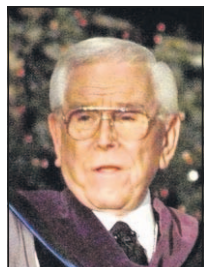


# Schuller turned drive-in movie ministry to megachurch

ARTESIA, Calif. (AP) — The Rev. Robert H. Schuller didn't wait for the faithful to flock to his upstart church in Southern California — he took his message to them.



Schuller

As the car culture flourished in post-World War II California, the brash Iowa-born pastor began preaching from the roof of a concession stand at a drive-in movie theater, displaying a passion — and a marketing genius — that established him as a father of the megachurch movement that would soon sweep the nation.

But Schuller didn't stop there. In 1970, he reached out to the masses beyond his home base in the Los Angeles suburbs with his "Hour of Power" television program, which was broadcast into millions of homes every Sunday over the next two decades. He also constructed the soaring, glass-paneled Crystal Cathedral that became the touchstone of his storied ministry.

The world-famous televangelist and author memorialized in decades of recorded sermons and books died early Thursday at a care facility in Artesia, daughter Carol Schuller Milner said. He was 88.

Schuller was diagnosed in 2013 with terminal esophageal cancer.

A charismatic presence on the televangelist circuit, Schuller faded from view over the past decade after watching his church collapse amid a disastrous leadership transition and sharp declines

in viewership that ultimately bankrupted the ministry.

The landmark Crystal Cathedral was sold to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Orange in 2011 and Schuller lost a legal battle the following year to collect more than \$5 million from his former ministry for claims of copyright infringement and breach of contract.

Schuller, who preached in a flowing purple robe and oversized aviator glasses, suffered a mild heart attack in 1997, but was quickly back on the pulpit, saying "the positive person" is not afraid of life's surprises.

Schuller's evangelical Protestant ministry, part of the Reformed Church in America, was a product of modern technology.

He and his late wife, Arvella, started the ministry in 1955 with \$500 at the drive-in theater. The church's motto — "Come as you are in the family car" — tapped into the burgeoning Southern California auto culture and the suburban boom of post-war America.

"Jesus went to the people. He didn't sit around in his temple and wait for them to come to him," said Bobby Schuller, Schuller's grandson, who took over the "Hour of Power" show. "The drive-in ministry was his way of doing that."

By 1961, the church had a brick-and-mortar home, and Schuller began broadcasting the "Hour of Power" in 1970.

In 1980, he built the glass-

and-steel Crystal Cathedral in the Orange County city of Garden Grove to house his booming TV ministry, which was broadcast live each week from the 2,800-seat sanctuary. At its peak in the 1990s, the program had 20 million viewers in about 180 countries.

Schuller's message — that "Possibility Thinking" and love of God overcome hardships — was a uniquely American blend of Bible and psychology. It was inspired by late author Norman Vincent Peale, who wrote "The Power of Positive Thinking." Schuller also wrote more

than 30 books, including several best-sellers.

Unlike other televangelists, the senior Schuller's message lacked fire-and-brimstone condemnations or conservative political baggage.

"The classical error of historical Christianity is that

we have never started with the value of the person," he wrote in his book "Self-Esteem: The New Reformation." "Rather, we have started from the 'unworthiness of the sinner,' and that starting point has set the stage for the glorification of human shame in Christian theology."

## EASTER EVENTS

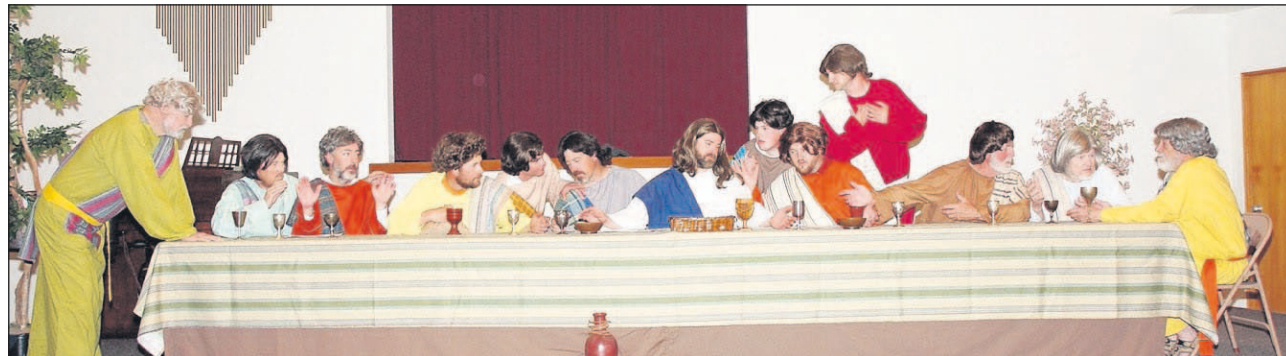


Photo contributed by Christina White

## Passion play in Pendleton

A musical drama presenting the Easter story of Jesus will be staged at the Pendleton Baptist Church. "The Passion" is described as a moving drama from the triumphal entry of the Messiah into Jerusalem and the Last Supper, through the death and glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ. Performances are Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. at the church, 3202 S.W. Nye Ave., Pendleton. Everyone is welcome and admission is free. For more information, contact 541-720-8680 or seanchriswhite@q.com.

**FRIDAY, APRIL 3**  
**SPAGHETTI FEED AND EASTER EGG HUNT**, 6 p.m., Stanfield Elementary School, 1120 N. Main St. Spaghetti feed and bingo from 6-8 p.m., flashlight Easter egg hunt begins at 7:45 p.m. for age groups under 4, 4-8 and 9 and up. Dinner tickets are \$10 at the door. Kids should bring a flashlight and basket. (Cecili Longhorn 541-449-1254).

**"THE PASSION,"** 7 p.m., Pendleton Baptist Church, 3202 S.W. Nye Ave. A moving musical drama from the triumphal entry of the Messiah into Jerusalem and the Last Supper through the death and resurrection of Jesus. (541-720-8680).

**FLASHLIGHT EASTER EGG HUNT**, 8:15 p.m., Butte Park, 1245 N.W. Seventh St., Hermiston. For ages 10 and under. Free, but participants should bring a basket and flashlight.

Children should be accompanied by an adult.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 4**  
**ELKS LODGE EASTER EGG HUNT**, 9 a.m., pictures with the Easter Bunny at Heppner City Park, followed by an Easter egg hunt by age groups at 10 a.m.

**CMEO EASTER EGG HUNT**, 10 a.m., Children's Museum of Eastern Oregon, 400 S. Main St., Pendleton. More than 2,000 eggs will be hidden around the museum. After the hunt, visit the Easter bunny, dye eggs and Easter crafts. Admission is \$1. (541-276-1066).

**EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA**, 10 a.m., New Hope Community Church, 1350 S. Highway 395, Hermiston. Easter egg hunts for all ages, petting zoo, pony rides, food, crafts, face painting, game booths, bounce houses and more. (Blanca Lopez 541-567-8441 or www.newhopeon395.com).

**HELIX EASTER EGG HUNT**, 10 a.m., Helix Community Church, 403 Harrison St. Enjoy a community egg hunt followed by punch and cookies provided by Helix Heart of the Country 4-H Club.

**PILOT ROCK LIONS CLUB EASTER EGG HUNT**, 10 a.m., Pilot Rock Elementary School grounds, Vern McGowan Drive. Four age groups from babes in arms to 10 years old. Live Easter bunny, prizes and more. (Tom Hill 541-443-3291 after 2 p.m.).

**UMATILLA EASTER EGG HUNT**, 10 a.m., West McNary Park, Umatilla. Special eggs provide prize Easter baskets. (Karen 541-922-4825).

**MILTON-FREEWATER EASTER EGG HUNT**, 10 a.m., Yantis Park, Second and DeHaven streets, Milton-Freewater.

**BOARDMAN EASTER EGG HUNT**, 10:30 a.m., Boardman Marina Park, 1 Marine Drive. For children 1 year old through fourth grade. The Easter Bunny will be available for photos from 10-11 a.m. Following the hunt, a barbecue fundraiser and crafts will be available courtesy of Pirate Youth Football.

**"THE PASSION,"** 7 p.m., Pendleton Baptist Church, 3202 S.W. Nye Ave. A moving musical drama from the triumphal entry of the Messiah into Jerusalem and the Last Supper through the death and resurrection of Jesus. (541-720-8680).

**SUNDAY, APRIL 5**  
**ELKS EASTER EGG HUNT**, 1 p.m., Aldrich Park, 1101 N.W. King Ave., Pendleton. For ages 12 and under in five age groups. Parents wanting photos of their child with the Easter bunny should arrive early.

## Common questions about religious objections bills

Associated Press

The Republican governors and legislative leaders in Indiana and Arkansas have been scrambling to modify legislation that was billed as protecting religious freedom but drew criticism from across the country as opening the door to anti-gay discrimination.

To a large extent, the measures were modeled after a federal law enacted in 1993 with broad bipartisan support. But critics of the new measures say they were designed with a different motive — to shield businesses and individuals who do not want to serve gays and lesbians, such as florists or caterers who might be hired for a same-sex wedding.

Here's some of the background about these laws:

**Q: What was the purpose of the 1993 federal law?**

**A:** The federal Religious Freedom Restoration Act arose from a case related to the use of peyote in a Native American ritual. It has since been used by other individuals who claimed the government was infringing on their religious rights, such as a Sikh woman who was fired by the IRS for wearing a 3-inch ceremonial dagger to work. In 1997, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the federal law did not apply to the states, so states began enacting their own laws. Twenty now have them on the books.

**Q: What's changed in recent years?**

**A:** In the past two years, numerous judges across the country have struck down state bans on same-sex marriage, which is now legal in 37 states. The U.S. Supreme Court will hear arguments April 28 in a case over the constitutionality of such bans that could legalize gay marriage nationwide. The push for religious freedom laws has been spurred by those developments and by the Supreme Court's ruling last year that Hobby Lobby and certain other private businesses with religious objections could opt out of providing the free contraceptive coverage required by the Affordable Care Act.

In another key case, the New Mexico Supreme Court ruled in 2013 that a photography studio violated the state's Human Rights Act by refusing to photograph a lesbian couple's commitment ceremony. The court rejected the studio's effort to invoke the state's religious freedom act, holding that the law applied only to lawsuits against a government agency, not to disputes between private parties. Partly in response to that case, conservative lawmakers in several states proposed religious-protection legislation aimed at shielding people from private discrimination lawsuits if they felt that doing business with same-sex couples violated their religious beliefs.

**Q: What do the new state laws say?**

**A:** The Indiana and Arkansas measures do not specifically mention gays and lesbians, though they had strong backing from lawmakers and conservative activists who have opposed same-sex marriage and were unhappy with its spread. The measures say that state laws and regulations cannot infringe on a person's religious practice unless the government can show that it has a compelling interest in doing so.

**Q: How is Indiana revising its law?**

**A:** In response to widespread criticism, Indiana lawmakers have drafted an amendment prohibiting service providers from using the law as a legal defense for refusing to provide goods, services, facilities or accommodations. It also bars discrimination based on race, color, religion, ancestry, age, national origin, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or U.S. military service. The law would still offer protections to churches or other nonprofit religious organizations. The conservative Family Research Council, a strong supporter of the original measure, denounced the proposed changes, saying they would "gut religious freedom in Indiana."

**Q: What's the situation in other states?**

**A:** Religious freedom bills were introduced in more than a dozen states this year. Some measures have died already. A divisive bill in Georgia was stalled Thursday as the end of the 2015 session approached. In North Carolina, the House speaker said deliberations over a bill there would be slowed to give lawmakers time to see if the legislation would harm the state's economy. In Texas, a proposed amendment to the state constitution has been introduced that would prohibit the government or any other entity from imposing burdens on religious freedom, potentially opening the door for businesses to refuse to serve gay people on religious grounds.

# CHURCH DIRECTORY

Worship with us!

<p><b>Adams Community Church</b>                  Duane Geyer, Pastor                  140 N. Main, Adams, OR                  566-9457                  Worship 9 am</p>	<p><b>GRACE AND MERCY LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA</b>                  OPEN HEARTS - OPEN DOOR                  www.graceandmercyelca.org                  Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.                  Sunday School 10:00 a.m. (Nursery Provided)                  Fellowship, Refreshments &amp; 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</p>	<p><b>St. Johns Episcopal Church</b>                  All People Are Welcome                  Scripture, Tradition and Reason                  Family service 9am Sunday                  Gladys Ave &amp; 7th Hermiston                  Fr. Dan Lediard, Priest. PH: 567-6672</p>	<p><b>Redeemer Episcopal Church</b>                  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</p>
<p><b>Grace Baptist Church</b>                  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 &amp; Worship - 7:00 PM                  "Proclaiming God's word, growing in God's grace"</p>	<p><b>FIRST CHURCH OF GOD</b>                  First Service @ 8:30am                  Second Service @ 10:30am                  712 SW 27th Pendleton                  541-276-1894                  www.fcogpendleton.com</p>	<p><b>FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH</b>                  -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</p>	<p><b>Come meet Jesus at PENDLETON BAPTIST CHURCH</b>                  3202 S.W. Nye Avenue, Pendleton, OR                  541-276-7590                  Sunday Morning Worship 8:30 &amp; 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)</p>
<p><b>FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH</b>                  in Mission for Christ LCMC                  Bible Study.....9:00 AM                  Sunday Worship.....10:30 AM                  Red Lion Hotel (Oregon Trail Room)                  www.faithpendleton.org</p>	<p><b>Living Word Christian Center</b>                  Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM                  Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 PM                  Sharon Miller, Pastor                  401 Northgate • Pendleton 278-8082                  www.livingwordcc.com</p>	<p><b>The Salvation Army</b>                  Center for Worship &amp; 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</p>	<p><b>Peace Lutheran Church ELCA</b>                  210 NW 9th, Pendleton                  Join us Sundays                  9:30 am Sunday Worship                  10:30 am Fellowship                  11:00 am Sunday School &amp; Adult Class                  ~Come and be at Peace~                  on 1290 KUMA noon each Sunday</p>
<p><b>Community Presbyterian Church</b>                  14 Martin Drive, Umatilla, OR                  922-3250                  Worship: 10 AM Sunday School at 11:30</p>	<p><b>Faith Center Church</b>                  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</p>	<p><b>FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)</b>                  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 &amp; Study Groups-Open to All Ages-at 5:15pm.                  Quality Nursery Care is Offered at No Charge.</p>	<p><b>New Hope Community Church</b>                  Ministries for the entire family                  1350 S Hwy 395, Hermiston                  Sunday Worship Services: 9 a.m. &amp; 10:45 a.m.                  Classes for kids during both!                  Call 567-8441                  Servicios en Español</p>
<p><b>a place to belong Pendleton First</b>                  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, &amp; 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</p>	<p><b>Seventh-Day Adventist Church</b>                  Saturday Services Pendleton                  1401 SW Goodwin Place 276-0882                  Sabbath School 9:20 am                  Worship Service 10:45 am</p>	<p><b>First United Methodist Church</b>                  352 SE 2nd St., Pendleton, OR                  Office 276-2616                  New Pastor Dr. Jim Pierce                  Worship Service 9:00 AM                  Fellowship 10:15 AM                  Broadcast KUMA 11:00 AM                  Childcare available                  Choir practice                  Sundays 8:30 AM</p>	<p><b>PILOT ROCK BAPTIST CHURCH</b>                  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</p>
<p><b>BAHA'I FAITH</b>                  "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</p>	<p><b>Pendleton FREE METHODIST CHURCH</b>                  Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.                  Mid-Week Children &amp; Youth • Weekly Adult Life Groups                  1711 SW 44th St. • 541-276-6015 • www.pendfmc.org</p>		