

HERMISTON

Day of Prayer a public profession of faith

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

Polls on church attendance show America is becoming increasingly secular, but Hermiston's National Day of Prayer event showed how deeply faith is still woven into the fabric of the nation.

Many of the "seven pillars of society" prayed for at the event — pillars such as government and education — showed how the First Amendment simultaneously creates a separation of church and state while also protecting the private religious expressions of citizens.

State Representative Greg Smith, representing the pillar of government at the event, told attendees that he turns to prayer when he feels the weight of the decisions he is making and the millions of lives he is affecting.

"I genuinely believe in prayer as a time to talk to my Heavenly Father and ask him for guidance," Smith said.

Kathryn Youngman, a Spanish teacher at Pendleton



Staff photo by Jade McDowell

Pendleton High School teacher Kathryn Youngman offers a prayer for education during Hermiston's National Day of Prayer event Thursday.

High School, is not allowed to teach her personal religious views in the classroom. But on Thursday night as she represented the pillar of

education she prayed that the children in the community would learn and grow and reach the potential that God gave them.

"We must also pray to God to inspire educators to be the best role models," she told the group.

Aaron Palmquist serves as the city manager of Irrigon but was at the National Day of Prayer event in a different capacity, representing the military in his role as a Sergeant Major in the Army. He spoke of the strength that members of the military and their family receive through prayer.

Those who were attending the event shared those views, and said those who work too hard to push religion out of public view forget that the Founding Fathers sought to

protect everyone's right to free speech.

Sue Stibor said the National Day of Prayer illustrated that principal is still at work today.

"We're here to pray and no one's taking names, no one's taking driver's licenses — that's the greatest freedom you can have," she said.

Elaine Couch said she "very much" believed that God heard peoples' prayers on behalf of the country and answered them.

"We need to pray that Americans can be united," she said.

Josue Arenas said that the Day of Prayer, and personal prayers, need to be about more than just praying for a specific candidate. They need to be for America to find its moral compass.



Staff photo by Jade McDowell

Jacob Looper, left, leads a praise team in a worship song Thursday.

BRIEFLY

Church Women United meet today

MILTON-FREEWATER — In celebration of May Fellowship Day, the Milton-Freewater Church Women United are having a salad luncheon.

Everyone is invited to attend Friday at noon at the First Christian Church, 618 S. Main St., Milton-Freewater. The guest speakers are a former missionary couple that served as translators in Indonesia for more than 30 years.

For more information, contact Helen Richartz at helen_jack@columbiainet.com, 541-558-3969 or Judy at 509-520-8497.

Baptist church plans movie night

BOARDMAN — A good laugh and a message of hope is featured during the upcoming Free Movie Night at the Church.

"Mom's Night Out" will be screened Saturday, May 14 at 6 p.m. at the First Baptist Church, at 200 Willow Fork Drive, Boardman. There is no admission charge. Refreshments and popcorn will be available for purchase.

The 2014 release is rated PG. Among the cast are country/gospel musician Trace Adkins, Sean Astin, Sarah Drew and Patricia Heaton.

For more information, call 541-481-9437.

Church offers disaster training

LA GRANDE — The United Methodist Volunteer in Mission is hosting a training on how to respond to local or personal disasters.

Becky Platt will make the presentation, which includes information about how to develop a disaster response ministry, how to prepare for a disaster and how to respond in helping the community. The disaster of poverty and illness, as well as from flood or fires, will be discussed.

Preparing our Churches and Communities for Disaster: Connecting Neighbors is Saturday, May 21 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the United Methodist Church, 612 Fourth St., La Grande. Materials will be available for people to take back to their communities for further implementation.

The event is free and lunch will be provided. Donations will be accepted for those who would like to support the ministry.

People are asked to pre-register by contacting 541-963-2498 or LGUMC@eoni.com. For more information, contact Platt at beckyplatt1@peoplepc.com or 503-680-5015.

Send information about local faith-related news and events to community@eastoregonian.com.

A LIMEY PASTOR IN BOARDMAN

Cats from heaven

My wife and I had a big scare this week. Gracie, our oldest cat, went missing. This was a cat that never went missing. We knocked at all the neighbors' houses, we papered fliers on mailboxes. As the next day came, uncertainty turned to fear, terrible fear that gnawed like a beaver on a log. My wife's demeanor began to descend dramatically, with fears of coyotes or, worse, terrible people. When she was younger someone had shot and killed her darling Persian cat. All of these buried memories resurfaced like an ugly war memory and she began to weep pitifully.

I went into woods in the back of our house, striding down to a brambly area that was safe for cats. But — no Gracie. I realized that this may be the way God hunts us down to rescue us amidst thickets of darkness and sin, desperately and hopefully. I was comforted briefly by the absence of evidence — then discomfited by Gracie hairs on a fence.

At the end of the day, after much anguish. I found her patiently waiting outside the front door, with no explanation. I embraced her as if she might fly away, with her feathery limbs. I took her quickly inside and showed my wife, who melted in tears and held her tight, burying her face in her living fluff. A God fire moment no less.

At Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, as part of a talent contest, I made up a story about a cat that belonged to Jesus ("Behold, the Cat of the Lord" it was called). Of course, anyone knows that this story is totally made up. However, in my heart of hearts I truly believe that the fact such a cat had never been mentioned is just an oversight, an omission by an editor that knew that such an entry of a cat would have somewhat changed the whole tenor of the Gospel. Yet, it is impossible to think of a Lord who loved small things not having a cat — quite unrealistic in fact.

Much as cat pictures have now dominated Facebook, I think that biblical texts involving Jesus' cat would soon confuse the story and distract from the point. Artists through history would paint pictures of Jesus and the fishermen, with an abundance of cats. Mary would have pictures entitled Madonna and Cat — and Child. You can see that the balance would be maladjusted.

But cats and Christianity are for me tied together, in the story of three of my cats. Without them, my story of becoming a limey pastor in Boardman would be entirely different. I doubt that I would be here. When I lived in Aurora, I moved next door to a Lutheran church. I was, however, at that time a Catholic and had been a Catechumen (a beginner) in that faith



COLIN BROWN
Comment

before I was baptized in my early 30s. In those days, my wife and I had adopted a stray cat called KitKit, who was a wanderer of sorts.

One day KitKit disappeared — for several days, to our great distress. I spent the nights outside our house, meowing human-style for her return.

Towards the end of the third evening. I heard a distant, sad meowing. It seemed to be

coming from the basement of the Lutheran church next door. I had no access to the church, so I called the listed caretaker and out into the night came Barb, who had the keys of the church. We went into the building, and from the deep bowels of the church, we heard the pitiful cries. On descending into the depths of the church we found a closed basement door and creaked it open. A sad mournful face gazed out. It was beloved KitKit, who had been looking for God in all the wrong places. The humming of the boiler purred in tune with her squeaks of relief and pleasure. Her love meows rang out like bells.

KitKit, dear little thing, passed away some while ago. But I began going to the Lutheran church as my way of saying thank you for the good Lutherans who had helped save my cat. Then another cat entered the picture. Grace, a grey kitty, a Maine Coon cat with finely feathered hair like a four-legged angel, who lived behind the same Lutheran church, liked to attend service. She would walk down the aisle when the service began and sit in front of the altar. There was no question in my mind that she possessed religious sensibilities. Her name, Grace, reflected her sublime theology.

Grace lived in the house behind me, with a young family. I told them that if they ever needed to find a home for Gracie (as we call her now) that we would be up for the task. Several years later, when we had moved to Woodburn, we got a call — the young family had moved to live next to dangerous Highway 99 E. They wanted Grace to be safe. So Gracie came to my house, where she learned to listen to me practice sermons — although she makes no comment.

Now I have another cat, called Darko, named after the film character, time-traveling Donnie Darko. Black as midnight, he likes to sleep under sheets with his head on a pillow, and has a fondness for pouncing on Gracie from time to time, causing Gracie to slap him for his impertinence. He had a rough beginning in life.

I will tell you his special story if you come to Good Shepherd in the Boardman church on Locust Road, where I am its pastor, on Sunday at 11 a.m. and ask me.

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

Worship Community



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(Disciples of Christ)



215 N Main • Pendleton
Sunday Worship: 10:40am
Bible Class: 9:30am
Office: 278-5358
M-F, 8:30am - 12:30pm
WWW.FCCPENDLETON.ORG

Peace Lutheran Church

210 NW 9th, Pendleton, ELCA
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

Faith Center Church

Worshiping God
Loving People
108 S. Main • 276-9569
Sunday Worship
10:30 am
Sr. Pastor,
Ray O'Grady
pendletonfaithcenter.org

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

Seventh-Day Adventist Church

Saturday Services
Pendleton
1401 SW Goodwin Place
276-0882
Sabbath School 9:20 am
Worship Service 10:45 am

Community Presbyterian Church

14 Martin Drive, Umatilla, OR
922-3250
Worship: 10 AM
Sunday School at 11:30

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

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

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"

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

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

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

Redeemer Episcopal Church

241 SE Second St. Pendleton
(541)276-3809
www.pendletonepiscopal.org
Sunday Holy Communion 9:00 a.m.
Wednesday Holy Communion Noon
Weekly Adults Spiritual Life Group
All Are Welcome

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

-Presbyterian Church (USA)-
201 SW Dorlan Ave. Pendleton
Service of Worship - 10:00 am
Children's Sunday School - 10:20 am
Fellowship - 11:00 am
www.pendletonpresbyterian.org
Open Hearted... Open Minded

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

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

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

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

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

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
Terri Briggs
541-278-2678