

# Unitarians to learn about Yogananda

On Sunday, Aug. 16, at 10 a.m., the Florence Unitarian Universalist Fellowship's guest speaker will be Jeanne Shannon.

Shannon has been a devotee of Yogananda for over 25 years and will share some of the life and teachings of this distinguished spiritual figure of the 20th century.

Yogananda was a renowned educator, lecturer and author of the spiritual classic, "Autobiography of a Yogi."

He was also the founder of Self-Realization Fellowship, an international organization dedicated to his teachings on the science of yoga and meditation.

He said, "More than just believing in God, we each have the potential to directly experience and know God."

Although famous during his lifetime, he is remembered as a humble man of God and as a man of wisdom, love and compassion for all mankind.

The UU Fellowship Hall is at 87738 Highway 101 at Heceta Beach Road. FUUF is wheelchair accessible. Each service concludes with refreshments and a dialogue circle to explore the questions that come up during each service.

For more information, see [www.florenceuuf.org](http://www.florenceuuf.org) or call 541-997-2840.



For many years of my life, I believed that I was damaged goods and could only have a second-rate life. I thought that the sexual and emotional abuse I endured as a child was somehow my fault, that it had happened because something was wrong with me. And I felt a false sense of responsibility to fix my circumstances. I couldn't make that happen, so that caused more self-condemnation, and as a result, I didn't like myself very much.

I went through so much of life believing this terrible lie about myself. And that's a very easy thing to do, because when you're deceived, you don't know you are. The lies we believe become our reality

# Facing the truth

because they are truth to us.

After I became a Christian, I thought that the only way God could love me was when my actions were good and spiritual. That was just another lie that had me striving to do "worthy" and "impressive" things to earn the approval of God and people. I really thought I was something special when I was on the church board and in a leadership position. I believed the lie that only then God could love me.

Another result of this deception was that I found it easier to see what was "wrong" with other people. I was critical and judgmental of others. But seeing the faults in them just kept me from seeing what was wrong with me for a long time. And that was exactly what the enemy wanted.

Face truth.

In John 8:31-32 (NKJV), Jesus says, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

It's so important for us to know the truth, because the lies we believe, especially about ourselves, can cause many other problems in our lives. That can mean trouble in relationships, in our work, even in our health and everyday life in general.

But when we pursue a relationship with God and finally face truth — and that ultimately means the truth about ourselves — we grow spiritually.

God is looking on the inside, in our heart. He is concerned about our motivation. He's more interested in *why* we do the things we do than in what it is we're doing.

I've learned to ask God on a regular basis, "Show me truth. And help me to face the truth You show me — especially what You show me about myself."

Once God shows us the truth about ourselves, we can no longer hide from it. That is a call to action. The Bible tells us the Holy Spirit leads us into all truth. He knows just how and when to guide us to move the way He wants us to. He is gentle and always does what is best for us.

It's not always easy, but I want to encourage you not to reject God's guidance just because it may not feel good at the moment. Just because it doesn't always feel comfortable doesn't mean it's not good for you. Remember, God always has His best plan for your life in mind.

Be real. I remember when God prompted me to give away a dress a long time ago. It was a brand-new red dress that I'd bought and just hadn't worn yet. I really liked that dress. Well, I was praying for a friend of mine one day and asked God what I could do to bless her, and He spoke to my heart to give her the red dress. Well, I didn't want to give away my dress.

Immediately, I began to reason with God, "But it's new!" He told me once more to give her the dress. I tried again, "But God, I bought these really nice earrings to go with it." He said to give her the earrings too! And again I tried, "God if this is really You..." Finally, I realized that red dress had too much of a hold on me. I had to face truth in that moment: Did I want to obey God or be selfish? I eventually humbled myself and gave my friend the dress.

You know, it really wasn't about the dress...it was more about my heart. God was teaching me how to be a steward and not an owner of things. He may want to use you to bless someone in some way. If your motives are pure, it won't be so hard to do whatever He asks you to.

Remember, we are created in the image of God. To be like Him, we will need to learn to examine our motives often. We must be honest with ourselves when God shows us something that needs to change, because it is always for our good.

Pray and ask God to show you the truth so you can be set free from deception. And then face the truth He shows you about you. Make use of each opportunity to grow and become more like Him.

**Watch**  
"In Search of the Lord's Way"  
Sunday, 7:30 AM  
KMTR Channel 12

Then visit the  
**Florence church of Christ**  
1833 Tamarack  
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and experience the joy and simplicity of  
pre-denominational New Testament Worship. (Romans 16:16)

Bible Study: Sunday, 10:00 am  
Worship: Sunday, 11:00 am

[www.churchofchristflorence.org](http://www.churchofchristflorence.org)

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Wed. Prayer - 6:00 p.m. — Wed. Ministries 1-8 Grade 7 p.m.

### CROSS ROAD ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Corner of 10th & Maple — 997-3533  
Bible Study at 9:00 A.M.  
Services: Worship, 10:30 A.M.  
[florencecrossroad.org](http://florencecrossroad.org) • [office@florencecrossroad.org](mailto:office@florencecrossroad.org)

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - SBC

1935 25th St. — 997-7660 • Pastor, Dr. Marvin Owen  
Series "Through the Bible" on Wednesdays 6 p.m.  
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### FLORENCE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

2nd & Ivy — 997-2961 — Non-Denominational  
Worship Service: 9:00 am & 10:30 am  
Middle School and High School youth groups meet on Wednesday.

### FLORENCE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Pre-Denominational (Romans 16:16)  
1833 Tamarack Street (2 blocks east of Hwy. 101 on 18th St.)  
Bible Study: Sunday 10 a.m.; Worship: Sunday 11 a.m.  
[www.churchofchristflorence.org](http://www.churchofchristflorence.org)

### FLORENCE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

12th and Nopal — 997-9020  
Sunday school for all ages 9:15 a.m. • Worship Service 10:30 a.m.  
Youth Group Wed. 7-8:30 p.m.  
Sunday School (for all ages) 9:50 a.m.

### FLORENCE EVANGELICAL CHURCH

1318 Rhododendron Dr. — 997-2523 — Worship at 11:00 AM — Sunday School  
at 9:30 AM — Variety of Sunday evening activities - 5 PM  
Wed. Bible & Children classes at 6:00 PM  
Call for details.

### FLORENCE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

4445 Hwy 101 (South of Fred Meyer) — 997-3951  
Worship on Saturday 10:30 A.M.  
Adult/Children's Sabbath School 9:15 A.M.

### FLORENCE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

N.W. Corner of Heceta Beach Road & Hwy. 101  
Every Sunday at 10 a.m.  
All are welcome. (541) 997-2840

### FLORENCE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Worship & Kids Sunday School 10:00  
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Website: [florence4square.com](http://florence4square.com)

### FLORENCE VINEYARD (GOD'S POWER HOUSE)

2610 Kingwood, Florence • 541-268-2025  
Sunday Worship @ 10:00 a.m., experience the Power of the Holy Spirit  
Pastors: George & Beverly Sisemore  
Intercessory Prayer & Worship, Thursday night @ 5:00 pm  
[florencevineyardchurch.com](http://florencevineyardchurch.com)

### NEW LIFE CHURCH-UPC

1525 12th St., Suite 24 • 541-991-9398  
Sunday Services: 10am and 6pm  
Tues. Bible Study 7:00pm

### NEW LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH, E.L.C.A.

21st & Spruce Street — 997-8113  
Adult Forum 9 a.m. — Sunday School 10:30 a.m.  
Worship services: Sun. 10:30am & Wed. 6pm.  
Pastor Lori Blake  
[www.lutheranchurchflorence.com](http://www.lutheranchurchflorence.com)

### PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE SIUSLAW

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2135 19th St. — 997-6600  
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Masses: Sat. 5:30 p.m., Sun. 11:00 a.m.  
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## Soups on to chew on 'Life's Big Questions'

On Monday, Aug. 17, at 6:30 p.m., and at 875 Seventh St., all are invited to join a group of friends, world thinkers, artists, poets and misfits who like to chew on Life's Big Questions. This week the subject will be "Universal Friendship."

A Baha'i prayer says: "What profit is there in agreeing that universal friendship is good, and talking of the solidarity of the human race as a grand ideal? Unless these thoughts are translated into the world of action, they are useless. The wrong in the world

continues to exist just because people talk only of their ideals, and do not strive to put them into practice. If actions took the place of words, the world's misery would very soon be changed into comfort."

The evening will begin with bowls of lemony chicken and spring veggie soup, fruit, homemade warm 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.

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[www.florencehumane.org](http://www.florencehumane.org)  
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