

Topic of immortality to be discussed at FUUF

The Rev. Cynthia Clayton will be the guest speaker Sunday, July 17, from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Florence Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

Her topic will be: "Are We Immortal?"

She will also have copies of her book, "Transform into Lightbody," at this service.

"Ancient sacred texts from most world religions proclaim, 'You came from the light and you are returning to the light,'" said Clayton. "With increased consciousness, we have finally arrived at the realization that we are the light. Science now joins esoteric knowledge with findings

that the human body actually, literally, converts into a body of light during the next stage of human evolution."

Clayton holds a doctorate degree in philosophy and specializes in metaphysical counseling, life-mastery classes and coaching. She teaches practical metaphysics and mindfulness meditation at Oregon Coast Community College.

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

For more information visit www.flornceuf.org or call 541-997-2840.



If you've heard my testimony, you know I experienced abuse from my father throughout my childhood — mental, emotional and sexual abuse. Then, for years after I left that situation, I continued to live with a constant sense of guilt and condemnation that caused me to be a miserable person who was usually angry about something and very difficult to get along with.

But eventually, God helped me to overcome the hurts and wounds from the past and He miraculously restored my soul.

It's been a long journey getting to where I am today and it hasn't been easy, but I can honestly say it's been worth it. God has done such an amazing work in my life that I don't know how to tell it all.

One Scripture verse that has been truly life-changing for me over the years in my journey to wholeness is Psalm 27:4. It says: "One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek, inquire for, and require: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life..." (AMPC).

The foremost thing we need to learn is to keep God first in our lives. Psalm 27:4 is talking about seeking God, and not

The greatest living life lesson I've learned

just the blessings He can give us. Now, there is nothing wrong with asking Him for the things you want and need, but they should not be your focus.

God loves us and wants to show His love to us. But He wants to have a personal relationship with us that goes deeper than us just coming to Him when we need something or have an emergency.

I remember when God spoke to my heart that if I would seek Him as if I was desperate all the time, I wouldn't find myself in desperate circumstances as often.

The truth is, we really are desperate for God all the time, whether we realize it or not.

I've discovered that when you have God Himself, you have everything you will ever need. It's all about learning to seek God's face — who He is, His presence — and not just His hand, or what He can do for you.

So... what are you seeking?

The word seek means you crave, pursue or go after something with all of your might; you require something as a vital necessity in your life. The question is, what are you seeking? What do you believe is really vital to you?

In other words, what do you think you absolutely have to have in life?

Most of us start our relation-

ship with God when our lives are in a mess, and we come to Him because we recognize that He is the only one who can help us get out of it.

When I got serious about my relationship with God and started studying His Word, I had so many issues — my life was a mess. And at times, I wondered if I would ever be able to work through them all.

I know what it's like to hurt so badly you don't think you can go on unless something changes.

Sometimes all we feel we can pray is, "God, if I don't get a breakthrough in this area of my life, I don't think I will make it."

But what we really need to pray is, "God, if I can't have more of You, I don't think I can go on. I'm hungry for more of You, and no matter what my circumstance is, I just need more of You."

Evaluate what you're really seeking.

If you want to determine honestly if God is first in your life, then ask yourself this question: "Is God first in my time?"

Think about the way you spend your time. If all of the things you want to do crowd Him out, then He's not your first priority.

I remember years ago when I was so frustrated and felt

overwhelmed by everything I "had" to do. As I prayed for God to help me, I realized that I was trying to work Him into my schedule, rather than working my schedule around Him.

But once my time with Him became my first priority, then everything else became more manageable and enjoyable.

You know, we can be as close to God as we want to be. The key is putting time into our relationship with Him. I recommend that you spend time with God first thing in the morning, but if that doesn't work for you, at least take a few minutes to focus on Him and give Him your day before you get caught up in the busyness of everyday life.

Matthew 6:33 says, "Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need" (NLT).

God wants to show His love for you by meeting your needs and giving you the desires of your heart that line up with His will for you.

As you make the transition from "God, what can You do for me?" to "God, how can I know You more and what can I do for You?" you'll discover greater peace, joy and fulfillment in knowing Him.

And you'll move forward in the life He has planned for you.

Florence church offers Bible school

Florence Christian Church, at Second and Ivy streets, invites children, ages 4 years old through fifth grade, to Cave Quest Vacation Bible School, Aug. 8 to 12, from 9 a.m. to noon each day.

Kids will participate in memorable Bible adventures, games, treats and hands-on

science fun.

They will also be challenged to collect pocket change to help support the local Backpacks for Kids program in Florence.

To register, call the church office at 541-997-2961 or visit www.florencechurch.com and click on the VBS link.

Spirituali-Tea to discuss making each day better

On Monday, July 18, at 6:30 p.m., everyone is invited to join Spirituali-Tea, a group from varied spiritual paths, to discuss why people should consider making each day better than yesterday.

Baha'u'llah urges people to "Let each morn be better than its eve and each morrow richer than its yesterday."

The group will discuss why we don't need to seek an exotic location or find some special endeavor, and how being better can be done anywhere, starting with the most

basic things.

The main goal of the Baha'i Faith will always center around one ultimate aim, which is the peaceful unification of the entire human race.

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.

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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

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www.churchofchristflorence.org

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