

Kids play, learn in Utah church as family fights for asylum

By BRADY MCCOMBS
Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — A playground surrounded by a large shade tree stands right outside the First Unitarian Church in Salt Lake City, where Vicky Chavez and her two young daughters have been taking sanctuary for the past six months.

But Chavez never allows Yarezi, 6, or Issabella, 11 months, to play there. They never step foot outside the church.

Chavez, 30, is afraid that U.S. immigration officials would round them up and send them back to Honduras, where she said she fears for their safety because of an abusive boyfriend. Her fears led her to seek asylum in the United States four years ago.

Despite immigration judges repeatedly denying her request, Chavez told reporters Monday night that she's determined to remain in the church and fight to stay in the Utah, where her parents and siblings live. In a long-shot effort, her lawyers are seeking relief from a federal appeals court.

"I shall keep fighting. I can help to be the voice of the other mothers that are seeking asylum from domestic abuse," Chavez said, surrounded by supporters holding signs. "We come to this country to feel safe and protected."

She said seeing other immigrant parents separated from their children at the border makes her even more reticent to return home and face a possible split from her daughters if she tried to seek U.S. asylum again.

"I can't imagine feel-



Vicky Chavez walks with her daughter Issabella in the First Unitarian Church, in Salt Lake City on May 31. Chavez, a Honduran woman who came to the U.S. four years ago seeking asylum from an abusive boyfriend, says she'll continue taking sanctuary in a Salt Lake City Unitarian church where she's been for the past six months with her two young daughters despite being ordered to leave and exhausting her appeals.

AP Photo/Rick Bowmer

ing the pain of being separated from one of my daughters," Chavez said in Spanish during an interview with The Associated Press last month. "Sleeping in a detention center is not easy at all. I lived it. And I lived it with my daughter, but not separated."

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement considers Chavez an immigration fugitive, spokesman Carl Rusnok said in an email Monday.

She entered the United States illegally in June 2014 and was ordered deported by a federal immigration judge in December 2016, Rusnok said. Chavez exhausted her appeals on Jan. 30, he said.

That night, Chavez had a plane ticket home to San

Pedro Sula, Honduras. But instead she accepted an offer of sanctuary from the First Unitarian Church.

She and her daughters sleep in a converted Sunday school room and spend most of their time in another room with a TV, easel and other games. Yarezi, the 6-year-old, receives piano classes in the chapel, and they dance and run in an open room with wood floors.

Baby Issabella learned to walk in the church and celebrated her first birthday early there this month. Yarezi gets tutored instead of attending school.

"I feel sad because I can't give my daughter a normal life," Chavez said.

The family is among 44 people taking sanctuary in

the U.S., according to information from Church World Service.

But they are the first known immigrants to take sanctuary in Utah, according to local immigration advocates and the state chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union. The practice has been common in states such as Arizona and California but unheard of in Utah, where Mormons account for about two-thirds of the population.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints takes a compassionate stance on immigration and recently said it was "deeply troubled" by the family separations at the border but doesn't offer sanctuary to immigrants.

Supreme Court could return abortion debate to the states

BOSTON (AP) — Anticipating renewed fights over abortion, some governors and state lawmakers already are searching for ways to enhance or dismantle the right in their constitutions and laws.

President Donald Trump's nomination of Judge Brett Kavanaugh to the U.S. Supreme Court has raised the possibility that a conservative court majority could weaken or overturn the 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling, which created a nationwide right to abortion. That could fan an already raging battle in states over what should and should not be legal.

While a complete reversal of Roe remains a long-shot, some Democratic elected officials want to enact new abortion protections and repeal dormant laws that criminalize abortion. While those laws have been ignored for decades, some stretching back to the 19th century, Democrats want to erase them so they cannot be revived in the future.

"As long as they are enshrined in statute, they can be picked up and used

by people who do not feel the same way about women and their bodies that I would say most people in this state feel," said Massachusetts state Senate President Harriette Chandler, a Democrat.

Seventeen states already have laws that could be used to restrict the legal status of abortions if Roe is overturned or severely limited. Of those, Massachusetts is one of 10 states that still have pre-Roe abortion bans on the books, according to the Guttmacher Institute, a national research group that supports abortion rights.

The institute says nine other states have laws specifically protecting abortion rights.

Lawmakers in some Republican-led states have been attempting for decades to chip away at the Roe ruling by restricting when, where and how abortions can be provided. Kavanaugh's appointment could lead to a surge in such measures.

"The time is right. We need to act on it," said Missouri Rep. Mike Moon.



AP Photo/Jonathan Mattise

Protesters organized by Planned Parenthood demonstrate at the state Capitol in Nashville, Tenn.

Come sail away with Living Faith

HERMISTON — Activities and biblical lessons will provide kids with information on how Jesus rescues them during a program at Living Faith Church.

The Shipwrecked: Rescued by Jesus vacation Bible school is open to children ages 3 through 12. They will participate in Bible-learning activities, sing catchy songs, play team-building games and make their own treats. The event is Sunday, July 22 through Friday, July 26 from 6-8:30 p.m. at the church, 1611 Diagonal Blvd., Hermiston. Each

day winds down at 8 p.m. with the Sail Away Send-off that gets everyone involved in living what they've learned. Friends and family are encouraged to participate.

Also, a penny offering will be taken each night. Part of the proceeds will go toward Hermiston's Family Promise mentoring program that helps students and families in crises. For more information or to register, call 541-567-4486 or visit www.winacity.org.

Vacation Bible school offers amazing time

PENDLETON — Kids won't want to miss a minute of Time Lab,

a vacation Bible school at the Pendleton Baptist Church.

Kids in kindergarten through sixth grade are invited to learn more about Jesus through singing, crafts, games and dramas. Also, treats will be served.

The event is Monday, July 16 through Friday, July 20 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at 3202 S.W. Nye Ave., Pendleton. In addition, there are limited spots available for younger kids, who must pre-register.

For more information or to register kids who are not yet in kindergarten, call 541-276-7590, visit www.pendletonbaptist.com or search Facebook for "Pendleton Baptist Awana Club."

First Christian Church offers adventure

HERMISTON — All aboard, kids ages 5 through fifth grade are invited to participate in Ark Adventure.

The vacation Bible school is limited to 100 participants, so those interested in attending are encouraged to register early. The sessions are Monday, July 23 through Thursday, July 26 at 5:30 p.m. at the church, 775 W. Highland Ave., Hermiston. A light meal will be provided each evening. There is no registration fee.

For more information or to register, call 541-567-3013 or visit 1stcc.breezechms.com/form/66elad.

Destiny Theatres Fri - Wed, July 13 - July 18, 2018
Subject to change. Check times daily.

Hermiston Stadium 8
Hwy 395 & Theatre Ln • 567-1556
MoviesInHermiston.com

HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA 3 (PG)

SKYSCRAPER (PG-13)

ANT-MAN & WASP (PG-13)

THE FIRST PURGE (R-17)

INCREDIBLES 2 (PG)

TAG (R-17)

JURASSIC WORLD: FALLEN KINGDOM (PG-13)

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**ALL DAY TUESDAY, MOST MOVIES.

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Doors Open: 9:30 AM Movie Starts: 10:00 AM

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a place to belong
PENDLETON FIRST SUNDAYS

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

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

WEEKLY
Groups For All Ages

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

WORSHIP COMMUNITY

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"

BAHA'I FAITH IN PENDLETON

"See ye no strangers, rather see all men as friends, for love and unity come hard when ye fix your gaze on otherness."
- Abdu'l Baha

Please come visit with us at
The Baha'i Center: 1015 SE Court Place
EVERYONE INVITED!
Sunday Devotions @ 11:00am
Sunday: "Pure Prayer" (no talk, just prayer) @ 6:30pm
Wednesday: "Discover the Baha'i Faith" @ 6:30pm
Thursday: Seminars on World Religions @ 7pm
(541) 276-9360 or visit us at www.pendletonbahais.com
www.facebook.com/pendletonoregonbahais/

To share your worship times call 541-278-2678

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church LCMC
Sunday worship at 10:00 AM
Pastor Michael Smith
420 Locust St. • Boardman, OR
541-481-6132

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 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

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

Peace Lutheran Church ELCA
210 NW 9th, Pendleton
Join us Sundays
9:30 am Sunday Worship
10:30 am Fellowship
11:00 am Sunday School & Adult Class
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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

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
Jr./Sr. High
Pastor Sharon Miller
541-278-8082
www.livingwordcc.com

St. Johns Episcopal Church
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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
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
We offer: Sunday School • Sign Language Interpreters • Nursery • Transportation • & more!
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www.facebook.com/PendletonLighthouseChurch

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Sunday Worship.....9:00 AM
Bible Study.....10:00 AM
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www.faithpendleton.org

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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

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
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Pastor Jeff Geesey
Worship Service: 10:30am
Sunday School: 9:30am
pendletonfaithcenter.org

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
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