

LIMEY BOARDMAN PASTOR

The parable of the tumbleweed

Saturday Morning in Boardman. Rain spattering from the skies. First day in my new church. First impressions count. I didn't want anyone to call me a "Herr Pastor." I want to be one of the guys, grizzled by the Eastern Oregon wind and able to coast a wheelbarrow, uphill.

Good Shepherd Church on Locust Road is on an incline with five green acres on its wide side, with enough space there to do a lot of Holy Spirit things, if the Holy Spirit is in the mood. If I dare say so, it is a sweet little church, handcrafted by men and women who loved it and still do. The former Pastor S., now retired, takes pride in being the driver of many a nail into its building. Inside its space, it makes me feel as if I am inside a ship, riding across prairie waves towards the sky. This is a good feeling to have inside a holy place, better than a Gothic cathedral and much easier to clean.

Many years before at my old church, they spoke very darkly of a former "Herr Pastor" of old times, who was averse to physical labor and dropped his wife beneath the floorboards to flush out plumbing problems and fix them. I do not want to be seen as a "Herr Pastor." A modern pastor must be seen to have a go! So I dressed up in jeans, mud-enabled shoes and warm anorak to protect from the rain and wind and joined the men and women of Good Shepherd (aka The Flock) in a day of external cleansing. The winter had congealed pools of old leaves in the garden beds and things needed raking and sweeping to be in ship-shape order. Dirt, it is said, is just earth in the wrong place and there was quite a bit of it outside.

Inside the church, the carpets were shampooed and polished. Scouring feet and brooms swept each nook and cranny. I enjoy the smell of shampoo and polish.

My little story of the tumbleweed in the *East Oregonian* had aroused the passions of a few to embark on a major tumbleweed exercise and we scooped up the lowly weed by the bushel load and piled it up in our top parking lot. We called the appropriate authorities to seek permission to burn it. Tumbleweed grew incessantly. Sin, remarked the great theologian Martin Luther, grew like a man's beard and you had to keep hacking at it to keep it down. Tumbleweed, I think, is like that too. The more tumbleweed was cleared, the more seemed to roll in. If there had been tumbleweed I expect that Jesus would have come up with a good parable or two about it. He had the mustard seed and the fig tree. The mustard bush is straggly and grows wildly across the land, spreading (as was his point) like the kingdom of heaven. Tumbleweed, I expect, would have slowed things down a bit with its wicked prickles.

With permission we began to burn the wet, prickly tumbleweed. Kurt, one of the church's founders, is an expert at this. His wife calls him a "firebug." The plumes of tangled green barbed-wire slowly caught, giving off a strange, thick, green and oily smoke that poured like a river into the sky and making Marcus, one of our youth leaders, cough as it rolled into his face. Its dark green syrupy smoke looked like a special effect from a Harry Potter film.

We pulled out a path some feet away from our fence line, but looking into the fields, there was still what appeared to be vast swathes of tumbleweed, some of which were coiled into crowns of thorns. Far away, as if in some surreal living room, an abandoned sofa sat by itself. I wanted to move it somewhere, but I wasn't sure if it was on our land. It could have belonged to some thoughtful Boardman philosopher who would peer at the stars at night and think great thoughts by the light of burning piles of tumbleweed.

Colin Brown is pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Boardman.



COLIN R. BROWN
FAITH

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BRIEFLY

Baptists screen 'War Room'

PENDLETON — Grace Baptist Church will host a Good Friday screening of "War Room" tonight at 6:30 p.m. at the church, 2809 S.W. Goodwin Ave.

This inspirational movie highlights the concept that prayer is a powerful weapon that can be used for good in everyone's life. Admission is free.

For more information, call 541-276-3031.

Faith Center offers Easter treats

PENDLETON — Faith Center Church in Pendleton will give away Easter baskets full of goodies Saturday at 1 p.m. at the church, 108 S. Main St.

Forty Easter baskets containing treats and a cartoon Easter DVD will encourage children with the hope of the resurrection of Jesus.

The baskets must be reserved by calling Pastor Ray and Julie O'Grady at 541-276-9569.

Drama depicts Last Supper

HERMISTON — A re-enactment of Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples will be staged Friday at 7 p.m. and Saturday at 10:30 a.m. at Living Faith Church, 1611 Diagonal Blvd., Hermiston. The production is presented by Anchor Point Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The audience will experience the sights, sounds and emotions of Jesus and his disciples as their last meal

together turns from friendship and respect to betrayal.

A nursery for children ages 0-4 will be provided, and refreshments will be served following the performance. Admission is free.

For more information, call 541-289-3022.

Churches plan joint service

PILOT ROCK — Faith Lutheran Church of Pendleton and the Pilot Rock Presbyterian Church will hold a special joint worship service Easter morning at 10 a.m. at Community Church, 222 S.W. Third St., Pilot Rock.

The service and special Easter celebration will be led by St. Anthony Hospital chaplain Rod Harwood. A time of fellowship and coffee hour will follow the service, hosted by the Pilot Rock congregation. Everyone is welcome to attend, and transportation can be arranged by calling Bob Wright at 541-276-6549.

Faith Lutheran Church meets regularly at the Pendleton Red Lion Oregon Trail Room Sundays at 9 a.m. for Bible study, followed by a worship service at 10:30 a.m. All are welcome.

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 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton. Call 541-564-4539 or 541-966-0818 with questions.

'We are brothers'

Pope washes the feet of Muslim refugees

Associated Press

CASTELNUOVO DI PORTO, Italy — Pope Francis washed and kissed the feet of Muslim, Christian and Hindu refugees Thursday and declared them all children of the same God, as he performed a gesture of welcome and brotherhood at a time of increased anti-Muslim sentiment following the Brussels attacks.

Francis denounced the carnage as a "gesture of war" carried out by blood-thirsty people beholden to the weapons industry during an Easter Week Mass with asylum-seekers at a shelter in Castelnuovo di Porto, outside Rome.

The Holy Thursday rite re-enacts the foot-washing ritual Jesus performed on his apostles before being crucified, and is meant as a gesture of service. Francis contrasted that gesture with the "gesture of destruction" carried out by the Brussels attackers, saying they wanted to destroy the brotherhood of humanity represented by the migrants.

"We have different cultures and religions, but we are brothers and we want to live in peace," Francis said in his homily, delivered off-the-cuff in the windy courtyard of the center.

Several of the migrants then wept as Francis knelt before them, poured holy water from a brass pitcher over their feet, wiped them clean and kissed them.

Francis was greeted with a banner reading "Welcome" in a variety of languages as



Pope Francis kisses the foot of a man during the foot-washing ritual at the Castelnuovo di Porto refugees center, some 18.6 miles from Rome on Thursday.

he walked down a makeshift aisle to celebrate the Mass. But only a fraction of the 892 asylum-seekers living at the shelter attended, and many of the seats were left empty. Those who came out, though, received a personal greeting: At the end of the Mass, Francis greeted each refugee, one by one, posing for selfies and accepting notes as he moved down the rows.

Vatican rules had long called for only men to participate in the foot-washing ritual, and past popes and many priests traditionally performed it on 12 Catholic men, recalling Jesus' 12 apostles and further cementing the doctrine of an all-male priesthood.

Francis shocked many Catholics within weeks of his 2013 election by performing the ritual on women and Muslims at a juvenile detention center. After years of violating the rules outright, Francis in January changed the regulations to explicitly allow women and girls to participate.

The Vatican said Thursday that four women and eight men took part. The women included an Italian Catholic who works at the center and three Eritrean Coptic Christian migrants. The men included four Catholics from Nigeria, three Muslims from Mali, Syria and Pakistan and a Hindu man from India.

The Vatican's new

norms said anyone from the "people of God" could be chosen to participate in the ceremony. While the phrase "people of God" refers to baptized Christians, the decree also said that pastors should instruct "both the chosen faithful and others so that they may participate in the rite consciously, actively and fruitfully," suggesting that the rite could be open to non-Catholics as well.

The Vatican spokesman, the Rev. Federico Lombardi, said the Vatican norms are meant for traditional liturgies in Catholic communities, not necessarily a unique papal Mass where the overall message is one of universal brotherhood and the love of God for all his children.

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| <p>Peace Lutheran Church 210 NW 9th, Pendleton Join us Sundays 9:30 am Sunday Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 11:00 am Sunday School & Adult Class ~Come and be at Peace~ on 1290 KUMA noon each Sunday</p> | <p>Faith Center Church Worshiping God Loving People 108 S. Main • 276-9569 Sunday Worship 10:30 am Sr. Pastor, Ray O'Grady pendletonfaithcenter.org</p> | <p>NEW HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH 1350 S. Highway 395, Hermiston Sunday Worship Services English- Pastor Dave Andrus 9:00 & 10:45 am Spanish- Pastor Genaro Loreda 9:00 & 10:15 am Classes for kids during all services For more information call 541-567-8441</p> | <p>Seventh-Day Adventist Church Saturday Services Pendleton 1401 SW Goodwin Place 276-0882 Sabbath School 9:20 am Worship Service 10:45 am</p> |
| <p>Community Presbyterian Church 14 Martin Drive, Umatilla, OR 922-3250 Worship: 10 AM Sunday School at 11:30</p> | <p>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 Kids' Club: 6:00 pm Wednesday Services: Youth Group: 7:00 pm</p> | <p>GRACE AND MERCY LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA OPEN HEARTS - OPEN DOOR www.graceandmercy.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</p> | <p>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"</p> |
| <p>St. Johns Episcopal Church All People Are Welcome Scripture, Tradition and Reason Family service 9am Sunday Gladys Ave & 7th Hermiston Fr. Dan Lediard, Priest, PH: 567-6672</p> | <p>FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH 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>First United Methodist Church 352 SE 2nd Street Pendleton, OR 541-276-2616 Sunday Worship 9am Open Hearts, Open Hands, Open Doors Facebook: www.facebook.com/FUMCPendleton Services are broadcast every Sunday on KUMA-1290 AM @ 11am Rev. Dr. Jim Pierce, pastor</p> | <p>Come meet Jesus at PENDLETON BAPTIST CHURCH 3202 SW Nye Ave Pendleton, OR 541-276-7590 Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 AM Sunday Bible Classes 9:45 AM Sunday Youth Group 6:00 PM Mon. Community Women's Study 9:30 AM & 6 PM Awana Kids Club (K-6th grade) Wed Men's Study 6 PM MOPS meeting the 1st Thur of the Month 6 PM</p> |
| <p>a place to Belong 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</p> | <p>PENDLETON FIRST CHURCH OF GOD FIRST SERVICE 8:30 AM SECOND SERVICE 10:30 AM 712 SW 27th ST. 541-276-1894 www.fcogpendleton.com</p> | <p>FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) 215 N Main • Pendleton Sunday Worship: 10:40a Bible Class: 9:30a Office 276-5358 M-F 8:30-12:30 WWW.FCCPENDLETON.ORG</p> | <p>Living Word Christian Center Sunday Worship 10:00am Wednesday Bible Study 7:00pm Youth Classes - Nursery-6th grade Sun & Wed YOUTH GROUPS: Jr Hi, Wed 7pm Sr Hi, Sun after the service Sharon Miller, Pastor 401 Northgate, Pendleton 541-278-8082 www.livingwordcc.com</p> |
| <p>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</p> | <p>Redeemer Episcopal Church 241 SE Second St. Pendleton (541)276-3809 www.pendletonepiscopal.org Sunday Morning Worship 9:00 a.m. Wednesday Worship Noon All Are Welcome</p> | <p>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</p> | |

To share your worship times
call Amanda Jacobs
541-278-2683