

HIGHLIGHTS

RSVP for Women's Connection spring lunch

LA GRANDE — The next La Grande Women's Connection Reunion Luncheon will be held at noon March 1 at the Flying J Restaurant. The theme of the no-host lunch will be "Springtime of My Life." To reserve your seat, call 541-786-0305 as soon as possible.

Jesus enables you to fulfill your greatest individual purpose

LA GRANDE — The La Grande Seventh-day Adventist Church will worship at 11 a.m. Saturday. Guest speaker Shane Dresen will focus on Jesus and the positive difference

he makes in our lives — enabling us to fulfill our greatest individual purpose.

Following Golden Rule would solve a lot of problems

LA GRANDE — Faith Lutheran Church's sermon this Sunday will use Luke 6:27-38. In these verses, Jesus urges us to "be merciful, even as your Father is merciful" (vs. 36) and gives a variation of the Golden Rule of "as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them" (vs. 31). Our problems worldwide and personally would be greatly reduced by following this directive. Faith Lutheran Church will have a service at 10 a.m. in La Grande and at 2 p.m. in Enterprise.

Chili feed and sing-along follows Sunday service

LA GRANDE — On Week of Compassion Sunday at the La Grande First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Pastor Ray Smith will speak on "Our World of Choices," based on Luke 9:18-24. There will be a chili feed and sing-along time of fellowship immediately following worship.

Bible study continues focus on heaven

UNION — This Sunday, Grace Community and Union Methodist churches will worship together at 10 a.m. in Union. Pastor Carl's sermon — "Why Love Your Enemies?" — will be drawn from Luke 6:27-36.

Adult Bible study begins at 9 a.m., and a time of fellowship follows the service.

Thursday at 10 a.m. at the Urban Vine in Island City, a men's and women's Bible study continues the study of heaven. Transportation is available for all Church activities.

Zion members serve K-House dinner Thursday

LA GRANDE — Zion Lutheran Church in La Grande will worship at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, followed by a time of fellowship. The adult forum, "Caring for Creation Now!" follows at 11 a.m.

On Tuesday, the ZLCW Bible study meets at 9:30 a.m. On Thursday, Zion members will serve dinner at EOU's K-House.

St. Peter's offers Communion in Cove

LA GRANDE, COVE — St. Peter's Episcopal Church in La Grande will celebrate the Seventh Sunday of Epiphany with Morning Prayer at 9 a.m. A coffee hour and time of fellowship will follow the service in the Parish Hall. A Holy Communion service will be offered at 11 a.m. at the Ascension Chapel in Cove.

Presbyterian Church hosts 'I'll Push You' viewing

LA GRANDE — Pastor Laura Hudson of La Grande's First Presbyterian Church will be encouraging the congregation to "Take Heart, Little Faiths" during the sermon in the

9:30 am worship service on Sunday. A time of fellowship will follow the service.

Sunday afternoon at 4 p.m., the community is invited to join the congregation in the sanctuary to view the movie "I'll Push You." For more on this inspiring film, go to www.illpushyou.com/about.

Submissions

Churches and faith-based groups are encouraged to submit Highlights for the Spiritual Life page by 4 p.m. Tuesday for publication Friday. Submit by email to news@lagrandeobserver.com or by hand to The Observer office.

Do not allow anything to quench the zeal that God has placed within you

Our destiny is the core of our purpose and constantly urges and drives our responsibility to make sure we are doing everything we can to accomplish our mission. This divine calling fuels our thoughts and imaginations as we ask God to help keep us going forward and to never give up. Once we discover our vision, our goal will not be easy. Dreams and faith go hand in hand. May we also consider that working a temporary job might be necessary in order to support our family while we are developing our skills and waiting for our dream to manifest.

Benjamin Franklin is quoted as saying, "By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail." In the study of God, we see that he is articulate and his attributes are infused with a heavenly order. It has been said that a goal without a plan is just a wish, and I'm sure we can agree that success does not happen without a strategy and large amounts of determination and perseverance. Warren Buffett said, "Someone's sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago."

I remember as a young boy, I loved insects and animals



LIVING ON PURPOSE
DR. BILLY HOLLAND

and wanted to become a biologist. From morning until evening I would catch all types of creatures and then I would read about them. However, as a teenager, I abandoned my dream and unfortunately became more interested in the social scene than years of academic discipline. About the same time, I was given an opportunity to learn how to play the guitar and discovered that I loved to sing and write Christian music. After I was married, I still enjoyed writing and performing my own songs, but now I had a family and was responsible for making money to support them. I was blessed to have a good paying job, but it was a profession that I absolutely had no interest in. In fact, for a while, there was a dark cloud of disappointment and frustration hanging over my head as I felt that I was not following my spiritual blueprint and being hindered from utilizing my potential.

So, after seeking the answers to my questions through

many prayers and tears, the Lord lovingly helped me find my mission along with the peace and contentment I had been searching for. I accepted my job as a way to take care of our financial obligations while at the same time working diligently in what I was passionate about. I would rise early to go to work and when I came home, I would spend as many hours as possible studying the Bible, writing, teaching and recording music. I eventually graduated from seminary and became an ordained minister, certified chaplain and a Christian author. Has it been a hard road? Absolutely. Especially when very few are interested in what you are doing.

So, was becoming a biologist a part of my spiritual blueprint and I made the choice to walk away or was it only something that was fun and the Lord graciously steered me into the correct destiny he planned for me? When I look back on my life, I see that the ministry has been by his grace, and I'm confident for the most part that I am following his plan.

When seeking direction, one of the most important considerations is not to allow anything to quench the

excitement and zeal that God has placed within us. You and I have a definite and specific purpose and it's critical to protect and defend our mission from the dream killers. There may be times when you might need to walk around the block and encourage yourself with scriptures, positive confessions and quotes from those who can motivate and inspire you. We've been given angels, the Holy Spirit, God's word and, of course, Jesus himself who is ready and willing to help us and empower us to do our father's will.

When we choose to obey God's voice, we must be prepared to face adversity as there will be times of severe spiritual attacks, weeping, heartaches and intense soul-searching. Nonetheless, just remember you are following God's mandate and he is the highest authority and nothing is impossible with him.

If your calling only encourages one person, in God's perspective you are truly a tremendous success. It's not about what we can do — it's about being determined to obey what he is telling us to do.

Read more at billyhollandministries.com.

Words of the Buddha

Whatever an enemy might do to an enemy, or a foe to a foe, the ill-directed mind can do to you even worse. (Udana 4.33)

The fool thinks one has won a battle when one bullies with harsh speech, but knowing how to be forbearing alone makes one victorious. (Samyutta Nikaya 1.189)

Should a seeker not find a companion who is better or equal, let one resolutely pursue a solitary course; there is no fellowship with the fool. (Dhammapada 5.61)

Calm is one's thought, calm one's speech, and calm one's deed, who, truly knowing, is wholly freed, perfectly tranquil and wise. (Dhammapada 7.96)

Think not lightly of evil, saying, "It will not come to me." Drop by drop is the water pot filled. Likewise, the fool, gathering it little by little, fills oneself with evil. (Dhammapada 9.121)

Good is virtue until life's end, good is faith that is steadfast, good is the acquisition of wisdom, and good is the avoidance of evil. (Dhammapada 23.333)

<h2 style="text-align: center;">Northeast Oregon Directory of Churches</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">Services This Week</p>				
<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 <i>(Disciples of Christ)</i> 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>SUMMERVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH <i>A Division of The Church of Christ</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>Wednesdays: 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>Amazing Grace Fellowship 1316 T St., La Grande, OR 541-568-4567 Sunday 10:30 a.m.</p> <p><i>2 Cor 12:9 My Grace is sufficient for you.</i></p> <p>IS 40:31</p>	<p>GRACE COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMC 667 N. Main in Union <i>"We are called to Serve"</i> Sunday School for all ages - 9:00 am Sunday Worship 10:00 am Pastor Carl Seelhoff Phone: 541-786-0447 grace.lutheran.cove@gmail.com</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 <i>(just east of city pool)</i> Sunday Worship 10:02 am <i>Come and share in a time of worship, prayer and the study of God's word with us. Worship includes communion on Sunday.</i> 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>LA GRANDE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH <i>"OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS"</i> 1612 4th Street - 963-2498 Pastor Al Trachsel lgumc@eoni.com www.lgumchurch.org Office Hours: Mon-Thur 9am-Noon Worship 10:00 am Fellowship Coffee Hour 11:00 am •Nursery provided•</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 <i>"Where you can find TRUTH according to the scriptures"</i> www.flmbclagrande.com</p>	<p>Zion Lutheran Church <i>(an ELCA church)</i> 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>First Baptist Church SIXTH & SPRING, LA GRANDE 541-963-3911 <i>Building Together On Christ Alone</i> Sun. 8:45 AM - Bible Classes Sun. 10:00 AM - Worship Wed. 6:15 PM - AWANA</p>