

Methodists to host special picnic service Aug. 30

The Florence United Methodist Church will be hosting its annual service and potluck picnic in the park on Sunday, Aug. 30, beginning at 10:30 a.m.

Worship will be led by the Rev. Carol Thompson outside of the West Woahink Lake meeting hall.

This event is open to anyone who would like to come and worship in the outdoors and share in fellowship with others. Bring a folding chair, your own table service and a favorite dish to share if possible. Look for signs and balloons to mark the entrance to the location.

For more information, call at 541-997-6025.



We've all heard the phrase, "Everyone has a race to run." That just means we all have our own lives to live. And as Christians, God has a specific purpose and plan for each of us.

The apostle Paul says to us in Hebrews 12:1, "Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us" (NKJV).

Part of what that means to me is to keep going, even in the midst of the difficulties in life. Much of life is just ordinary, everyday living. Yet a lot of what happens comes in the form of challenging situations, from little annoyances to serious burdens.

Hard times happen to us all. It's how we handle the situations we face that matters most. Second Timothy 4:7 says, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

Keep moving.

How to run your race to 'win'

I once kept a record of all the petty peace-stealers that happened to me over a period of time. They were things like injuring my back or breaking a nail. I left some luggage on a plane, and had a water leak in my humidifier. I hurt my arm doing stretches for my injured back, twisted my wrist, spilled a red drink on a white couch — and I lost my pants at a spa!

Some were small irritations; others were more serious.

But what I learned from this experience was simple: "Stuff" happens in life. But we don't have to let what happens keep us from fulfilling our purpose and serving God with our whole heart. It's just a waste of time getting upset over petty things.

If you don't know what to do in a situation, just do what you do know to do and keep moving forward.

We must learn to keep going in the midst of difficulties. One way to do that is to get your mind off yourself and help someone else. We all have problems, but our problems don't have to have us!

I believe part of our victory comes as a result of our determination to just keep moving.

Rest.

One major part of running your race is learning to rest. Now, that may sound like an oxymoron, but here's what I mean: Resting isn't about doing nothing. It's about being in a place of peace and completely trusting in God. From a position of rest, we can do whatever we have to do because our faith is not in ourselves, but in the One who gives us the strength and ability to do it.

God did the work of creation in six days and on the seventh day He rested from His work. He created Adam on the sixth day of His work, so Adam's first full day on this earth was a day of rest, signifying that everything we do is to be done from a place of rest. Jesus died for our sins and then sat down at the right hand of God, a place of rest from His work.

In Old Testament times, a high priest made sacrifices for the sins of the people. This was done on a regular basis. But when Jesus came, His ultimate sacrifice paid the debt for all our sins, and He sat down at the right hand of the Father because His work was finished.

Learning to rest may be one of the most important things we ever do. Resting in God is like a vacation for your soul. In rest, you are not concerned with what others think of you or how everything is going to work out as you fulfill God's will for your life. Too many times, people get stressed-out about their circumstances.

But really, it's not the circumstances at all; it's the way they handle them that causes the stress.

To rest means to be in faith. You can be steadfast in the midst of trials because you know that God is in control and He will see you through anything you face. That's what it means to work from a place of rest. You do what you have to do in peace, having complete faith in God's grace and His help to accomplish the task before you.

Run. Everyone has a race to run, a goal to accomplish, a life to live. And we all have to start somewhere. My encouragement to you is to start from a place of rest. Learn how to trust the Holy Spirit's leading. He will guide you and help you run your race to win!

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Robyn is married and has two children. She and her family love living on the Oregon Coast and feel blessed to live and work in such a beautiful area.

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Unitarians to hear about faeries, ancient path

Rev. Ruth Miller will lead the Sunday worship service at the Florence Unitarian

Universalist Fellowship on Aug. 23, beginning at 10 a.m. Rev. Miller's talk is titled,

"The Faerie Folk: Following an Ancient Path."

"Faeries have many names and many stories, among modern as well as ancient peoples, all of which are associated with wild places and various forms of power," said Miller. "When we think of fairies, we often visualize them as tiny, supernatural beings with wings, glowing with light and possessing some sort of strange magical powers."

"Is there something we can learn from them?"

All are welcome to attend each worship service.

The UU Fellowship is located at 87738 Highway 101 at Heceta Beach Road and is wheelchair accessible.

Each Sunday service begins at 10 a.m. and concludes at 11 a.m. with refreshments and a dialogue circle to explore the questions that come up during each service.

For more information, visit www.florenceuuf.org or call 541-997-2840.

Join Us In Worship
4 lines, approx 15 words, \$9 a week
4 week Minimum
Deadline 3 p.m. Mondays.

To be included in this directory contact the Siuslaw News at 997-3441, or drop off information at 148 Maple St., Old Town, Florence.

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4590 Hwy. 101, Across from Fred Meyer — 997-7418
Sunday School, 9:30a.m. — Worship, 10:45
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 • office@florencecrossroad.org

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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.

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1833 Tamarack Street (2 blocks east of Hwy. 101 on 18th St.)
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www.churchofchristflorence.org

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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.
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florencevineyardchurch.com

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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.
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www.lutheranchurchflorence.com

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1.5 miles south of river on Hwy 101 — 997-2312

Communitywide worship service set for Sept. 6

Hundreds of people are expected to gather at the local football stadium for a Communitywide Worship Service on Sunday, Sept. 6, at 10:30 a.m.

For the seventh year, the Siuslaw Valley Ministerial Association is offering this event for the community at large. The service features a great worship band with musicians and singers from several local churches.

Three local pastors combine to preach one sermon.

Communion concludes the service.

A freewill offering will be taken to offset costs, with all monies, after costs, going to

the local Habitat for Humanity and Florence Food Share.

The football stadium is behind Siuslaw Middle School at 2525 Oak St., in Florence.

There is a service for children 4 years old to fifth grade. The children's service takes place in the auxiliary gym at the middle school, adjacent to the football stadium. The entrance to the gym is on the south side, under the covered area.

It is suggested for all who attend that they dress to be warm, in layers, and bring a blanket or pads for sitting on the metal stadium benches.

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