



AP file photo by David Guralnick
Gary Lyon and Bill Samford celebrate after a vote on June 19, 2014, allowing Presbyterian pastors discretion in marrying same-sex couples at the 221st General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Detroit.

Presbyterians OK gay marriage in church constitution

NEW YORK (AP) — The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has expanded its definition of marriage to include a “commitment between two people,” recognizing gay marriage as Christian in the church constitution after decades of debate over same-sex relationships.

The redefinition was endorsed last year by the church General Assembly, or top legislative body, but required approval from a majority of the Louisville, Kentucky-based denomination’s 171 regional districts, or presbyteries. The critical 86th “yes” vote came Tuesday night from the Presbytery of the Palisades in New Jersey.

“So many families headed by LGBTQ couples have been waiting for decades to enter this space created for their families within their church communities,” said the Rev. Robin White, a leader of More Light Presbyterians, which advocates for gay acceptance.

After all regional bodies finish voting and top Presbyterian leaders officially accept the results, the change will take effect June 21. The denomination has nearly 1.8 million members and about 10,000 congregations and is now the largest Protestant group to authorize gay weddings churchwide.

Last year, Presbyterians allowed ministers to preside at gay weddings if local church leaders approved in the states where same-sex unions were legally recognized. The new wording for the church Book of Order extends that authorization to every congregation and reads, “Marriage involves a unique commitment between two people, traditionally a man and a woman, to love and support each other for the rest of their lives.”

The amendment includes a provision that no clergy would be compelled to preside at a gay marriage or host such a ceremony on church property. So far, 41 presbyteries have rejected the redefinition and the vote in one presbytery was tied, according to a tally by the Covenant Network of Presbyterians, which advocates for gays in the church and also works to keep Presbyterians united despite theological differences.

BRIEFLY

Boise minister to share in word and song

PENDLETON — Rev. Dick Williams, a composer, recording artist and Bible teacher, who has served God for 24 years in the ministry, will share this weekend in Pendleton.

The Boise, Idaho, minister will provide simple truths of God’s word through songs Sunday at 10:30 a.m. at the Faith Center Church, 108 S. Main St., Pendleton. The public is welcome and there is no admission charge.

For more information, call Rev. Ray O’Grady at 541-276-9569.

Gospel musician to perform in Irrigon

IRRIGON — Country gospel music is featured in an upcoming presentation by Eldon Potts.

The Joplin, Missouri, preacher also holds a degree from Ozark Bible College, and shares in word and song with Christ The Nations Ministries. He has produced 15 recordings.

Potts will minister to people of all ages Saturday, March 28 at 7 p.m. at Columbia View Community Church, 1230 E. Highway 730, Irrigon. There’s no admission charge, although a free-will offering will be taken. Everyone is welcome.

For more information, call Marilyn at 541-922-3319.

Play highlights sexuality within church

WALLA WALLA — Bradley Nelson, a Walla Walla playwright, explores the real-life struggles between the Seventh-day Adventist religion and individuals who come out as gay or lesbian within its membership.

Based on more than two dozen interviews conducted by the Nelson, “A Gay SDA Play” adapts verbatim dialog from those interviews into a documentary-style play or “docudrama.” It will be presented by Shakespeare Walla Walla as a staged reading Wednesday, April 1 at 7 p.m. at the Power House Theatre, 111 N. Sixth Ave., Walla Walla. Admission is \$12 at the door, students and teachers are admitted free.

“Theater is about telling stories,” said Ron Williams, Shakespeare Walla Walla executive director. “We have bold voices here in Walla Walla telling stories and we are thrilled to bring them into the spotlight.”

Staged readings are rehearsed, but the actors have scripts in hand, and are not in costume. Minimal lighting and sound effects may be used. The purpose of a staged reading is to give the playwright the opportunity to test drive a script with actors and an audience. The audience is invited to participate in the development process, and will have the opportunity to give feedback directly to the playwright.

The play contains frank discussions about sexuality. For more information, visit www.shakespearewallawalla.org or www.phtwww.com.

Methodist church sets communion

PENDLETON — In observance of the Easter holiday, a special Good Friday Communion Service is planned at the First United Methodist Church in Pendleton.

Everyone is invited to attend the event Friday, April 3 at 6 p.m. at 352 S.E. Second St., Pendleton.

For more information, call the church at 541-276-2612.

SUBMIT FAITH NEWS

Friday’s faith page features local, national and international faith-related news. Send information about local faith-related news and events, including concerts, special speakers and activities to community@eastoregonian.com or drop off to the attention of Tammy Malgesini at 333 E. Main St., Hermiston or Renee Struthers at 211 SE Byers Ave., Pendleton. Call 541-564-4539 or 541-966-0818 with questions.

HERMISTON

Peter Rabbit, communion part of Easter week at Methodist church

East Oregonian

Easter fun is in store for kids of all ages during the annual Peter Rabbit Breakfast at the First United Methodist Church Hermiston.

All-you-can-eat pancakes are \$5 per person. In addition, the event features face painting, an Easter craft project and an Easter egg hunt. Be sure to bring your camera to get pictures with Peter Rabbit.

The Peter Rabbit Breakfast and activities are Saturday, April 4 from 7:30-10:30 a.m. at 191 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston.

Also, a pair of special services are planned, including a Maundy Thursday Communion Service. Everyone is welcome to attend Thursday, April 2 at 6 p.m., also at the church on Gladys Avenue.

Maundy Thursday, also referred to as Holy Thursday, falls on the Thursday before Easter. It commemorates the Last Supper of Jesus Christ with the apostles as described in the Bible.

Finally, an Easter sunrise service is planned Sunday, April 5 at 6:30 a.m. at the foot of the cross on the Hermiston Butte, located behind Good Shepherd



EO Media Group file photo
Siblings Ian Baxter and Payton Baxter examine each other's face paintings during the 2014 Peter Rabbit Breakfast at the First United Methodist Church in Hermiston. This year's event is Saturday, April 4.

Medical Center. Scripture and prayer will be given by Rev. Jim Pierce. The service also includes singing and a devotional.

For more information about the Peter Rabbit Breakfast or services, contact 541-567-3002 or preachervet@gmail.com.

Post-election, a widening U.S. Jewish split over Israel

NEW YORK (AP) — Well before this week’s elections, Israel had already become a source of division for American Jews, who bitterly debated the ever-expanding Jewish settlements in Palestinian territories and the acceptable boundaries of dissent from Israeli policies.

The outcome of the Israeli election will only deepen that polarization, experts say. Benjamin Netanyahu’s anti-Arab campaign rhetoric and his rejection of a Palestinian state, they say, will

further splinter American Jews into hard left and right camps, and intensify conflicts over what it means to be loyal to the Jewish state.

“The trend toward fragmentation and weakening the center — those trends are already in place and they’re just going to gallop forward now,” said Theodore Sasson, a Jewish-studies professor at Middlebury College and author of “The New American Zionism.” “It’s going to make Israel an even more divisive issue in the American

Jewish community.”

American Jews generally still retain a strong personal link to Israel. In a 2013 survey by the Pew Research Center, about 70 percent of American Jews said they felt very or somewhat attached to Israel, regardless of any misgivings about the country’s policies. Most scholars don’t expect that emotional connection to weaken for now because of Netanyahu’s victory.

However, his last-minute attempt to turn out voters by warning Arab citizens were

voting “in droves” rankled many American Jews, who are overwhelming liberal and deeply involved in advocating for civil rights. The World Union for Progressive Judaism, which represents the liberal Reform Movement, the largest branch of Judaism in the U.S., said in a statement, “No public figure should lament fellow citizens exercising their right to vote freely, expressing themselves openly, and peacefully in accordance with the values of a democracy.”

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Worship with us!

Adams Community Church <i>Duane Geyer, Pastor</i> 140 N. Main, Adams, OR 566-9457 <u>Worship</u> 9 am	GRACE AND MERCY LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA OPEN HEARTS – OPEN DOOR www.graceandmercy Lutheran.org Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. (Nursery Provided) Fellowship, Refreshments & Sunday School Check Out our Facebook Page or Website for More Information 541-289-4535 Tom Inch, Pastor Grace and Mercy Lutheran Church, ELCA 164 E. Main St. / P.O. Box 1108 Hermiston, Oregon 97838	St. Johns Episcopal Church All People Are Welcome <i>Scripture, Tradition and Reason</i> Family service 9am Sunday Gladys Ave & 7th Hermiston Fr. Dan Lediard, Priest. PH: 567-4672	Redeemer Episcopal Church 241 SE Second St. Pendleton (541)276-3809 www.pendletonepiscopal.org Sunday Morning Worship 9:00 a.m. Wednesday Worship Noon Wednesday Evening Prayer and Pot Luck 6:00 p.m. All Are Welcome
Grace Baptist Church 555 SW 11th, Hermiston 567-9497 Nursery provided for all services Sunday School - 9:30 AM Worship - 10:45 AM 6:00 pm Wed Prayer & Worship - 7:00 PM “Proclaiming God’s word, growing in God’s grace”	First Church of God “Love Is Spoken Here” 712 SW 27th Pendleton 541-276-1894 Early Service: 8:30 am Sunday School: 9:30 am Second Service: 10:30 am Wednesday Service (All Ages) 7 pm www.fcgpendleton.com	FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH -Presbyterian Church (USA)- 201 SW Dorion Ave. Pendleton Service of Worship - 10:00 am Children’s Sunday School - 10:20 am Fellowship - 11:00 am www.pendletonpresbyterian.com Open Hearted...Open Minded	Come meet Jesus at PENDLETON BAPTIST CHURCH 3202 S.W. Nye Avenue, Pendleton, OR 541-276-7590 Sunday Morning Worship 8:30 & 11:00 AM Sunday Bible Classes 9:45 AM Sunday Youth Group 6:00 PM Awana Kids Club Tuesdays 6:30 - 8:00 PM K - 6th Grade (Sept-May)
FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH <i>Pastor Jon Jensen</i> <i>in Mission for Christ LCMC</i> Bible Study.....9:00 AM Sunday Worship.....10:30 AM Red Lion Hotel (Oregon Trail Room) www.faithpendleton.org	Living Word Christian Center Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 PM Sharon Miller, Pastor 401 Northgate • Pendleton 278-8082 www.livingwordcc.com	The Salvation Army Center for Worship & Service Sunday Worship Service 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 - Worship Service Wednesday Bible Study 5:30 Family Fellowship Meal 6:00 Bible Study COME AS YOU ARE 150 SE EMIGRANT (541)276-3369	Peace Lutheran Church ELCA 210 NW 9th, Pendleton Join us Sundays 9:30 am Sunday Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 11:00 am Sunday School & Adult Class <i>~Come and be at Peace~</i> on 1290 KUMA noon each Sunday
Community Presbyterian Church 14 Martin Drive, Umatilla, OR 922-3250 Worship: 10 AM Sunday School at 11:30	Faith Center Church Worshipping God • Loving People 108 S. Main • 276-9569 Sunday School 9:30 am Sunday Worship 10:30 am Sr. Pastor, Ray O’Grady pendletonfaithcenter.org	FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) 215 N Main • Pendleton Ph:541-276-5358 Web: www.fccpendleton.org Join us for 10:40am Sunday Worship with Sunday School at 9:30am. Wednesday Fellowship Meal & Study Groups-Open to All Ages-at 5:15pm. Quality Nursery Care is Offered at No Charge.	New Hope Community Church <i>Ministries for the entire family</i> 1350 S Hwy 395, Hermiston Sunday Worship Services: 9 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. Classes for kids during both! Call 567-8441 Servicios en Español
<i>a place to belong</i> Pendleton First INVITING ENRICHING INVOLVING EMPOWERING SUNDAY SERVICES AM Celebration-10:00am AM Kids Place -10:00am The Connection--6:00pm Groups for all ages: Adults, Children, Youth, & College Thursdays Celebrate Recovery-6:00pm Celebration Place-6:00pm Other Groups Available Weekly For more info visit WWW.PENDLETONFIRST.COM 1911 SE Court Ave 541-276-6417 Assembly of God Church	Seventh-Day Adventist Church Saturday Services Pendleton 1401 SW Goodwin Place 276-0882 Sabbath School 9:20 am Worship Service 10:45 am	First United Methodist Church 352 SE 2nd St., Pendleton, OR Office 276-2616 <i>New Pastor Dr. Jim Pierce</i> Worship Service 9:00 AM Fellowship 10:15 AM Broadcast KUMA 11:00 AM Childcare Available Choir practice Sundays 8:30 AM	PILOT ROCK BAPTIST CHURCH 585 SW Birch, Pilot Rock, OR 97868 (541) 443-2500 prbconline.blogspot.com Sunday School: 9:30 am Worship Service: 10:45 am Wednesday Services: Kids’ Club: 6:00 pm Youth Group: 7:00 pm
BAHA’I FAITH “The Unity of All Mankind” Pendleton Baha’i Center at 1015 SE Court Place Devotions Sundays @ 11:00am; Everyone invited! (541) 276-9360 visit us at www.pendletonbahais.org		To share your worship times call Amanda Jacobs 541-278-2683	