

HIGHLIGHTS

UNION BAPTIST CHURCH

UNION — The Union Baptist Church's Sunday schedule has changed. Sunday school now begins at 9:45 a.m., and the service is held at 11 a.m.

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

LA GRANDE — The sermon at Faith Lutheran this Sunday will use Matthew 15:21-28. In these verses Jesus has been working his ministry of caring for people in the varied needs of health, food and spiritual truth. He goes to a far northern region and he finds his reputation had preceded him. A foreign woman greatly troubled over her daughter's behavior and spiritual health cried out to him saying: "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon." She was persistent

Submissions

Churches and faith-based groups are encouraged to submit Highlights for the Spiritual Life page by 4 p.m. Tuesday for publication Thursday. Submit by email to news@lagrandeobserver.com (with Highlights in the subject line).

in her endeavor and Jesus compliments her with "O woman, great is your faith," and we are told that her daughter was healed instantly. From this we learn that Jesus is merciful and desires to serve all people.

There will be a church council meeting this Sunday at 11:45 a.m.

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH & ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

LA GRANDE — Due to COVID-19, in-person worship is not being held at either Zion Lutheran Church or St. Peter's Episcopal Church, both pastored by Rev. Roberta Smythe. On Sat-

urday, links to Zion's online worship service will be posted on the church's website and Facebook page, and a link to St. Peter's online worship will be available on its Facebook page. The congregations do not plan to meet in person until after Labor Day.

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

LA GRANDE STAKE — The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' "Come, Follow Me" lesson for the week of Aug. 17-23 begins a study of the book of Helaman (chapters 1-6). The study manual points out the seem-

ingly never-ending cycle between humility and sinfulness in these chapters is often referred to as the "pride cycle." This lesson focuses on how to avoid this cycle, find sanctification in our lives, and increase our faith. The study manual, referenced scriptures, and much more are all available for free from the church's website (www.newsroom.churchofjesuschrist.org) or from the free "Gospel Library" app.

Members who have been wondering why the Book of Mormon video series suddenly stopped during the latter chapters of Alma may find the answer and other interesting articles about this, temples and other church activities in the "newsroom" on the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' website.

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

LA GRANDE — This year, the annual Jehovah's Witnesses

conventions across the world have moved to a streaming platform.

This historic decision was made out of concern for the health and safety of local communities. Attendees from La Grande this summer were expecting to attend the three-day event this summer at the Toyota Center in Kennewick, Washington, where the regional conventions have been held since 1992.

The theme of the 2020 convention is "Always Rejoice!" and it comes at a time when many are struggling with how to find happiness amid a pandemic. The virtual program is being released online in six installments from the weekend of July 11-12 through the weekend of Aug. 29-30. The installments may be accessed at any time. Virtual attendance is free and open to all. To view, go www.jw.org and under the "Library" tab choose "JW Broadcasting."

Voicing gratitude despite a messed-up world

"Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor." (Romans 13:7)

In Romans 13:7, God tells us to honor those to whom honor is due. In that context



FRANKLIN HUMBER
FROM THE PULPIT

of holy scripture, God is referencing those in authority and specifically those in government or law enforcement authority. Following the news coverage of the violent protests taking place in Portland and many other major cities in our nation, I have been reminded once again how thankful I am to live in a place where we have peaceful protests whenever we have protests.

It does not bother me to have people exercising the First Amendment right of freedom of speech, and I trust they will also tolerate and respect me when I exercise my own right to the same freedom. It made me sad when I saw the recording of a young journalist from a conservative news group being attacked as he was covering a protest in Portland. The report he gave was that he was attacked because he rep-

resented a different viewpoint than that of the protestors. The freedoms of our Constitution are for each American, not just for those with a particular political views.

The same freedoms that are meant to allow me to proclaim the truths of scripture are the same for those who burn our beloved flag, even though I do not like what they are doing and even disagree with it. I am thankful that we still live in a nation where they can exercise that right without worrying about military tanks running them over as we saw years ago in China. I am thankful to live in a community in which the law enforcement are peace officers and care about our community, unlike the officers who were seen in Minneapolis a few months ago. I am thankful for a county government that is truly working for the good of our community and not on a quest for personal benefit as we see too often in politics.

If we want to make positive changes in things that are not right in our society, first we should pray for those in authority as instructed in God's word. However, we also need to be engaged in the process of decision making at the most basic level of voting in each election. There is also a need for good, moral and ethical people to be willing to serve in public office in order

to truly make a positive difference for the well-being of their fellow man. I am thankful for the place we live and for those who serve well for the good of our community. I am also thankful that in our nation we can still call the office of our elected leaders and voice our opinion even if it is diametrically opposed to that of the leader you are calling.

There is much that is messed up in our world, in our nation, in our state and perhaps even in our community. Peaceful protesters may write things on the sidewalk or street in chalk, not paint. Peaceful protesters hold signs and voice their protest; they do not attack, kill or do bodily harm to those who have a different position or who are there to keep the peace for everyone. Peaceful protesters may march in solidarity, but they do not loot, destroy and burn private property, businesses or federal buildings.

However, there is much to be thankful for as well. I am seeking to voice my concerns in my votes and in my personal communications, while at the same time express my gratitude to the Lord and to those who serve well.

About the Author
Franklin Humber is the pastor of the Summerville Baptist Church.

Should Christians make Sunday a holy day?

Our culture as a whole has clearly embraced secularism and the absolute autonomy of the individual as the credo for living. In keeping with this change, over the past several decades former societal practices that put God collectively above the individual, such as Sunday store closings for family, worship and rest, have vanished.



DONALD BASTIAN
CALL ME PASTOR

Many Christians appear to have followed this change. Rather than making Sunday a true Lord's Day for worship and rest, Sunday might include any-day tasks such as laundry, shopping for groceries, washing the car, mowing the lawn, cleaning house or spending hours in hard study. The question is whether we give up something precious when Sunday becomes like any other day of the week.

The Sabbath originally referred to Saturday, but for the largest part of Christendom it has become Sunday. That's because Sunday is the day of Christ's resurrection and is therefore "the Lord's Day."

Consider as well that on the Sunday of his resurrection, Jesus also appeared to his followers in the morning (John 20:1-19), afternoon (Luke 24:13-32) and evening (Luke 24:36-49). These meetings set the stage for the weekly celebration on Sunday of our Lord's resurrection and the promise of our salvation and eternal life with him.

For further support of Sunday observance, note Luke's documentation that a generation after Christ's resurrection, when he and Paul were

in Troas, "On the first day of the week we came together to break bread" (Acts 20:7). And as well, Paul instructs the Corinthians to set aside their special offerings "on the first day of the week" (1 Corinthians 16:1-2).

The Sabbath principle really begins with the account of creation. The Book of Genesis tells us that after six days of creation, "on the seventh day God rested (ceased) from all the work of creation that he had done" (Genesis 2:2-3). This "rest" is sometimes referred to as a Sabbath rite, a standard to be observed by God's creatures.

Then, in Exodus, the second book of the Bible, we learn that during Israel's wilderness wanderings, God gave the miraculous gift of manna as daily food (16:12). Each morning the Israelites were to go out and collect enough for the family for only that day. But, on the morning of the sixth day, they were to gather enough for two days so they would not need to gather on the Sabbath (16:29).

Again, this arrangement reflected God's merciful call for them to desist one day out of seven from their weekly labors in order to rest in his mercy and celebrate his care.

Then, later came the giving of the Ten Commandments. The fourth (Exodus 20:8) said, "Remember the Sabbath Day by keeping it holy" — setting it apart, sanctifying it.

The first three commandments all start with the phrase "You shall not..." Commandment four begins with "You shall" — it is a positive command to remember and observe the special day.

About the Author
Donald N. Bastian, of Ontario, Canada, is the bishop emeritus of the Free Methodist Church of North America.

Northeast Oregon Directory of Churches

Services This Week

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~

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: Roberta Smythe
www.zionlagrande.org

First Baptist Church

SIXTH & SPRING,
LA GRANDE



541-963-3911

All services have been temporarily cancelled.
Live-streaming Sunday mornings at 10:00 am. People can watch at:
lagrandefbc.org

1531 S. Main St.
Union
541-562-5531
www.UnionBaptistOregon.org

Sunday Morning Worship
Service 11:00 am
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.

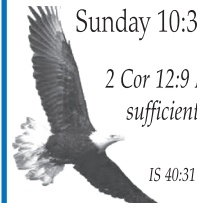
Birthing, Building and Being the Body of Christ

LA GRANDE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS"
1612 4th Street - 963-2498
Pastor Taylor Gould
lgumc@comi.com
www.lagrandeumc.org
Office Hours: Mon-Thur 9am-Noon
Worship 10:00 am
Fellowship Coffee Hour 11:00 am
-Nursery provided -

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

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

St. Katherine's Catholic Church

Fr. Thomas Puduppulliparamban
301 E Garfield Enterprise
Mass Schedule
Sundays:
St Pius X, Wallowa - 8:00 am
St Katherine of Siena, Enterprise - 10:30 am
Saturdays
St Katherine of Siena, Enterprise - 5:30 pm
Weekdays
St Katherine of Siena, Enterprise - 8:00 am
(Monday - Thursday and First Friday)
All are welcome



109 18th Street • 963-3402
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.

GRACE COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Place
62848 Philynda Loop in Island City
"We are called to Serve"
Sunday School for all ages - 9:00 am
Sunday Worship 10:00 am
Phone: 541-568-4230
grace.lutherancove@gmail.com

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

SUMMERVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH

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

La Grande Seventh-day Adventist Church

A Place where hope is found in Jesus
Join us in Fellowship & Worship
Saturday 11am
Outdoor Worship
2702 Adams Avenue, La Grande
963-4018
lagrande.adventistchurch.org
Learning for Today and Eternity
Little Friends
Christian Preschool/Childcare 963-6390
La Grande Adventist Christian School
K-8th Grade 963-6203