



Yvette Suazo and her four-year-old son, Kingson, pose for a photo Thursday, Sept. 3, 2015 in New York. The pair will be among a group of immigrants who will receive a special blessing from Pope Francis during the pontiff's New York visit on Sept. 25.

## Immigrants, refugees to receive papal blessing

NEW YORK (AP) — Pope Francis will offer a special blessing to a group of immigrants and refugees in New York, including those who are undocumented, highlighting two contentious issues in American politics.

The Sept. 25 encounter with about 150 mostly Spanish-speaking New Yorkers "is about the values and the message that he has articulated as pope," the head of New York's Catholic Charities, Monsignor Kevin Sullivan, told a news conference Thursday at a church in Harlem.

Francis has made helping immigrants a top priority of his pontificate, decrying what he called the "globalization of indifference" toward migrants and refugees. The pope will address a joint meeting of Congress on Sept. 24, where he is expected to press lawmakers for generous and welcoming policies toward immigrants. His efforts come as questions intensify about inaction over Syria's civil war and Europe's migrant crisis.

By contrast, Donald Trump, currently the leading Republican presidential candidate, says he would deport millions of undocumented immigrants.

Among those the pope will bless at Our Lady Queen of Angels School in East Harlem are youngsters from violence-torn Central American countries who crossed the border alone, refugees who fled persecution and are seeking asylum, struggling American-born minorities and disabled immigrants. Francis

will also meet a group of Catholic schoolchildren.

Manhattan resident Yvette Suazo, her 14-year-old daughter, Chelsea, and 4-year-old son Kingson hitchhiked from Honduras to the U.S. about two years ago. Life at home had become precarious, with her daughter in danger of being raped each time she left the house, the mother said after the news conference.

Asked whether she had documents allowing her to live in New York legally, Suazo said, in Spanish, "Nada" — nothing. As a result, she cannot look for a job and depends on her sister while her status is clarified.

"But I hope the opportunity to be here legally will open for us," she said in Spanish.

The insecurity did not deter those who were introduced at the church from giving their names and describing their plight.

"I left because of the crime and so many people on drugs," said Cristhian Contreras, who was 14 when he and a few friends fled from Honduras by foot across the U.S. border.

Now 16, he lives in the Bronx, attends high school and is a member of a soccer team with fellow immigrants. His mother works as a housekeeper, but fears deportation. He never knew his father.

Cristhian is counting on the pope's blessing, he said as smile filled his face. He added, this time in Spanish, "I'm one of the few people invited to be with the pope. And if I have the chance, I'll ask him to pray for us and our countries."

### BRIEFLY

#### Worship event remembers 9/11

HERMISTON — A prayer and worship service is planned in conjunction with the anniversary of Sept. 11.

Remembering 9/11, Remembering America is Friday, Sept. 11 at 6 p.m. at McKenzie Park, 320 S. First St. The time of prayer will focus on our states, counties, towns, neighbors, families, churches and schools.

The public is encouraged to attend and focus on God's power.

For more information, contact Erin Lovett at 541-376-5559 or eilovett@live.com.

#### Missionary shares message of hope

STANFIELD — Born 2½ month premature, Steve Kramer is a walking miracle.

Doctors told his parents that he would never walk or live a productive life. Diagnosed with cerebral palsy, Kramer has seen God do the impossible.

Kramer and his wife, Julie, have been missionaries for nearly 10 years in the Netherlands, where they

planted four churches. They are now starting a new university ministry.

Kramer will share about Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship, a university ministry of the Assemblies of God, at the University of Oregon, Steve's alma mater. The public is invited to learn more about the program and hear a message of hope Sunday at the 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services at Crossroads Community Church, 350 N.W. Sherman St., Stanfield.

For more information, contact 541-449-1251 or stanfieldag@eoni.com.

#### New Hope hosts Hour of Hymns

HERMISTON — A gathering of community worship will include the singing of hymns and Gaither songs accompanied by Louise Sundvall.

The Hour of Hymns & Gaither Songs is Sunday, Sept. 13 at 6 p.m. at New Hope Community Church, 1350 S. Highway 395, Hermiston.

Everyone is welcome. For more information, call Doug Fehrenbacher at 541-561-8327.

### HERMISTON

# Youth programs begin at Assembly of God Church

BY TAMMY MALGESINI  
East Oregonian

With school back in session the Hermiston Assembly of God Church is gearing up for its youth programs.

Open to all youths, the program kicks off Wednesday with Round-Up Night for the Hermiston Girls Club and Royal Rangers. Boys and girls ages 3 through fifth grade are encouraged to wear their best cowboy duds. The event features prizes, games and food.

In addition, Tribe starts that evening with a barbecue. Open to middle and high school youths, the program focuses on mentoring youths.

"We try to focus on practical things," said Roger Brown, Tribe coordinator. "They are all Bible-based principles. We believe if you are following Christ, it should affect all areas of your life."

Brown, who has worked with the program for the past 18 months, grew up in Hermiston and participated in a similar program at the Hermiston church. He has volunteered with similar programs across the United States and resumed helping in the same church he grew up in when he returned to the area a handful of years ago.

The older youths, Brown said, will work on



Photo contributed by Roy Bicknell Jr.

Youths participate in Tribe at the Hermiston Assembly of God Church. A kickoff event for youth programs, from ages 3 through high school, is Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

**"The focus is Bible-based character development. There are Bible stories woven in with everything we do."**

— Sheri Haight, Hermiston Girls Club coordinator

team-building throughout the month of September, as well as developing a community project.

Hermiston Girls Club coordinator Sheri Haight and Royal Rangers coordinator Dave Cooper said programs are divided by age groups. With a strong faith-based component, youths can earn merits and badges similar to Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

"The focus is Bible-based character development," Haight said. "There

are Bible stories woven in with everything we do."

"Overall, we teach good morals, good character and skills," Cooper added.

Among the practical skills are babysitting and janitorial work. Cooper said the youths will assist in upkeep of the church building.

In addition, there are fun activities, including sleepovers and camping, as well as models and design, where the boys make cars to race in the Pinewood

Derby. Rev. Terry Haight said the program attracts upwards of 150 youths to the weekly program. More than half, he said, aren't connected to a particular church.

The youth programs are Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. at the Hermiston Assembly of God Church, 730 E. Hurlburt Ave. For those who need transportation, rides can be arranged.

For more information or to schedule a ride in one of the church vans, call 541-567-5831.

Contact Community Editor Tammy Malgesini at [tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com](mailto:tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com) or 541-564-4539

# CHURCH DIRECTORY

*Worship with us!*

**Look for us in the Round-Up magazine - page 69!**

**Redeemer Episcopal Church  
Blue Mtn. Cowboy Church  
Pendleton Bahai  
Cornerstone/Pendleton Ministerial Fellowship**

|  |   |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|---|--|
| <p><b>PILOT ROCK BAPTIST CHURCH</b><br/>585 SW Birch, Pilot Rock, OR 97868<br/>(541) 443-2500<br/><a href="http://prbconline.blogspot.com">prbconline.blogspot.com</a><br/>Sunday School: 9:30 am<br/>Worship Service: 10:45 am<br/>Wednesday Services:<br/>Kids' Club: 6:00 pm<br/>Youth Group: 7:00 pm</p>   | <p><b>GRACE AND MERCY LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA</b><br/>OPEN HEARTS - OPEN DOOR<br/><a href="http://www.graceandmercyelca.org">www.graceandmercyelca.org</a><br/>Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.<br/>Sunday School 10:00 a.m. (Nursery Provided)<br/>Fellowship, Refreshments &amp; Sunday School<br/>Check Out our Facebook Page or Website for More Information<br/><b>541-289-4535</b><br/>Tom Inch, Pastor<br/>Grace and Mercy Lutheran Church, ELCA<br/>164 E. Main St. / P.O. Box 1108<br/>Hermiston, Oregon 97838</p> | <p><b>St. Johns Episcopal Church</b><br/>All People Are Welcome<br/><i>Scripture, Tradition and Reason</i><br/><b>Family service 9am Sunday</b><br/>Gladys Ave &amp; 7th Hermiston<br/>Fr. Dan Lediard, Priest. PH: 567-4672</p>  | <p><b>Redeemer Episcopal Church</b><br/>241 SE Second St. Pendleton<br/>(541)276-3809<br/><a href="http://www.pendletonepiscopal.org">www.pendletonepiscopal.org</a><br/>Sunday Morning Worship 9:00 a.m.<br/>Wednesday Worship Noon<br/>Wednesday Evening Prayer and Pot Luck 6:00 p.m.<br/><b>All Are Welcome</b></p> |  |
| <p><b>Grace Baptist Church</b><br/>555 SW 11th, Hermiston<br/>567-9497<br/><b>Nursery provided for all services</b><br/>Sunday School - 9:30 AM<br/>Worship - 10:45 AM<br/>6:00 pm<br/>Wed Prayer &amp; Worship - 7:00 PM<br/>"Proclaiming God's word, growing in God's grace"</p>   | <p>PENDLETON FIRST CHURCH OF GOD<br/>FIRST SERVICE 8:30 AM<br/>SECOND SERVICE 10:30 AM<br/>712 SW 27th ST.<br/>541-276-1894<br/><a href="http://www.fcogpendleton.com">www.fcogpendleton.com</a></p>  | <p><b>FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH</b><br/>-Presbyterian Church (USA)-<br/>201 SW Dorion Ave.<br/>Pendleton<br/>Service of Worship - 10:00 am<br/>Children's Sunday School - 10:20 am<br/>Fellowship - 11:00 am<br/><a href="http://www.pendletonpresbyterian.com">www.pendletonpresbyterian.com</a><br/><b>Open Hearted...Open Minded</b></p> | <p><b>Come meet Jesus at PENDLETON BAPTIST CHURCH</b><br/>3202 S.W. Nye Avenue, Pendleton, OR<br/>541-276-7590<br/>Sunday Morning Worship 8:30 &amp; 11:00 AM<br/>Sunday Bible Classes 9:45 AM<br/>Sunday Youth Group 6:00 PM<br/>Awana Kids Club<br/>Tuesdays 6:30 - 8:00 PM<br/>K - 6th Grade (Sept-May)</p>          |  |
| <p><b>FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH</b><br/><i>in Mission for Christ LCMC</i><br/>Bible Study.....9:00 AM<br/>Sunday Worship.....10:30 AM<br/><b>Red Lion Hotel (Oregon Trail Room)</b><br/><a href="http://www.faithpendleton.org">www.faithpendleton.org</a></p>   | <p><b>Living Word Christian Center</b><br/>Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM<br/>Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 PM<br/>Sharon Miller, Pastor<br/>401 Northgate • Pendleton 278-8082<br/><a href="http://www.livingwordcc.com">www.livingwordcc.com</a></p>  | <p><b>The Salvation Army</b><br/><i>Center for Worship &amp; Service</i><br/>Sunday Worship Service 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 - <b>Worship Service</b><br/>Wednesday Bible Study<br/>5:30 Family Fellowship Meal 6:00 Bible Study<br/><b>COME AS YOU ARE</b><br/><b>150 SE EMIGRANT (541)276-3369</b></p>                                  | <p><b>Peace Lutheran Church ELCA</b><br/>210 NW 9th, Pendleton<br/>Join us Sundays<br/><b>9:30 am Sunday Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 11:00 am Sunday School &amp; Adult Class</b><br/>~Come and be at Peace~<br/>on 1290 KUMA noon each Sunday</p>  |  |
| <p><b>Community Presbyterian Church</b><br/>14 Martin Drive, Umatilla, OR 922-3250<br/><b>Worship: 10 AM Sunday School at 11:30</b></p>  | <p><b>Faith Center Church</b><br/>Worshipping God • Loving People<br/>108 S. Main • 276-9569<br/><b>Summer Sunday Worship 10:00 am Wed. 7:00 pm</b><br/>Praise, Prophecy &amp; Prayer<br/>Sr. Pastor, Ray O'Grady<br/><a href="http://pendletonfaithcenter.org">pendletonfaithcenter.org</a></p>  | <p><b>FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)</b><br/>215 N Main • Pendleton<br/>Summer Worship begins at 9:40am<br/>Office 276-5358<br/>M-F 8:30-12:30<br/><a href="http://WWW.FCCPENDLETON.ORG">WWW.FCCPENDLETON.ORG</a></p>   | <p><b>New Hope Community Church</b><br/><i>Ministries for the entire family</i><br/>1350 S Hwy 395, Hermiston<br/>Sunday Worship Services: 9 a.m. &amp; 10:45 a.m.<br/>Classes for kids during both!<br/>Call 567-8441<br/>Servicios en Español</p>   |  |
| <p><i>a place to belong</i><br/><b>Pendleton First</b><br/>INVITING ENRICHING INVOLVING EMPOWERING<br/><b>SUNDAY SERVICES</b><br/>AM Celebration-10:00am<br/>AM Kids Place -10:00am<br/>The Connection--6:00pm<br/>Groups for all ages:<br/>Adults, Children, Youth, &amp; College<br/><b>Thursdays</b><br/>Celebrate Recovery-6:00pm<br/>Celebration Place-6:00pm<br/>Other Groups Available Weekly<br/><b>For more info visit WWW.PENDLETONFIRST.COM</b><br/>1911 SE Court Ave<br/>541-276-6417<br/>Assembly of God Church</p> | <p><b>Seventh-Day Adventist Church</b><br/><b>Saturday Services Pendleton</b><br/>1401 SW Goodwin Place 276-0882<br/><b>Sabbath School 9:20 am</b><br/><b>Worship Service 10:45 am</b></p>  | <p><b>THE COUNTRY CHURCH</b><br/>Pastor James Becker<br/>32742 Diagonal RD<br/>Hermiston OR 97838<br/>Sunday School 10 am<br/>Worship 7 am<br/>Evening Service 7 pm<br/>Bible Study Wednesdays 7 pm<br/>Firestarter Youth Ministry (Ages 12-17)<br/>Monday @ 6 pm</p>   | <p><b>BAHA'I FAITH</b><br/>"The Unity of All Mankind"<br/>Pendleton Baha'i Center at 1015 SE Court Place<br/>Devotions Sundays @ 11:00am; Everyone invited!<br/>(541) 276-9360 visit us at <a href="http://www.pendletonbahais.org">www.pendletonbahais.org</a></p>   |  |
| <p><b>Pendleton FREE METHODIST CHURCH</b><br/>Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.<br/>Mid-Week Children &amp; Youth • Weekly Adult Life Groups<br/>1711 SW 44th St. • 541-276-6015 • <a href="http://www.pendfmc.org">www.pendfmc.org</a></p>  |   |   |   |  |