

HIGHLIGHTS

God has an 'everybody' plan

LA GRANDE — At the 10:30 a.m. Sunday service at the La Grande Church of the Nazarene, Pastor Al Mortimer will give a message entitled "God's 'Everybody' Plan." The message will be drawn from Ephesians 3:1-13. Sunday School is offered at 9:15 a.m.

Christian Church congregants gather at Riverside Park

LA GRANDE — First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of La Grande will celebrate worship in the Riverside Park Pavilion at 11 a.m. Sunday. "What Shall I Do with You?" is the question Pastor Ray

Smith will raise during his message, drawn from Hosea 5:15-6:6. He will teach that even when we go astray God keeps loving us. There will be a potluck picnic immediately following the service. Drinks will be provided.

Former pastor returns to share knowledge

LA GRANDE — The Sunday service at First Presbyterian Church will begin at 9:30 a.m. Rev. Andy Kennaly will preside over communion and give a message entitled "Things Have a Way of Working Out."

On Saturday, Kennaly will present a workshop called "Slovenia: Land of Beekeeping" at the

Presbyterian Friendship Center, 1204 Spring Ave., La Grande, from 10 a.m. to noon. He will demonstrate the A to Z Hive System he learned about during his 2017 summer renewal time in Slovenia. This free event is for beekeepers, gardeners, hobbyists, travelers and those curious to learn. Honey-sweet refreshments will be served after the presentation.

Cove Methodist has guest speaker

COVE — The Cove Methodist Church will welcome Mike Lamb Sunday at the 9 a.m. service. He will deliver a message titled "Joie de Vivre!" Coffee and fellowship will follow the service.

The church hosts Fresh Food Alliance on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. and the Cove Food Pantry on the fourth Saturday of the month from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Church Council meeting follows service

LA GRANDE — The sermon at the 10 a.m. service at Faith Lutheran Church in La Grande Sunday will expound on Mark 6:14-29. In these verses, King Herod is nervous about his mistreatment of John the Baptist after he accused the king of an unlawful affair. Though Herod didn't fear God, he was tormented by superstitious thoughts. The

message will show that God reigns over all things. The service will be followed by the monthly Church Council meeting.

Zion hosts Housing Matters Union County

LA GRANDE — Zion Lutheran Church in La Grande will worship at

9:30 a.m. Sunday. Fellowship and fair trade coffee will follow.

Housing Matters Union County will meet from noon to 2 p.m. Monday at the church.

A nondenominational Bible study will meet at 6:15 p.m. Tuesday, also at the church.

Submissions

Churches and faith-based groups are encouraged to submit Highlights for the Spiritual Life page by noon Thursday for publication on Friday. Submit your Spiritual Life announcements by email to news@lagrandeobserver.com (with Highlights in the subject line) by fax to 541-963-7804, or by hand to the office at 1406 Fifth St., La Grande. Highlights will be published as space allows.

Don't forget the importance of spending time with family

I am sure that many of you can remember when life was not so demanding and filled with anxiety — or at least it seemed that way. I was raised in the city, so when I had a chance to go to my grandparents' house out in the country it was like going on vacation. They lived on a quiet overgrown road that came to a dead end at the Kentucky River. Their farm was so remote that when an occasional car passed by we would stop and stare at it like it was entertainment. I will never forget helping in the garden, feeding the animals, playing outside, and the sights and smells of country living that gave me a sense of love and security.

I have such fond thoughts of my grandmother serving huge delicious meals, eating homemade ice cream, the joy and freedom of running through fields and forest and then catching lightning bugs in the evenings. When I was young, I thought that fishing on my grandfather's



LIVING ON PURPOSE
DR. BILLY HOLLAND

boat was the ultimate adventure and going to the creek to help them wash their old car was such innocent fun. Looking for crawdads, throwing rocks, watching out for snakes and getting soaking wet on a hot sunny day were the perfect combination for thrills and excitement. And in the winter when the snow was deep we would go out and play then come in and hold our hands over the potbelly stove and listen to the fire crackle and pop.

Getting to spend the night was filled with such anticipation, as we slept in huge feather beds with piles of blankets. I still recall the moonlight shining through the windows that made everything seem magical to a boy who dreamed this would last forever.

My wife, Cheryl, has told me of

the special occasions her family shared together with cookouts and all the kids running around and playing. I remember her grandmother who lived in an old farmhouse off the highway where so many dinners and celebrations happened over the years.

Her husband had passed away a long time ago, but they had seven children and this is where everyone would meet on the weekends. My wife recalls how the men would gather under the shade trees and talk about cars, sports and fishing while the women would be in the house laughing and preparing the meals.

Unfortunately, when her grandmother passed away, it was the end of an era. Many times families break apart and become distant. The absence of these central figures reveal just how much their love and generosity was the "glue" that held everyone together.

We hear people blame the

world for changing, but maybe we are the ones who became so busy that we neglected the importance of spending time with family. Actually, the world becoming darker should motivate us to protect and keep our families closer than ever. Whatever the case, through the years we've slowly been drawn into the worries and anxieties of life, and as we become burdened with more responsibilities we gradually drift away from each other.

I wrote a song years ago about how sad it is when families drift apart, there's a line that says, "Just because life is not the way it used to be doesn't mean we can't do the things we used to do."

When certain individuals pass away and the locations are not the same, it's important to adjust and adapt for the sake of those who are left. The past may be gone but we must not allow this to prevent us from actively carrying on the legacy and traditions within our family. It's sad

when children and grandchildren do not even know their own aunts, uncles or cousins and the only time they come together is at a funeral where the atmosphere is awkward and everyone seems like strangers.

Children form their own opinions and attitudes from the bonds of family, and it is selfish for us to have our wonderful experiences and memories and then pull away from this important foundation just because the situation has changed.

Our parents and grandparents were hoping and praying that someone (like us) would keep the family together because they understood that close families provide the encouragement, stability, nurturing and love that we all need and long for.

Dr. Holland lives in Central Kentucky with his wife Cheryl, where he is a Christian author, outreach minister and community chaplain.

You can read more at billyhollandministries.com.

Northeast Oregon Directory of Churches

Services This Week

<p>IMBLER CHRISTIAN CHURCH 440 RUCKMAN, IMBLER 534-2201 www.imblerchristianchurch.org</p> <p>Sunday Services 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship Service</p>	<p>First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) 901 Penn Avenue 963-2623 lgdisciples@gmail.com</p> <p>Worship 10:00 a.m.</p>  <p>~Join us at The Lord's Table~</p>	<p>Calvary Baptist Church</p> <p>Sunday Services Sunday School 10:00 am Morning Worship 11:00 am Sunday Evening 06:30 pm</p> <p>Wednesday Services Prayer Meeting 7:00 pm</p> <p>707 Main St, Cove 541-568-4888</p>	<p>Amazing Grace Fellowship 1316 T St., La Grande, OR 541-568-4567 Sunday 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>2 Cor 12:9 My Grace is sufficient for you.</p>  <p>IS 40:31</p>	
<p>COVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 1708 Jasper St., Cove, OR</p> <p>NORTH POWDER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 390 E. St., North Powder, OR</p> <p>JOIN US... <i>Catch the Spirit!</i> Worship: 9:00 a.m. Cove Worship: 10:00 a.m. N. Powder</p>	<p>ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH SERVICES La Grande - Our Lady of the Valley 1002 L Avenue Saturday 5:30 pm Mass Sunday 10:00 am Mass Weekdays 8:00 am Mass Union - Sacred Heart 340 South 10th Avenue Sunday 8:00 am Mass No Weekdays Elgin - Saint Mary's 12th and Alder Sunday 12:30 pm Mass No Weekdays</p>	<p>VALLEY FELLOWSHIP 963-0340 507 Palmer Ave (just east of city pool) Sunday Worship 10:02 am Come and share in a time of worship, prayer and the study of God's word with us. Worship includes communion on Sunday. www.valleyfellowship.church Email: vfchurch2@gmail.com</p>	<p>LaGrande CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 109 18th Street • 963-3402 Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>First Baptist Church</p> <p>SIXTH & SPRING, LA GRANDE</p>  <p>541-963-3911</p> <p>Sun. 8:45 AM - Bible Classes Sun. 10:00 AM - Worship Wed. 6:15 PM - AWANA</p>
<p>La Grande Seventh-day Adventist Church <i>A Place where hope is found in Jesus</i> Join us in Fellowship & Worship Every Saturday 9:30 a.m. - Bible Study/Fellowship 10:45 a.m. - Worship Service 2702 Adams Avenue, La Grande • 963-4018 Pastor: Mike Armayor www.lagrande22adventistchurchconnect.org <i>Learning for Today and Eternity</i> Little Friends Christian Preschool/Childcare 963-6390 La Grande Adventist Christian School Christian Education K-8th Grade 963-6203</p>	<p>FIRST LANDMARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH 1812 1st St. La Grande Pastor Dave Tierce • 541-605-0215 <i>We use the King James Version Bible</i> Sunday School - 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Sunday Evening Bible Study - 3:00 pm (Effective June 10) Wednesday Evening - 6:30 pm "Where you can find TRUTH according to the scriptures" www.flmbclagrande.com</p>	<p>Zion Lutheran Church (an ELCA church) 902 Fourth Street, La Grande, OR (541) 963-5998</p> <p>9:30 am - Worship 10:30 am - Fellowship & Refreshments 11:00 am - Classes Pastor: Rev. Colleen Nelson www.zionlagrande.org</p>	<p>Union Baptist Church 1531 S. Main St., Union 541-562-5531 www.unionbaptistoregon.org Sunday School 9:45 am Morning Worship 11:00 am Sunday Night 6:30 pm Thursday AWANA 6:30 pm Knowing, Loving and Proclaiming Jesus Christ</p>	<p>GRACE COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH LCCMC 502 Main Street In Cove (in the Seventh Day Adventist Church building) <i>"We are called to Serve"</i> Sunday School for all ages - 9:00 am Sunday Worship 10:00 am Pastor Carl Seelhoff Phone: 541-805-0764 grace.lutherancove@gmail.com</p>
<p>Agape Christian Fellowship 870 Alder Street, Elgin, OR 97827 541-910-5193 Pastor Glen Carter Service times: Sunday 10:45 AM All are welcome</p> 		<p>SUMMERVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH <i>A Place for You</i></p> <p>Sunday Services: Sunday School & Adult Bible Classes 9:45AM Children's Church & Worship Service 11:00AM Family Worship Service 6:00PM</p> <p>Wednesday: Prayer Mtg, Children's Bible Club, Youth Group 7:00PM</p> <p>A church for your whole family Visit us at summervillebaptistchurch.org</p>	<p>LA GRANDE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH <i>"OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS"</i> 1612 4th Street - 963-2498 Pastor Al Trachsel lgumc@conl.com www.lgumchurch.org Office Hours: Mon-Thur 9am-Noon Worship 10:00 am Fellowship Coffee Hour 11:00 am -Nursery provided-</p>	