

# Soups On to set spiritual resolutions Monday

Group to gather at 6:30 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 5, at 6:30 p.m. everyone is invited to join a group with diverse spiritual paths that enjoys discussing a variety of spiritual topics.

This week it will discuss the fact that just about every religion and ancient culture has a form of New Year's resolutions. So this year, in the spirit of all those cultural and religious traditions, the group is proposing a set of spiritual resolutions to put into practice for 2015.

The evening will begin with bowls of fisherman's soup, fruit, homemade bread and vegetables, followed by the evening's topic until 8:30 p.m.

The gathering will end with prayers for the requests left in the prayer pole in the garden of the Florence Playhouse and those shared by the group.

Everyone is invited to attend. The Heintz home is at 875 Seventh St. For more information, call Suzanne Heintz at 541-590-0779.



I grew up in an angry, unstable home. My father was very angry most of the time, and I didn't always understand what he was angry about. When I accepted Christ as my Savior, I took this experience with my father into my relationship with God. I believed God loved me and forgave me of my sin, but I still had this vague feeling that He wasn't pleased with me and He was just a little bit angry with me most of the time.

I lived this way for years

# Is God angry at you?

until I finally realized the truth: God is not mad at me!

I believe many people feel like God is mad at them. One day I put a post on Facebook that said, "God is not mad at you." Within a few hours, we literally had thousands of positive responses from people saying things like, "That is exactly what I needed to hear today."

Obviously, this is a message we need to hear.

### Getting to the root of the problem

So where does this concept of God come from? Maybe it's because of an angry parent who was difficult to please.

Or maybe it's due to the pain of rejection from parents or friends who didn't know how to give unconditional love.

Or it could be the influence of church and being pressured to follow rules and regulations to make us acceptable to God.

We want to be good and please God, and we may be able to follow the rules for a while, but when we mess up, we feel guilty and condemned again. Because we can't be good enough and do everything right in our own effort and strength.

"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8 NKJV). Notice this says "while we were still sinners."

Galatians 3:10 (AMP) says,

"All who depend on the Law [who are seeking to be justified by obedience to the Law of rituals] are under a curse and doomed to disappointment."

What are you depending on to make you right with God? Are you depending on rules and regulations that you follow or try to keep?

Now I realize you can't live a healthy, productive life without having some guidelines, but this scripture is saying that we will have serious problems if we think our worth and value as human beings are based on following rules and regulations. We are only made right with God through the blood of Jesus.

And life is marvelous when you know the true character of God and who you are in Christ!

That's when you feel good about yourself deep down in your heart, not because you do everything right, but because you know you are special to God and He loves you — unconditionally, constantly, completely.

### It seems too good to be true...but it is true!

I do want to be clear about something here: Although God loves us unconditionally, He does get angry at sin, wickedness and evil. But He is not an angry God. God hates sin, but He loves sinners! He will never approve of sin in your life, but He always loves you and wants

to work with you to make progress in living a holy life in Christ.

Psalm 103:8 (NKJV) says, "The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy." God is merciful — that's His character. He's gracious — that means He's good. And God is slow to anger.

The truth is God created us to have relationship with us. He wants to love us and take care of us, and He wants us to love Him. That's where our walk with Christ has to start.

We need to be obedient to God and do the good works He has for us to do, but first we need to understand and believe He loves us. Then we can have a relationship with Him and live by faith in Him with the power of the Holy Spirit in us, giving us the ability to live the way God is calling us to live.

I'm so grateful God opened my eyes to the truth!

He has taught me to believe by faith that He is pleased with me, not because I do everything right, but because I believe in Him and trust Him. And this is just as true for you as it is for me.

If you struggle with feeling that God is disappointed in you or angry because you don't do everything right, I want to encourage you to take hold of this truth today and believe it: God is not mad at you!



**MAY ALL THE JOY**  
*of this holiday season*  
**CARRY INTO THE NEW YEAR**





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## Florence gallery owner speaks at FUUF Sunday

SK Lindsey, owner of Kenneth B Gallery, a unique contemporary art gallery featuring original art, a community printmaking lab and film house in Old Town Florence, will be the guest speaker for the Florence Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (FUUF) program on Sunday, Jan. 4, from 10 to 11 a.m.

Back in the 1990s, Lindsey acquired approval to travel abroad to continue her art studies directly with the Dogon people of Mali, West Africa.

This experience taught her about the power of art when it is created to support community as opposed to individual artists. Lindsey will give a brief slide show and discuss her experiences living amongst the Dogon, and the lessons they teach regarding materialism, spirituality and social justice that sustains remote villages throughout the Dogon region of Mali.

The fellowship is at 87738 Highway 101. For more information, visit [florenceuuf.org](http://florenceuuf.org) or call 541-997-2840.



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Service times: Bible Study Sunday 10 a.m.  
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Marvin Aultman • e-mail: [florenceoregonchurchofchrist@gmail.com](mailto:florenceoregonchurchofchrist@gmail.com)

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Call for details.

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