

SPIRITUAL LIFE HIGHLIGHTS

Message focuses on spiritual presence of Jesus

ENTERPRISE — The Enterprise Community Congregational Church on Sunday, April 3, will hear a message about the spiritual presence of Jesus, and how it releases us from the power systems of domination and violence have over us. Interim pastor Rev. Dr. Craig Pesti-Strobel will deliver the message, referencing scripture from 1 Peter and John. Worship is at 11 a.m., and Bible study, which is currently discussing 1 Corinthians, is offered at 9:30 a.m.

Lenten services continue on Wednesdays

LA GRANDE — The sermon on Sunday, April 3, at the Faith Lutheran Church's 10 a.m. service will expound on a parable in Luke 20. In the parable Jesus tells of a vineyard owner (God the Father) who sent his son (Jesus Christ) to check on the vineyard. "And they threw Him out of the vineyard and killed Him. What then will the Owner of the vineyard do to them?" (verse 15).

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).

The parable shows there will be judgment. Jesus is to be the cornerstone of our lives and all spirituality.

After the Divine service will be the First Sunday Potluck and junior confirmation followed by an elders' meeting.

On Wednesday, April 6, the midweek Lenten service message will be on "Pontius Pilate Witness to Christ" — he knew better but would not do better. A soup supper is at 5:30 p.m., and the service begins at 6:30 p.m.

Service of Morning Prayer followed by fellowship

LA GRANDE — St. Peter's Episcopal Church will meet for Morning Prayer at 11 a.m. on Sunday, April 3, followed by a

time of fellowship. Masks and social distancing are required.

Teens invited to 'Friday Night Hype'

LA GRANDE — Mountain Life Church invites youth in sixth to 12th grades to "Friday Night Hype" on the first and third Fridays of each month.

The gatherings include free food, music, games, basketball, foosball, table tennis, video games, movies and more.

Study Romans or Psalms at Sunday classes for adults

LA GRANDE — As First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) celebrates the fifth Sunday of Lent on April 3, Pastor Archie Hook will speak from John 12:1-8. His message — "What Gift Do We Bring to Christ?" — will look at Mary, sister of Lazarus, and the special gift she blessed Jesus with. There are two adult Sunday School classes, each beginning at 9 a.m., one studying Romans and the other the Psalms. Worship begins at 10:30 a.m.

In-person and online worship offered

LA GRANDE — Zion Lutheran Church meets for worship on Sunday, April 3, at 9 a.m. The service will include Holy Communion and will be followed by a time of fellowship. Masks are no longer required, though 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 April 2.

How do you experience spirituality?

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

Ongoing monthly columns and one-time submissions will be considered. Columns are generally 500-600 words and include a photo of the writer.

Free worldwide conference will be streamed live April 2-3

NORTHEASTERN OREGON — Regional wards of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will join the worldwide general conference streamed live this weekend, April 2-3.

This global broadcast aims to help individuals strengthen their personal relationships with Jesus Christ. All are welcome to join with millions worldwide to hear inspiring messages from living prophets and apostles. The free conference consists of sessions at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. (PDT) both days, plus a women's session at 6 p.m. Saturday. All will be streamed live on www.churchofjesuschrist.org, the General Conference YouTube channel and Gospel Library app.

The "Come, Follow Me" lesson for the week of April 4 will be on Exodus 14-17 and will focus on the Lord's ability to deliver us in times of difficulty and how he can make bitter things sweet.

—The Observer

Trustworthiness is the greatest of all virtues



SARAH HAUG LIGHT OF UNITY

"Trustworthiness ... is the door of security for all that dwell on earth ... He who partaketh thereof hath indeed partaken of the treasures of wealth and prosperity."

More frequently than is reasonable, I walk out of the grocery store with one last item I forgot to scan under my cart. Most recently it was toilet paper, that most precious of commodities. I arrived at

my car, started loading my other groceries into the trunk, saw the toilet paper, and refrained from swearing.

Hefting the package, I trudged back into the store to run it through self-checkout, with a sheepish smile and an explanation of what happened to the person who had sent me on my way a minute before. Paying for whatever you walk away with means you're not shoplifting, which is usually seen as a good thing, but what if, instead of walking out with a raft of toilet paper, I forgot to tell them about the banana my child ate while sitting in the cart? Or what if

once I got home I discovered they charged me incorrectly for an item?

To many, the latter situation might be seen as a windfall, but my mother-in-law used to reconcile her grocery receipt with the actual prices on the groceries and return to the store to pay what she truly owed. Personally, I resolved the banana issue by choosing a second banana and asking the checker to charge me for it twice, but I confess to often tossing my grocery receipt in the receptacle on the way out the door.

In the Baha'i Faith, honesty is the foundation of all virtues, the

one in which all other virtues are rooted. Without it, everything falls apart (as perhaps we witness on a daily basis). Without honesty, nobody can trust us, and we can't trust anybody else. Grocery receipts don't get checked and extra bananas don't get weighed.

Honesty isn't only financial, of course. It involves taking responsibility, admitting fault and accepting the consequences of our actions, no matter the cost to ourselves and even when nobody else was aware that blame might need to be laid.

Absolute honesty is a difficult standard to aspire to. We all

fall short. We always will, but imagine what a different place the world would be if everyone held trustworthiness up as the standard to which they aspired.

"Trustworthiness is the greatest portal leading unto the tranquility and security of the people. In truth the stability of every affair hath depended and doth depend upon it. All the domains of power, of grandeur and of wealth are illumined by its light."

Sarah Haug is a member of the Baha'i Faith and has called Pendleton home since 2002. You can find her most days walking on the Pendleton River Parkway with her husband, Dan.

Invest time, ask God for a fervent passion to pray



BILLY HOLLAND LIVING ON PURPOSE

In the summer of 2021, I began asking God to help me develop a deeper level of awareness of his presence along with more discipline, wisdom and discernment. I wrote down a few positive statements to confess in my prayers and whenever it would cross my mind. I do not want to be lukewarm and continue to ask for a revelation of more fire and passion to consume me.

Information is only a gathering of knowledge until it becomes quickened as divine truth and wisdom to our mind and conscience. Many people know a lot of facts, but until truth energizes and activates conviction within our hearts, it will not change our destiny.

I have also asked him to help me recognize errors so that I might know the correct interpretation of his word. I desperately need a higher level of sensitivity to his voice so that I can comprehend what he is saying. These opportunities are critical components of the Christian experience and will be accomplished or ignored according

to our level of desire.

Knowing God is based on communication, but it seems many who call themselves Christians are either not convinced this is true or they are not interested in participating. Perhaps these people avoid prayer simply because it is something they do not want to do, or they have convinced themselves that God does not care if they pray or not because they believe that whatever they do or choose not to do will not make any difference in their standing with him. As long as he has prepared a beautiful heaven for them after this life, all is good even if they do nothing. I

believe is they are held accountable for not praying, along with other duties such as personal Bible research and worship, witnessing and praying for a burden for the lost, developing an awareness of God's presence, and being ready to respond to divine appointments such as laying hands on the sick and confronting evil, being filled with the Holy Spirit, walking in reverential fear of who he is and demonstrating his nature and character.

So, what is the secret to having an exciting and effective prayer life? Ask God for a fervent passion to pray. If we desire to invest our

time into knowing God, he will provide everything needed to make it happen. For any of us to enter into a walk of faith and love, we must discern his voice as he tells us what he wants us to pray about.

Dwelling in the secret place with him is not based upon systematic theology or a proper scriptural exegesis. It's simply a lifestyle of discipline where listening and obeying becomes more important than pleasing others or our own agenda.

William "Billy" F. Holland Jr. is a Christian author, outreach minister and community chaplain. To learn more visit www.billyhollandministries.com.

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**Northeast Oregon Directory of Churches**

<p><b>COVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> 1708 Jasper St., Cove, OR</p> <p><b>NORTH POWDER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> 390 E. St., North Powder, OR</p> <p>JOIN US... <i>Catch the Spirit!</i> Worship: 9:00 a.m. Cove Worship: 10:00 a.m. N. Powder</p>	<p><b>First Christian Church</b> (Disciples of Christ) 901 Penn Avenue 963-2623 lgdisciples@gmail.com</p> <p>Bible Study 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>~Join us at The Lord's Table~</p>	<p><b>GRACE COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> The Place 62848 Philynda Loop in Island City "We are called to Serve"</p> <p>Sunday School for all ages - 9:00 am Sunday Worship 10:00 am</p> <p>Phone: 541-568-4230 grace.lutherancove@gmail.com</p>	<p><b>IMBLER CHRISTIAN CHURCH</b></p> <p>440 RUCKMAN, IMBLER 534-2201 www.imblerce@gmail.com</p> <p>Sunday Services 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship Service</p>	<p><b>CHURCH Service DIRECTORY</b></p>	
<p><b>SUMMERVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH</b></p> <p>Sunday Services: Sunday School &amp; Adult Bible Classes 9:45AM Children's Church &amp; Worship Service 11:00AM Family Worship Service 6:00PM</p> <p>Wednesday: Prayer Mtg, Children's Bible Club, Youth Group 7:00PM</p> <p>A church for your whole family Visit us at <a href="http://summervillebaptistchurch.org">summervillebaptistchurch.org</a></p>	<p><b>LA GRANDE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> "OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS" 1612 4th Street - 963-2498</p> <p>Pastor Taylor Gould</p> <p>For service information go to <a href="http://www.lagrandeumc.org">www.lagrandeumc.org</a></p>	<p><b>LaGrande CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE</b></p> <p>109 18th Street • 963-3402</p> <p>Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p><b>La Grande Seventh-day Adventist Church</b> A Place where hope is found in Jesus Join us in Fellowship &amp; Worship Saturday all age classes 9:30 am Saturday Worship 11:00 am</p> <p>2702 Adams Avenue, La Grande 963-4018 lagrandeor.adventistchurch.org</p> <p>Learning for Today and Eternity Little Friends Christian Preschool/Childcare 963-6390 La Grande Adventist Christian School K-8th Grade 963-6203</p>	<p><b>FIRST LANDMARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH</b> 1812 1st St. La Grande Pastor Dave Tierce • 541-605-0215 We use the King James Version Bible</p> <p>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" <a href="http://www.flmbclagrande.com">www.flmbclagrande.com</a></p>	<p><b>Services This Week</b></p>