

HIGHLIGHTS

Jehovah's Witnesses

NORTHEAST OREGON — On Sunday, March 21, a special talk will be given around the world entitled "Have You Found a Pearl of High Value?"

This presentation about Jesus Christ's parable will be given at local congregations of Jehovah's Witnesses including La Grande, Pendleton, Baker City, Halfway and Enterprise. It precedes another event the Witnesses are inviting people to attend: the annual observance of the memorial of Christ's death on March 27. Sunday's talk and the memorial of Christ's death will show how we can obtain something priceless that will make our lives better, now, in the future, even forever.

Due to the pandemic, congregations around the world will host events by video conference and phone connections. There are no fees to attend, and no registration is required. To learn more about how to attend locally, contact a

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).

Jehovah's Witnesses church or visit www.jw.org.

Faith Lutheran Church

LA GRANDE — The sermon at Faith Lutheran this Sunday, March 21, will be drawn from Mark 10:35-45 in which Jesus teaches a lesson on humility. He was responding to his disciples who desired to have a favored status of sitting at his right and left hand. Jesus said, "...to sit at My right hand or left is not Mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared" (vs. 40). His lesson continued with instruction to serve as he served.

Following the Divine Service

will be a church council meeting with discussion on prioritizing projects.

Wednesday's midweek Lenten Service sermon for March 24 is entitled "Worldly Eyes."

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

LA GRANDE — The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints welcomes all to search #startingtoday on the web and view a series of videos about finding hope and joy in the world. Visit www.churchofjesuschrist.org to learn about ways to make Easter and the week leading up to it an uplifting spiritual experience.

For the week of March 22, the "Come, Follow Me" lesson will be on Doctrine and Covenants section 29. This doctrinally rich revelation provides insights into the fall of Adam, the Lord's plan for each of us, and the gathering to take place before his second coming, affirming the imminent advent of the Millennium.

Sunday worship services continue to be held with smaller groups and condensed schedules. Face masks and social distancing are required at these meetings. Contact your local ward leaders for additional meeting information.

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

LA GRANDE — St. Peter's Episcopal Church will not worship in person Sunday, March 21, due to COVID-19.

A link to the livestream of Zion Lutheran Church's service will be posted to St. Peter's Facebook

page on Saturday.

On Wednesday, March 24, there will be a Zoom Lenten service at 6:30 p.m. The link for that virtual service will be emailed on Tuesday.

Zion Lutheran Church

LA GRANDE — Zion Lutheran Church's congregation will worship in person Sunday, March 21, at 9 a.m. COVID-19 precautions will be in place, including masks and social distancing, and there will not be a coffee hour. Those planning to attend are asked to RSVP to the office via email or phone by noon Saturday. The worship service also will be livestreamed on Facebook. A link will be emailed out and posted on Saturday.

A midweek Lenten service Wednesday, March 24, will be held via Zoom at 6:30 p.m. The link for that virtual service will be emailed Tuesday.

Hope is a grace that inspires us



LAURA HUDSON
BELIEVING AND BECOMING

As warmer temperatures return, the green blades of crocuses peek through thawed earth. Those first green shoots give me the spring-time hope I need to keep on steady through the rainy days or late-season snowfall.

At the same time, after a full year plugging away at social distancing, mask mandates and quarantine our lives, I'm watching people getting their vaccines and perking up with the hope that a more expansive lifestyle may soon be available.

A friend who recently completed her two-shot vaccination was nearly dancing as she described her plans to get her hair done. Soon after her new hairdo, she was also planning to finally visit her family — and give them hugs. "Who knew such little things could make me feel euphoric!" she exclaimed.

I was both moved and troubled by my friend's excitement. I wanted to caution her to hold her hopes in one hand and keep her mask handy in the other, but I didn't want to burst her bubble.

But is that all hope is — a

bubble? A temporary helium balloon feeling, easily punctured by the threat of future adversity?

My faith tradition suggests that hope is not a temporary high but the substance of endurance. Hope is not a feeling we generate for ourselves, but an inner response we experience when we are grasped by a vision of future possibilities. In Christian faith, our hope in the future is grounded in the past, in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We believe God's ultimate future, the reconciliation and renewal of all Creation, has already broken into the present.

Hope is a grace that grasps us and inspires us to act upon our vision of new life in the here and now. Hope gives us the courage to dwell in the tension between the now and the not yet, the wisdom to make changes in alignment with the vision, and the perseverance to see the vision through.

I once heard it said that hope helps us to hop. Hopping takes muscles, and we develop muscles with practice. Start by getting clear about what your hope is. Practicing small hopes is how we gain the strength to leap into even greater hopes.

Next, let your hope fill you up. Let it make you dance, like my friend did. This step can feel scary, if

you fear disappointment. Notice your fear, and choose to hop into hope anyway.

Finally, take action toward your hope. Small actions count. Enough small actions make big ones, and before you know it, that new dawn, that new life, has become the new reality. So, keep on hopping into hope, as long as it takes!

The Rev. Laura Elly Hudson is co-pastor of First Presbyterian Church in La Grande and founder of Story Journey. You can find her at fpclagrande.org or at lauraelylhudson.com.

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Union County will begin their roadside spraying program to control vegetation and noxious weeds that are encroaching on county road shoulders and right-of-ways. In most locations, spraying will extend four to eight feet from pavement edges. Property owners who do not want herbicides applied near their property must sign an "Owner Will Maintain" agreement with the county which must be updated annually. The county will provide signs for the owners participating. Property owners wishing to participate can sign up for the "Owner Will Maintain" program at the Union County Public Works Department located at 10513 N. McAlister Road in Island City. Any questions, please call Brian Clapp 541-805-5399 or email bclapp@union-county.org.

Online

Find more spiritual life news online at lagrandeobserver.com, including a story about what Pope Francis says about same-sex unions.

March into Spring!!!

Throughout the entire month of March shopping, supporting and saving local can **EARN YOU BIG PRIZES**

- Shoppers collect punches by making purchases at participating locations (EACH DOLLAR spent earns a punch). Fill as many cards as you wish.
- Up to 50 punches per purchase!
- Turn in punch cards by 3/10, 3/17, 3/24 for weekly drawings
- All punch cards must be turned in by 4:00 p.m. on March 31st for a chance to win the Grand Prize Drawing!


Turn cards in at Chamber (207 Depot), La Grande Main Street (102 Depot St.) or any participating location.

The Union County Chamber and La Grande Main Street have teamed up with local businesses to encourage you to safely shop and support local businesses as we March into Spring!!

UNION COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

LA GRANDE MAIN STREET
FOUNDATION

March is about Honoring our AG PRODUCERS.





THANK YOU!
To each of our Ag Producers.

Thanks to each of you who contributes to our local Ag Industry and keeps our Rural Communities Strong.

WE UNDERSTAND YOUR WORK AND DEDICATION.

Bank of Eastern Oregon's Mission has always been to provide Financial Support for the Ag Industry.

YOUR LOCAL AG LENDERS
are just down the road.

Kristy Nelson / David Stirewalt
2514 COVE AVENUE, LA GRANDE / 541-624-5040

We have a NEW BEO WEBSITE coming. Keep checking in March!

Bank of Eastern Oregon

MEMBER FDIC
EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

Northeast Oregon Directory of Churches

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| <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></p> <p>Worship: 9:00 a.m. Cove Worship: 10:00 a.m. N. Powder</p> | <p>First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)</p> <p>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>GRACE COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH</p> <p>The Place 62848 Philynda Loop in Island City "We are called to Serve"</p> <p>Sunday School for all ages - 9:00 am Sunday Worship 10:00 am</p> <p>Phone: 541-568-4230 grace.lutheranrove@gmail.com</p> | <p>IMBLER CHRISTIAN CHURCH</p> <p>440 RUCKMAN, IMBLER 534-2201 www.imblerce@gmail.com</p> <p>Sunday Services</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship Service</p> | <p><i>Services This Week</i></p> | <p>CHURCH Service DIRECTORY</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>LA GRANDE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</p> <p>"OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS"</p> <p>1612 4th Street - 963-2498</p> <p>Pastor Taylor Gould</p> <p>For service information go to www.lagrandeumc.org</p> | <p>Zion Lutheran Church (an ELCA church)</p> <p>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: Roberta Smythe www.zionlagrande.org</p> | <p>La Grande Seventh-day Adventist Church A Place where hope is found in Jesus</p> <p>Join us in Fellowship & Worship</p> <p>Saturday all age classes 9:30 am Saturday Worship 11:00 am</p> <p>2702 Adams Avenue, La Grande 963-4018 lagrandeor.adventistchurch.org</p> <p>Learning for Today and Eternity</p> <p>Little Friends Christian Preschool/Childcare 963-6390 La Grande Adventist Christian School K-8th Grade 963-6203</p> | <p>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>FIRST LANDMARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH</p> <p>1812 1st St. La Grande Pastor Dave Tierce • 541-605-0215 We use the King James Version Bible</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 "Where you can find TRUTH according to the scriptures" www.flmbclagrande.com</p> |