

Wandering Reel travels in Tuesday

City Lights Cinemas is screening The Wandering Reel Traveling Film Festival in Florence Tuesday, Nov. 10, at 6:30 p.m. The two-hour screening will feature half a dozen thought-provoking international short films, each followed by a community discussion led by Michael Harrington, the director and curator of the festival. The customized selection of films come from the five regular Wandering Reel programs: "A Call to Action," "Encounters," "Family Matters," "(In)visible Borders" and "Pushing Boundaries."

Wandering Reel is a traveling short film festival showcasing compassionate and artful cinema for communities without access to such films. It strives to engage audiences in a deeper conversation about the nature of cinema, the movie industry and the films themselves and how they relate to community, conscious living and making the world a better, more unified place. For more information about the festival, go to www.wanderingreel.org and www.citylightscinemas.com.



Prayer is a vital part of our relationship with God, and it's a great privilege, not an obligation. When you really think about it, it's amazing to know that the God who created everything and knows everything actually wants us to come to Him boldly — through Christ — to have a relationship with Him. Hebrews 4:16 (NLT) says, "Let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most." It's so important for us to trust God's love for us and really know that He's merciful and sees us as righteous because of what Jesus has done for us (2 Corinthians 5:21). If we don't, we will struggle to have confidence that He hears our prayers and wants to help us. The truth is God knows everything about us — what's right with us and what's wrong

Why prayer and doubt don't mix

with us. He loves us unconditionally and He wants to have a relationship with us and meet every need in our lives. Our imperfections have nothing to do with His ability and willingness to answer our prayers.

You have to believe
Doubt is a common hindrance to answered prayer, and when we experience it, it's usually because we're focusing on us — our weaknesses and mistakes. The key is keeping our focus on God, trusting Him to give us wisdom and discernment so we know what to believe and what to do. James 1:5 (AMPC) says, "If any of you is deficient in wisdom, let him ask of the giving God [Who gives] to everyone liberally and ungrudgingly, without reproaching or faultfinding, and it will be given him."

True wisdom comes from God, and He wants to give it to us "liberally and ungrudgingly, without reproaching or faultfinding."

"Liberally" means He gives more than enough, and "ungrudgingly, without reproach or faultfinding" means that even when we're in messes we've created ourselves, we can still go to God and He will help us.

Now, this doesn't mean He won't correct us, teach and train us when we've made a mistake. Like any parent who loves their children, He disciplines us because He loves us and wants what's best for us.

But when we're in trouble, He doesn't decide whether to help us or not based on our performance; His love is unconditional.

Here's an example to demonstrate what I'm talking about: If my son was in trouble with the neighborhood bully and called for his dad and me to help him, we wouldn't respond to him based on whether he had done all of his chores at home. It would be ridiculous if we heard him crying for help, yet we took time to check the list first to see if he

had done everything he was supposed to do before we intervened. As parents, we don't refuse to help our children because they don't do everything right, perfectly or the way we want them to all the time. God is our Father, and He knows we are not perfect. He wants to be involved in every part of our lives and we don't ever have to doubt that!

Be single-minded
When we doubt God, we're left midway between believing and not believing — we're double-minded.

But first Corinthians 2:16 says we can live with the mind of Christ. In other words, we can learn to think the way God thinks so we're not led by the mind of the flesh, "which is sense and reason without the Holy Spirit" (Romans 8:6 AMPC).

James 1:6 says when we come to God for wisdom, it must be in faith "with no wavering (no hesitating, no doubting). For the one who wavers (hesitates, doubts) is like the billowing surge out at sea that is blown hither and thither and tossed by the wind."

This doesn't mean we won't ever feel doubt, but when we do, we can know how to stand up to it.

Sometimes when I'm teaching, I doubt whether I'm sharing the "right" message based on how people seem to be responding to me. That's when I have to trust God and tell myself, "I've prayed about this. I've sought God about the teaching, and I'm not going to be double-minded. I trust God!"

I want to encourage you to ask God for the desires in your heart and then stand in faith for Him to do His will.

Decide to trust Him and His Word, no matter what you feel, what people say or what your circumstances look like.

The only thing that really matters is what God's Word says, and you will overcome doubt by putting your faith in Him every time you pray.

You've got it coming.

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FUUF to discuss 'Web of Life' Sunday

The Rev. Ruth Miller will lead the Florence Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (FUUF) worship service Sunday, Nov. 8, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. The title of Miller's message is: "The Interconnected Web of Life."

"Ecologists talk about 'food webs' but Hindus talk about 'Indra's Net,'" said Miller. "What's the difference? Is there a deeper connection than what we're used to seeing? As Unitarian Universalists who celebrate the web of life, how would we live if we truly hon-

ored our mutual interdependence with other beings, other life forms?" Miller will use slides to help present her message.

The UU Fellowship Hall is at 87738 Highway 101 at Heceta Beach Road, 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 or call 541-997-2840.

Family Owned BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

The Shippin' Shack / Siuslaw Signs & Graphics – Todd and Amanda Hennessee
625 Highway 101 – 541-997-5888 – www.theshippinshack.com

When Todd and Amanda Hennessee moved to Florence from Corvallis more than a dozen years ago, they instantly saw a need for commercial printing services.

"I had family here and we loved the area and all it has to offer," Amanda said. "This is such a friendly community and we knew it would be a great place to start a business and raise our family."

Todd, who first began working at his family's commercial printing operation, brings more than 25 years of industry experience.

"We've continued that family tradition and started our own from scratch," Amanda said. "We went through the school of hard knocks and learned our way through the business."

What began as a commercial printing company 13 years ago has now grown into a multifaceted operation for packaging and shipping, copying, faxing, laminating and notarizing services plus digital fingerprinting and secure document shredding services. The shop serves as an approved U.S. Postal Service provider as well as an authorized FedEx and UPS shipping center.

Todd also manages a full-service sign and graphics company within the store, producing banners, stickers, window graphics, large format prints, lettering, business cards, brochures, mailers and stationery.

The Shippin' Shack offers 24-7 mailbox access with secure key cards, and 180 new boxes will be installed in the near future. Special software provides comparative shipping rates and tracking details while storing addresses. The store also maintains

Boxes, Banners and More

by Catherine J. Rourke

more than 50 different box sizes. "Because we are a family business, we get to know our customers on a personal basis,"

Amanda said. "We treat everyone like family." A total of four employees keep everything running smoothly six days a week. The couple's two children – Caleb, 14, and Ashley, 9 – help out after school on occasion. Caleb helps his dad with the banners while Ashley creates paracord bracelets and key chains sold at the store.

The pace quickens at The Shippin' Shack during the holidays. As a longtime tradition, the Hennessees provide a huge spread of homemade baked goodies during December as a personal touch for their customers.

"People love that we make shipping so easy," Amanda said. "Plus, during the holidays, they can pick up a treat on the way out."



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