

SPIRITUAL LIFE HIGHLIGHTS

The Lord's Prayer, fathers and donuts highlight June 20 service

LA GRANDE — The worship service at the La Grande First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) begins at 10 a.m. Sunday, June 20.

Pastor Archie Hook's message, "Saluting Our Fathers Through the Lord's Prayer," will honor fathers, while looking at Jesus' model prayer from Matthew 6:5-13. Donuts will be served during the fellowship time, in honor of Father's Day.

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).

We should take Jesus just as he is

LA GRANDE — The sermon at the 10 a.m. Divine Service Sunday, June 20, at Faith Lutheran Church, of La Grande, will use Mark 4:35-41. In these verses Jesus was busy with his ministry and desired to go to the other side

of the Sea of Galilee. The disciples responded to their leader's needs: "... leaving the crowd, they took (Jesus) with them in a boat, just as He was ... " (vs. 36a). Jesus had been teaching and was tired. We are encouraged to take Jesus just as he reveals himself in Scripture.

Following the service is June's Church Council Meeting.

Faith's yard sale is Saturday, June 26, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 104 S. 12th St., La Grande.

LDS lesson materials are offered free to all

LA GRANDE — The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' "Come, Follow Me" lesson for the week of June 21 is based on Doctrine and Covenants sections 67-70, which were revelations given through the Prophet Joseph Smith in November 1831. These sections discuss the publication of the "Book of Com-

mandments," the precursor of today's Doctrine and Covenants. The lesson focuses on inspirations through the Holy Ghost that reflect the Lord's will, and the responsibility of parents to teach their children gospel principles. All lesson materials are available for free from the church's website or from the mobile app called Gospel Library.

Registration for BYU Education Week, held Aug. 16-20, 2021, is now open. Visit <https://educationweek.byu.edu/home> to learn more and to register.

— The Observer

Every step offers us an opportunity to encounter God



LAURA HUDSON
BECOMING AND BELIEVING

It's nearly the first day of summer, prime hiking season here in the mountains. As my son prepared for a recent Scout backpack trip in the Wallows, I recalled an important lesson from my own backpacking adventure in Colorado's San Juan Wilderness.

About four days into the trip, a few of us decided to day hike to the top of a nearby peak. Without much of a trail, this trek took us up a steep, scrubby incline with shale, shifting rocks.

I was the slowest member of the small group, plodding behind the others, wondering if I had made the right choice to leave camp for this extra adventure. Most of our group stayed behind, relaxing at our camp.

Always one to push myself, I hadn't wanted to miss out on the view from the top.

But after hiking uphill for an hour, the outlook wasn't great. Misty clouds swirled around the peak above us, and it looked pretty certain that we'd get no spectacular panorama up there. I felt sort of cheated: all this effort and no payoff!

Just then, our teacher stopped us for a break. "Probably no view up there," he said, shrugging. "But this is a great opportunity to allow yourself to notice how God meets you in every step."

As I caught my breath and guzzled water, I contemplated this invitation. I'd heard plenty of popular proverbs like "the journey is the destination," and often I'd scoff. Why go on a journey if it wasn't about getting somewhere?

This time, something

about Bill's reminder connected with me in a whole new way. Focused on getting to the top, I was missing all of the colors, textures and nuances the mountain revealed all along the way.

Jesus' words sprang to mind, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

It was time for a change in perspective. There was nowhere else to get to; God's presence was right here all along.

When we started hiking again, I practiced focusing on each step, no longer lamenting my slow pace or the steepness of the incline. Suddenly I could feel the mountain under my feet; I could feel the power of my own body lifting me up the slope. Every so often, I allowed myself to stop and look around, take in the plant life, notice animals and sense the textures of the rock face above me.

What had seemed like an interminable climb with no reward became wondrous right now, every step an opportunity to encounter the mystery of the world God is always making new.

When we arrived at the top, the clouds didn't magically disappear. In the cold, obscuring mist, we had no expansive view of neighboring peaks and valleys. But it didn't matter any more.

This moment, however clouded, was the present truth of the mountain — God could meet us here as well as in any broad vista.

Every moment, every experience, every step could be a meeting place with God.

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

Mormons, NAACP advance new projects

The Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Top leaders from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints announced \$9.25 million in new educational and humanitarian projects Monday, June 14, as they seek to build on an alliance formed with the NAACP in 2018 as part of the faith's efforts to improve race relations.

The Utah-based church will donate \$3 million to fund scholarships for three

years for Black students through the United Negro College Fund and give \$250,000 to create a fellowship for students from the United States to travel to Ghana to learn about slavery, said church president Russell M. Nelson in Salt Lake City.

The faith known widely as the Mormon church will also give \$6 million to fund three years of humanitarian aid

aimed at helping underprivileged people in six metro areas of the United States. They announced the initiatives ahead of Juneteenth, a holiday celebrated June 19 that commemorates the date of the emancipation of enslaved people in the U.S.

Nelson made yet another plea for people to root out the "ugly sin of racism" during his remarks as he con-

tinues to make racial injustice a priority since assuming the top post in 2018 overseeing the faith of 16.5 million members worldwide.

Its partnership with the civil rights organization is part of the religion's efforts to improve race relations. Until 1978, the church had a ban on Black men in the faith's lay priesthood that was rooted in the belief that black skin was a curse.

La GRANDE AUTO REPAIR
975-2000
www.lagrandeautorepair.com

Joe Horst
MOST ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY AVAILABLE
ACDelcoTSS

TEN DEPOT STREET
"Real Food for the People"
Open Fri-Sun 5pm-8pm
Take-out Menu Updated Weekly
www.tendepotstreet.com
541-963-8766
tendepotstreet@gmail.com

STORAGE SHEDS
www.CountrysideSheds.com
A little bit more room
STORAGE BUILDINGS
(541) 663-0246
Locally owned and operated for over 25 years
"More Than Just a Shed"

We Can make it happen!

RENT to OWN starting at **\$68 Month**
10505 N. McAlister Road
(Corner of Hwy 82 & N. McAlister Rd.)

2021 EASTERN OREGON PHOTO CONTEST

Official Rules:
Photo Contest open now and closes at 11:59 pm Sunday, June 20, 2021.
Staff will choose the top 10. The public can vote online for People's Choice from 12:01 am Monday, June 21 through 11:59 pm Thursday, June 30.
Digital or scanned photos only, uploaded to the online platform. No physical copies.
Only photographers from Oregon may participate.
The contest subject matter is wide open but we're looking for images that capture life in Eastern Oregon.

Entrants may crop, tone, adjust saturation and make minor enhancements, but may not add or remove objects within the frame, or doctor images such that the final product doesn't represent what's actually before the camera.
The winners will appear in the July 8th edition of Go Magazine; the top 25 will appear online.
Gift cards to a restaurant of your choice will be awarded for first, second and third place.

Submit all photos online at: lagrandeobserver.com/photocontest

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
"Where you can find TRUTH according to the scriptures"
www.flmbclagrande.com