

SPIRITUAL LIFE HIGHLIGHTS

We are satisfied through righteousness

NORTHEASTERN OREGON — On Sunday, Feb. 13, the Faith Lutheran Church congregation in La Grande will meet for worship at 10 a.m., and the Enterprise congregation will gather at 2 p.m. The sermon in both services will use Luke chapter 6, which tells of Jesus explaining to people how they are blessed even with challenges. In verse 21 he says: "Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied." This can be applied to literal physical hunger and also expanded to those who hunger for righteousness. Jesus Christ is the source of righteousness, which humanity hungers for.

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).

Missionaries meet virtually with group after service

LA GRANDE — The First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) congregation will meet for worship at 10 a.m. on Sunday, Feb. 13. Pastor Archie Hook's message will be "When in Doubt," drawn from John 20:29: "Then Jesus told him, 'Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.'" Masks are required inside the building.

The Home and Abroad Mission Group will meet via Zoom

on Sunday at 11:30 a.m. with missionaries John and Karen Campbell-Nelson, who have served in West Timor, Indonesia. The virtual get-together is a brown bag lunch.

Services won't be streamed or recorded this week

LA GRANDE — On Sunday, Feb. 13, an in-person worship service at Zion Lutheran Church begins at 9 a.m., and St. Peter's Episcopal Church will meet for Morning Prayer at 11 a.m. The two La Grande congregations are pastored by Roberta Smythe.

Masks and social distancing are required. The Sunday services will not be livestreamed or recorded this week.

This year's 'Youth Theme' announced with video

NORTHEASTERN OREGON — Members from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints congregations will speak during Sacrament Services on Sunday, Feb. 13, and Priesthood, Relief Society and youth group meetings will take place during the second hour.

The "Come, Follow Me" lesson for the week of Feb. 14 will be on Genesis 18-23, which highlights the faithfulness of Abraham and his willingness to follow all the commandments of the Lord, including the sacrifice of Isaac, his own son.

All are welcome to learn more about the 2022 Youth Theme for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints by watching an inspiring new music video called "Trust in the Lord," which is available from the Church's website.

What does spirituality mean to you?

LA GRANDE — The Observer welcomes thoughts and comments from community members on spiritual matters. If you would like to share how you experience spirituality, email news@lagrandeobserver.com or call 541-963-3161. Ongoing monthly columns and one-time submissions will be considered. Columns are generally 500-600 words and include a photo of the writer.

Supreme Court appears sympathetic to free speech, religious liberty case

By BETHANY BLANKLEY The Center Square contributor

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Supreme Court appears to be sympathetic to arguments made by a petitioner against the city of Boston over its policy that prohibited a private "Christian" flag from being flown in front of City Hall.

Liberty Counsel Founder and Chairman Mat Staver presented oral arguments before the court recently on behalf of Boston resident Hal Shurtleff and his Christian civic organization, Camp Constitution. In Shurtleff v. Boston, he argued that Boston's policy violated the First Amendment by censoring a private flag in a public forum open to "all applicants" merely because the application referred to it as a "Christian flag."

The case affects the free speech of everyone, Liberty Counsel argues. If Boston can open a public forum for all applicants and close it to disfavored viewpoints, then every government could then censor viewpoints it doesn't like under the guise that every private speaker in the forum was engaging in government speech.

The case dates back to 2017 when Shurtleff and Camp Constitution asked the city for a permit to raise its flag on a Boston City Hall flagpole to commemorate Constitution Day and Citizenship Day on Sept. 17.

Camp Constitution was formed "to enhance understanding of the country's Judeo-Christian heritage, the American heritage of courage and ingenuity, the genius of the United States Constitution, and free

enterprise," according to its petition.

Boston official Gregory Rooney told Shurtleff he denied the request because the city "maintains a policy and practice of respectfully refraining from flying non-secular flags."

From 2005 to 2017, Boston approved 284 flag-raising by private organizations with no denials on the flagpoles that it designated as a "public forum," Liberty Counsel argues.

"The flag itself was not the

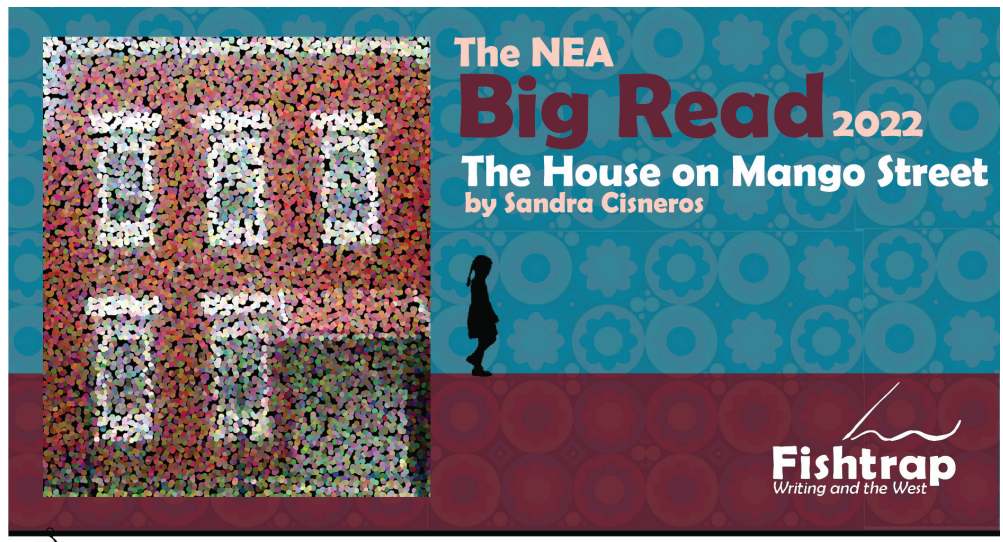
problem. Had it been called anything but Christian, the same flag would have flown for an hour without incident," Staver told the justices in his oral arguments. Boston's policy "places religion in the same category as speech deemed inappropriate, offensive, supporting prejudice or discrimination."

Staver argues the case "is so much more significant than a flag. The city's censorship is clearly unconstitutional, and government cannot censor religious viewpoints."

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The NEA Big Read 2022 Schedule of Events

All events are FREE.

Wednesday, February 16 - KICKOFF with The House on Mango Street author Sandra Cisneros, live online at fishtrap.org at 6pm and available for streaming afterwards

Saturday, February 19 - Our Neighborhood: Writing about Home Cook Memorial Library Community Room, 2006 Fourth St, La Grande, OR, 3pm

Tuesday, February 22 - The House on Mango Street Read Around EOU Library Reading Room, 1 University Blvd, La Grande, 10am

Tuesday, February 22 - The House on Mango Street Read Around EOU Library Reading Room, 1 University Blvd, La Grande, 3pm

Tuesday, February 22 - The House on Mango Street Read Around Art Center East, 1006 Penn Ave. La Grande, 6pm

Wednesday, February 23 - Big Read Book Discussion Live online at fishtrap.org 12pm

February 23, 24, 25, 26 - Salsa Dance Lessons with Amelia Diaz Ettinger Online at ArtCenterEast.org and fishtrap.org, 1pm and available for streaming afterwards

Wednesday, March 2 - Reading like a Writer: The House on Mango Street A Big Read Craft Talk with Eliot Treichel Live online at fishtrap.org, 6pm PT and available for streaming afterwards

March 4,5,6,7,8 - Big Read Finale: A Film Series Inspired by The House on Mango Street Presented in partnership with the Wichita Public Library and Curated by mama.film. Streaming online at fishtrap.org and available for streaming afterwards

Logos for National Endowment for the Arts Big Read, Fishtrap.org, and Fishtrap Writing and the West.

Logos for Oregon Arts Commission, Community Bank, Pacific Power Foundation, Art Center East, and Wichita Public Library.

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.imblerce@gmail.com. Sunday Services 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship Service

CHURCH Service DIRECTORY

SUMMERVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH Sunday Services: 9:45AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Classes 11:00AM 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

LaGrande CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 109 18th Street • 963-3402 Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.

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. Learning for Today and Eternity Little Friends Christian Preschool/Childcare 963-6390 La Grande Adventist Christian School K-8th Grade 963-6203

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

Services This Week