

LIMEY PASTOR

An Alaskan and his dog



COLIN BROWN
Faith

Last week I found K and his dog, Sam, in a Starbucks outside area, shivering in a very cool pre-winter breeze. In conversation I found that K had hitch-hiked down from Alaska seeking to see his daughter, but had been rebuffed from this by his ex-wife, who sent him away.

K is a roofer and general handyman by trade. His dog, Sam, a girl dog, is a cross between a Labrador, a Husky and, according to K, quite possibly a Rhodesian Ridgeback. They both looked very tired, extraordinarily tired.

Why can't there be a Starbucks for people with pets?

About five years old, Sam is K's friend as well as his beloved pet, even fending off a bear in the wilds of Washington state on a mountainside. A fearless dog! K had been camping in the woods between Salem and Kaiser and there, Sam had an encounter with another beast, an unknown beast. She had been bitten — and a bloody scar marked the white fur on her breast. It didn't look good.

I drove the two of them to the emergency vet on Market Street. There Sam had a drain inserted and stitches made. A transparent funnel was manufactured to keep her from chewing herself into more damage, and painkillers prescribed.

I took the pair to a local motel and let them be still for a couple of days. I can't imagine the mental state and exhaustion that they were in. They slept and slept. But they slept in warm motel air in safety and peace.

On the third day I collected them from the motel and invited them back to our house, where they slept more. If you are wondering what my wife thought of this, that would be a good wonder to have — she wasn't too happy with the improvisational nature of this.

My wife doesn't like surprises and I am grateful that she saw the need of this, the mercy of this and the tenderness of this. The world is full of brokenness

and there are foolish athletes of the spirit who climb around a quarter of the globe to reunite with a daughter's love. I believe such an athlete of the heart and spirit deserves our concern, despite the obvious fact that it appears to be a fool's errand in the first place. This young man would lay his life down for the life of his daughter, even; I believe for the life of his ex-wife. Maybe even for your life.

The realist, seeing a little girl picking up a starfish stranded on a beach among thousands of other starfish, questions her judgment. "What difference can this make?"

"It makes a difference for this starfish," she says in a forthright way. It's an old joke. It's also amazingly true.

We cannot save the world by ourselves, but God has made the world a place that can be saved by merciful people working with each other. One person at a time. God has made his presence invisible, save for the visibility of mercy and love working in the hearts of those who have little else.

This week has seen a political circus full of greed and lust for money, a circus car of people using our great democracy to take money that had been volunteered to provide for the wellbeing of the poor and they have taken it and committed it for the greater wellbeing of the well-heeled. It is a Nero moment in our nation's history.

In the meantime, the poor man, protected by his wounded dog on the mountain and forests, the poor man who served in the U.S. Navy, is struggling down the pathways of the Northwest to see his child and there is no place for him to go and sleep or receive mercy or aid. His God and his dog travel with him. He is a Pentecostal man and prays each step of the way. This man and people like him are around us if we only look with the eyes of our Father.

Amen.
■
Colin Brown is the former pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Boardman.

Zoning pits mule deer against churches

BEND (AP) — A rural central Oregon county is wading into a long-running zoning debate that pits mule deer against churches.

A portion of Deschutes County is zoned to protect the county's shrinking mule deer population during the lean winter months. The zoning currently prohibits churches as a use on those lands, *The Bulletin* reported Thursday.

Pastor John Shepherd has been operating a church out of his home since 1999 and conducting outdoor weddings, but three years ago the county told him he was in violation of the zoning code. In 2016, the Land Use Board of Appeals overturned a permit for Shepherd's church on the basis that the county's code explicitly prohibits churches there.

Since then, Shepherd has turned his attention to the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act, a federal law signed by President Bill Clinton in 2000. Shepherd believes the county's code represents a clear violation of the law, which is designed to protect houses of worship from discrimination by local governments.

Environmental groups argued earlier this year that Shepherd's venue was not a church, but a for-profit event company that doesn't



In this Oct. 19 photo, John Shepherd, a pastor at his home church and officiant during the wedding ceremonies he hosts, poses against the archway he built for hosting wedding ceremonies at his venue, Shepherdsfield, outside Sisters.

own any land within the zone.

Large church gatherings are prohibited on the land for the same reason as schools, golf ranges, kennels and other uses: Noise, traffic and activity can spook mule deer that forage there in winter. Mule deer numbers have been declining since the 1970s as development encroached on their traditional winter range, according to comments submitted by Central Oregon Landwatch, which opposes zoning

changes.

During the deliberation, Deschutes County Planning Manager Peter Gutowsky presented the commissioners with five options, ranging from leaving county code as it is, to striking the word "church" from the list of prohibited uses and allowing churches in the wildlife zone even during the winter, when the deer use the range.

The three commissioners expressed their desire for churches not to be singled out as a prohibited use.

Commissioner Tammy Baney said she wanted to see a compromise that allows small Bible studies and other gatherings in the zone, while providing a backstop against large events during the winter. Shepherd is open to a compromise, he said, and currently doesn't plan to sue.

County staff will prepare a draft of an amendment to the zoning rules following board's guidance and it will be reviewed by the commission on Dec. 18.

BRIEFLY

Church bazaar benefits VFW, scholarships

ECHO — A holiday bazaar at the Echo Community Church will offer up a variety of handcrafted items and baked goods.

The annual event raises money for the VFW and the church scholarship fund. The bazaar is Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the church's basement, 21 N. Bonanza St. In addition, an enchilada meal is available for purchase from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information, call 541-376-8108.

Faith Center offers women's brunch

PENDLETON — A Ladies' Holiday Brunch at the Pendleton Faith Center Church will feature an encouraging message for women.

The brunch is Saturday beginning at 10 a.m., upstairs at the church, 108

S. Main St. Guest speaker Christy Hill, a native Pendletonian now living in Reedsport, will present "Awaken the Bride." Hill is the author of "Journey to Intimacy," a book about the Song of Solomon.

The brunch is free. For more information, call Rev. Ray or Julie O'Grady at 541-377-2036 or the Faith Center Church at 541-276-9569.

Living Nativity depicts Christmas story

HERMISTON — A live Nativity scene offers the community an opportunity to reflect on the biblical account of the Christmas story.

In its 25th year, the free event is Saturday from 6-8 p.m. and Sunday from 4-6 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 191 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston. In addition to the outdoor display, which features costumed actors and animals, people are invited inside the church for refreshments.

People can also view trees decorated to represent charitable missions the church support.

For more information, call 541-567-3002.

Aglow speaker shares gift of dance

WALLA WALLA — A special Christmas program is featured during the upcoming Walla Walla Aglow Community Lighthouse meeting.

The community is invited to hear Karianna Allum, who will share about her gift of worship dancing. The event is Saturday at 10 a.m. at Whitman Court, 305 Ash St., Walla Walla. A freewill offering will be taken for the event, which includes lunch.

Aglow, which started in 1967, is an international organization that seeks to share God's word in the community. For more information, call Darya Tucker at 509-876-1668, Lora Sykes at 509-540-0212 or visit www.ecwaglow.com.

SUBMIT FAITH NEWS

Friday's faith page features local, national and international faith-related news. 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.

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

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



Living Word Christian Center
401 Northgate, Pendleton
CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP
Sundays 10:00 am
Youth:
0-6th grade
MIDWEEK SEVICE
Wednesdays 6:00 pm
Youth:
0-6th grade
Pastor Sharon Miller
541-278-8082
www.livingwordcc.com

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"

Worship Community

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

Faith Center Church
Worshipping God
Loving People
108 S. Main • 276-9569
Worship Service: 10:30am
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sr. Pastor,
Ray O'Grady
pendletonfaithcenter.org

First United Methodist Church Pendleton
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/
Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors
Rev. Dr. Jim Pierce, pastor

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

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 LIGHTHOUSE CHURCH
Sunday Service: 10am & 6pm
Tuesday Kingdom Seekers: 7pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
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

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)
215 N Main • Pendleton, OR 97801
Behind These Stone Walls Beat the Hearts of Some of the Warmest Most Sincere, Most Caring People in Pendleton.
We Invite You to Come Get Acquainted!
Sunday School: 9:30am
Worship: 10:40am
Fellowship to follow
Office 541-276-5358 M-F 8:30-12:30
www.fccpendleton.org

BAHA'I FAITH IN PENDLETON
"My first counsel is this: Possess a pure, kindly and radiant heart, that thine may be a sovereignty ancient, imperishable and everlasting." — Baha'u'llah
Please come visit with us at **The Baha'i Center:**
1015 SE Court Place
EVERYONE INVITED!
Sunday Devotions @ 11:00am
Sunday Wi-Fi Open House: 5:30 – 7:30pm
Wednesday Spiritual Discussions: 6:30pm,
Bring your thoughts and voice!
Thursday Investigate Religion Class,
7pm Thursdays • **EVERYONE WELCOME!**
(541) 276-9360 or visit us at www.pendletonbahais.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

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

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

GRACE AND MERCY LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA
OPEN HEARTS - OPEN DOOR
www.graceandmercy.org
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

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

St. Johns Episcopal Church
Join Us
On Our Journey
With Jesus.
Scripture, Tradition and Reason
Family service 9am Sunday
N.E. Gladys Ave & 7th, Hermiston
PH: 567-6672
We are an all inclusive Church who welcomes all.

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

To share your worship times call 541-278-2678