

## SPIRITUAL LIFE HIGHLIGHTS

### The truth shows us the full reality of God

ENTERPRISE — The Enterprise Community Congregational Church on Sunday, March 27, will hear a message about Jesus' purpose, as the Truth, the Way and the Life, to show us the full reality of God. Interim pastor Rev. Dr. Craig Pesti-Strobel will deliver the message, referring to Peter 2:2-10 and John 14:1-7. The worship service at the Community Church, also known as the big, brown church, begins at 11 a.m. Bible Study, which is currently discussing 1 Corinthians, is held at 9:30 a.m.

### 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@lagrandeobserver.com (with Highlights in the subject line).

### Fast Sunday moved up one week to March 27

NORTHEASTERN OREGON — Fast Sunday will be March 27, as the General Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will be held the first weekend of April. Members are

encouraged to fast for two meals and donate at least the meal value to the church for the support of those in need in local communities. Testimonies will be shared during Sunday's Sacrament service, and Priesthood, Relief Society and youth groups will meet during the second hour.

Donations to the church's humanitarian aid fund will help support those suffering from the conflicts in Ukraine, along with others in need of help in various parts of the world. Visit [www.churchofjesuschrist.org](http://www.churchofjesuschrist.org) to learn how these funds are being used to help the refugees.

The "Come, Follow Me" lesson

for the week of March 28 will be based on Exodus 7-13 and what we can learn from the plagues that befell Egypt as the Lord, through Moses, sought the freedom of the people of Israel.

### Pastor asks, 'Our we our brother's keeper?'

LA GRANDE — On March 27, the fourth Sunday of Lent, the First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will worship together at 10:30 a.m. Pastor Archie Hook's message — "Are We Our Brother's Keeper?" — will explore 2 Corinthians 5:16-21. Verse 17 says, "If anyone is in Christ, the

new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"

### Zion Lutheran service will be streamed live

LA GRANDE — Zion Lutheran Church meets for worship this Sunday, March 27, at 9 a.m. Masks are no longer required but are recommended for those at risk. The service will include Holy Communion and be followed by a time of fellowship. The service will be streamed live to Youtube. The link for that stream will be posted on Zion's Facebook page and website on March 26.

— The Observer

# What to do when you don't know what to do



**DONALD BASTIAN**  
JUST CALL ME PASTOR

Solving perplexing situations in family, workplace, church and society prompts fundamental questions: Should I remain silent? If I speak up, what should I say?

When involved with a complicated circumstance, I've learned the wisdom of weighing my response in light of the day we will come before the judgment seat of Christ.

Of course, our performance is

not what saves us at the final judgment. The scriptures teach that we are saved by grace alone, through faith in Christ. But the scriptures also say, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad" (2 Corinthians 5:10).

That is, it is at the same time true that, in the words of Romans 8:1, "there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus," and that the believer's performance will also come into account, which will include the quality of the life we have lived for him.

If I consider a problem in the

light of the final judgment I often, though of course not always, gain clarity about what I should do. Such an exercise helps me keep distracting emotions, selfishness and shortsightedness at bay.

I recall a time when I was leading a committee in dealing with a complex and contentious church matter. I was thinking my way toward what I saw as a resolution. But not everyone agreed with my plan.

After one meeting with the committee, I went with two of its members for coffee before we started for home. At the table, the situation again bubbled to the surface. As the one who was ulti-

mately responsible for the decision, I gestured upward and said, "We will have to answer to God for how this matter is resolved."

The initial response was a surprised silence, as if I had introduced a new idea to my companions. The discussion to this point had seemed to have moved on a purely human level: Which of the groups involved will we favor? How can we close up this matter quickly? Which way would require the least damage control? A sense of accountability to God for a wise judgment hadn't factored into our deliberations.

Thinking about a thorny problem in the light of the final

judgment takes the problem out of the moment and into the context of eternity. It keeps the focus on God and his wisdom.

Christians, by remembering the final judgment, can practice the mental and spiritual discipline of making all of life's decisions in the awareness that God is present at every moment and in every circumstance. This obedience enriches faith.

Donald N. Bastian, of Ontario, Canada, is the bishop emeritus of the Free Methodist Church of North America. For more of his writings, go to [justcallmepastor.wordpress.com](http://justcallmepastor.wordpress.com).

# Mission report from Kenya

By TAMMY MALGESINI  
Hermiston Herald

HERMISTON — Stanley Gitari, director of Maua Methodist Hospital Community Health Services, will be visiting Hermiston to provide an update on mission work in Kenya. An experienced speaker, he will share about community health, programs to help orphan children, the effects of famine in Africa and much more.

"There are people from Walla Walla to Heppner, Pendleton and La Grande who are/have been involved with this project," said Pastor Patty Nance of the Hermiston First United Methodist Church.

Anyone interested in hearing about this outreach ministry in Kenya, including how to get involved, is encouraged to attend. The free presentation is April 3, 5 p.m. at the Hermiston First United Methodist Church, 191 E. Gladys Ave.

Hermiston residents Louise and Jamie Kienzle have taken several trips to Kenya to work at the hospital and surrounding area. As part of the April 3 presentation, Louise will share about other upcoming opportunities:

- To participate in a Virtual Mission to Maua Methodist Hospital, April 6 and 8, 8-9:30 a.m.
- To join a team heading

### MORE INFORMATION

Additional information, including a link to the upcoming Virtual Mission, is available by searching [www.facebook.com/OR.IDKenyaMissionTeams](http://www.facebook.com/OR.IDKenyaMissionTeams). For questions, contact Louise Kienzle at [umvim@umoi.org](mailto:umvim@umoi.org), 541-620-0989 or Pastor Patty Nance at [herfumc@outlook.com](mailto:herfumc@outlook.com).

to Kenya in 2023 to build a home for AIDS orphans and support other projects related to health and education.

The Kienzles, who first went to Kenya in 2009, are especially excited about what's happening across the globe in East Africa. Living in John Day at the time, the couple was motivated to get involved in mission work after their pastor encouraged the church council to look beyond their immediate area and state.

"We did a lot of things in the community," Louise Kienzle said. "I thought this is my chance, this is a cue for me to jump in."

And jump, she did — since that first trip in 2009, the Kienzles have returned to Kenya six times. And they are planning to lead a team in July 2023.

A typical trip, she said, includes building a house for the family of an AIDS orphan, as well as going to the schools

to provide de-worming and working with an outreach program for the hospital, providing basic medical services. Those seen are weighed, have their blood pressure checked and often get tested for AIDS and other medical conditions. People can obtain eyeglasses or needed medications. People, Kienzle said, walk for miles to be seen at the "medical camp."

Medical experience isn't required to participate in the mission trips, Kienzle said. One of their roles, she said, is to promote the hospital by helping alleviate people's fears about going there. Also, Kienzle said people don't have to belong to the United Methodist Church to get involved.

"Anyone interested in mission work and learning about another culture is invited to come," she said.

Gitari, the press release said, has been the inspiration and organizing force behind the ongoing relationships between American teams and their mission work in the area of Maua, Kenya. As a nurse and hospital administrator with a master's degree in community health from Ghana University, and as a committed man of faith, Gitari has worked tirelessly to help the people in that area who suffer from extreme poverty.



Patty Nance/Contributed Photo

Louise Kienzle of Hermiston hands keys to a family during a January 2018 house dedication in Maua, Kenya. Stanley Gitari, director of Maua Methodist Hospital Community Health Services, is in the background with a camera. He will provide an update about the Kenyan outreach ministry at 5 p.m. April 3, 2022, at the Hermiston First United Methodist Church.

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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](mailto:lgdisciples@gmail.com)

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

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Sunday Worship 10:00 am

Phone: 541-568-4230  
[grace.lutherancove@gmail.com](mailto:grace.lutherancove@gmail.com)

**IMBLER CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

440 RUCKMAN, IMBLER 534-2201  
[www.imblercc@gmail.com](http://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:  
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Pastor Taylor Gould

For service information go to  
[www.lagrandeumc.org](http://www.lagrandeumc.org)

**LaGrande CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE**

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Sunday School 9:15 a.m.  
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2702 Adams Avenue, La Grande 963-4018  
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*Services This Week*