

SPIRITUAL LIFE HIGHLIGHTS

Morning prayer services held on summer Sundays at Wallowa Lake

WALLOWA LAKE VILLAGE — The Wallowa Lake Chapel announced that all are welcome to “worship in the beauty of God’s holiness” each Sunday in July and August at 8 a.m. The chapel is at the Wallowa County Park on the north end of Wallowa Lake. Morning prayer services are led by members of the Wallowa County Ecumenical Ministry Society.

Put aside distractions and listen to the Lord’s message

LA GRANDE — The sermon at Faith Lutheran Church’s 10 a.m. service on Sunday, July 17, will consider Martha, who “welcomed (Jesus) into her house” but “was distracted with much serving.” Meanwhile, her sister Mary “listened to (Jesus’) teaching” (Luke

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).

10:38-40). Christians are to strive to put aside distractions as the Lord teaches. Mary received a wonderful compliment for doing this.

Following the Divine service, Faith’s church council will have its monthly meeting.

Bible study continues examining the Book of John

LA GRANDE — Morning Prayer at St. Peter’s Episcopal Church begins at 10 a.m. Sunday, July 17, with fellowship immediately following in the church hall. This week’s Bible

study continues with the Book of John 5:9-47.

Message looks at meaning of ‘service’ in Joshua 24

LA GRANDE — First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will gather for worship on Sunday, July 17, at 10:30 a.m. This week, Pastor Archie Hook’s message — “Limit Our Service?” — will focus on Joshua 24:14-15: “But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord” (verse 15b).

Bring friends to Pioneer Day on July 16 in Island City

NORTHEASTERN OREGON — The members of the La Grande stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will celebrate their heritage during Pioneer Day, Saturday, July 16. Games, activities and a potluck will take

place from 5-8 p.m. at the Island City church’s pavilion and ball field. Families with last names starting with A-M are encouraged to bring a salad, and those with N-Z to bring a desert. All are encouraged to invite friends to the event.

On Sunday, July 17, during the Sacrament service members of the High Council will speak on the April 2022 General Conference opening talks about missionary work by President Russel M. Nelson and M. Russell Ballard. Sunday school meetings will be held during the second hour of services.

The “Come, Follow Me” lesson for the week of July 18 is based on select chapters from the Books of Ezra and Nehemiah in the Old Testament, with a focus on what we can learn from those who rebuilt the Lord’s temple and the walls around Jerusalem.

Potluck picnic follows joint service at Riverside Park

LA GRANDE — Zion Lutheran and La Grande United Methodist churches will meet for a joint outdoor worship service on Sunday, July 17, at 10 a.m. at the Riverside Park Pavilion. The sermon, based on Luke 10:38-42, is titled “Being Mary in a Martha World.” A potluck picnic will follow the service.

All invited to weekly outdoor song circle

PENDLETON — On Tuesday evenings, Peace Lutheran Church is holding an outdoor song circle at 6 p.m. in the church’s outdoor courtyard, accessible from Carden between Eighth and Ninth streets. This gathering is for anyone who would like to sing. People of any faith and background are welcome to join, and are asked to bring a lawn chair.

Don’t assume someone else will call



ROBERTA SMYTHE
WALKING WITH THE SHEPHERD

This Sunday, the assigned scripture reading includes the story of the Good Samaritan. It’s one of the Bible stories that has also entered our secular culture. There are Good Samaritan hospitals and Good Samaritan laws. It’s certainly not the only Bible story or Bible concept that has made it into secular culture, but it’s one I’ve been reflecting on.

I think most of us who know the story tend to assume we would be a Good Samaritan in such a situation. That we would stop to help someone who was hurt or in need of medical attention. Yet when I took CPR training, when being told to have someone call for help, the instructors said to ask a specific person to call for help. Just yelling “someone call 911” isn’t usually enough: Everyone tends to assume someone else is making the call.

Then there are times

when we might be reluctant to help someone directly: There’s an altercation between people, or even a crowd growing violent, and we’re afraid of being hurt if we try to stop it. That can be a legitimate concern, and it may be that the best choice is to call 911.

Unfortunately, there can also be a reluctance to get involved when someone cries “rape.” In fact, women are often told to cry “fire” instead of “rape,” because folks are more likely to respond.

Most of us have the best of intentions to help others, and yet we often let our schedule, our fears and sometimes our weariness keep us from helping one another. Sometimes we elect to give money to a good cause rather than show up in person. It’s just easier, and there’s less risk. I know that for myself, even though I have volunteered at homeless shelters in the past, I’ve been reluctant to do so at the Union County Warming Station here in La Grande. At first it was not knowing this new community I’d moved to, and then there was the

fear of catching COVID-19. I also wonder if I’m getting too old to stay up all night like I used to.

We can all find good excuses and reasons not to do something. Not to step up. And sometimes we need to accept our limitations. If all you’re comfortable doing is contributing financially, that is still helpful. If you can take on only one cause at a time, even though it may not seem like enough, that’s better than not helping at all.

Yet as a pastor, it is my responsibility to push myself, my congregants and even my community to try to do a little more than might be comfortable.

There are many worthwhile causes that you can support financially or with your time or expertise. Find the cause and the level of support that works for you, and then see if you can step up your involvement a little. Every little bit helps our community, and our world, be a better place.

■ Roberta Smythe is the pastor of La Grande’s Zion Lutheran and United Methodist churches.



FRIDAY, JULY 15

SATURDAY, JULY 16

CRAZY DEALS
INSIDE AND OUT.

LOOK FOR THE
RED BALLOONS
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SPECIAL 36 MONTH
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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~

IMBLER CHRISTIAN CHURCH

440 RUCKMAN, IMBLER 534-2201
www.imblerccc@gmail.com

Sunday Services
9:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Worship Service

GRACE COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
The Place where hope is found in Jesus
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



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 summersvillebaptistchurch.org

LA GRANDE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

“OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS”
1612 4th Street - 963-2498

Pastor Roberta Smythe

For service information go to
www.lagrandeumc.org

LaGrande CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

109 18th Street • 963-3402

Sunday School 9:30 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
lagrande.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
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”
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Services This Week