

- HIGHLIGHTS -

Board meeting held after service

COVE — The Cove Methodist Church will have a worship service at 9 a.m. Sunday. Mary Cloutier will be sharing her message, "Peace Be With You," based on Ephesians 2:14-22 and John 20:19-21. Fellowship with treats, coffee and juice will follow the service in the fellowship hall. A board meeting will be held during the last half of Fellowship Time.

The church will host the Cove Food Pantry from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. April 27. The Cove Fresh Alliance, offering free perishable food to the community, will be open at the church from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Tuesday.

Guest speaker at First Christian

LA GRANDE — Sally Wiens will deliver the message at La Grande's First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) on Sunday at 10 a.m. Her message, "Finding the Extraordinary in the Ordinary," will refer to Psalm 84:1-4 and Matthew 14:13-36.

The Christian Women's Fellowship will hold their annual rummage sale from 9 a.m. to noon May 4. There will be a huge variety of household and clothing items, as well as baked goods and plants.

Sermon centers on Jesus sending out his disciples

LA GRANDE, ENTERPRISE — Faith Lutheran Church's reading will be from John 20:19-31 for the first Sunday after Easter. These verses explain that Jesus is the savior and that the disciples received the Holy Spirit to go out into the world to build the church. Services will be at 10 a.m. in La Grande and 2 p.m. in Enterprise.

Mary Magdalene: A Post-Easter Reflection

During my recent reading of the Gospel accounts of Jesus' death and resurrection, I was surprised by the large place Mary Magdalene held in the story. Consider these facts:

She was possessed of seven demons when she was drawn into Jesus' ranks. He delivered her (Luke 8:2, Mark 16:9).

All four Gospel writers place her at the tomb on the Sunday morning of Jesus' resurrection (Matthew 28:1, Mark 16:1, Luke 24:10, John 20:1). No other woman is mentioned in all four accounts. In fact, the Gospel of John places her there twice, first before she went back into the city to notify Peter and John that the tomb was empty, and then again after Peter and John had gone out to the site to see for themselves and then had left (John 20:1-2, 10-11).

Also, she is the only one the two angels at the tomb addressed directly, "Woman, why are you crying?" (John 20:13). Even more significantly, she was the first to see and speak with the resurrected Christ (John 20:14-16).



Bishop Donald N. Bastian
THE FREE METHODIST CHURCH

And this Mary was the one who carried the good news to the apostles — that Jesus had indeed risen from the dead. She had been granted firsthand evidence (John 20:18).

Consider her unfolding story in more detail.

On the first Sunday after Our Lord's crucifixion, Jesus' followers were in utter confusion. The Jewish sabbath was over. The feast of unleavened bread was still in progress. But, their leader was dead and buried — permanently, so far as they could tell.

For a small group of women who had supported Jesus' ministries out of their own resources, all that was left was an emotional visit or two to the borrowed tomb where their fallen hero had been hastily buried. They could finish the work of embalming and then deal with their

shattered hope as best they could.

Foremost among that band of women was Mary Magdalene. Based on her history of deliverance, she had great reason to love the Lord and to grieve deeply. John says she was the one who first discovered the tomb to be vacant. He reports it was early in the morning but the stage of the moon provided enough light for her to see that the stone had been rolled to one side, leaving a gaping hole in the rock. And peering in, she could see that the ledge where his body had been laid was empty.

She hurried back into the city to report to two of the apostles, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him."

Then a stranger materialized behind her and repeated the question, "Woman, why are you crying?" Thinking it was the gardener, she addressed him, perhaps with an edge in her voice, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

At that moment, the risen Lord

spoke her name and she recognized the voice and responded with great surprise, "Rabboni!" Before any other follower heard the word, the resurrected Lord gave her advanced notice of his coming ascension to the Father.

Why would the gospel writers give her such attention? Women in Palestine in the first century were on the bottom rung of the social ladder. A rabbinic saying went: "Blessed is he whose children are male, but woe to him whose children are female." Another: "Let the words of law be burned rather than delivered to women."

The Gospel was ahead of its time. It elevated womanhood. Here is a woman who once was under demonic possession but who had been miraculously delivered. Then to top all else, the Master had trusted her first with the Good News, and it is she who first carries that Good News to the other disciples.

For more writings by Donald N. Bastian, bishop emeritus of the Free Methodist Church of North America, go to justcallmepastor.wordpress.com.

Building a ladder to your dreams requires positive attitude

There are certain spiritual laws that may be difficult to understand, yet they are true and important keys to victorious living. The power of words falls under this category and is an excellent addition of knowledge and wisdom to our spiritual life. We can learn that words, when spoken in accordance with God's desires, actually carry the power to motivate, inspire and change circumstances. Becoming a light of optimism and faith is associated with training our mind to think positively. No matter what type of situation we might face, we do not have to surrender to a critical or defeated attitude. We constantly have the choice to be a refreshing fountain of encouragement, strength and hope, or we can be a critical septic tank of doubt, depression and despair.

More than anyone else, God knows about the power of words — according to the Genesis account of creation, he created the heavens and the earth by literally speaking them into existence. For example,



LIVING ON PURPOSE
DR. BILLY HOLLAND

when someone declares they will always be poor, or the situation is impossible, we have just witnessed an agreement that has now been set in motion to be accomplished. Matthew 18 explains if two or more shall agree, they will receive from the Lord, and Isaiah 58 talks about God creating the fruit of our lips. This spiritual law of confession is found throughout the Bible and can produce blessings or curses.

The stories in the Bible are not just tales of giants, whales and fiery furnaces — they are given to us as lessons that we might learn and incorporate spiritual understanding into our lives. There is more to being a Christian than going around telling everyone. The goal is for people to notice how we act and observe Christ in us, and may we be

reminded they are especially listening to every word we say.

When it comes to words, James 3 talks about how small the tongue is and yet it has the ability to defile a person and those around them if not controlled. The taming of the tongue must come from an internal awareness and conviction, because the mouth speaks what the heart entertains and reveals the true identity of the person. When we accept Christ as our Lord, the transformation process continues by asking God to take control of our life by allowing him to change and renew our mind. Kenneth E. Hagan said, "Our confessions will either imprison us or set us free. Our confession is the result of our believing and our believing is the result of our right or wrong thinking."

There is a true account about a young boy growing up Cleveland in a home to which he later described as materially poor but spiritually rich. One day a famous track and field athlete named Charlie Paddock

came to his school to speak to the student body. At the time, Mr. Paddock was considered the fastest human being alive. His audience was captivated as he told the children to develop a vision of what they wanted to be and then to ask God to help them accomplish their goals. This little boy decided that he too wanted to become the fastest runner on earth so he went to his track coach and told him about his dream and the coach replied, "It's great to have a dream, but to attain your dream you must build a ladder to it."

The first step is determination, the second is dedication, the third is discipline and the fourth rung is a positive attitude." The result of positive thinking and confessing was four gold medals, breaking the Olympic and world records for the 200 meter, and holding the broad jump record for 24 years. And who did this little boy grow up to be? Jesse Owens.

To read more articles visit: billyhollandministries.com.

Northeast Oregon Directory of Churches

Services This Week

IMBLER CHRISTIAN CHURCH
440 RUCKMAN, IMBLER 534-2201
www.imblerchristianchurch.org

Sunday Services
9:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Worship Service

First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
901 Penn Avenue 963-2623
lgdisciples@gmail.com

Worship 10:00 a.m.

~Join us at The Lord's Table~

SUMMERVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH
A Church for All

Sunday Services:
Sunday School & Adult Bible Classes 9:45AM
Children's Church & Worship Service 11:00AM
Family Worship Service 6:00PM

Wednesday:
Prayer Mtg. Children's Bible Club, Youth Group 7:00PM

A church for your whole family
Visit us at summervillebaptistchurch.org

Service

Directory

COVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1708 Jasper St., Cove, OR

NORTH POWDER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
390 E. St., North Powder, OR

JOIN US... *Catch the Spirit!*
Worship: 9:00 a.m. Cove
Worship: 10:00 a.m. N. Powder

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

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

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 Armayor
www.lagrande22adventistchurchconnect.org
Learning for Today and Eternity

Little Friends
Christian Preschool/Childcare 963-6390
La Grande Adventist Christian School
Christian Education K-8th Grade 963-6203

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

Zion Lutheran Church
(an ELCA church)
902 Fourth Street, La Grande, OR (541) 963-5998

9:00 am - Worship
10:00 am - Fellowship & Refreshments
10:30 am - Classes
Pastor:
www.zionlagrande.org

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

First Baptist Church
SIXTH & SPRING, LA GRANDE
541-963-3911

Sun. 9:00 AM - **Worship**
Sun. 10:30 AM - Exploring the Bible
Wed. 6:15 PM - AWANA

CALVARY CHAPEL
1433 Jefferson Ave. 963-5884

Contemporary Worship
Expositional Teaching

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.

Tune in to Calvary Radio 88.1 CSN

Amazing Grace Fellowship
1316 T St., La Grande, OR
541-568-4567
Sunday 10:30 a.m.

2 Cor 12:9 My Grace is sufficient for you.
IS 40:31

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.lutherancove@gmail.com

LaGrande CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
109 18th Street • 963-3402

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.

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 •