

# GOP, Dems clash over religious freedom bill's impact on gays

By SARAH GRACE TAYLOR  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Congressional Republicans and Democrats clashed Tuesday over legislation the GOP described as upholding religious freedom and Democrats insisted was discriminatory, with no sign of consensus.

The House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform held a three-hour hearing to consider the First Amendment Defense Act, a measure to "prohibit the federal government from taking discriminatory action" against a person whose religious beliefs or moral convictions define marriage as a union between a man and a woman.

The legislation has 171 co-sponsors in the House, but faces opposition from Democrats and outside groups who argue it will result in more discrimination against members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community as well as single-parent fami-

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— Rep. Jason Chaffetz, D-Utah

lies. "Protecting the sacred right to freely exercise your religion is the First Amendment to the Constitution for a reason — it has been and still is fundamental to the foundation of our nation," said Rep. Jason Chaffetz, R-Utah, chairman of the committee.

Foes of the bill bemoaned the timing of the hearing on the one-month anniversary of the shooting at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Florida, that left 49 people dead and injured 53.

"With everything going on in this country right now, these horrific shootings of gay people, black people, police officers, what we should be doing is coming together as a nation, not tearing each other apart, which is exactly what this

bill does," said Rep. Elijah Cummings of Maryland, top Democrat on the committee. "To say this hearing is politically tone-deaf is the understatement of the year."

Jim Obergefell, the lead plaintiff in the 2015 Supreme Court ruling to legalize same-sex marriage in all 50 states, testified as a witness opposing the bill and asked, "What could ever justify such a discriminatory act?"

"As important as it is that same-sex couples like John (his late partner) and I have the right to obtain a civil marriage license in any state of the country," Obergefell said, "it is also critically important that this constitutional right is not undermined by proposals like this legislation that subject loving couples like me and John, and other

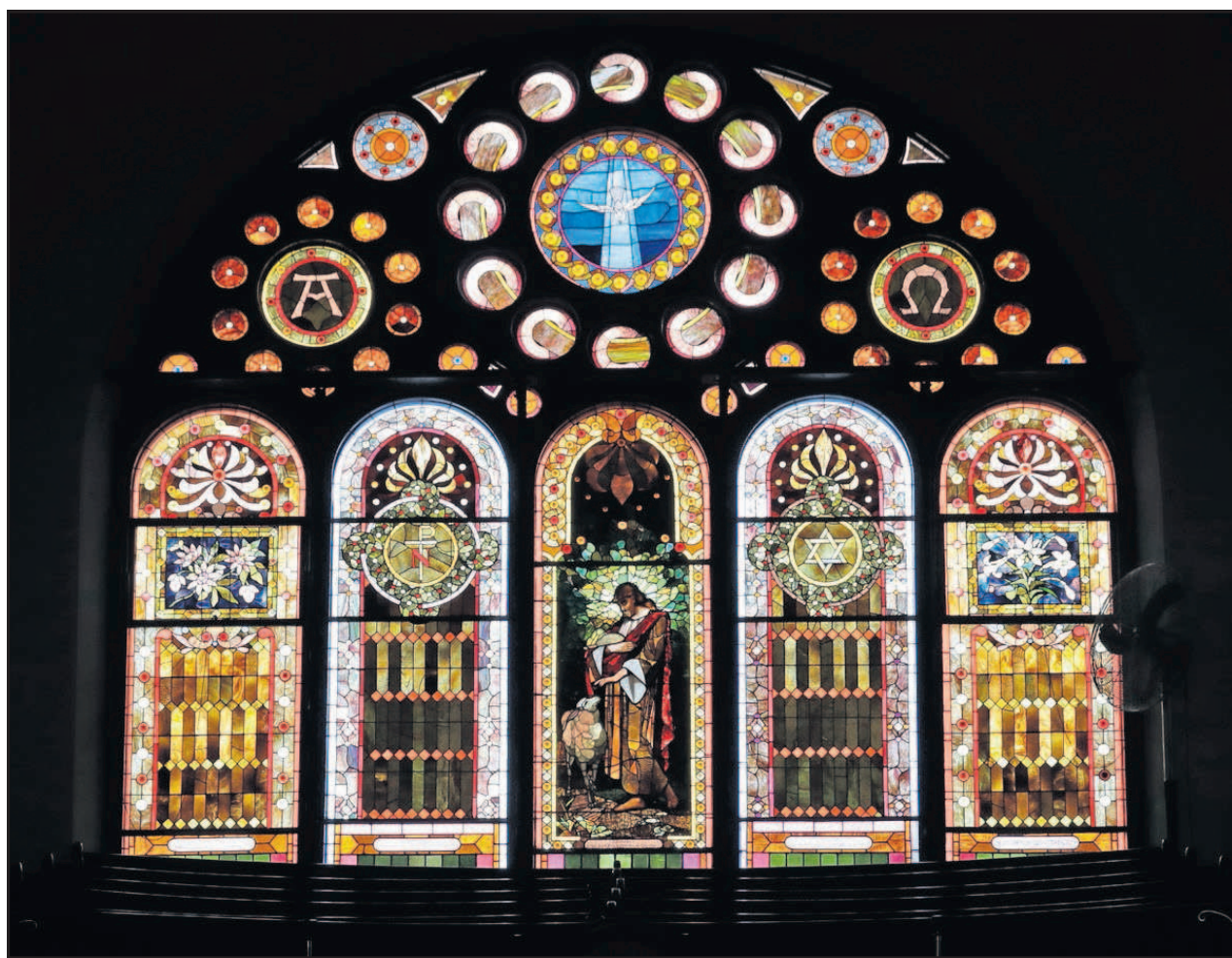
LGBT people to discrimination."

Former Chief of the Atlanta Fire Department Kelvin Cochran, who was terminated from his position because of his opposition to same-sex marriage, advocated for the bill, saying it would have protected his job.

"Equal rights, true tolerance means that, regardless of your position on marriage, you should be able to peacefully live out your beliefs and not suffer discrimination at the hands of the government," Cochran said.

Despite the ideological disagreements, the main focus of the hearing became the language used in the legislation and whether or not the bill would undermine the Fair Housing Act, the Civil Rights Act or other pre-existing equality acts.

"We have had very robust conversations that disagree. What my concern is is that we are at times missing each other on misinformation," Rep. Mark Meadows, R-N.C., said.



AP Photo/Matt Rourke

## Philadelphia church's 200th anniversary

A stained glass window adorns Mother Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia on July 6. The church marks its 200th anniversary in the city where it was founded by a former slave.

### BOARDMAN'S LIMY PASTOR

## Mary and Martha

This week's gospel text is from Luke, Chapter 10 about the two good sisters, Mary and Martha, who demonstrate with painful clarity the tension of the opposing poles of the Christian faith. Martha is the busy do-gooder, making sure that all is right in terms of readiness for the visit of Jesus — a totally essential role. Her sister, Mary, quietly sits at the feet of the Lord Jesus and just listens and listens to the most amazingly personal sermon. Martha grumbles at Jesus about her sister, saying, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me."

Two roles, two essential roles — but only one that cannot be repeated. Both roles are claiming priority, but the moment with Jesus is fleeting. Jesus softly tells Martha that Mary has chosen the good portion which will not be taken away from her. I can't imagine how Martha felt, with her gift of effort being sidestepped. But it certainly wasn't refused. It must have hurt.

When my fellow Lutheran travelers and students were roaming in Israel, the true Bible Belt, we found ourselves in front of the Lutheran pastor and peacemaker Mitri Raheb in Bethlehem. He saw our road-weary faces and our eager aspect, and said to us: "I see what you are here for. You are here to run where Jesus walked." We laughed. It was true. We had not entered



COLIN BROWN  
Faith

the contemplative dimension, which is the only way to really enter the reality of the Holy Land. Our Western sense of having to do something — to make notes, take photographs and roll up time into little boxes for future sermons — is always attempting to steal the amazing presence of Jesus in all corners in this place and make his words some form of project.

From time to time, here in Oregon and in Minnesota, I try to find that effervescence of silence. I sneak off to a monastery, a Benedictine or Carmelite monastery, and sit in darkness, listening to the same gentle sermon that Mary heard and relearn again the art of prayer and enter God's silence. Jesus always shows up.

It's really my job in the church to be the doorman, not the huckster who sells. I know that last week my spirit was not quiet and I felt fraudulent, being so inwardly noisy and restless when the living silence was all around me trying to get in. What use is an agitated pastor?

This weekend I am going to join Mary in spirit, in the Holy Spirit, and allow myself to rest in those quiet words. I hope to visit the Holy Land in 2017 and the next time do the slow dance of rejoicing with the Master of our Hearts.

May the Lord bless you and keep you, dear friends. Make his face to shine upon you and give you peace, wonderful, wonderful peace.

Colin Brown of Boardman's Good Shepherd Lutheran Church on Locust Road.

### BRIEFLY

#### Cave Quest in Pendleton shines light on Jesus

PENDLETON — Kids ages 5-12 are invited to learn what it means to follow Jesus and shine his light during vacation Bible school at the Pendleton Seventh-day Adventist Church.

With a theme of Cave Quest: Following Jesus the Light of the World, organizers promise an over-the-top underground adventure. The event is Monday, July 18 through Friday, July 22 from 6-8 p.m. at 1401 S.W. Goodwin Place, Pendleton. Children don't have to attend the church to participate.

Cave Quest features team-building games, Bible songs and tasty treats keep everyone on the move. In addition, they will discover practical ways to follow Jesus.

Parents can register their kids in advance at [www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/ez/PendletonSDA](http://www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/ez/PendletonSDA). Walk-in registrations also are welcome.

For more information, call 541-276-0882.

#### Echo church sets Bible school

ECHO — Singing, games, Bible stories and skits are featured during vacation Bible school in Echo.

Open to ages 3-12, the event is Monday, July 25 through Friday, July 29 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Echo Community Church, 21 N. Bonanza St. Participants also will receive snacks.

The free event is open to children of any faith. For more information, call Donna at 541-376-8664.

#### Pro-life group seeks help with fair booth

HERMISTON — Plans for manning a pro-life booth during the Umatilla County Fair is on the agenda of the West Umatilla County Right to Life organizational meeting.

Anyone interested in the cause is invited to attend. The meeting is Monday, July 25 at 6:30 p.m. at The Arc building, 215 W. Orchard Ave., Hermiston.

For more information, call Deanna Leonard at 541-667-8537.

# Worship Community



585 SW Birch,  
Pilot Rock, OR 97868  
(541) 443-2500  
[prbconline.blogspot.com](http://prbconline.blogspot.com)

Pilot Rock, Sunday School: 9:30 am  
Worship Service: 10:45 am  
Kids' Club: 6:00 pm  
Wednesday Services:  
Youth Group: 7:00 pm

**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](http://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

**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](http://www.facebook.com/FUMCPendleton)  
Services are broadcast every Sunday on KUMA-1290 AM @ 11am  
Rev. Dr. Jim Pierce, pastor

**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](http://www.livingwordcc.com)

**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

**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](http://WWW.FCCPENDLETON.ORG)

**GRACE AND MERCY LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA**  
OPEN HEARTS - OPEN DOOR  
[www.graceandmercy.org](http://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

**Redeemer Episcopal Church**  
241 SE Second St. Pendleton  
(541)276-3809  
[www.pendletonepiscopal.org](http://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 Dorion Ave.  
Pendleton  
Service of Worship - 10:00 am  
Children's Sunday School - 10:20 am  
Fellowship - 11:00 am  
[www.pendletonpresbyterian.com](http://www.pendletonpresbyterian.com)  
Open Hearts...  
Open Minded

**Come meet Jesus at PENDLETON BAPTIST CHURCH**  
3202 SW Hye 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.faithpendleton.org)



**To share your worship times call Terri Briggs**  
541-278-2678