

To err is human; to apologize is not

One of my favorite preacher jokes is the story of the Pastor who was invited to tea at the home of one his elderly parishioners. As she prepared tea, he helped himself to a bowl of peanuts on the table and eventually ate all that was left. As she returned with the tea he felt he should apologize for eating them all but she assured him it was alright since she had already licked the chocolate off them. Which reminds me that mistakes happen to the best of us. Mistakes are inherent to the human race; usually because we do not have the information we need, to make the right decisions. We think we do, but we do not. Reality slaps us in the face and yells "Aha! Got ya!" With the correct information we make very different decisions, resulting in very different outcomes.



PASTOR'S CORNER

Rev. Tim Barton

Likewise, we are sometimes compelled to make decisions based on the urgency and pressure of others. We still need to have correct information but we are forced to make a decision "even if it's wrong." In either case we can end up looking foolish and we want to avoid that if we can. Sooner or later we are going to make a mistake and we will face the consequences of our errors. So "what do I do when I make a mistake?" It is simple: I admit it. "I made a mistake!" "I messed up!" The surest course to

correcting mistakes and cleaning up our messes is to take ownership of them.

Ok, so "how do I avoid making mistakes?" Personally, I recognize that I am fallible, and approach decisions with some humility and I am open to input from others. When I was a boy I was asked to mow the lawn of a neighbor. He had an electric mower with a long extension cord, which had been cut and spliced several times. He told me "you are going to run over this cord, but don't worry I'll just splice it again." But I didn't cut it: I was careful, because I had been cautioned. Mistake avoided! At other times we are just tossed into the pool and if you swim you live ... Call it on the job training! Mistakes not avoided.

In Matthew chapter 14: Peter, a disciple of Jesus Christ, was

with his companions in a boat on the lake when they see Jesus come walking to them on the water. They were frightened thinking him a ghost, but Jesus assured them it was he. So Peter said, "Lord if it is you, tell me to come to you on the water." Jesus said "come" and Peter did, but became frightened when he saw the power of the wind and began to sink. In sinking he cried out, "Lord save me!" Jesus reaching out his hand, caught him and helped back into the boat. I wonder, what was Peter's mistake? That he got out of the boat, that he trusted Jesus? No, but that he did not trust Jesus enough! Jesus said, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" You see, Peter took his eyes off Christ and saw the elements and began to sink. It was a lesson I am sure Peter never forgot.

Two types of people invite disaster. Those unable to go forward because they do not know enough to make a decision and fear getting it wrong. The other type are those who throw caution to the wind and bull forward without regard to the consequences. The only remedy is a good dose of humility. Peter later wrote these words. "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble." "Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time. Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you." 1 Peter 5:5-6. The need for me to know everything is minimized by his infinite understanding, his absolute power, and his ever present help. The temptation for me to go rogue and "do it my way!" is tempered by my desire to please him and let him get the glory.

WINTER FISHTRAP

Program in January to explore 'The Meaning of Refuge'



Panel on Environmental Refugia at Winter Fishtrap. (R to L) Chantay Jett, Kathleen Ackley, Kris Stein, Pat Matthews

Wallowa County Chieftain

Winter Fishtrap builds momentum in its second year since the hit program's reboot in 2018. On the weekend of January 18-20, more than 70 participants convened at Wallowa County's Joseph Center for Arts and Culture for the three day event including the editor-in-chief of High Country News Brian Calvert and a host of its staff.

Visitors from nine western states, including New Mexico and Montana, came together to explore the timely but challeng-

ing topic of "The Meaning of Refuge" in the spirit of Fishtrap's longstanding mission to "promote clear thinking and good writing in and about the west."

Through a series of panel discussions, breakout sessions, and lectures, participants delved into the difficult questions surrounding "The Meaning of Refuge" as it relates to the every day lives of individuals and communities. Winter Fishtrap emphasizes the "clear thinking" aspect of its mission, tackling some of the most pressing and timely issues facing the West.

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CLUES ACROSS

- Basins
- Family animal
- Guns an engine
- Milky gem
- Poison _____
- Realm
- Like some horror films
- Bit of advice
- Depicted
- Poker payment
- Island greeting
- Gay Nineties, e.g.
- Cancel
- Footed vase
- Andes climber
- Shy
- Woeful
- True
- Ball or card
- Before, in a poem
- Put forth
- Long in the tooth
- Kentucky _____ (race)
- Breakfast meat
- Literary work
- Quarrel
- Stop!
- Woodcutting tool
- Tex-Mex treat
- Retain
- Sloe _____ fizz
- Small hotels
- Is obliged to
- Donkey
- Canadian whiskeys

CLUES DOWN

- Caesar's garment
- "Once _____ a Time"
- Drink mixer
- More cunning
- Flat bread
- See no _____
- Printed mistake
- Airplane tracker
- Misstep
- Sign of triumph
- Carpenter's blade
- Kind of insurance
- Passageways
- Escort
- Spirit
- Looked at
- Got the best of
- Unusual
- Bagel topping
- Popeye's affirmative
- Dent
- Rosary _____
- Out of bed
- Lengthy tale
- Center of rotation
- Years
- Teen trouble
- Throw lightly
- Owl's question
- "_____ the West Was Won"
- Barcelona cheer

Church Directory

Church of Christ

502 W. 2nd Street • Wallowa
541-398-2509

Worship at 11 a.m.
Mid-week
Bible Study 7 p.m.

Grace Lutheran Church

409 West Main -Enterprise

SUNDAY WORSHIP at 9 AM

phone (message): 541-426-4633
web: gracelutheranenterprise.com

St. Katherine's Catholic Church

Fr. Thomas Pudupulliparamban
301 E. Garfield Enterprise

Mass Schedule
Sundays:
St. Pius X, Wallowa - 8:00 am
St. Katherine of Siena, Enterprise 10:30am
Saturdays:
St. Katherine of Siena, Enterprise 5:30am
Weekday:
St. Katherine of Siena, Enterprise - 8:00am (Monday - Thursday and First Friday)
All are welcome

St. Patrick's Episcopal Church

100 NE 3rd St, Enterprise
NE 3rd & Main St

541-426-3439
Worship Service
Sunday 9:30am

Joseph United Methodist Church

3rd & Lake St. • Joseph
Pastor Cherie Dearth
Phone: 541-432-3102
Sunday Worship Service
10:00 am

JosephUMC.org

Summit Church

Gospel Centered Community
Service time: 10:30 am
Cloverleaf Hall in Enterprise
541-426-2150
Interim Pastor: Rich Hagenbaugh

Summit Church
www.summitchurchoregon.org

Enterprise Christian Church

85035 Joseph Hwy • (541) 426-3449

Worship at 9 a.m.
Sunday School at 10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship at 6 p.m.
(nursery at A.M. services)

"Loving God & One Another"
David Bruce, Sr. - Minister

Christ Covenant Church

Pastor Terry Tollefson
Church Office: 541-263-0505

Family Prayer: 9:30 AM
Sunday School: 10 AM
Worship Service: 11 AM

723 College Street
Lostine

Lostine Presbyterian Church

Discussion Group 9:30 AM
Worship Service 11:00 AM
Childrens program during service
Blog: dancingforth.blogspot.com
541.398.0597
Hwy 82, Lostine
Stephen Kliever, Minister

Enterprise Community Congregational Church

The Big Brown Church with an open door
Pastor Archie Hook
Sunday Worship 11am
Bible Study 9:30am
Ark Angels Children's Program
Ages 4-6th grade, 11am
Nursery for children 3 & under
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Wallowa Assembly of God

606 West Hwy 82
Wallowa, Oregon
541-886-8445

Sunday School • 9:am
Worship Service • 10:am
Pastor Tim Barton
wallowaassemblyofgod.com

Seventh-Day Adventist Church & School

305 Wagner (near the Cemetery)
P.O. Box N, Enterprise, OR 97828
541-426-3751 Church
541-426-8339 School

Worship Services
Sabbath School 9:30 - 10:45 a.m.
Worship Hour 11:00 a.m. - Noon
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