

Sue Craig to speak of 'Covenant we Share'

On Sunday, April 3, from 10 until 11 a.m., at the Florence Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, guest speaker Sue Craig will talk about "The Covenant We Share."

Craig will be talking about the UU Theology and our relationship to each other and to our world.

Craig has been involved in many areas of UU life. She served on membership, social justice and was also board president of the Fullerton, Calif., UU Church.

She is presently chair-woman of Service in Action and on the Leadership Development Committees at the UU Church in Eugene, and Chair of Oregon UU Voices for Justice.

The UU Fellowship, 87738 Highway 101, 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.

Soup's On to discuss hope, optimism difference

On Monday, April 4, at 6:30 p.m., everyone is invited to join a group from varied spiritual paths to discuss the meaning of the quote by Vaclav Havel, "Hope is definitely not the same thing as optimism. It is not the conviction that something will turn out well, but the certainty that something makes sense, regardless of how it turns out."

The main goal of the Baha'i Faith will always center around one ultimate aim, which is the peaceful unifica-

tion of the entire human race.

The evening will begin with bowls of minestrone soup, homemade sourdough bread, fruit and vegetables.

The gathering will end at 8:30 p.m. 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.



Do you like confrontation? You are in the minority if you do. Most people don't like confrontation at all. Many are petrified of it and tell themselves that it's just too hard. So, when they are faced with a difficult situation or person, they ignore it and run away, avoiding the person or circumstance as long as they possibly can.

But the problem with running away from something is that you stay stuck in the issue or problem you're trying to escape. And you don't make any progress in the area of your life that it affects.

People run from all kinds of things, like something new or change in general. They run from their past. And many people in our society run away from responsibility.

As believers, we are partners with God. This means that while God will do what we cannot do, we must do our part to make progress and accomplish what He has for us. And sometimes, this includes facing difficult people or situations and dealing with them instead of avoiding them.

Now personally, I never had too many problems confronting people. In fact, I used to be too confrontational, so

The key to facing your fears

the issue was more about how I handled confrontation.

I had to learn how to approach difficult people and situations the way Jesus would do it. I also had to learn how to confront the devil, and every once in a while God will give me a refresher course on confronting the devil so I won't listen to his lies.

We need to be people who will no longer run away from hard situations, because God doesn't want us to be afraid. He wants us to be bold, courageous and to know we can handle anything — through Christ — that comes our way.

First John 4:4 (AMPC) says, "Little children, you are of God and have defeated and overcome them, because He Who lives in you is greater than he who is in the world."

The next time you feel fearful about a situation or person that you know you need to confront, remember this scripture and remind yourself, "I'm not putting up with fear any longer because Jesus Christ lives in me. I can do whatever I need to do in life through Christ."

Maybe you just need to live with a little more oomph. I'm talking about Holy Spirit oomph that says, "I am God's child, and I'm not going to live in fear and let it keep me from everything God has for

me. I will not run away from things. Because I can do whatever I need to do in life through Christ who strengthens me." (See Philippians 4:13.)

You can confront your problem. Or you can choose to run away from it. But if you run, the Bible is pretty clear as to what happens to people who run away from what God has called them to do... They end up in the wilderness.

I want to talk about two people in the Bible who ran away when they were afraid and how God helped them confront their fear.

Moses

God had a destiny for Moses. But at 40 years old, Moses did something wrong and instead of facing Pharaoh, he fled and "dwelt in the land of Midian" (Exodus 2:15 NKJV), which was a desert wilderness area outside of Egypt.

He spent the next 40 years in a holding pattern. God had to work some things out of Moses before he was ready, at age eighty, to go back and lead the Israelites out of their bondage.

Hagar

In Genesis we read how this servant girl got caught up

in a really bad situation with Abraham and his wife, Sarah. When Hagar became pregnant by Abraham, which was Sarah's idea, this created a big fight between her and Sarah.

So Hagar ended up running away. The Bible says she ended up in the wilderness by a spring. Then an angel of God told her, "Go back to your mistress and submit to her control" (Genesis 16:9 AMPC).

Although it was definitely unpleasant and, I'm sure, extremely hard to do, Hagar did face her difficult situation because she knew God wanted her to do it.

There are other examples in the Bible of those who failed to confront their issues and ended up in the wilderness.

What about you? Are you in a wilderness today because you are fearfully avoiding confrontation? You don't have to stay there all your life and keep running away from things.

Put your trust in Christ and do what He puts in your heart to do, by His grace and strength. You can get out of that wilderness and live in the promised land God has for you.

DAV to honor war veterans with sign dedication Tuesday

Local Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Chapter 23 in Florence will host a dedication ceremony for a sign on Highway 101 in honor of Gulf War, Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans on Tuesday, April 5, at 1 p.m. at the DAV Hall,

1715 21st St.

There will be a short ceremony followed by complimentary hot dogs, chips and sodas for those in attendance.

Everyone is welcome to come out in support of Oregon's veterans.

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Corner of 10th & Maple — 997-3533
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www.churchofchristflorence.org

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