

HIGHLIGHTS

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

LA GRANDE — Revelations given to the Prophet Joseph Smith in August 1831, and recorded in Doctrine & Covenants sections 58-59, are the subject of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' "Come, Follow Me" lesson for the week of May 24. These revelations were received in Jackson County, Missouri, as the early

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).

saints began to settle there. They teach important principles about how blessings come according to God's timing and the importance of keeping the Sabbath day holy.

Revelations in Context, which

are virtually linked to each section of the Doctrine and Covenants, enhance the study of these scriptures. The Historical Resources linked to the lesson material also provide a deeper understanding of the historical

setting at the time the revelations were received. All lesson material is available from the free mobile app called Gospel Library.

will be in place, including the requirement of masks and social distancing.

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

LA GRANDE — Zion Lutheran Church meets for worship at 9 a.m. Sunday, May 23. Those who are planning to attend are asked to RSVP by calling or emailing the office by Saturday at noon. Masks and social distancing are required.

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

LA GRANDE — St. Peter's Episcopal Church has resumed in-person worship. A service of Morning Prayer begins at 11 a.m. Sunday, May 23. COVID-19 precautions



Ring Praise Music Ministry/Contributed Photo

Phyllis Tincher, handbell soloist, speaks April 23, 2016, to the Community Presbyterian Church in King Hill, Idaho. She and pianist Sean Rogers make up Ring Praise Music Ministry, which is performing a free concert Sunday, May 23, 2021, starting at 6:30 p.m. at the La Grande First Presbyterian Church, 1308 Washington Ave.

Sunday concert rings out praise

The Observer

LA GRANDE — A free concert Sunday, May 23, in La Grande blends the tones of bronze handbells with piano while praising God.

Phyllis Tincher, handbell soloist, and Sean Rogers, pianist, make up Ring Praise Music Ministry, weaving together hymns, contemporary praise songs and reflective pieces to tell the story of Jesus Christ. The concert begins at 6:30 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, 1308 Washington Ave., La Grande.

Tincher rings three octaves of Schulmerich handbells and mixes in two octaves of handchimes. In addition to accompanying, Rogers will play a few piano solos.

During the concert the audience will have an opportunity to ring handchimes as everyone sings. According to Ring Praise Music Ministry, no one needs music experience to enjoy this portion of the program.

There is no charge for the concert — a grant from the Presbytery of Eastern Oregon is sponsoring the event. The First Presbyterian Church of La Grande requests people RSVP to the church office at 541-963-5114 or email churchoffice@eoni.com.

And according to the announcement, the event requires concertgoers to wear masks.

Tincher and Rogers have made four CDs together, which will be for sale at the concert. "Ring Praise," "Ring Praise 2" and "Ring Praise 3" are collections of hymn arrangements, while "Come to the Manger" celebrates Christmas. The cost of each CD is \$15 and all proceeds help fund Ring Praise Music Ministry.

Tincher has been solo ringing since 1997 and has directed adult and youth handbell choirs since 1993. She directs Southminster Bells at Southminster Presbyterian Church in Boise, Idaho, and a women's handbell group at her church, Crossroads Community Church in Nampa, Idaho. She has served as guest conductor at festivals and taught classes at handbell conferences and workshops.

Rogers is attending seminary, studying to be an Episcopal priest. He is serving as lay pastor at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church and Grace Chapel at Snake River Correctional Institution in Ontario. A concert pianist and organist, he also works as a music coach and accompanist for opera singers and instru-

mentalists. Rogers holds bachelor's degrees from The College of Idaho in religion, sacred music, organ performance and piano performance.

For more information on Ring Praise Music Ministry, a charitable non-profit, visit www.Ring-PraiseMinistry.org.

Subtle nudges of spiritual guidance



LAURA HUDSON
BECOMING AND BELIEVING

Around this time of year, my family may often be found wandering the woods in a seemingly directionless manner, hiking up hillsides, clambering over fallen trees, peering into holes and scrabbling our fingers in the dirt: Morel mushroom season has arrived, and the hunt is on!

A plate of morels sauteed in butter is a seasonal delight, but even more than their flavor, it's the thrill of discovery I savor. It's not unlike the thrill I experience in seeking the insights of the Spirit. In both, there is the excitement of the "aha!" moment and the rare pleasure of a direct encounter with something wild, an untamed presence grazing the rough margins of awareness.

In my spiritual practice, I prepare myself to receive God's wisdom wherever it might arise. Like morels in season, the subtle nudges of spiritual guidance are often plentiful but difficult to discern. You can stumble across them by accident, but a prepared mind and a particular way of seeing will increase your likelihood of discovery.

With a honeycombed cap and hollow stem, morels have scarcely any look-alikes. Once you've learned their shape and pattern, you can head out to a locale with probable temperature and moisture, and you can put on your "morel eyes," skimming the ground with a gaze that looks beyond the forest's surface.

In the same way, you can prepare yourself to be available to spiritual insight. Perhaps you read and study the scrip-

tures, learning the shape of God's activity throughout history. Or perhaps you practice deep silence, listening deeply to spiritual movements in your own heart. Maybe you just allow yourself to meander through daily tasks with an open mind, until you catch sight of a discernible pattern in the cluttered underbrush of your day.

Mystics and mushroom hunters have in common a belief that the world is alive with presences we cannot always perceive at first glance. Yet spiritual insights, like morels, can be unpredictable. On some forays, no matter how prepared you are or how perfect the conditions, the morels seem to refuse to reveal themselves. Likewise, even the most devout believers struggle with dry seasons when the inner or outer conditions of our lives make us unable to receive new insight.

Morel hunters must put in fair effort, but every morel discovered feels like a serendipitous gift. In the same way, we must make an effort to be alert and available to encounters with God, yet we recognize that any new revelation of God's purpose, presence and power as we walk through this world is an unmerited grace.

Morels arise out of soils nourished by things that have died, the decaying detritus of the forest floor. Likewise, the stories of Easter and Pentecost teach us that God often meets us where things in our lives have died. The morel of the story: New life and a new Spirit comes to us through an empty tomb.

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 lauraelyhudson.com.

GRH Behavioral Health Clinic

Grande Ronde Hospital and Clinics is pleased to announce that Blue Mountain Associates, an outpatient mental health treatment center, will become part of the GRH health system. The transition to the new **GRH Behavioral Health Clinic** takes effect June 1, 2021. For more information, visit grh.org/behavioralhealth.



GRH Behavioral Health Clinic Providers (back row from top) Joel Rice, MD; Mary Goldstein, LCSW; Jim Sheehy, LCSW; (front row from top) Brittany Pryce, LCSW; Heather Holland, MSW, CSWA; and Gloria Turner, LCSW.

Joining forces to better provide a broader spectrum of health services for Union County.

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

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

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

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

LaGrande CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

109 18th Street • 963-3402

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

Services This Week