

What does it mean to be led by the Holy Spirit? Some may refer to it as being filled with or sensitive to or anointed by – the Spirit. It sounds really spiritual, but being led by the Spirit is actually a very practical part of living the Christian life. Simply put, to be led by the Holy Spirit just means to be obedient to Him.

The Holy Spirit does such awesome, yet practical work in the lives of God's children. He is our Comforter, Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengthener and Standby. He teaches us and guides us into truth, and He even brings the things we learn back to our remembrance as we need it.

The best part of it all is that

Follow the best leader of your life — The Holy Spirit He lives in each of us. Ephesians 3:16 (AMPC) tells us that He enables us to be "...strengthened and reinforced with mighty power in the inner man by the Spirit."

He comes to live in our hearts when we're born again, and then He teaches and guides us according to God's plan and purpose for us. One of the ways He does this is by convicting us of the sins in our life, and we learn what's right and wrong as we grow in our faith.

We may get by with things that are not right for awhile, but the time comes when we need to grow up. I remember when I would go to church every Sunday and then gossip about the pastor or whatever I didn't like about the service.

Of course, I was not a very happy Christian during that time. And I couldn't have been a very good example of one to others either. Critical and judgmental attitudes like that, or murmuring, being unthankful and complaining, hinder our relationship with God and our representation of what a Christian is.

But eventually, I began to get this nagging, uneasy feeling every time I would say something negative about the pastor, or anyone else for that matter. I could feel that what I was saying was wrong, and I knew in my heart it was the Holy Spirit telling me it was time to grow up and mature spiritually.

Now, I am immediately aware when I say or do something that is not pleasing to God. And this is what He wants for all His children: to develop sensitivity and obedience to His voice as He leads each of our lives.

Romans 8:14 (AMPC) declares that "all who are led by the Spirit of God are the sons of God." This term "sons" indicates a level of maturity and intimacy in our relationship with Him.

God is not looking for spiritual robots; He wants sons. He doesn't want us all just following a bunch of rules for the sake of obedience. Jesus made a way, through His perfect sacrifice, for our sins to be completely washed away and removed from us so we can have a personal relationship with God.

We are free to obey Him simply because we love Him and we know that everything He tells us to do, or not do, is for our good. We just need to learn to follow His lead.

It's actually exciting to follow the Holy Spirit. I can tell you that life will never be boring with Him in the lead. When I first met my husband, Dave, I never would've thought God

was leading him to me. But he thing right. However, David had had been praying for a wife... and particularly someone who needed help.

He came to the house one day to visit a friend of his who lived upstairs from us. I was outside washing my car and he said, "When you finish that one, you want to wash mine?" My response was, "If you want your car washed you can wash it yourself."

It had to be the Holy Spirit leading him, because he says that's when he thought, "That's the girl for me."

Everyone's story is different but the point is the Holy Spirit wants to lead us all according to the plans God has for each of our lives. I'm not saying it will always be easy.

King David was called a man after God's heart, but we know it wasn't because he did every-

cultivated a passionate heart for God's will. He learned how to recover from his failures and move on in God, and because of that "God testified concerning him: "'I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do" (Acts 13:22 NIV).

In our relationship with God, our part is to pray, study His Word, and learn to develop our own sensitivity and obedience to the Holy Spirit's lead. His promise to us is, "I will give them one heart and I will put a new spirit within them; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them a heart of flesh" (Ezekiel 11:19 AMPC).

Trust the Holy Spirit and follow His lead. You'll discover His way is the best, most exciting journey you can find.



#### THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST

## FOURSOUARE CHURCH

1624 Highway 101 (next to A&W) - 997-6337

## Soup's On to celebrate summer solstice Monday

On Monday, June 20, at being part of nature, not set 6:30 p.m., everyone is invited to join a group from varied spiritual paths to discuss the summer solstice and share cups of tea or coffee.

Honoring the solstice is about remembering how precious each day and season is, because the truth of its passing away is also acknowledged.

Some use their religious ritual to raise energy for healing, for re-aligning and redressing environmental wrongs or for strengthening the sense of apart and individual, but interconnected in a larger whole, including the past, present and future.

The gathering will end at 8 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 at 875 Seventh St.

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

# Father's Day tribute by **Rourke at FUUF Sunday**

10 to 11 a.m., the Florence Unitarian Universalist Fellowship will feature Catherine Rourke as the speaker with a "Tribute to Dads."

Rourke, an award-winning journalist, columnist, author and editor, has worked for 37 years as an editor and investigative reporter for newspapers and magazines around the nation.

As the "Extraordinary

On Sunday, June 19, from ryteller who has a special tribute in store for all dads this Sunday.

> Rourke will share the importance of celebrating our fathers and keeping their lessons, wisdom and memories alive.

> The UU Fellowship, 87738 Highway 101 at Heceta Beach Road, is wheelchair accessible. Services conclude with dialogue and refreshments.

> For more information, visit www.uuflorence.org

## **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 • office@florencecrossroad.org

#### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - SBC

1935 25th St. - 997-7660 • Pastor, Dr. Marvin Owen Series "People of 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

## FLORENCE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

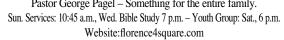
12th and Nopal -997-9020 Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Youth Group Wed. 7-8:30 p.m. Online Worship Service@ www.florencenaz.com

## 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.



## 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

## **NEW LIFE CHURCH-UPC**

1424 15th Street •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

## 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 Benscoter

## 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

### People" columnist for Siuslaw News, Rourke is a master sto- 541-997-2840.

## Circle 4 Oneness to discuss spiritual, energetic shift

about a spiritual, energetic shift. What is it, why and what cept." part each individual plays in that shift will be discussed by the Rev. Kat Cunningham at Circle 4 Oneness.

shift and secure the heart for Creek Drive. final transition?" asks have to do with living with come.

There has been a lot of talk others in Oneness? I'll offer some guidance on this con-

Attendees may bring their questions and concerns for this open-door service on Wednesday, June 22, from "How can we achieve the 6:30 to 8 p.m., at 3960 Munsel

This is a non-denomination-Cunningham. "What does it al event and everyone is wel-

## ASK THE DENTURIST..

• How often should I replace my dentures?

A Dentures should be replaced every 5-7 years and relines done every other year. See your denturist on a yearly basis for a checkup. This schedule of care will maintain the fit of your dentures and catch any problems before they become serious.



Shawn M. Murray L.D.

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## **FREE EXAM & CONSULTATION**