

## Soup's On to discuss evolving civilization

On Monday, Feb. 15, beginning at 6:30 p.m., everyone is invited to join a group from diverse spiritual paths who will discuss the topic: "An Ever-Advancing Civilization."

Humanity, the Bahá'í writings explain, has passed through the stage of childhood and now stands at the threshold of its collective maturity.

"That which was applicable to human needs during the early history of the race can neither meet nor satisfy the demands of this day, this period of newness and consum-

mation..." say the writings.

The evening will begin with bowls of seafood soup, 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.

the symbols and their beginnings, their current meanings and possibilities for the future."

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

Each service concludes with refreshments and dialogue circle to explore the questions that come up during each service.

For more information visit [www.uuflorence.org](http://www.uuflorence.org) or call 541-997-2840.

## St. Valentine letters to be read at UU Sunday

On Valentine's Day, Sunday, Feb. 14, from 10 to 11 a.m., at the Florence Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, the Rev. Ruth Miller's message is titled, "St. Valentine's Letters from Prison."

"There are many explanations for this day, and the little cards and gifts we associate with it, some of them rooted in our Judeo-Christian history," Miller says, "others in the pagan traditions of this time of year. We'll explore



Have you ever hired a professional to prune a tree in your yard? Dave and I hire someone to do that for us and there are times when he cuts the branches back so far that I've said to him, "There is nothing left. You have totally destroyed our tree."

But he says, "You just watch and see." And sure enough, before long the tree is much better looking than it was before.

Just like trees need pruning from time to time to remove dead branches or areas where there is overgrowth, you and I need to be pruned or reshaped at different times in different areas of our lives. We may not enjoy the pruning process, but when it's over, we're much better off than we were before.

You see, God wants us to be at our very best — spiritually, emotionally and physically.

John 15:2 (AMPC) says, "Any branch in Me that does not bear fruit He cuts away; and He cleanses and repeatedly prunes every branch that continues to bear fruit, to make it bear more and richer and more

## Let go of the dead stuff in your life

excellent fruit."

It's good for us to stop and evaluate our lives sometimes and ask God to show us if there are things that need to be cut off because they are hindering our growth in our relationship with Him.

Ask yourself: Am I dragging around "dead branches" in my life?

Maybe it's a bad relationship, an old wound from your past, or a negative attitude that keeps you from enjoying life to the fullest.

It would be nice if we could see what God sees and say, "Yes, God. Let's get rid of that dead branch." But many times we're too afraid to give up what we know for something new that we just can't see or understand.

The truth is you can be miserable dragging those dead things around or you can go through the pain of letting God "prune" them away. Even though it's uncomfortable, the best thing you can do is let God prune you, because after the hard part is over, you will see some amazing results.

God doesn't want to see you struggle. He loves you so much that He will never give up on

you. As we allow Him to speak into our lives, He teaches and trains us to be kind and gentle, peaceful and patient, loving and forgiving like Him. But we cannot develop that "fruit" on our own.

John 15:4 (AMPC) says, "Just as no branch can bear fruit of itself without abiding in the vine, neither can you bear fruit unless you abide in Me."

In other words, we need to spend time with God.

Our relationship with God is about much more than going to church on Sunday and reading the Word as a religious duty. He wants a personal relationship with each of us.

When we stay connected to God through meaningful Bible study and prayer, we're abiding in Jesus. God wants us to be so rooted and grounded in His love that nothing can shake us so we're able to bear good fruit in even the hardest, most difficult seasons of life.

God has a good plan for your life. He wants to take you to the next level in your relationship with Him, but there are some things that He wants you to leave behind — past hurts, insecurities, or anything you look to for a sense of security other

than God Himself.

Don't ever be afraid to surrender to God so He can prune the things that are hurting and hindering you from moving forward in your relationship with Him.

The apostle Paul said, "One thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize to which God in Christ Jesus is calling us upward" (Philippians 3:13-14 AMPC).

Make a determined decision to let go of the past and press on to experience a fuller, richer, more abundant life in Christ.

Pray today: "God, I'm tired of dragging this heavy load around with me. I'm ready to let it go so I can get on with my life and experience a new level of relationship with You. Help me to know that You love me and that You will work everything out for my good."

If we will totally give ourselves to God, He will give us His best for us. It may not be what we thought we wanted, but it will be exactly what we need.

And it will be greater than anything we could have asked for.

## Christian women to gather for conference

IF:Gathering is holding a conference Friday, Feb. 26, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., and Saturday, Feb. 27, from 9 a.m.

to 5 p.m., with a break for lunch, at the Florence Events Center, 715 Quince St.

Seating is limited, so registration is required.

tration is required.

IF:Gathering brings together women from all over the world to humbly seek God and equips them to better live out their callings.

It is a raw, authentic and community-driven global gathering for women who desire to invest in and love one another across denominations, generations and cultures.

The gathering seeks to model, resource and empower women so that they can create fresh, honest spaces in their local places to wrestle with essential questions of faith such as: IF God is real ... then what? IF God is real, then we want more than anything to live like it.

To register, visit [www.ifgatheringflorence.eventbrite.com](http://www.ifgatheringflorence.eventbrite.com).

## Hear stories of faith at New Life Lutheran

New Life Lutheran Church will be hearing the "Faith Stories" of lives of faith. This has been a faith practice around the season of Lent at other churches, where attendees can learn through sharing their experiences of faith and healing with others.

Lenten Services are each Wednesday at noon and 6 p.m., with soup and bread after the worship.

The Holden Evening

Prayer song book will be used for the music, which celebrates the season of Lent.

The Lenten worship dates include Feb. 17 and 24 and March 2, 9 and 16.

New Life Lutheran is at 21st and Spruce streets, between Florence Food Share and ABC Preschool.

All are welcome to share their own stories of faith, or just come to listen.

## Presbyterian Church hosts 'Simple Suppers' Wednesdays

At 5:30 p.m. on Wednesdays throughout Lent, the Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw will have a simple supper and a time of fellowship and worship to prepare for Easter.

This Wednesday, Feb. 17, will be a service of song and meditation; Feb. 24 will be renewal of Baptismal vows; March 2 will be a service of

healing and wholeness; March 9 will be worship with a more contemporary feel; March 16 will be art and music and March 23 will be a traditional Seder meal.

The Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw is at 3996 Highway 101 north.

Sunday service is at 10 a.m. Call 541-997-7136 for more information.

**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.  
2nd & Kingwood • (541) 997-6025  
"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"

### 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  
All Welcome. Come as you are.  
3996 N Hwy 101 997-7136

### RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

"War is still not the answer." FCNL  
We worship in homes at 11am Sundays  
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  
DVD of Weekly worship service available.  
Pastor Randy Benschoter

### 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

## VOICE YOUR OPINION!

### Write a Letter to the Editor:

[EDITOR@THESIUSLAWNEWS.COM](mailto:EDITOR@THESIUSLAWNEWS.COM)

## Church On The Rock, A Calvary Chapel Fellowship

Wednesday Evening Bible Study  
6:30pm (Nursery & Kid's Classes provided)

Sunday Morning Worship and the Word  
8:30am & 10:30am  
(Nursery and Kid's Classes at 10:30am)

You're invited to come worship and grow in the Lord with us!"

1750 18th Street Florence, OR  
(541) 997-9117  
[ccflorence.com](http://ccflorence.com)