



Francisca Benitez/The Observer

The La Grande First Christian Church on Penn Street.

Chili and sing-along fellowship follow service

LA GRANDE — “Waiting on the Homesick” will be Pastor Ray Smith’s message at the La Grande First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) at the 10 a.m. Sunday worship service. He will read from Luke 15:1-3, 11-31. There will be a chili feed and sing-along fellowship following worship.

Faith Lutheran holds Wednesday Lenten services

LA GRANDE — This Sunday the sermon at Faith Lutheran Church’s La Grande service will be based on Luke 13:31-35. Throughout the ministry of Jesus Christ people have opposed the will of God. However, the faithful rejoice as we do receive him and his ways proclaiming, “Blessed is

he who comes in the name of the Lord” (vs. 35). The monthly Church Council meeting will follow the 10 a.m. Divine Service.

For the Wednesday Lenten service, Faith Lutheran will “Behold the Man Who Was Beaten.” Soup supper is served at 5:30 p.m. with the vespers Lenten service at 6:30 p.m.

Our choices have consequences

COVE — The Cove Methodist Church worship service begins at 9 a.m. Sunday. Mary Cloutier will share the message, “Choices and Consequences,” based 1 Timothy 6:3-10 and Genesis 13:5-18. Fellowship with treats, coffee and juice follows the service in the fellowship hall.

On Tuesdays, the church hosts Cove’s Fresh Alliance from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m., offering free perishable food

to the community. The church also hosts the Cove Food Pantry on the fourth Saturday of the month, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Pastor addresses ‘Around the Clock Generosity’

LA GRANDE — The congregation of First Presbyterian Church of La Grande will hear from Pastor Keith Hudson about “Around the Clock Generosity” based on texts from Matthew 19 and 20. The worship service begins at 9:30 a.m. and is followed by a fellowship hour.

Housing Matters meets Monday at Zion

LA GRANDE — Zion Lutheran Church in La Grande will worship Sunday at 9 a.m. followed by a time of fellowship. The 10:30 a.m. Adult Forum will continue to study “Caring for Cre-

ation Now!”

Housing Matters Union County will meet from noon to 2 p.m. Monday. Lunch will be provided. On Tuesday, the Quilters meet at 9 a.m. at the church, and the non-denominational Bible Study meets at 6:15 p.m., also at the church.

Christ’s death has incredible benefits

LA GRANDE — The La Grande Seventh-day Adventist Church worships at 11 a.m. Saturday. Pastor Mike will examine Christ’s death as God’s judgment on every sinful being and the incredible benefits his death offers for everyone.

What does spirituality mean to you?

LA GRANDE — The Observer is seeking comments from community members on spiritual matters. If you

would like to share how you experience spirituality, email news@lagrandeobserver.com or call Observer Editor Cherise Kaechele at 541-963-3161. Ongoing monthly columns and one-time submissions will be considered. Columns are generally 500-600 words and include a photo of the writer.

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 (with Highlights in the subject line), by fax to 541-963-7804, or by hand to the office.

There’s more to a house than curb appeal

A friend of mine called the other day and was really excited about a new idea he had about flipping houses. My wife and I watch programs about renovating properties and we enjoy seeing the creative ideas and amazing results. I told my friend I thought this was a great adventure and that I’m sure it will be a success since he is skilled in the area of construction work.

I became even more enthused when he went on to tell me that quitting his job and going into a new profession was not the only thing that was going on in his life. He also has a desire to rededicate his life to God and allow the Lord to do some serious spiritual remodeling within his heart.

This vision of making a major change is refreshing, to say the least, and I’m always encouraged to hear about individuals who step out in faith and have a passion to improve their lives and fulfill their destiny. No matter who you are or what you’ve been through, God is inviting you today to be spiritually redeemed and transformed by the grace and love of Jesus Christ.

Whether remodeling a house



LIVING ON PURPOSE
DR. BILLY HOLLAND

or our life, it’s going to take a lot of determination and hard work. Have you noticed it seems there are always improvements that need to be done around the house and a considerable amount of constant maintenance in order to keep everything running smoothly?

Of course, some issues are more important than others, but we can agree that our foundation is one of the most critical factors because that is what everything is based on. If the foundation has problems, we need to deal with that before we go any further in our improvements.

It’s deceptive to paint and decorate a structure that is literally falling apart internally. Likewise, when it comes to our spiritual life, many people can paste a smile on their face and seem to be alright on the outside, but often they are empty and miserable on the inside.

The Bible actually compares our existence with a house and uses the symbolism of our faith

to describe the stability and endurance of our life. In Matthew 7:24-27, we read the words of Christ,

“Therefore, everyone who hears my words and puts them into practice is like a wise person who built their house on the rock. The rain came down, the floods came, the winds blew and beat against that house, yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish person who built their house on the sand. The rain came down, the floods came, the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with terrible destruction.”

Just as the foundation is the most important part of any physical structure, becoming born-again creates for us a brand-new spiritual foundation along with a new identity as a member of God’s eternal family.

These storms and floods are referring to the difficulties we will face throughout our journey and is a heavenly warning for us to be prepared by trusting God who is our refuge in times of trouble.

How many times have we known what we should do, but rebelliously decided not to do it? Christianity is a privilege and an opportunity to follow Jesus, nevertheless just because someone declares to be a follower does not necessarily mean they are living God’s way.

There is a huge difference between knowing about God and having a personal relationship with him. How can we learn to trust God if we do not know him? When our comprehension of him is cloudy, we are going to view him wrongly.

However, the individual who places their faith in God and is dedicated to obeying his instructions will have peace and joy no matter what type of crisis may come. Giving our life to Jesus as a “fixer-upper” is the most important decision we will ever make.

Only his power and authority can transform us into what we’ve been called to be. Our creator has all the answers and solutions, but it’s our responsibility to take the initiative as building inspectors to make sure the foundation of our life is strong on the inside because there’s more to a house than curb appeal.

WORDS OF THE BUDDHA

www.pariyatti.com

Those who mistake the unessential to be essential and the essential to be unessential, dwelling in wrong thoughts, never arrive at the essential. (Dhammapada 1.11)

The doer of good rejoices here and hereafter; one rejoices in both the worlds. One rejoices and exults, recollecting one’s own pure deeds. (Dhammapada 1.16)

Much though one recites the sacred texts, but acts not accordingly, that heedless one is like a cowherd who only counts the cows of others — one does not partake of the blessings of the holy life. (Dhammapada 1.19)

Blissful is passionlessness in the world, The overcoming of sensual desires; But the abolition of the conceit “I am” — That is truly the supreme bliss. (Udana 2.1)

Northeast Oregon Directory of Churches

Services This Week

<p style="text-align: center;">IMBLER CHRISTIAN CHURCH</p> <p>440 RUCKMAN, IMBLER 534-2201 www.imblerchristianchurch.org</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday Services</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship Service</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">First Christian Church <i>(Disciples of Christ)</i></p> <p>901 Penn Avenue 963-2623 lgdisciples@gmail.com</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Worship 10:00 a.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">~Join us at The Lord’s Table~</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SUMMERVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>A Vision 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 style="text-align: center;">A church for your whole family</p> <p>Visit us at summersvillebaptistchurch.org</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Amazing Grace Fellowship</p> <p>1316 T St., La Grande, OR 541-568-4567 Sunday 10:30 a.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>2 Cor 12:9 My Grace is sufficient for you.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">IS 40:31</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">GRACE COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LCMC</p> <p>667 N. Main in Union “We are called to Serve”</p> <p>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 style="text-align: center;">COVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</p> <p>1708 Jasper St., Cove, OR</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NORTH POWDER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</p> <p>390 E. St., North Powder, OR</p> <p style="text-align: center;">JOIN US... <i>Catch the Spirit!</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Worship: 9:00 a.m. Cove Worship: 10:00 a.m. N. Powder</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH SERVICES</p> <p style="text-align: center;">La Grande - Our Lady of the Valley</p> <p>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 style="text-align: center;">VALLEY FELLOWSHIP</p> <p>963-0340 507 Palmer Ave <i>(just east of city pool)</i></p> <p>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></p> <p>www.valleyfellowship.church Email: vfcchurch2@gmail.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">La Grande CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE</p> <p>109 18th Street • 963-3402</p> <p>Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">LA GRANDE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</p> <p style="text-align: center;">“OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS”</p> <p>1612 4th Street - 963-2498 Pastor Al Trachsel lgumc@eoni.com www.lgumchurch.org Office Hours: Mon-Thur 9am-Noon</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Worship 10:00 am</p> <p>Fellowship Coffee Hour 11:00 am • Nursery provided •</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">La Grande Seventh-day Adventist Church</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>A Place where hope is found in Jesus</i></p> <p>Join us in Fellowship & Worship Every Saturday 9:30 a.m. - Bible Study/Fellowship 10:45 a.m. - Worship Service</p> <p>2702 Adams Avenue, La Grande • 963-4018 Pastor: Mike Armayor www.lagrande22adventistchurchconnect.org</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Learning for Today and Eternity</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Little Friends Christian Preschool/Childcare 963-6390 La Grande Adventist Christian School Christian Education K-8th Grade 963-6203</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">FIRST LANDMARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH</p> <p>1812 1st St. La Grande Pastor Dave Tierce • 541-605-0215 <i>We use the King James Version Bible</i></p> <p>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></p> <p style="text-align: center;">www.flmbclagrande.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Zion Lutheran Church</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>(an ELCA church)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">902 Fourth Street, La Grande, OR (541) 963-5998</p> <p>9:00 am - Worship 10:00 am - Fellowship & Refreshments 10:30 am - Classes</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Pastor: www.zionlagrande.org</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Union Baptist Church</p> <p>1531 S. Main St., Union 541-562-5531</p> <p>www.unionbaptistoregon.org</p> <p>Sunday School 9:45 am Morning Worship 11:00 am Sunday Night 6:30 pm Thursday AWANA 6:30 pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Knowing, Loving and Proclaiming Jesus Christ</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">First Baptist Church</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SIXTH & SPRING, LA GRANDE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">541-963-3911</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sun. 8:45 AM - Bible Classes Sun. 10:00 AM - Worship Wed. 6:15 PM - AWANA</p>