

HIGHLIGHTS

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

LA GRANDE — Pastor Shari Eggleston will complete her time as interim pastor at the La Grande First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) on Sunday, May 9. Her message, "Fare Thee Well," will come from Jeremiah 29:11 and Deuteronomy 34:1-4. There will be a time of fellowship immediately following worship, to wish her well.

Pastor Archie Hook has been called to be the new pastor at the church and will begin his ministry next week, leading worship on May 16.

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

LA GRANDE — Zion Lutheran Church will meet in person this Sunday, May 9, at

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).

9 a.m. COVID precautions will be in place, including masks and social distancing. Those planning to attend are asked to RSVP to the office via email or phone by noon Saturday. The service will also be livestreamed to Youtube, and the link for that stream will be posted Saturday on Zion's Facebook page and website.

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

LA GRANDE — The first episodes of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' gen-

eral conference podcast are now available. New episodes will be published weekly; <https://newsroom.churchofjesuschrist.org/> for more information.

There will be a stake youth activity/service project at the Catherine Creek Lodge for young men and women ages 11-18 Saturday, May 8. Small groups will be maintained and COVID-19 restrictions apply, so contact your ward leadership for more information and assigned time.

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 9, and primary children will be singing a special musical number

for mothers during the Sacrament service. The "Come, Follow Me" lesson for the week of May 10 will be on Doctrine & Covenants 49-50, which are revelations through Joseph Smith in May 1831 concerning the organization of the church and what were acceptable practices, then and now.

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

LA GRANDE — St. Peter's Episcopal Church has resumed in-person worship and will meet Sunday, May 9, at 11 a.m. for a service of Morning Prayer. COVID precautions will be in place, including the requirement of masks and social distancing. The service will be recorded, and that video will be posted Sunday

afternoon or evening to St. Peter's Facebook page and member emails.

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

LA GRANDE, ENTERPRISE — The sermon at Faith Lutheran Church Sunday, May 9, will be based on John 15:9-17. In these verses there are several reassurances from Jesus that he loves us, that we are his "friends," and that "you did not choose Me, but I chose you..." Jesus gives the purpose for what he teaches, establishes and maintains in verse 11: "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you and that your joy may be full." Our Lord cares for us and nurtures us. Services begin at 10 a.m. in La Grande and at 2 p.m. in Enterprise.

'Don't be afraid' is easier when we are in community



ROBERTA SMYTHE

WALKING WITH THE SHEPHERD

Later this month, I will do something I haven't done for more than 16 months: travel more than a few hours from La Grande — on a plane, no less. On the one hand, I feel fairly comfortable traveling now that I'm a few weeks out from my second COVID-19 vaccine. On the other hand, I still will be wearing my mask and maintaining as much distance as possible while I travel, as I remain concerned about COVID-19 variants and the increasing COVID-19 cases where I'm going.

I suspect I'm not alone in having these different points of view about the same situation. I want to be cautious, not only for my own health but for the health of others. Yet I don't want to live in complete fear. And there's been plenty to be fearful of this past year, if we allow it. Fear of the virus itself. Fear of dying. Fear of losing loved ones without the chance to say goodbye. Fear of losing one's business, one's job, one's home. Of course, even without COVID-19, there has never been a shortage of things to fear. We fear other diseases, like cancer. We fear those who are different than us. We fear failure and not being good enough.

I've heard it said that some form of "fear not" or "don't be afraid" is the most common phrase in the Bible (some even say that it occurs exactly 365 times — one

for each day of the year). I can't document that (especially the latter) due to different translations, etc., but there certainly are a lot of times in the Bible where God, angels and Jesus say "fear not," "don't be afraid," "why are you afraid?" and "peace be with you." Clearly, we human beings have a predisposition toward fear.

Fear itself is not necessarily a problem. Rather it's how we cope with fear that can cause difficulties. If we lash out at others because of our fears, it's not healthy for us or for others. A better approach would be to challenge our fears: How likely is it that what we fear is going to happen? If it is likely, are there constructive actions we could take to diminish that likelihood, or diminish the impacts should it happen? If so, taking those actions can help appease one's fears. So can bringing in outside voices to help us put our fears into perspective.

That's one of the advantages of being part of a community, whether it's a faith community, a neighborhood or a nurturing set of family and friends. We can be fearless, we can fear less, when we ground ourselves in our chosen community, asking for, and offering, support to one another.

The Rev. Roberta Smythe has been the pastor at Zion Lutheran and St. Peter's Episcopal churches in La Grande since September 2019 and previously served churches in Montana. She was raised in the Oregon City area and has degrees from the University of Oregon and Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary.

Professor overcomes loss to craft COVID-19 student brochures

NEW YORK — When the coronavirus pandemic struck New York City, LaGuardia Community College professor Lucia Fuentes assigned students in her honors biology class to compile all the information they could find about COVID-19.

The result? An online multilingual brochure based on research from peer-reviewed journals, the World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control and Pre-

vention that has become a valuable resource for immigrants in the United States and their families abroad.

"Science is complicated and we have to make it more accessible," Fuentes said. "This is why ... I thought it would be a good thing for the students, and that it would be a contribution."

Nothing stopped the project — not even the death of Fuentes' husband on March 25, 2020,

due to complications from COVID-19, or her own bout with the disease.

In her grief, she remains committed to her students and determined to prevent others from getting sick.

"I wasn't going to drop my students, and I knew they were going through tons of really horrible stuff," she said. "I talked to some of them afterwards ... and they really appreciated that."

— Associated Press

'Mayday for Humanity': prayer or reason?

The Observer

POCOPSON, Penn. — Thursday, May 6, is the United States' National Day of Prayer, which is observed annually on the first Thursday in May. The United States Congress designated the day to ask people "to turn to God in prayer and meditation," per www.nationaldaycalendar.com.

Members and supporters of five national nontheist organizations also are hosting a virtual event May 6, according to a press release from the Freethought Society. The free three-hour fundraising

event — The National Day of Reason Mayday for Humanity — begins at 7 p.m. for freethinkers, atheists and agnostics.

The virtual entertainment will feature celebrities, comedians, musicians, poets and an online auction. Funds raised will go to homeless shelters and food banks.

"As a result of the COVID health crisis, tangible assistance, not thoughts and prayers, is needed more than ever," the press release claimed.

Margaret Downey, the event coordinator and president of the Free-

thought Society, said in the release, "The Freethought Society is proud to be a cosponsor of an event that celebrates the National Day of Reason. During the Mayday for Humanity event, the non-theist community will take action and raise funds ... to solve human problems. We look forward to answering the Mayday for Humanity emergency call to help end homelessness and hunger."

To learn more and access the online event, visit the Mayday for Humanity Facebook event page.



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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

IMBLER CHRISTIAN CHURCH

440 RUCKMAN, IMBLER 534-2201
www.imblercc@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

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

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

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
lagrandeor.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
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