

SPIRITUAL LIFE HIGHLIGHTS

Congregation gathers for Palm Sunday procession

LA GRANDE — St. Peter's Episcopal Church will meet for a Palm Sunday Service on April 10 at 11 a.m. Those who attend will meet downstairs for a procession to the church. The service will include a Gospel reading from Luke 22:14-23:56. Fellowship will follow immediately after worship. Masks and social distancing are required.

Greeting Jesus with palms and rejoicing

LA GRANDE — First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will celebrate Palm Sunday, April 10, with palms and rejoicing at a 10:30 a.m. worship service. Pastor Archie Hook's message, "Save Us," will explore John 12:12-15 and Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and his conviction to complete the journey before him.

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).

Communion is a weekly part of the worship service and all are invited to join the congregation at the Lord's Table.

Palm Sunday service streamed live

LA GRANDE — Zion Lutheran Church will meet for worship on Palm Sunday, April 10, at 9 a.m. Masks are not required, though are recommended for those at risk. The service will begin in the Fellowship Hall, then process with palms into the sanctuary. The

service will include Holy Communion, and a time of fellowship time will follow. The service will also be livestreamed to YouTube, and the link for that stream will be posted on Zion's Facebook page and website on April 9.

Stake activity planned for youth on April 9

NORTHEASTERN OREGON — The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will have a stake primary activity on Saturday, April 9, for youth ages 7-11. Activities for the south end of the stake will be at the Baker church building from 10 a.m. to noon, and activities for the north end of the stake will be at the Island City building from 2-4 p.m. Hot dogs and ice cream will be served, and children are welcome to bring a friend. Contact local church leaders for more information.

Recordings, summaries and statistical reports from last weekend's General Conference are available on the church's website.

The "Come, Follow Me" lesson for the week of April 11 is titled "Easter" and is based on the Bible, Book of Mormon and Doctrine & Covenants scriptures listed in the lesson, providing all the opportunity to study and prepare for the Easter celebration of the Atonement and Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Gospel story comes to life

ENTERPRISE — The Enterprise Community Congregational Church — aka "the big brown church" — on Palm Sunday, April 10, will meet for worship at 11 a.m. The service will tell the story of the last week of Jesus' life, including his trial before Pilate, through dramatic enact-

ment, readings and music, in preparation for his triumphant resurrection. Interim pastor Rev. Dr. Craig Pesti-Strobel will lead this special service. Bible study, which is currently discussing 1 Corinthians, precedes the service at 9:30 a.m.

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.

— The Observer

Being aware of all God does for us



ROBERTA SMYTHE
WALKING WITH THE SHEPHERD

I am in the midst of moving. Not very far, just 3.5 miles, but that doesn't make the process much easier. There's still sorting, culling, packing, transporting, and then unpacking and putting everything away again. Given all that upheaval, it's not surprising that I don't like moving. I'd even go so far as to say I hate moving. I don't mind being in a new place — it's just the process of getting there that I dislike.

During this and my previous move, I've learned that my cats don't like moving either, perhaps even less than I do. But then, I know what's happening and why, but I can't exactly explain it to

them. So they walk around meowing and crying, they run away from me and they hide a lot. In fact, they're still at the old house, along with some odds and ends I'm still packing, because they disappear when I get the carriers out.

I wish I could tell them that it's going to be okay, that I'm not abandoning them, or getting rid of them, etc. Of course, this isn't the only time I wish I could communicate better with my cats, and they with me. It would be nice if they could tell me when they aren't feeling well, and where it hurts. It would help if I could tell them that the medicine I'm giving them is to help them feel better, not something poisonous (which must be what they're thinking, given how violently they resist).

I love my cats, and I do a lot for them, and I'm

sure I'm not alone. But I'm not sure the cats realize the trouble I go to. I mix plain litter with scented litter so there's a little odor coverage, but it doesn't smell like a perfume factory. I changed their blend of cat food and instituted nightly brushings when one started having hairball trouble. I make sure they can see out the windows and have toys to play with.

And yet, here they are, avoiding me and hiding because they don't know what's going on, and they're stressed.

This may not be too different from how we humans react with God at times. We may not realize how much God loves us and cares for us. We aren't always aware of all the things God does for us:

big and small, seen and unseen. So when things aren't going the way we expect, the way we want, we get stressed and wonder where God is. We wonder why God isn't making things better on our time schedule and in the way we want.

I don't have a way to completely understand my cats, but God did find a way to understand us humans and communicate more directly with us. God became human, in the form of Jesus. He lived among us, showing us and telling us about God's love for us. He also experienced many of the ups and downs of human life, including death, all for our sake.

■ Roberta Smythe is the pastor of La Grande's Zion Lutheran Church.

WORDS OF THE BUDDHA

Who is wise and virtuous, gentle and keen-witted, humble and amenable, such a one to honor may attain.
—Digha Nikaya 3.273

Overcome the angry by non-anger; overcome the wicked by goodness; overcome the miser by generosity; overcome the liar by truth.
—Dhammapada 17.223

Learn this from the waters: in mountain clefts and chasms, loud gush the streamlets, but great rivers flow silently.
—Sutta Nipata 3.725

—Source: www.pariyatti.org

Jean Ann (Conrad) Miller

March 1926 - January 2022

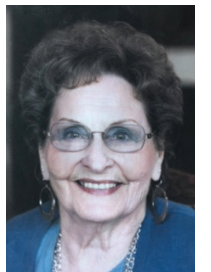
Jean Ann Conrad was born at home on the family ranch in Imbler, Oregon, to Charles (Todd) and Pearl Conrad. She graduated from Imbler High School in 1943 and received awards for all-around girl and drama at graduation. During her school years starting at age 9 Jean Ann raised award-winning 4-H steers. She showed the steers in Union County and at the Pacific International Livestock show in Portland. In 1939 she had the Grand Champion steer in the open division, which sold for \$.60 a pound, the most ever at that time.

During high school Jean Ann met Edmond Miller from nearby Cove at a dance in La Grande. After her graduation, they eloped to Boise, Idaho. They were married for 74 years before his death in 2017. Jean Ann followed Ed to various states and Europe while he served in the Air Force. During those years she worked at various jobs including a dentist office and department stores in several cities.

After the war they returned to Oregon and lived in Corvallis, Cove, La Grande, Huntington, Lake Oswego and Beaverton. Jean Ann was a homemaker and mother to three. She volunteered for years at the Lake Oswego Senior Community Center and later for more than 25 years at the Beaverton School District's Continuing Education for Young Parents child care facility.

Survivors include her daughter, Jody (Kip Leonard); sons, Jeff (Laura) and Mark (Jennifer Moffatt); grandchildren, Ross Miller, Reed Miller (Emily), Nick Leonard (Caroline Lafferty), JJ Miller (Abby), Annie Miller, Connor Kelley and Jack Kelley; two great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. Jean Ann was predeceased by her three siblings: Clifford Conrad, June Van Blokland and Wes Conrad.

Jean Ann's and Ed's remains will be interred at the Summerville Cemetery near Imbler. The family is grateful for the care provided by Hearstone at Murrayhill and Hospice during Jean Ann's final days.



Amiel G. Abel

July 9, 1951 – March 25, 2022

Amiel Glenn Abel, 70, of La Grande, passed away on Friday, March 25, 2022, at his residence surrounded by his family after a long battle with cancer. At Amiel's request a family celebration of his life will take place at a later date.

Amiel was born on July 9, 1951, in Pendleton, Oregon, to Glenn and Lorraine (Waples) Abel. He attended schools in Pendleton and Huntington, Oregon. In 1980, he married Michele Spivey and they resided in La Grande until his passing. Amiel was employed with the Union Pacific Railroad for more than 40 years.

Amiel was an avid hunter most of his life and enjoyed spending time hunting with his family. He also enjoyed being at the Oregon Coast, especially during clamming season. Many years were spent traveling with his children and grandchildren, watching their sporting events. At any time of day Amiel could be found in his shop repairing or building something.

Amiel is survived by his wife, Michele; his children, Raymond (Jamie) of La Grande, Oregon, Tiffany (Mike) of Clackamas, Oregon, Randy (Deidre) of Boise, Idaho, and Tanner (Danielle) of La Grande, Oregon; nine grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and three sisters. He was preceded in death by his parents, Glenn and Lorraine; brother, Arden; and sister, Myrna.



Steven Darrell Murphy

March 6, 1950 – March 25, 2022

It is a great sadness that Steve Murphy passed away March 25, 2022, in a tragic motorcycle accident in Stayton, Oregon, while traveling to visit his family. He was born on March 6, 1950, to Darrell and Jean Murphy at the Bethesda Naval Hospital in Maryland.

Steve graduated in 1969 from La Grande High School and went to work in logging, followed by long-haul trucking. He was a lone wolf mountain man who loved the outdoors, tinkering, restoring cars from the 1920s and riding motorcycles.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Darrell and Jean Murphy. He is survived by his heartbroken siblings, David Murphy and Gloria McBain of Lake Havasu City, Arizona; children, Autumn Sanders, Douglas Murphy and Jason Murphy; five grandchildren; and three aunts.

He has been cremated and a private wake was held March 27 in Eugene, Oregon, at his daughter's establishment. Serving the family was North Santiam Funeral Service, Stayton.



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

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