

One of the greatest revelations of my life is: I can choose my thoughts and think things on purpose. In other words, I don't have to just think about whatever falls into my mind.

This was a life-changing revelation for me because as Proverbs 23:7 (AMP) says,

Discover the power of a renewed mind "As [a man] thinks in his heart, determines how we live and to give us — a life of peace so is he." I like to say it like

Where the mind goes, the man follows.

God has a wonderful life planned for every single person, and He is concerned about the hidden man of the heart, which is our inner life. Our inner life is what we think about. And like the scripture above says, the way we think

who we are.

That's why we need to think about what we're thinking

In 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 (AMPC), the Bible teaches that we have weapons of warfare that are "mighty before God for the overthrow and destruction of strongholds" and that we are to "lead every thought and purpose away captive into the obedience of Christ.'

A stronghold in our mind is an area of thinking that the enemy — Satan — has somehow managed to dominate, causing us to believe lies. And although they are lies, they become our reality.

The only way we can know if the devil is lying to us is by studying the Word of God so we can tell the difference between the truth and the lies.

It's so important for each of us to be a student of the Bible, because this is the key to getting victory over strongholds and having the life Jesus died

with God, peace with ourselves, great relationships, real joy and the ability to become all God has created us to be.

It all comes down to choosing to believe what God says —the truth — more than we believe our feelings, what other people say or our circumstances.

Now it's good to go to church and hear someone teach the Word; you can learn a lot about God and His will for your life this way. But you need to have your own personal experience with God to really understand how He thinks and to renew your mind in the truth.

Romans 12:2 (AMPC) says, "Do not be conformed to this world... but be transformed by the renewal of your mind... so that you may prove what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

As your mind is being renewed, you'll be able to recognize thoughts that don't agree with God's Word. When they come, take them "captive into the obedience of Christ."

In other words, throw aside any thought that doesn't line up with the Word and replace it with truth.

Ephesians 4:23 (AMPC) says, "Be constantly renewed in the spirit of your mind."

Every day we need to take time to study the Word so we can purposely think according to what it says.

With the help of the Holy Spirit, we can have the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16), know who we are in Christ and be free of strongholds that will keep us from God's "good and acceptable and perfect will" for us.

One practical way you can accomplish this is to have a think session every day. Just sit down and say, "I'm going to think about some things on purpose."

Then spend some time thinking about scriptures that renew your mind with the truth about what God says - about His love for you, His plan for you,

how He wants you to live and behave. Use a concordance to find verses that cover areas you are struggling with or need to know more about. I want to encourage you to write some of them down and put them places where you will see them every day, like the bathroom mirror or refrigerator.

It's so wonderful to understand that you can have what God says you can have if you learn to think the way He thinks. It's also important to realize that this transformation is an ongoing process.

It won't happen overnight, and you will need to be patient with yourself as you focus on making a little progress each day so you can keep your mind renewed and grow in your relationship with God.

If you will make a commitment to set your mind on God's Word, renewing your mind with truth, then you will experience the fullness of new life that you can have in Christ.

All it takes is a little more progress one day at a time.



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1499 Bay Street (Old Port Building) 541-997-0111

On Monday, Aug. 1, at 6:30 p.m., everyone is invited to join a group from varied spiritual paths to discuss whether people are becoming more religious.

Abdu'l-Baha said: "Religion should unite all hearts and cause wars and disputes to vanish from the face of the earth, give birth to spirituality, and bring life and light to each heart. If religion becomes a cause of dislike, hatred and division, it were better to be without it, and to withdraw from such a religion would be a

truly religious act..."

Spiritual Tea to discuss increase in religion

The main goal of the Baha'i Faith will always center around 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-

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

OIN US IN WORSHIP

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BAY BERRY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP SINGSPIRATION

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 • 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. 10 am Wed., Women's Bible Study Saturdays, Mens' Breakfast 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.

information at 148 Maple St., Old Town, Florence.

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

Summer Worship 10:00 am. 2nd & Kngwood • (541) 997-6025 "Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"

FOURSQUARE 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

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

LCC Florence director to speak at FUUF Sunday

Florence Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, from 10 to 11 a.m., the Director of the Lane Community College Florence Center, Russ Pierson, will lead the worship

Pierson's topic is titled: "From the Margins to the Middle: Making Conversation with the Other."

"In these days when we can all pick and choose the media we consume, it is far too easy to hide in our own little silos, surrounded by an echo cham- each service. ber that encourages us to lob

On Sunday, July 31, at the and stereotypes of the other to really change hearts and minds — including our own?"

Pierson will use a vignette

from the life of Jesus as shared from the perspective of an anguished evangelical who has stopped to listen and learn. The UU Fellowship, 87738

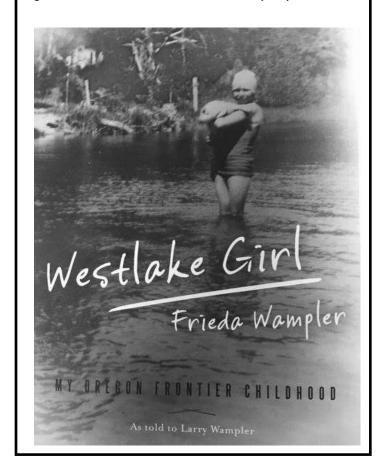
Highway 101, at Heceta Beach Road, is wheelchair accessible.

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

For more information, see grenades of vitriol at one FUUF's Facebook page, webanother," Pierson says. "How site at www.florenceuuf.org, can we move past the memes or call 541-997-2840.

LOCAL BOOK LAUNCH AT SIUSLAW PIONEER MUSEUM

Westlake Girl tells the childhood adventures of 97-year-old Frieda Wampler, who was raised in Westlake, Oregon during the 1920s and '30s. On Saturday, July 30, at 4 PM, Frieda's son and co-author, Larry Wampler, will present a special program on Frieda's life and sign the first copies of Westlake Girl to be sold here on the coast. Come and see how much fun it was to grow up back in the day! Larry will return to the museum to sign books and chat from 2-4 PM on Sunday, July 31.



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