Trump hosts first Muslim iftar dinner

By JILL COLVIN And ANNE FLAHERTY Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Wishing Muslims around the world a "Ramadan Mubarak" — a blessed holiday — President Donald Trump on Wednesday hosted his first White House dinner for Islam's holy month of Ramadan, an overture that surprised many in the Muslim community after he skipped hosting such a meal last

Speaking at an iftar dinner, which breaks the daylong fast, Trump offered a message of unity, recognizing members of the Muslim community at home and

'In gathering together this evening, we honor a sacred tradition of one of the world's great religions," he told an intimate audience that included Cabinet members and ambassadors from many Muslim-majority nations including Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Jordan and the United Arab Emirates.

It was a dramatic departure from the inflammatory rhetoric Trump used during his campaign, when he called for a "com-



President Donald Trump speaks at an iftar dinner, which breaks a daylong fast, celebrating Islam's holy month of Ramadan, in the State Dining Room of the White House.

plete and total shutdown" of Muslims entering the country, compared Syrian refugees fleeing civil war to a deadly snake and declared, "I think Islam hates us" in an interview with CNN

Instead, Trump spoke of "the renewed bonds of friendship and cooperation" forged with "valued partners" from across the Middle East and said iftars "mark the coming together of families and friends to celebrate a timeless message of peace, clarity and love. There is great love."

He recalled his visit last year to Saudi Arabia — his first foreign trip — as "one of the great two days of my life."

"Only by working together can we achieve a future of security and prosperity for all," he said.

The dinner came as the Supreme Court considers legal challenges to Trump's travel ban, which critics say unfairly targets some Muslim-majority countries. A ruling is expected as early as this month.

Several Muslim civil rights groups pushed back, organizing a "NOT Trump's Iftar" protest at a park across from the White House. The groups say Trump's heated rhetoric has contributed to an increase in bullying and discrimination against Muslim Americans.

Sharif Aly, CEO of Islamic Relief USA, a humanitarian and advocacy organization, said the group was glad to see the White House had reinstated the iftar, "an event that should be hosted every year, just like the Easter Egg Roll, the Passover Seder and Christmas Open House."

LIMEY PASTOR

The many wills of God

any years ago, back in the 1990s, after my first year of training in Sister Pat McCrann's program of Spiritual Direction in Oregon, she had said to me that I needed to do something and that she didn't know what it was, but I was to take some time and go and do it. This had come to her in prayer. I had no idea what was being asked of me. It was a very strange feeling. At the time I had no intention of diving into the life of a clergyman. But I stopped, prayed and stepped into the bright

Within weeks I was traveling down to San



COLIN Brown Faith

Francisco where I went to work on a project with Wells Fargo, and somehow, I can't remember now how it happened, but I was invited to serve on the Technology Committee of the United Religions Initiative headed by the Anglican Bishop Swing of Grace Cathedral. I had to enter the cathedral in a secret elevator because there were death threats from

fundamentalists who believed that the Antichrist was behind it.

All that was behind this project was the commandment to "love one another as I have loved you." This commandment is ignored by many.

As we see, our world is still fractured, our faiths are still in pieces, seeing through a dark glass more darkly every day it seems. Religion seems part of the problem, not the beginning of a solution. This problem still burns like a festering

Why am I writing this, you may ask? It is because I am feeling called by something that is commanding as well as disquieting. God is moving in my breast, like a shark under the water. I have no idea what is being asked of me.

The Lutheran theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer said that God's will is not just one will, but can be many. We are given the freedom to choose if we are quiet enough to discern. We are not slaves of God, but brothers and sisters of Jesus and God gives us the dignity of choice — a free choice.

Such a freedom is dramatic and can be terrifying — our choices bend the universe as we twist and turn. Our love is alive in this maelstrom of discernment. God's design is melded with our multiplicities and we are not puppets but dancers riding the foam of possibilities. We all count in this dance.

So this week I ask for your help. Please pray for me to discern the right next steps and where the most blessing and joy will arise for my master, Jesus, if I find them.

Last week I received a letter from a reader, a most thoughtful and heartfelt letter. I give thanks to her for it, for it touched on my blind spots and helped me see more clearly. What a blessing!

I pray for you, dear friends of East Oregon. I pray that new gifts will descend on you and your churches as we enter uncertain times. I pray that your journey will draw you close to Jesus Christ and that you will bring a holy eye to all the matters in your life as you ask yourself what the next steps will be and look toward the challenges and joy to come.

Amen.

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

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FAITH BRIEFLY

Student ambassadors share through music

 $BOARDMAN - Ambassadors \ from$ Rio Grande Bible Institute will perform a concert in Boardman.

The free event, which features music with a Latin American flair, is Friday at 7 p.m. at the First Baptist Church, 200 Willow Fork Drive. Everyone is invited to attend.

Based in Edinburg, Texas, the nondenominational school was founded in 1946 by Rev. M.C. Ehlert. A Baptist pastor and evangelist, Ehlert first went to the Rio Grande Valley in 1937 to do tent evangelism. He was inspired to provide biblical training to Hispanic believers and new converts.

In addition to the faith-based state-accredited college, it offers a 9-month program of concentrated Spanish language instruction designed for Christian workers whose ministry includes Hispanic populations. The ministry also expanded with broadcasting through Esperanza.

For questions about the free performance, call 541-481-9437. To learn more about the Rio Grande, visit www. riogrande.edu/en.

Lutheran church rolls out summer fun

HERMISTON — All area children are invited to make crafts and create things, play games, listen to Bible stories, learn new songs and enjoy snacks at Trinity Lutheran Church.

The Fun Maker Factory vacation Bible school is Monday June 11 through Friday, June 15. It runs daily from 9 a.m. to noon at 485 W. Locust Ave., Hermiston. All children are invited to participate in the free event, regardless of religious affiliation.

Classes will be available for kids that are 4 years old through those who just completed fifth grade. In addition, teens are invited to come and help with the classes and activities.

For more information, call Nancy Carlson at 541-567-9660.

Musical minister releases new video

PENDLETON — Rev. Marc Mullins of the Pendleton First Christin Church recently released a new music video.

It features an arrangement of St. Francis of Assisi's "All Creatures of Our God and King," arranged by Mullins in 2012. In addition, the video was produced by Mullins this year with the audio recorded and mixed at CrossWired Studio in Walla Walla. In addition to Mullins (guitar, bass guitar and vocals), musicians include Carl Scheeler (harmonica) and Kevin Gutierrez (drums and percussion). To view it, https://youtu.be/BMIOTUl9oZU. The musical pastor also has a YouTube channel; search "Marc Mullins" at www. youtube.com.

COMING EVENTS

FRIDAY, JUNE 8 STORY AND CRAFT TIME, 2 p.m., Echo

SPRING FEST, 3-8 p.m., July Grounds, 73310

S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. For ages 13-18. Free. (Casey Brown 541-276-8100)

VFW BINGO, 6 p.m., Hermiston VFW, 45

567-6219)

SATURDAY, JUNE 9

Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St., Pendleton. Free art classes for children up to age 12. Chil-

YARN CLUB, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Hermiston Public Library, 235 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston.

HIP & HANDMADE, 11 a.m.-12 p.m., Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St., Pendleton. Free drop-in project class for adults. (Roberta

HELIX COMMUNITY DAYS, 11 a.m., Helix City Park, Concord Street, Helix. Annual potluck (brings a side dish or dessert), swimming, games Fun Run. Everyone welcome. (Breanne Parker

Irrigon City Hall parking lot, 500 N.E. Main Ave., Irrigon. Local vendors, local produce, crafts and

SUNDAY, JUNE 10

Park, 444 N. Main St., Heppner_Enjoy live music

SHIP MEAL, 6 p.m., Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 515 S.W. Seventh St., Hermiston. Dinner and discussion of "Extending Hope to Those Facing Pregnancy Decisions." Free, but RSVP required.

July Grounds Lane, Pendleton. Drumming, 3-on-3 basketball tournament, clothing swap, potluck, eating contests, bounce house, races, games, prizes and more. (Chelsea Hallam 541-429-7904) AFTER SCHOOL 3-ON-3 BASKETBALL, 15-5 p.m., Pendleton Recreation Center, 510

W. Cherry St., Hermiston. Doors open at 6 p.m., games begin at 7 p.m. Everyone welcome. (541-

HELIX FUN RUN, 7-11:30 a.m., Helix Com-

female and male winners of each age category of

the 5K and 10K races. T-shirts will be available for purchase. Cost to enter is \$20 in advance (https:// heartofthecountry.itsyourrace.com/register/), \$25 day of race at check-in. Proceeds will help buy

dren under 8 should be accompanied by an adult. (Roberta Lavadour 541-278-9201)

Lavadour 541-278-92011

(Debbie Cissna 541-567-2393)

Public Library, 20 S. Bonanza, Echo. (541-376-

munity Park, Concord Street, Helix. Check-in at 7 a.m., races begin at 8 a.m. One-mile, 5K and 10K races, trophies for 1st place overall of 1-mile and new pool furniture for the Helix city pool. (Breanne Parker 541-805-4611) FREE FOR ALL, 9:30-10:15 a.m., Pendleton

and relay events for the kids following the Helix

Fun Run. Everyone weicome. (Breams 1 a.n.c. 541-805-4611)

COUNTRY HOEDOWN, 1-4 p.m., Milton-Freewater Neighborhood Senior Center, 311

N. Main St., Milton-Freewater. Live music, dancing and singing. Admission \$2, refreshments available for purchase. (541-938-3311)

IRRIGON FARMERS MARKET, 3-7 p.m., Israes Ciby Hall parking lot 500 N.E. Main Ave.,

more. (Aaron Palmquist 541-922-3047)

from your blanket or lawn chair. Food concessions will be available for purchase. Free admission. (Sheryll Bates 541-676-5536)

INFORMATION AND OUTREACH FELLOW-

ENDLETON FIRST **SUNDAYS**

Morning Celebration - 10am Morning Kids Place - 10am Evening - 6pm Adult - Study Youth - Small Group Kids - Rangers & Girl's Ministries

Celebrate Recovery - 6pm Celebration Place - Kids - 6pm The Landing - Teens - 6pm

THURSDAYS

WEEKLY Groups For All Ages

AN ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH 1911 SE Court Ave. 541.276.6417 • pendletonfirst.com

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Sunday worship at 11:00 AM

420 Locust St. • Boardman, OR

541-481-6132 Evening Service at 5 o'clock

Living Word Christian Center 401 Northgate, Pendleton

Celebration of Worship

Sundays 10:00 am Youth: 0-6th grade

Wednesdays 6:00 pm Youth: 0-6th grade Jr./Sr. High

Midweek Service

Pastor Sharon Miller 541-278-8082

www.livingwordcc.com

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(541) 276-9360 or visit us at www.pendleton baha is.com

Saturday Services

Pendleton

1401 SW Goodwin Place

276-0882

Sabbath School 9:20 am

Worship Service 10:45 am

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Tom Inch, Pastor Grace and Mercy Lutheran Church, ELCA (First United Methodist Church) 191 E. Gladys Ave. / P.O. Box 1108 Hermiston, Oregon 97838

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

CHURCH

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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

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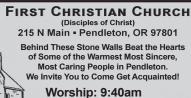
Community Presbyterian Church 14 Martin Drive, Umatilla, OR

Worship: 10 AM Sunday School at 11:30

922-3250

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

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Fellowship to follow

ce 541-276-5358 M-Thr, 8:30-12:30 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 LUTHERAN CHURCH

in Mission for Christ LCMC Sunday Worship......9:00 AM Bible Study.....10:00 AM

Red Lion Hotel (Oregon Trail Room) www.faithpendleton.org

Faith Center Church

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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

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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

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Wednesday Bible Study

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6:00 pm

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Wednesday Holy Communion Noor

Weekly Adults Spiritual Life Group

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10:30 - Worship Service

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