

## Russian pastor to speak at Mapleton Evangelical Church

Tomorrow, Oct. 18, Pastor Dimitri and his wife, Anya, from St. Petersburg, Russia, will speak at the Mapleton Evangelical Church. Service begins at 10:30 a.m. For more information, call Mark at 541-269-4414.



I've been robbed! That is one of the first revelations I had after I started diligently studying the Word and realized I wasn't living the life Jesus died to give me. At first it made me mad, but it was the truth I needed to hear to help me begin an amazing transformation to a life I can honestly say I now enjoy.

For many years before this, I was a Christian but I wasn't serious about my walk with God. As a result, I was miserable. I didn't have any real peace or joy, and I felt guilty most of the time. In fact, if I didn't feel "wrong," it didn't seem right.

Thankfully, God showed me through John 10:10 that I didn't have to be miserable and I could have abundant life in Christ. But I needed to change!

I remember asking God to show me what I needed to do to become the person 2 Corinthians 5:17 (AMP) said I should be: "...A new creature [reborn and renewed by the Holy Spirit]; the old things [the previous moral and spiritual condition] have passed away. Behold, new things have come [because spiritual

## Taking back what belongs to you

awakening brings a new life]."

Have you ever thought, "If I'm so new, why do I act like the 'old man'?"

Well, becoming a "new creature" from the inside out is a process that takes time. When we accept Christ as our Savior and we're born again, we receive the nature of everything God is in seed form. 1 John 3:9 (AMP) says, "God's seed [His principle of life, the essence of His righteous character] remains [permanently] in him [who is born again—who is reborn from above—spiritually transformed, renewed, and set apart for His purpose]...."

Seeds have to be watered and take root before they can produce fruit. And the fruit of having life in Christ is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23 NLT).

It's freedom to deal with challenges and overcome them by God's grace so others will see Christ in you and want what you have.

The key to experiencing this In John 10:10, Jesus tells us we have an enemy—the devil—who wants to keep us from God. But when you read the whole chapter, you see that Jesus is talking about the

system of religion, which is perpetrated by the devil.

Because the last thing the devil wants you to know is how much God loves you and how you can access everything you need to take back what he's stolen from you through your relationship with Christ.

When I realized that God loves me unconditionally and that He has a plan for my life, it helped me understand that He wanted a close, intimate, personal relationship with me.

I discovered that the Christian life is not about religion but relationship. Because religion is a thief that keeps us from becoming transformed into the image of Christ.

Now, when I say "religion," I'm not talking about going to church; it's important for us to go to good churches where the Word of God is taught and we can grow spiritually. I'm talking about a performance mentality that says it's what we do that determines whether God approves of us or is happy with us.

A religious attitude says, "If I just pray more or read the Bible more or do more good things or go to church on a regular basis...then God will be happy with me." It gets us on a treadmill of feeling obli-

gated to do certain things to please God.

Relationship with God is based on the truth about His love for us and tells us who we are in Christ. We learn how much God loves us and that it's because of what Jesus did for us on the cross — through the sacrifice He made — that we have what we need to be everything God created us to be.

It's good for us to pray, read the Bible, go to church and do things for others to make their lives better.

But it's important for us to do these things as a response to what God has done for us, not to get Him to love us. We need to understand that salvation is God's gift to us, and we show Him our love for Him by the way we live for Him.

That's relationship, not religion.

Having new life in Christ is so amazing because through it, we become the home of God.

His Spirit comes to live in us and work with us, bringing restoration and wholeness to every area of our lives.

Then, as we learn to follow the leadership of the Holy Spirit, we can receive everything God has for us and take back what belongs to us!

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## FUUF to discuss 'Path of Harmony' Sunday

Tomorrow from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Florence Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, the Rev. Ruth Miller will deliver the Sunday worship message titled: "Earth and Spirit: The Path of Harmony."

"Civilization is based on the notion that cities are the best way to live," said Miller. "Other cultures, called indigenous or Earth-centered, teach a different path. Cities, by definition, separate us from natural processes but

offer us a rich mix of ideas and potentials.

"Do we have to give up their gifts to live in harmony with the Earth?"

The UU Fellowship Hall is at 87738 Highway 101 and 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, visit [www.florenceuuf.org](http://www.florenceuuf.org) or call 541-997-2840.

## Soup's On to discuss 'being worthy of praise'

On Monday, Oct 19, at 6:30 p.m., everyone is invited to join a group from diverse spiritual paths who enjoy discussing a variety of spiritual topics at Soup's On.

This week they will discuss "Being Worthy of Praise."

Abdu'l-Baha' says, "One must see in every human being only that which is worthy of praise. When this is done, one can be a friend to the whole human race..."

The evening will begin with bowls of minestrone

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 Mann-Heintz at 541-590-0779.

**Join Us In Worship**  
4 lines, approx 15 words, \$10 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.

### JOIN US IN WORSHIP

**WATCH! 3 ANGELS BROADCASTING NETWORK**  
(3ABN) TV UHF Channel 48.  
24 hour Christian TV highlights Bible studies of prophecy, inspirational music, health lectures, healthy cooking and more.

**BAY BERRY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP SINGSPARATION**  
You are invited to come and sing your favorite old time gospel hymns  
Every Friday night at 7pm • Non-denominational  
Bay Berry Square; 101 at Sutton Lake Dr. /milepost 185 N.  
For more information, please call 541-997-2681

**THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS**  
Located at Munsel Lake Road and North Fork Road  
Worship Services 10:00 AM Sunday  
All are welcome! 541-997-7268

**COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
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](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.  
A friendly place to worship, vacationers welcome.  
Sun.: 11am & 6pm, Sunday school 9:45am.

**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  
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.  
Youth Group Wed. 7-8:30 p.m.  
Online Worship Service@ [www.florencenaz.com](http://www.florencenaz.com)

**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**  
1st Sunday of Month Worship 10:30  
All other Sundays Worship 9 A.M. & 10:30 A.M.  
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**FOUR SQUARE CHURCH**  
1624 Highway 101 (next to A&W) — 997-6337  
Pastor George Pagel — Something for the entire family.  
Sun. Services: 10:45 a.m., Wed. Bible Study 7 p.m. — Youth Group: Sat., 6 p.m.  
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**  
Traditional Worship Service 10:00 a.m., Reverend Greg Wood  
Sunday School and Nursery — Organ and Choir  
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**RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)**  
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Call 997-4237 or 902-9511 for locations.

**RESURRECTION LUTHERAN CHURCH, L.C.M.S.**  
Every Sun., Bible Class 9 a.m., Worship Service 10 a.m.  
85294 Hwy. 101 S. — 997-8038  
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Dan Wurster, Pastor

**ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
2135 19th St. — 997-6600  
The Rev. Georgia C. DuBose, Vicar  
8:30am, Tuesdays, Morning Prayer  
Sunday Services: 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. - Wed, 11 a.m.  
Everyone Welcome — Come walk our Labyrinth.

**SAINT MARY, OUR LADY OF THE DUNES CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
Masses: Sat. 5:30 p.m., Sun. 11:00 a.m.  
1.5 miles south of river on Hwy 101 — 997-2312

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**Meet Jedi**

Sweet, fun and super adorable, Jedi is looking for a caring family to love him for the rest of his life! We believe this little guy had a pretty rough start, so he will need a family that will help him build his confidence. Jedi has been attending classes at Surf City Dog Training and it would be wonderful if his adopters could continue his training! Jedi gets along with some dogs but usually needs a slow introduction. Jedi qualifies for a FREE Level I Obedience class with his adopters at Surf City Dog Training (\$120 value).

If you would like to meet Caspian any of his friends, please visit us at:  
**FLORENCE HUMANE SOCIETY**  
2840 Rhododendron Drive • Florence • 541-997-4277  
[www.florencehumane.org](http://www.florencehumane.org)  
*This message brought to you by:*

**Friends of the Humane Society,**  
if you would like to help a friend call the Siuslaw News  
**541-902-3525.**