## Thank You Note

Smyrna received a thank you from the Molalla Service Center for the 57 pounds of food donated this last month. There is a great need so all your contributions are needed and appreciated.



Smyrna's trustees (a.k.a. elves) worked on repainting the caution curbs and stairs. Now it's bright and fresh to match the newly striped and sealed pavement from the construction company.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>31</div> <div>September 2025</div>	<div>1</div> <div>BD: Karyl Carlson</div> <div>Labor Day</div> <div>WA: Scott &amp; Angela Stierle</div> <div>12pm - Office Hours</div> <div>7pm - AA/AO Meeting</div>	<div>2</div> <div>BD: Dave Clites</div> <div>BD: Margaret Adams</div> <div>10am - Office hours</div>	<div>3</div> <div>WA: Dan &amp; Louise Allee</div> <div>12pm - Office Hours</div> <div>7:30pm - Bible Study</div>	<div>4</div> <div>10am - Office hours</div> <div>12pm - Memory Cafe</div>	<div>5</div>	<div>6</div>
<div>7</div> <div>CH: Mission &amp; Outreach</div> <div>F: Joel &amp; Elaine</div> <div>U/R: Rick/Levonne/Rick</div> <div>WA: Philips &amp; Barbara</div> <div>10:30am - SS: Jeannie</div> <div>10:30am - Worship</div>	<div>8</div> <div>12pm - Office Hours</div> <div>7pm - AA/AO Meeting</div>	<div>9</div> <div>10am - Office hours</div>	<div>10</div> <div>BD: BD Connick</div> <div>BD: Lulu Anderson</div> <div>7:30pm - Bible Study</div>	<div>11</div> <div>10am - Office hours</div> <div>12pm - W. F. Luncheon</div> <div>7pm - Church Council</div>	<div>12</div> <div>1pm - Bell Choir Practice</div>	<div>13</div> <div>10:30am - Art and Soul @</div>
<div>14</div> <div>CH: Christian Education</div> <div>U/R: Barb/Mary/Mary</div> <div>10:30am - SS: Joshua &amp;</div> <div>10:30am - Worship</div>	<div>15</div> <div>BD: Ann Clites</div> <div>12pm - Office Hours</div> <div>7pm - AA/AO Meeting</div>	<div>16</div> <div>10am - Office hours</div>	<div>17</div> <div>WA: Susan &amp; AJ Connick</div> <div>WA: Virgil &amp; Christine</div> <div>7:30pm - Bible Study</div>	<div>18</div> <div>10am - Office hours</div>	<div>19</div> <div>BD: Laura Yoder</div>	<div>20</div> <div>BD: Mary Ashton</div> <div>BD: Paul R Yoder</div>
<div>21</div> <div>BD: Josette Waitman</div> <div>CH: Womens Fellowship</div> <div>Fall Days of Giving</div> <div>U/R:Janet/Karyl/Janet</div> <div>10:30am - SS: Debi</div> <div>10:30am - Worship</div>	<div>22</div> <div>WA: Joe &amp; Josette</div> <div>12pm - Office Hours</div> <div>7pm - AA/AO Meeting</div>	<div>23</div> <div>BD: Elisa Dale</div> <div>10am - Office hours</div>	<div>24</div> <div>7:30pm - Bible Study</div>	<div>25</div> <div>BD: Kevin Schriever</div> <div>10am - Office hours</div> <div>12pm - W. F. Lucheen</div>	<div>26</div> <div>WA: Sandra &amp; John Mahar</div>	<div>27</div> <div>BD: Louise Adams</div>
<div>28</div> <div>BD: James Daniels</div> <div>CH: DT (B)</div> <div>CPA Annual Meeting</div> <div>U/R:Pat/Christine/Karyl</div> <div>10:30am - SS: Rebekah</div> <div>10:30am - Worship</div>	<div>29</div> <div>12pm - Office Hours</div> <div>7pm - AA/AO Meeting</div>	<div>30</div> <div>10am - Office hours</div>	<div>1</div>	<div>2</div>	<div>3</div>	<div>4</div>

**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
- Murlene Liechty
- Christine Albright
- Winter Pebley
- Jeannie Rogers' brothers Steven and John

*If you know anyone who should be on the prayer list in the Behold,*

## 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.