

LIMEY PASTOR Hearts and ashes

The 14th of February this year brought me a confluence of events. It was my wife's and my 32nd wedding anniversary, it was Valentine's Day – and it was Ash Wednesday. Beginning a period of fasting, penance and reflection on this day is a little weird in many ways, but other folks also share this day on their own days when those dates cycle through the calendar.



COLIN BROWN
Faith

Lent is a period of separation, a place of waiting, a time that reflects a withdrawal into the desert of solitude and prayer. The place of celebration and of joy comes at the end of Lent, at Easter in the Christian scene. Lent is meant to represent Jesus's time in the wilderness being tempted by the evil one and his resistance to that.

I guess that the tempter could be seen by married couples as all those forces that strive to dislocate marriages: anger, jealousy, money, fear, betrayal, suspicion, lying, concealment, resentment, boredom and so on and so on.

Marriage is a serious job that requires serious self-inquiry and willingness to open and honest communication.

I think that marriage takes all of our powers to make it work. It takes humility to admit one's own ineffectiveness, it takes courage to broach the subject of our own failings and it takes a sense of humor, too. It is not declaring failure to admit that we don't have all the answers. There are methods to help restore marriages to effectiveness and happiness.

One of the most useful groups, in my opinion, that exists in the Christian world is called "Retrouvaille" — a French term that means rediscovery and that is (a) God centered and (b) while being founded in the Catholic tradition also works with couples of other faiths and even none. The organization is made up of a peer network of other couples who have gone through their own travails and have gained some deep knowledge. I can speak for the effectiveness and helpfulness of Retrouvaille's work personally.

Similarly there is Marriage Encounter, also a couples based organization and a faith-based organization that will provide resource weekends to allow couples to explore strategies of cooperation and communication that have been found to work by other couples.

Marriage is hard work and requires heavy lifting. Couples who think that a marriage will bring them a relief from complexity — and a partner who can pay half their bills — are going to be disappointed. Marriage is ordained by the divine for a stronger, more loving and less selfish world of adventure that is capable of bearing the shocks of life and of sadness, when it comes, and also of rejoicing in the great pleasure of having a set of eyes to look into that you can love, and that will love you back, and possibly of sharing the delight of children with whom to build a greater world for God's promise to be fulfilled.

So this Lenten season, for those married couples who wish to work together in Lent, find a way in which to work together to resist the temptation to anger and move apart, but seek to find ways in which to enrich the life and joy of your partner while sharing with them the joy and love of God.

Don't keep your worship a secret, rejoice so that your partner may rejoice also.
Amen.

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



Chieko Hara/The Porterville Recorder via AP

A happy Ash Wednesday

With her mother Yesenia, left, Ximena Bedolla, 6-months-old, gets her first ashes on her forehead during Mass at the Holy Cross Church in Porterville, Calif., Wednesday. Ash Wednesday marks the start of the traditional season of Lent, a period of fasting, prayer and penance leading up to Easter.

HERMISTON House of Hope feeds hearts and souls

By TAMMY MALGESINI
East Oregonian

Musical entertainment and a spaghetti dinner are featured during a fundraiser for House of Hope Northeast.

The ministry for the homeless initially began working out of Desert Rose Ministries — however, it is a separate nonprofit entity with many area churches involved, said Ken Yoder, who heads up the ministry. House of Hope received its own 501(c)3 in July 2017.

"It's the body of Christ with all the churches in the area," Yoder said. "There are 13 right now."

The fundraiser is Saturday, Feb. 24 starting at noon at the First United Methodist Church, 191 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston. There is no set fee, but donations will be accepted. A spaghetti lunch will be served and then various ensembles will perform. In addition, information about the ministry will be shared.

Yoder, whose friends and congregants refer to him as Pastor Chief, said House of Hope was initially a vision of Pastor Jason Estle of Desert Rose Ministries. The idea, Yoder said, was to have it be a collaborative effort between area churches and nonprofit organizations to reach out to the homeless.

The ministry is hoping to secure its own building in the near future, Yoder said. They want to offer a safe haven for the area's homeless. In addition to feeding their souls, the ministry aims to meet physical and emotional needs by providing shelter, food, clothing and other basic needs to help people get back on their feet.

"Chief helps out so many people," said Lisa Pierce, wife of Rev. Jim Pierce of the United Methodist Church. "It's important that we have someplace for people to go if they are wandering on the streets."

To learn more about House of Hope, the public also is invited to board meetings. They are the third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at the Hermiston Assembly of God Church, 730 E. Hurlburt Ave.

For more information, call Yoder at 541-990-9400 or visit www.facebook.com/houseofhopeneoregon.

Contact Community Editor Tammy Malgesini at tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4539

BRIEFLY

Lenten services include worship, soup supper

PENDLETON — Special worship services during the season of Lent are a combined effort of several Pendleton churches.

The weekly ecumenical worship services are each Wednesday at 6 p.m. with a soup supper, followed by worship at 7 p.m. The services continue through March 21. The locations and minister scheduled includes:

- Feb. 21 at Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, 241 S.E. Second St. (Rev. Jim Pierce).
 - Feb. 28 at Peace Lutheran Church, 210 N.W. Ninth St. (Rev. Kathy Keener).
 - March 7 at First Presbyterian Church, 201 S.W. Dorion Ave. (Ann Marie Hardin, seminarian).
 - March 14 at Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, 241 S.E. Second St. (Rev. Lloyd Commander).
 - March 21 at First United Methodist Church, 352 S.E. Second St. (Rev. Charlotte Wells).
- For more information, contact redemerchurch1897@gmail.com or 541-276-2616.

'In God We Trust' bill wins introduction in Wyoming House

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) — A bill that would call for the phrase "In God We Trust" to be displayed in Wyoming public school classrooms and state government buildings has won introduction in the Wyoming House of Representatives.

KGAB-AM reports the bill, which would apply to the Wyoming State Capitol Building, any other buildings occupied by a state governmental agency, and classrooms across the state, says the motto "shall be displayed prominently" along with the U.S. and Wyoming flags.

The bill must pass a committee vote and three readings in the house before going through the same procedure in the Senate.

If the bill survives that process it then would be sent to Gov. Matt Mead, who would have the option of vetoing the bill.

Church feeds body and soul

MILTON-FREEWATER — People can enjoy breakfast prior to the Sunday morning worship service at the First Christian Church in Milton-Freewater.

For the next few months, the meal is available from 8:30-9:15 a.m. at 518 S. Main St. While there is no set charge, donations will be accepted.

Those attending are invited to stay for Bible classes or Kids Klub, which begin at 9:30 a.m. The children's activities include art projects, crafts, music and more. Also, the worship service and junior church starts at 10:45 a.m.

Valet parking and entry via a ramp is available on the side of the building. Also, there's an elevator near the parking lot. For more information, call 541-938-3854.

Anti-Sharia law bill advances to Idaho House

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — Idaho Republicans have agreed to advance anti-Sharia law legislation designed to prevent Idaho courts from making decisions based on Islamic or other foreign legal codes.

The House State Affairs Committee voted Thursday to send the bill to the House floor with just two Democratic lawmakers voting against.

This is the third year Rep. Eric Redman, a Republican from Athol, has backed legislation that says courts, administrative agencies or state tribunals can't base rulings on any foreign law or legal system that would not grant the parties the same rights guaranteed by state and U.S. constitutions.

The proposal doesn't specifically mention Sharia law, but the bill has previously included pictures of a severed hand a man about to be beheaded in between definitions of Sharia law.

There are no known cases in which an Idaho judge has based a ruling on Islamic law.

Send information about local faith-related news and events, including concerts, special speakers and activities to community@eastoregonian.com

Living Word Christian Center
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CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP
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MIDWEEK SEVICE
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Pastor Sharon Miller
541-278-8082
www.livingwordcc.com

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

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"

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

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

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

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

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

PENDLETON LIGHTHOUSE CHURCH
Sunday Service: 10am & 6pm
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

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Saturday Services
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276-0882
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Worship Service 10:45 am

The Salvation Army
Center for Worship & Service
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9:30 - Sunday School
10:30 - Worship Service
Wednesday Bible Study
5:30 Family Fellowship Meal - 6:00 Bible Study
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