

Learn the 'why and how' of Lent at FUUF

On Sunday, Feb. 28, from 10 to 11 a.m., at the Florence Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, the Rev. Ruth Miller will lead the Sunday worship service titled: "What's Lent? Why and How?"

In the Christian tradition, the 40 days prior to Easter are spent in prayer and fasting. Where did this tradition come from? And why?

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

FUUF 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 or call 541-997-2840.

LUTHERAN CHURCH OFFERS SOUP

The Resurrection Lutheran Church of Florence is offering lenten soup lunches on March 2, 9 and 16 at noon.

Pastor Bencoter will focus on parts of the Lord's Prayer, giving an inspirational message while soup is served.

The lunch service will be 30

to 45 minutes long, so people can attend during lunch hour.

The church is located about a mile south of the Siuslaw River Bridge, at 85294 Highway 101 South.

For more information, call Pastor Bencoter at 541-997-8038.



I believe everyone has a desire to be happy. In fact, much of what we do is motivated by that desire, yet there are so many people who are not happy with their lives because they are striving to get happiness in the wrong way.

Through studying God's Word, I've discovered several principles we must live by to be happy or to increase our level of joy.

Make a decision

The truth is, you'll never be truly happy if you don't make a decision to be happy, no matter what your circumstances may be. Because true godly joy is not based on what is happening around us.

One definition I've read describes happiness as the product of expecting something good to happen to you. I love this because it means that even if something good isn't happening to me right now, I can have hope and expect that something good will happen.

We don't have to wait for our circumstances to dictate whether we should be happy or not.

I realize we can't always control our circumstances or

Secrets to increasing happiness in your life

what happens to us, but we can choose our attitude. And no one can take our hope in Christ if we don't let them. The key to this is believing what God's Word says about us, especially about who we are as His creation and through the salvation we have in Jesus.

(Psalm 139:13-14, 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 and Ephesians 1 are just a few great scriptures to study about this topic.)

Live to give

Another biblical principle that guarantees our happiness is found in Matthew 16:24 (AMPC): "Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone desires to be My disciple, let him deny himself [disregard, lose sight of, and forget himself and his own interests] and take up his cross and follow Me [cleave steadfastly to Me, conform wholly to My example in living and, if need be, in dying, also]."

This scripture is saying that if you want to be happy, you have to learn to give your life away, or "live to give."

This is not easy in the beginning because we are naturally selfish people, accustomed to thinking about ourselves first.

But in order to really live, you have to die to yourself first. I'm not talking about

physical death, but being willing to give up what you want all the time to be a blessing to others.

I know what this is like because I used to think I was the center of my universe and I was miserable! But when I learned the truth about what Jesus meant when He said we must deny ourselves, lose sight of our interests, forget about ourselves and take up our cross to follow Him, it was life-changing.

To forget yourself doesn't mean you shouldn't take care of yourself or that you never get to do anything you want to do; it just means you don't have yourself on your mind all the time. And taking up our cross to follow Jesus is all about losing sight of ourselves and our own interests so we can say, "Here I am, God. I give my life to You and I want You to use me in any way that You want to work in and through my life."

Please God, not people

We also have to understand that if we let other people run our lives, we won't be happy. God created you as a unique individual with a special plan and purpose in this world. And you have to be who He created you to be — not what others may want you to be — to fulfill

your destiny.

Being yourself is all about learning to follow your heart and the leadership of the Holy Spirit in your everyday life. But many times, we find ourselves doing what others say we're supposed to do and worrying about what they think or what they will say.

The apostle Paul understood this. In Galatians 1:10 (AMPC), he said, "Now am I trying to win the favor of men, or of God? Do I seek to please men? If I were still seeking popularity with men, I should not be a bond servant of Christ (the Messiah)."

He was saying here, "If I was living to please people instead of God, I would have lost the opportunity to be an apostle of Jesus Christ."

Refuse to give up the destiny God has for you because of a fear of rejection. Remember that God loves you and He always has your best interest at heart, so whatever He shows you to do, it's for your good.

Sometimes being obedient to Him requires us to do things we don't feel like doing or that are hard to do. But if we trust Him, we'll find that doing things His way, by His grace, leads us to the happiest life we could ever have.

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Soup's On to discuss 'being poor' in today's society

On Monday, Feb 29, at 6:30 p.m., everyone is invited to join a group from diverse spiritual paths who will discuss "Being Poor."

The Baha'i Writings say: "Do not grieve, dear brother, for being poor, for you are rich instead in faith and in spirit. This is a divine wealth for which the richest of the world will crave for in vain. True we must work hard, earn money and keep our family in happiness and prosperity, but we must always realize that our lives must be devoted to things

higher and more sublime..."

The evening will begin with bowls of beef stew, homemade bread, fruit 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.

The Heintz home is located at 875 Seventh St.

For more information, call Suzanne Mann-Heintz at 541-590-0779.

Old Testament classes continue Tuesdays at LDS church

A 12-week class on the Old Testament continues every Tuesday through April 19, from 6:30 to 8 p.m., at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on the corner of North Fork and Munsel Lake roads.

These classes are open to all members of the Florence community and the public is invited to attend all sessions or any sessions of particular interest with no class fees or admission costs of any kind.

This will be an unusual perspective of the scriptures and a Jewish/Christian interpretation of the Messiah and the purpose of not only the Bible but the Old Testament as well and the amazing story of how the Bible was obtained. Upcoming classes include:

- Jacob/Joseph and the 12 tribes of Israel
- The Real Story of the Exodus and the Passover
- Significance of David/Solomon and the Jewish Nation
- Importance of the writings called Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and the Coming of Elijah
- Isaiah speaks to Israel

• Isaiah writes of Messiah, Restoration of Israel, Atonement and 2nd Coming

• Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel and Zechariah

• The Old Testament Prophets testify of Messiah's second coming.

Joel Marks is the instructor and has studied the topic for 40 years, teaching religion classes for more than 20 years. He has also taught American history as an adjunct professor for Southern Oregon University (OLLI Program in Ashland) and at the Rogue Community College in Medford.

Marks has a teaching degree from Southern Illinois University in business education and a master's degree in business from City University in Seattle. He also has taught seminars on "The Origin of the Bible," "The History of the Temple" and "The Second Advent of the Messiah."

Marks is writing a book called detailing the life of the Messiah as an observant Jew and the Jewish history concerning the Messiah.

For information about the classes, call 541-840-0620.

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.

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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 • 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
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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

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

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.

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Website: florence4square.com

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Tues. Bible Study 7:00pm

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Pastor Lori Blake
www.lutheranchurchflorence.com

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