

SPIRITUAL LIFE HIGHLIGHTS

Study series continues in-depth look at the Lord's Prayer

ENTERPRISE — The Enterprise Community Congregational Church offers Bible study at 9:30 a.m. and worship at 11 a.m. on Sundays. The message on May 15 continues the study of the Lord's Prayer, which Jesus taught his disciples in Matthew 6:9-13. Rev. Dr. Craig this week will talk about the line "Hallowed be thy name."

Council to discuss facility upgrades

LA GRANDE — On Sunday, May 15, the sermon at Faith Lutheran Church's 10 a.m. service will expound on John 16:12-22 in which Jesus assures his disciples that the Holy Spirit will be sent to them. The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity who verse 13 says is "the Spirit of truth" who "will guide you into all the truth." May humankind continue to receive the Holy Spirit's guidance to live in everlasting truth. Following the Divine Service will be the

monthly council meeting to deal with business concerns. There will be a committee established to consider upgrades on facilities.

Bible study follows coffee hour

LA GRANDE — St. Peter's Episcopal Church will celebrate Communion this Sunday, May 15, with Mary Lujan at 10 a.m. The coffee hour after the service is followed by a study of John 1:1-18 in the church library.

Worldwide devotional broadcast addresses young adults May 15

NORTHEASTERN OREGON — Members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints congregations will speak during Sacrament Service on Sunday, May 15, and Sunday school classes will be held during the second hour.

Also on May 15, young adults ages 18-30 are invited to join a worldwide devotional broadcast beginning at 5 p.m., led by

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).

President Russell M. Nelson and Wendy W. Nelson. For the livestream connection information, visit www.churchofjesus-christ.org. After the event, the broadcast will be available in 39 languages through the Gospel Library app.

The "Come, Follow Me" lesson for the week of May 16 covers eight chapters of Deuteronomy that tell of Moses' final days with the children of Israel. Lesson materials are provided via the free Gospel Library app.

During the May 21-22 Stake Conference, a new Stake Presidency will be called.

Guest speaker to lead in-person worship, share sermon

LA GRANDE — Zion Lutheran Church meets for worship this Sunday, May 15, at 9 a.m. Leo Smith will lead worship and share a sermon based on Acts 11:1-18 and John 13:31-35. A time of fellowship will follow the service. The service will not be streamed live this week.

Keeping the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace

LA GRANDE — On Sunday, May 15, First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will celebrate Pastor Archie and Vicqui Hook's first anniversary with them. The message during the 10:30 a.m. service will be "Let's Keep Ourselves United in Spirit," referencing Ephesians 4:3, which teaches that unity can be kept through the bond of peace. Sunday School for adults is at 9 a.m.

—The Observer

The war was on the train today



COLLIN RYMER
OTHER VIEWS

By COLLIN RYMER

I learned a very important lesson in humility recently and am still shaken by the experience. Perhaps this was the closest, God forbid, I'll ever come to war. And it wasn't that close at all, if I'm keeping things in perspective.

However, the train car full of people I shared my trip back from Slovakia with cannot, unfortunately, say the same. As I got on the train, after it had arrived an hour late, I grumbled my way down the aisle, tired after a day and a half of snowboarding and a couple days of traveling.

I kicked my way around a bunch of huge bags in the aisle, towing my large snowboard bag through, still grumbling.

Then I came to my seat, and someone was in it. I told the woman sitting there that she was in my seat. She told me she had the same reservation and showed me her ticket. It was the same, indeed.

I didn't get upset with her, it wasn't her fault, of course. Then, in the kindest and sweetest way, she said, "Well, with the Ukrainian situation, they gave out a lot of free tickets and had to process a lot of people, so they may have made some mistakes with the reservations."

Then it hit me. All of these annoying people who had been blocking the way and stealing seats were Ukrainian refugees fleeing a war. Their homeland was on fire, under bombardment, taken from them, stolen by a madman, and they were fleeing, leaving everything behind.

She, Olya from Odessa, had already been traveling for four days, sleeping in subway stations, in schools, "whatever they could find" as she'd told me; she was poised to travel the rest of the night and into the morning when we parted. So I took the empty seat across from her, feeling petty and pitiful, and we talked.

The sadness in her eyes I'll never forget, as she told me of the atrocities she'd seen or stories she'd heard through friends' experiences — like what we hear about in the news every day, but lived. At the same time, I've never in my life witnessed such perseverance, strength, spirit, positivity, and the relentless will to carry on as I did today. And it wasn't just her.

Olya had met a traveling companion days earlier down in a subway where they'd slept. She was a young woman of only about 20 years old, likely younger, traveling with her elderly mother. They comforted each other along the way, former strangers, seemingly very different people back home, now a tight-knit family on a train.

I asked what I could do to help — after all, they were changing trains at the Ostrava-Svinov train station where I was getting off. Olya only asked that I help her with her heavy suitcase, which I gladly did. It didn't feel like enough.

When the group got to the station, I helped with the luggage and made sure they found their train all right.

As we said our farewells, I wished Olya and her traveling companions a safe journey, loaded her big yellow suitcase onto the train and gave them all hugs.

They were back on another train, to another station, to another unknown place on another cold, snowy night. I headed home to a hot shower and a warm bed and my own roof above my head.

We take things for granted — every day, even the mundane. We take our seat on a train as a given, our freedom to come and go as we please. But nothing's a given. It's all precious and fleeting, and it could all end tomorrow.

Be humble. Be kind. Love people. Live your life like it was your last day, because you never know when you'll have to leave with just a suitcase; because Olya loved the sea — the sea was her home; because, well, all we are saying, is give peace a chance — yes, this was the song I heard playing that morning on the loudspeakers outside the ski shop as I put my goggles on and sipped my coffee, and admired the snowflakes falling from the sky.

■ Collin Rymer, a Bend native, teaches English in Ostrava, Czech Republic.

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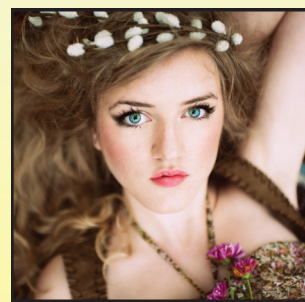
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THE OBSERVER

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May 26

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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
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lgdisciples@gmail.com

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

~Join us at The Lord's Table~

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grace.lutherancove@gmail.com

CHURCH Service DIRECTORY

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Children's Church & Worship Service 11:00AM
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Services This Week