

LIMEY PASTOR

The poodle and the pastor



COLIN BROWN
Comment

Greetings and Blessings from the church on top of the hill.

I, like you, am in the middle of summer. It's difficult to feel overly religious in beach weather, so I am trying to see if I may invite you to come and visit my church this coming Sunday.

I am starting at 10 a.m. with what I am calling the Lutheran Education Hour, which, I know, fills you with shockwaves of delicious anticipation. How could one not go to something with this kind of title?

It will be one hour before the regular service, and you are freely permitted to escape before the regular service if I do not do my job and inspire you to plunge into the mystery further. We will have coffee and biscuits as part of this experience and I welcome your participation.

No, no — I really want to see you. Come on over and let's make each other's acquaintance. Coffee, I said, coffee! I myself have attended such events at many churches and always respond to invitations.

One of my most interesting invitations was to attend a talk in Portland with one of the Quorum of the Twelve, one of the leaders of the Mormon church, and I thoroughly enjoyed his honesty and spirit of inquiry and discovery. I love hearing and meeting people of other faith traditions and believe it is our duty to cultivate relations with all people of faith and divine belief.

I mention Mormons particularly because I have met a few Mormon folk around town who have broken away or just stayed away from their base church for a while — and I would welcome your companionship if you seek some comfort in that regard.

This week I have found another dog. He is a foster dog really. A delicate five-year-old poodle. I had given a homeless friend my phone number in case they couldn't manage the pup.

This week I got the call and drove up to town to get him. He is now sleeping on the bed with me. His owner is trying to make things well, but without much luck. The weekend after this one

I expect to be driving this person back to family much further south.

In the meantime, the poodle will get shots and medical care and will be tended well, until his owner recovers, is

taken away from rather unhealthy circumstances in a dark place in the world, then after reuniting with parents hopefully will be safely housed with the poodle somewhere far away from the devil's playground.

In Portland, many homeless people have dogs, for protection mostly. This spindly little poodle is not in that category, but he has developed the ability to ignore and yap at big bully dogs. I am delighted to help him out of that situation.

Pastor Paul, my predecessor, and I are going to be working together on the Worship in the Park service in Boardman that will take place on September 10 in the Marina Pavilion at 11 a.m.

Other area pastors will be coming for that too. The scene at the waters' edge reminds me of the Galilee in Israel and awakens good memories of Israel. I hope that you can make it there. A week after Labor Day, it shouldn't obstruct vacation plans but will be a sign of solidarity of our faith together.

Colin Brown is Pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church on Locust Road in Boardman.

Lutheran Education Hour starts Sunday at 10 a.m.

Meet the Greeks who call Olympus spiritual home

MOUNT OLYMPUS, Greece (AP) — Silver-haired and soft-spoken, George Klonis worked as a bus driver into his 60s but found his life's purpose at the foot of Mount Olympus.

With his arms outstretched and his toes touching cold spring water, Klonis offers his devotion to the ancient gods that Greek mythology says made Olympus their home: "Eternal and almighty Zeus, we call on you ... we praise you, and we will always honor your strength."

About 50 men and women, some with wreaths of branches on their heads, some wearing ancient-style tunics, stand in silence behind him with their eyes closed.

Several hundred more Greeks, all devotees of ancient Greece's religion and traditions, come to worship, revel in rituals and take part in a range of events every July by the mythic mountain, the country's highest peak at just under 9,600 feet.

The yearly pilgrimage, started in 1996, draws a diverse following, including history enthusiasts, marathon runners, fantasy gamers, nationalists and young people seeking a taste of counterculture.

They mingle while jumping into a freezing river pool and participating in rituals that include blessing ceremonies for civil weddings and the symbolic adoption of an ancient name. Over a long weekend, they can take part in craft and theater workshops and discussions on aspects of ancient life ranging from cooking to sexuality.

The events are held at villages or camps at the foot of the mountain.

For Klonis, who traveled more than 250 miles from Athens, being close to nature was a major reason for his participation. He's been going to Olympus for 14 years after hearing about the events in the news.

"We consider these places to be sacred, special. People visit there and are in awe of this place. To follow the footsteps of the ancients, it makes them happy. For me, something clicked. A door opened," he said.

Ancient Greece's epic myths of creation and celestial power are R-rated, supernatural tales of heroism, violence, lust, jealousy, monsters, and magic. The 12 main goddesses and gods held their stronghold on Olympus, from where Zeus, the king of the gods, fired lightning bolts in anger down the mountain.



AP Photo/Giannis Papanikos

In this July 7 photo, a woman recites hymns as she takes part in a torch-lit procession at the northern Greek village of Litohoro. Devotees of ancient Greece's religion and culture gather each July at the foot of Mount Olympus to hold a series of events, ceremonies and seminars.

"What's important is ...the ancient ideals."

— **Dimitrios Kalantzis,**
Retired telecommunications worker

A small group of athletes kicks off the annual Olympus events with a run from the ancient archaeological site of Dion to the nearby mountain town of Litohoro. Many of the runners dress as ancient warriors, wearing costumes once on sale as novelty items to tourists and now held together with staples and duct tape.

Retired telecommunications worker Dimitrios Kalantzis brought his bright blue tunic and mock torso armor, and carries a round shield.

"What's important is not the dress but the ancient ideals. Because that's what Greece really is. Everything else is secondary," he said before setting off under a baking hot sun.

In Litohoro, the runners are greeted by several hundred more devotees who hold a somber torch-lit procession to the slow beating of drums and tunes played on a recorder.

Excited children run around them during the hour-long rally, while older residents look on, some with discreet amusement.

Orthodox Christianity has been the dominant religion in Greece for centuries, but reminders of the country's ancient past are everywhere — from street names and coins to the temples and statues that survived millennia.

Children learn mythology in elementary school. After centuries of Ottoman rule ended nearly 200 years ago, ancient Greek history helped the emerging modern country rebuild a national identity.

Ancient Greece's pantheistic religion is not officially recognized by the state, and its few thousand adherents have created social organizations to organize their event — most met with muted disapproval by the church.

Residents of the villages near Olympus say they have become accustomed to the annual visitors.

"(We) were cautious in the beginning. People were trying to understand what it was all about. Was it just something charming, or something colorful, or what?" said Asterios Farmakis a former public hospital administrator who lives in Litohoro.

"But in the end we embraced it," Farmakis said. "It's an opportunity to see issues that concern humanity, culture, and the arts in a different way: A window into the world view of the ancient Greeks."

BRIEFLY

Vacation Bible school shines in Athena

ATHENA — Fun, music, games, crafts, Bible stories and much more are featured during vacation Bible school in Athena.

Kids entering kindergarten through fifth grade are invited to explore the "Sola System." The event kicks off Monday, July 24 from 9-11:30 a.m. at the Athena Baptist Church, 413 N. Fifth St. It continues each morning through Friday, July 28.

Pre-registration is Monday, July 17 from 10 a.m. to noon at the church. Those unable to register in advance can still sign their kids up when they drop them off for the first day.

For more information, contact 541-566-3602 or fbcalogan@gmail.com.

Redeemer church to celebrate patronal Eucharist

PENDLETON — The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer invites everyone to celebrate an outdoor Eucharist service Sunday celebrating the Feast of the Most Holy Redeemer. The service begins at 10 a.m. on the church's Second Street lawn at 241 S.E. Second St.

The special mass is found only in the special calendar of some dioceses and religious orders, and is celebrated

either on the third Sunday of July or on Oct. 23. After consultation with Bishop Patrick Bell, July 16 was chosen to commemorate the patronal feast, a celebration of the title saint of the church.

The focus of the Eucharist during Sunday's service is on joy and gratitude for the ineffable graces and benefits of redemption through the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus, the Christ.

A potluck barbecue lunch will be served immediately following the special service in the church's Crysler Hall. Meat and veggie burgers will be provided; participants are asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share.

For more information, call the church office at 541-276-3809.

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(Disciples of Christ)
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Summer Worship 9:40 am Fellowship to follow

Office 541-276-5358 M-F, 8:30-12:30
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Come meet Jesus at
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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

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

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"

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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

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

Worship Community

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

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

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Tuesday Kingdom Seekers: 7pm
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We offer: Sunday School • Sign Language Interpreters • Nursery • Transportation • & more!

Pastor Dan Satterwhite
541.377.4252
417 NW 21st St. • Pendleton, OR 97801
www.facebook.com/PendletonLighthouseChurch

GRACE AND MERCY LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA
OPEN HEARTS - OPEN DOOR
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Sunday Worship 8:45 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 (First United Methodist Church)
191 E. Gladys Ave. / P.O. Box 1108 Hermiston, Oregon 97838

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
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541-276-1894
www.fcogpendleton.com

Faith Center Church
Worshipping God Loving People
108 S. Main • 276-9569
Sunday Worship 10:00 am
Sr. Pastor, Ray O'Grady
pendletonfaithcenter.org

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

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church LCMC
Sunday worship at 11:00 AM
420 Locust St. • Boardman, OR
541-481-6132
Colin Brown, Pastor

Living Word Christian Center
401 Northgate, Pendleton

Celebration of Worship
Sundays 10:00 am
Youth: 0-6th grade

Midweek Service
Wednesdays 6:00 pm
Youth: 0-6th grade

Overcomer's Outreach
Tuesday's 6:00 pm

In the Annex
A Christ Centered, 12 Step Recovery Support Group

Pastor Sharon Miller
541-278-8082
www.livingwordcc.com



To share your worship times call 541-278-2678

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

First United Methodist Church
352 SE 2nd Street, Pendleton OR
Sunday Worship 9am • 541-276-2616
Worship Broadcast on KUMA 1290 @ 11am
Worship Livestream at
www.facebook.com/FUMCPendleton/
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Rev. Dr. Jim Pierce, pastor