

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

LA GRANDE — The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' "Come, Follow Me" lesson for the week of April 12 covers the first revelations to the early saints when they were commanded to "gather" in Ohio.

This was the beginning of a westward migration, driven by opposition, that would ultimately take them to Utah many years later. These revelations, as recorded in Doctrine and Covenants Sections 37-40, were received by Joseph Smith in December 1830 and January

### 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).

1831, just a few months after the church was officially organized on April 6, 1830, and created a great test of the faith of these early members.

Meeting times for various wards are changing as church leaders continue to work toward restoring the worship services we were familiar with before the onset of COVID-19. Members should contact their ward lead-

ership for updates on the local schedule.

### St. Peter's Episcopal Church

LA GRANDE — St. Peter's Episcopal Church will not worship in-person Sunday, April 11, due to COVID-19.

The congregation will not gather in person until at least late April.

### Zion Lutheran Church

LA GRANDE — The worship service at Zion Lutheran Church Sunday, April 11, begins at 9 a.m. COVID-19 precautions will be in place, including masks, 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.

### Faith Lutheran Church

LA GRANDE, ENTERPRISE — For the Second Sunday of Easter, Faith Lutheran Church's sermon will

use the Gospel of John chapter 20 in which Jesus makes his appearance sharing with them "Peace be with you." These words were followed with evidence that he had resurrected. Further peace was announced with the forgiveness of sins through another method that he instituted. Jesus was patient with the troubled disciple Thomas and provided a blessing for all of us with the words "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed" (John 20:29b).

Services in La Grande begin at 10 a.m. and at 2 p.m. in Enterprise.

## Faith leaders call for end to Senate filibuster

By **LUIS ANDRES HENAO** and **MARIAM FAM**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A coalition of faith leaders and activists on Monday, April 5, demanded the elimination of the Senate filibuster, wading into a crucial debate in Washington with a 50-50 Senate and President Joe Biden eyeing ambitious legislation on expanding voting rights, stemming gun violence and other proposals that face opposition from Republicans.

Led by prominent progressive pastor the Rev. William Barber and other ministers, the group spoke out against the arcane procedural tactic, which enables a single senator to halt action or votes. Some senators are arguing for changing or scrapping the rule, and faith leaders lent their support both online and in person outside National City Christian Church in Washington, D.C., where they held signs and chanted: "Don't filibuster democracy."

"Today we come because we as clergy — pastors, imams, rabbis, people from the Hindu community and the Muslim community — are challenging the immorality of the filibuster," Barber said. "We can no longer have an impoverished democracy because a minority group of senators want to shut down open debate and shut down bringing issues to the floor (that) address the critical issues that face us as a people in this nation."

The filibuster, he said, has a history of being used to block civil rights bills as well as environmental protection and labor laws.

As the U.S. and Congress have turned more partisan, the filibuster has become a key weapon in what is often described as a procedural arms race in the Senate. Year by year, more and more senators threaten to wage filibusters to block legislation. Overcoming filibusters can take weeks.

Even without a senator holding the floor, filibusters

have forced senators into all-night and weekend votes to advance legislation, as happened during passage of the Affordable Care Act.

"We can't have a small minority of people using the filibuster so that we don't deal with voting rights, we don't deal with living wage, we don't deal with health care," Barber said ahead of the event. He is a leading civil rights activist and co-chair of the Poor People's Campaign, a nonprofit modeled on Martin Luther King Jr.'s organizing work. Jim Winkler, president and general secretary of the National Council of Churches, said the filibuster was "long used by avowed racists" who repeatedly wielded it as a "weapon to kill any progress to secure voting rights and civil rights."

"The filibuster must never again be used as a threat in order to kill legislation," he said. "It is a cowardly tactic designed to forestall progress for the good of the nation."

Senators and others who favor keeping the filibuster tradition argue that it's a way to ensure the minority party has sway. It takes 60 votes to overcome a filibuster, which typically would need bipartisan cooperation. The cumbersome practice also keeps the Senate moving at a more deliberative pace as they say the founders intended, compared to the House.

Proposals circulating in Washington would keep the filibuster but lower the threshold for overcoming it to 51 votes, making it easier to enact Biden's agenda over GOP opposition.

Any changes to the filibuster will be difficult, especially calls to abolish it, because changes would require Republican support and some Democratic members of the senate are reluctant as well. Biden has indicated he might be open to some changes, such as requiring the senator filibustering a piece of legislation to be actively speaking in the chamber.

## Holy Week muted but joyful for world's Christians

The Associated Press

Christians around the globe celebrated Holy Week in face masks and observing social distance guidelines as the coronavirus pandemic dramatically altered the Easter season for a second year.

In places with ongoing concerns about the spread of the virus, which has killed nearly 3 million people worldwide, state-mandated lockdowns meant empty or virtually empty celebrations where people normally would gather en masse.

In the Vatican, Pope Francis presided over the Via Crucis or Way of the Cross ceremony in a barren St. Peter's Square. In Quezon City, the Philippines, roads and churches were deserted on Good Friday after religious gatherings were prohibited in metropolitan Manila and four outlying provinces.

But in Israel, which has implemented one of the world's most aggres-



Rick Rycroft/Associated Press

Actor Timothy Watkins carries a cross during his portrayal of Jesus Christ in a reenactment of the Journey to the Cross in Sydney, Australia, on Good Friday, April 2, 2021. Christians observed the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ during Holy Week and Easter Sunday, either in person or virtually depending on local concerns regarding COVID-19.

sive vaccination programs, many public places including religious sites have been allowed to reopen.

Warming temperatures with the onset of the Northern Hemisphere spring made outdoor services an attractive option for many.

At beaches in New Jersey and Los Angeles, people greeted the dawn

in Easter sunrise services. On the lawn of a Pennsylvania church, and in the shadow of palm trees at a Las Vegas cemetery, parishioners in folding chairs took communion and prayed.

And in the main square of Transylvania, Romania, Roman Catholics stood in long rows spaced 6 feet from each other waiting for their

Easter baskets to be blessed.

Plenty of celebrations were held remotely due to health concerns, such as a Passion Play staged on a rooftop in a poor neighborhood of Rio de Janeiro on Good Friday for residents to watch either via livestreaming or from their balconies.

Where services did take place indoors, pastors and parishioners were often careful to maintain a safe separation, and disinfecting measures were taken in at least some houses of worship. In a church in Madrid, women wearing veils known as "mantillas" prayed in socially distanced pews.

It was a muted Easter season in Spain, with Holy Week processions again canceled by authorities. Emblematic of a pandemic-altered world, a shop in the southern city of Seville was selling cloth face masks emblazoned with images of Jesus and the Virgin Mary.

## Grande Ronde Hospital and Clinics proudly welcomes:

### Jennifer Hoffman, FNP-C

To the GRH Urgent Care team as a Family Nurse Practitioner

Nurse Practitioner Jennifer Hoffman joins the GRH team from an urgent care facility in Peoria, Illinois. She is a Midwest native and grew up on a small hobby farm, caring for many kinds of animals throughout her upbringing. She loves the outdoors, including fishing, camping, hiking, hunting,



Jennifer Hoffman, FNP-C

boating, and skiing, and fell in love with the western united states many years ago. After a recent vacation to mountains in the area, she and her family concluded it was time to plant some new roots "out west". Jennifer enjoys working in urgent care, particularly the variety and challenges that the field presents. She is passionate about her work, meeting patients where they are at in their healthcare journey, and treats everyone as if they were her own family. She looks forward to building new memories in beautiful Eastern Oregon. **Join us in welcoming Jennifer and her family to Union County!**

### GRH Urgent Care

10303 S. Walton Road, Island City • 541.962.7845 • [grh.org/urgentcare](http://grh.org/urgentcare)

To learn more about Jennifer and the rest of the Urgent Care team, take a look at our online provider directory at [grh.org](http://grh.org).



## Northeast Oregon Directory of Churches

**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

**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~

**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](mailto:grace.lutherancove@gmail.com)

**IMBLER CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

440 RUCKMAN, IMBLER 534-2201  
[www.imblerccc@gmail.com](mailto:www.imblerccc@gmail.com)

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

Services  
This  
Week

**CHURCH Service DIRECTORY**

**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](http://summervillebaptistchurch.org)

**LA GRANDE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

"OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS"

1612 4th Street - 963-2498

Pastor Taylor Gould

For service information go to  
[www.lagrandeumc.org](http://www.lagrandeumc.org)

**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](http://www.zionlagrande.org)

**La Grande Seventh-day Adventist Church**  
A Place where hope is found in Jesus  
Join us in Fellowship & Worship  
Saturday all age classes 9:30 am  
Saturday Worship 11:00 am

2702 Adams Avenue, La Grande 963-4018  
[lagrande.adventistchurch.org](http://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

**La Grande CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE**

109 18th Street • 963-3402

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

**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](http://www.flmbclagrande.com)