

SPIRITUAL LIFE HIGHLIGHTS

Scripture tells us we are like living stones

LA GRANDE — First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will observe the third Sunday of Lent on March 20, with a message from 1 Peter 2:4-5. Pastor Archie Hook's message will be "How Are We Like Stone?" Scripture tells us we are like living stones, built into a spiritual house. Worship begins at 10:30 a.m. Masks are now optional.

Repentance is turning, with intention, from evil

LA GRANDE — The Divine service on Sunday, March 20, at Faith Lutheran Church begins at 10 a.m. The sermon will expound on Luke 13:1-9. In these verses Jesus was asked if people had horrible things happen to them because they were worse sinners. Jesus answered, "No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish (verse 5). Repen-

SUBMISSIONS

Churches and faith-based groups are encouraged to submit Highlights for the Spiritual Life page by noon Tuesday for publication Thursday. Submit by email to news@lagrande-observer.com (with Highlights in the subject line).

tance is turning, with intention, from evil to God. Church Council and Junior Confirmation follow the service.

The message at the Wednesday evening Lenten service will be "The Apostle Peter as a Witness to Christ." A soup supper is served at 5:30 p.m., and the Lenten service is at 6:30 p.m.

Morning Prayer service followed by fellowship

LA GRANDE — St. Peter's Episcopal Church will meet for Morning Prayer at 11 a.m. on Sunday, March 20, followed by a time of fellowship. Masks and social distancing are required.

Worship available in person and online

LA GRANDE — The 9 a.m. worship service at Zion Lutheran Church on Sunday, March 20, will include Holy Communion and be followed by fellowship time. Masks are no longer required but are recommended for those at risk. The service will also be streamed live to YouTube, and the link for that stream will be posted on Zion's Facebook page and website on Saturday, March 19.

We want to know: 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.

Deadline for Highlights is now noon on Tuesdays

LA GRANDE — Due to changes in The Observer's production schedule, the deadline for submission of Highlights is now noon on Tuesday for publication on Thursday.

Highlight announcements are welcome from all faith-based organizations and groups and are published at no charge.

Direct questions to lkelly@lagrandeobserver.com or leave a message at 541-624-6019.

Weekly lesson based on Exodus 1-6

NORTHEASTERN OREGON — The La Grande Oregon Stake High Council members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will be speaking during Sacrament Services in most area wards this Sunday, March 20, on Elder Dale G. Renlund's conference address titled "The Peace of Christ Abolishes Enmity." The exceptions to this will be the Baker Valley and John Day wards, which will be holding ward conferences. Sunday school classes will be held during the second hour of meetings.

The "Come, Follow Me" lesson for the week of March 21 is based on Exodus 1-6 and how the Lord will strengthen and support those who believe and trust in him.

Recordings of the RootsTech conference are available to anyone interested in family history work. Visit rootstech.org to learn more.

St. Patrick: A loving teacher to the makers of his chains



LAURA HUDSON
BELIEVING AND BECOMING

My ethnic claim to St. Patrick's Day is tenuous at best. I have a mixed Northern European heritage, all the more ambiguous because my father was adopted. However, with no knowledge of his biological heritage and a great appreciation of Celtic music, Dad declared St. Patrick's Day to be his ethnic holiday. My affinity for this saint's day began there, but

my enthusiasm increased after I learned about St. Patrick himself, beyond the odd legends that claim he banished Ireland's snakes (though there never were any on the Emerald Isle).

Most of the precise details of Patrick's life are lost to the mists of time, but likely he was born in Britain around 390; autobiographical writings tell us he was captured as a teenager by raiders, trafficked to Ireland and enslaved to a chieftain. In captivity, he worked as a shepherd for six years; he escaped after being told in

a dream to go home.

Back in Britain, Patrick became a priest, and he had another dream in which he heard a voice pleading in Irish, "Come and walk among us." Since he knew the people's language and customs, the Church sent Patrick back as Bishop of Ireland in 432. He did not engage in violent conquest but tried to use indigenous customs to communicate Christian faith. His greatest success may have been his conversion of St. Brigid of Kildare, who pioneered a distinctly Celtic form of Christianity that spread

slowly through the land. Patrick died around 493.

"What if I were called across the ocean / To the land where I had been a slave / Could I be a loving teacher / To the makers of my chains?" asks songwriter Garrison Doles in his song "Patrick on the Water" (you can hear it at <https://songchapel.com>). Patrick is one of my heroes because he said yes to the calling in his dream, and he returned to a place of danger bearing a message of peace.

Could you be a loving teacher to the makers of your chains? In our

country, there are many for whom this is not a rhetorical question, people whose ancestors were captured, carried over oceans and enslaved here. Through the faith they share with St. Patrick, many of these people have also become loving teachers to those who harmed them.

What kind of faith does it take to do this? "The Deer's Cry," a hymn attributed to St. Patrick, gives us clues: "Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ on my right, Christ on my left." Pat-

rick arose in the strength that comes from a profound awareness of God's presence and a powerful confidence in God's protection.

My dad eventually met his birth mother, and I learned that we do have Irish ancestors. But St. Patrick is true kin to all those who arise in the strength of the Spirit and receive the courage to face danger and bring peace, a strength well worth celebrating.

Laura Elly Hudson is co-pastor of the La Grande First Presbyterian Church. You can find her at www.lauraellyhudson.com.

Springfield Ukrainian church offering donations, prayers for Ukraine

Church was founded by Ukrainians who settled in Oregon after World War II

By Adam Duvernay
The (Eugene) Register-Guard

SPRINGFIELD — When his congregation assembled Sunday, Father Richard Janowicz, pastor at Nativity of the Mother of God Ukrainian Catholic Church took up another round of donations meant to help those suffering the crisis unfolding in Europe.

And, just as importantly, he asked his congregants to offer up their prayers.

"Our Patriarch said, 'prayer is more powerful than the sword,' and we believe that. So we're praying," Janowicz said. "But we're also sending humanitarian aid for the people that are displaced and to help those who are wounded in war, including the soldiers who are fighting for the independence of Ukraine."

At its founding in 1979, most congregants of Nativity Ukrainian Catholic Church in east Springfield were Ukrainian. Though there are now fewer worshipers with direct ties to the eastern European country under siege by Russia, that connection remains.

"We just have a few handful that are



Fr. Richard Janowicz is pastor of Nativity of the Mother of God Ukrainian Catholic Church in Springfield, which was founded by Ukrainians who settled in the area after being displaced by World War II. The church in March 2022 is offering both prayers and donations for the people of Ukraine in the midst of the Russian invasion.

of Ukrainian descent, and most of them are second-generation or third-generation. Originally, our church was founded by post-war Ukrainians who settled here in this area after being displaced by World War II," Janowicz said. "Those people have now died, but a few of their kids are still here."

The outbreak of one of the most significant conflicts in Europe since the

end of World War II has created worldwide tension, including in Oregon, where more than 20,000 Oregonians claim Ukrainian ancestry, according to U.S. Census data.

Janowicz said the conflict has left members of Nativity Ukrainian Catholic Church troubled.

"People are hoping the United States

will do more in order to help Ukraine out. This is a dangerous situation for world peace, not just for Ukraine and Russia," Janowicz said. "It's really sad. Sometimes you hear people talking about not wanting oil prices to go up, or they're worried their quality of life might be reduced a little bit because of our aid for Ukraine. I think it's a very short-term attitude to take — for world peace, not just for Ukraine."

Janowicz is hoping his diverse congregation will feel kinship with Ukraine — and offer up both prayer and support.

"We already sent some money. We're taking up collections now," Janowicz said.

Donations collected at Nativity Ukrainian Catholic Church are being sent to the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia, who will forward it on to humanitarian missions in Ukraine. Donors also can support humanitarian causes in Ukraine by donating directly to the Archeparchy of Philadelphia, www.ukrarcheparchy.us/donate.

"I hope people will come to the defense of Ukraine. They've shown themselves to be so brave and courageous against the Russian army. It's just unbelievable," Janowicz said. "They're people of great resilience and strength, and I think their faith continues to support that hope and courage. They will be victorious in the end, no matter what."

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

Bible Study 9:00 a.m.
Worship 10:30 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

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
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

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