

HIGHLIGHTS

Church Out of Church activities planned

COVE — The Cove United Methodist Church will worship at 9 a.m. Sunday. Mary Cloutier will share a message entitled “God Unchanging,” based on Roman 5:1-5 and James 1:12-18. Coffee, juice, tea and treats will be offered during a time of fellowship after the service that will include a discussion Church Out of Church, scheduled for March 31.

The Cove Food Pantry will be open from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. March 23 at the church. The church also

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

Zion welcomes spring with Saturday brunch

LA GRANDE — Zion Lutheran Church in La Grande will worship at 9 a.m. Sunday. A time of fellowship will follow. The Adult Forum at 10:30 a.m. continues to study “Caring for Creation Now! For the Healing of the World.”

The Zion Lutheran Church Women will hold

a potluck Spring Brunch at Zion at 10 a.m. March 23. The ZLCW Bible study will meet on Tuesday at 9:30 a.m.

Midweek Lenten service includes soup supper

LA GRANDE, ENTERPRISE — The sermon at Faith Lutheran Church Sunday will be based on Luke 13:1-9, where Jesus tells a parable about planting a fig tree. Services will be at 10 a.m. in La Grande and 2 p.m. in Enterprise.

Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.

in La Grande will be a soup supper followed by a midweek Lenten service at 6:30 p.m. The sermon will be “Behold the Man, Jesus: God with a Mother.”

Sermon examines passages in Jeremiah and Luke

LA GRANDE — First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of La Grande will celebrate the third Sunday of Lent at 10 a.m. Pastor Ray Smith’s message will be “Believing God Knows Us.” The scriptures will be Jeremiah 1:4-

5, 17-19 and Luke 4:21-32.

The Men’s Breakfast Fellowship will meet at 9 a.m. Monday at the Smokehouse Restaurant for a no-host meal and time of visiting.

Guest speaker teaches about life’s challenges

LA GRANDE — Guest speaker John Panches will explore the topic of God preparing people to meet life’s challenges at La Grande’s Seventh-day Adventist Church. The message will be titled “Knocking Down Giants.”

The service begins at 11 a.m. Saturday.

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.

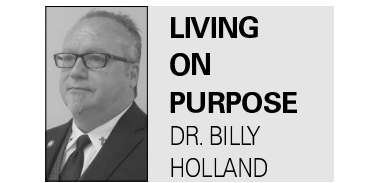
Accepting forgiveness and restoration

It has been said, “Our lives are defined by opportunities, including the ones we miss. Let us not weep over chances we have missed, but rather for the ones we did not take.”

When I look back over my life, I can see where I’ve made plenty of mistakes and I’ve also missed out on some wonderful opportunities. Maybe you are saying the same thing. If so, I encourage you to resist the temptation to live in regret. Humans are fallible creatures and we all make wrong choices, but hopefully, through our failures and disappointments we can learn more about ourselves and that is a good thing.

James Joyce is quoted as saying, “mistakes are the portals of discovery” and there is no doubt they can be a significant part of our personal development process. I realize that keeping your head in the sand is much easier than facing the truth or forgiving yourself, but repentance is a more worthwhile endeavor than living with the overwhelming feelings of guilt and condemnation.

We can either embrace the inclination to allow negative thoughts to haunt us and keep



LIVING ON PURPOSE
DR. BILLY HOLLAND

us subdued with sadness or we can resist this emotional torture by calling on the Lord to heal our heart and renew our mind. God’s plans and ways are bigger than our mistakes and lost opportunities. He is not only ready to forgive and restore us, But He can also fill our life with confidence, hope, and victory!

It’s common when suffering from disappointment and regret, to be reminded of the ones we secretly blame for our failures. However, as the water is long gone under the bridge, it’s time to turn loose of the grudges and stop replaying the scenarios of what could have been. You’ve suffered enough! Walking around in this negative and stressful state of mind can lead to depression, anxiety, and even physical health problems.

It would be wise to make a list of those we need to forgive and sincerely ask God to help us while making sure our name is at the top. You see, bitterness and resentment can hold us in

a spiritual and mental prison, but sincerely giving it over to God is the key that opens the door to freedom. We are the only one that can choose to put an end to us living in the misery of an unchangeable past.

Alice Walker is quoted as saying, “The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they do not have any.” The Bible refers to the devil as the accuser of the brethren and he is constantly trying to flood our mind with negative and damaging persuasions. Some individuals may try to pretend their past never happened or that maybe these memories will all just go away which sounds nice, but running away from reality is not the answer. Denial is living in agony, but being honest with God and ourselves is always the pathway to peace.

In Philippians chapter 3 the Apostle Paul says, “This one thing I do; forgetting those things which are behind, I reach forth to the things which are before me.” He is encouraging us to not only concentrate on the present but to also look to the future and be sensitive to new opportunities.

We have a tendency to deal with our problems our own

way, however, God wants to help us deal with this once and for all. Let go and allow Him to give you a brand-new start as He’s ready to fulfill the dreams and desires He’s placed in your heart. He loves us and longs to forgive us and to either reinstate our dreams that seem to be lost forever or He can create new opportunities in ways we could never imagine.

I believe our Heavenly Father desires to restore the years that you’ve lost and give you a fresh zeal so that you can fulfill your destiny. Being positive and optimistic about your future is a deliberate decision. Will you sincerely believe you are forgiven and accept the spiritual reality that you are worthy of His love? We know that nothing is impossible with God and His Word cannot fail. Psalm 103:11-12 is a wonderful promise about being forgiven and is filled with hope for all eternity. “For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward them that fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.”

Read more at billyhollandministries.com

WORDS OF THE BUDDHA

www.pariyatti.com
Ever grows the glory of one who is energetic, mindful and pure in conduct, discerning and self-controlled, righteous and heedful. (Dhammapada 2.24)

Little though one recites the sacred texts, but puts the Teaching into practice, forsaking lust, hatred, and delusion, with true wisdom and emancipated mind, clinging to nothing of this or any other world — one indeed partakes of the blessings of a holy life. (Dhammapada 1.20)

Rouse yourself! Sit up! Resolutely train yourself to attain peace. Do not let the king of death, seeing you are careless, lead you astray and dominate you. (Sutta Nipata 2.334)

The wise ones, ever meditative and steadfastly persevering, alone experience Nibbana, the incomparable freedom from bondage. (Dhammapada 2.23)

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>SUMMERVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH</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>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... Catch the Spirit! 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>La Grande Seventh-day Adventist Church A Place where hope is found in Jesus 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 Armavor www.lagrande22adventistchurchconnect.org Learning for Today and Eternity</p> <p>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 We use the King James Version Bible 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>9:00 am - Worship 10:00 am - Fellowship & Refreshments 10:30 am - Classes Pastor: www.zionlagrande.org</p>		
<p>CALVARY CHAPEL 1433 Jefferson Ave. 963-5884</p> <p>Contemporary Worship Expositional Teaching</p> <p>Sunday Service - 10:30 a.m. Studying The Book of Romans Wednesday Service - 7:00 p.m. Studying The Book of Revelation Wednesday Night Youth - 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>Tune in to Calvary Radio 88.1 CSN</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. IS 40:31</p>	<p>GRACE COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMC 667 N. Main in Union “We are called to Serve” Sunday School for all ages - 9:00 am Sunday Worship 10:00 am Pastor Carl Seelhoff Phone: 541-786-0447 grace.lutheranrove@gmail.com</p>	<p>La Grande Nazarene 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 SIXTH & SPRING, LA GRANDE 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 UNITED METHODIST CHURCH “OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS” 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>