



# Finding real peace and joy in life

People look for happiness in a lot of places. Many chase after a bigger house, a nicer car or a better paying job, while others seek education, marriage or other achievements with great passion.

While it's certainly not wrong to desire these things, there is only one thing in life that can give us true peace, joy and fulfillment-God.

Matthew 6:33 is truly a scripture to live by. Jesus says, "But seek (aim at and strive after) first of all His kingdom and His righteousness (His way of doing and being right), and then all these things taken together will be given you besides" (AMPC).

Seeking the kingdom includes seeking God Himself

and craving an intimate relationship with Him. It's about wanting to know Him and not just what He can do for you. There is quite a difference between seeking possessions and seeking God.

I can still remember a time years ago when I had a lot of the "things" I wanted, but I still wasn't a very happy person. Sound familiar?

The truth is, no matter what you have, if you don't have the peace, joy and fulfillment that only God can give, then you really don't have anything at all.

Romans 14:17 sums this up perfectly. It says, "The kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit" (NKJV).

True satisfaction doesn't come from the outside-from all

of the things we can do or buy-but it comes from within. God wants us to live with His righteousness, peace and joy. They are Kingdom benefits, and they are part of our inheritance as God's children.

## The "Right" Way to Live

So many people-and even many Christians-walk around feeling vaguely guilty most of the time. They feel like they've made too many mistakes and can never quite measure up. But that's not God's will for us.

Second Corinthians 5:21 says, "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (NIV).

As we begin to truly understand our righteousness "in Christ," we will no longer wallow in condemnation or feel like we have to earn God's forgive-

ness. Instead, we can live with the confidence and security that God knows us better than anyone...and He loves and approves of us.

## Supernatural Peace

I once heard a very famous actor being interviewed about his life and career.

I'll never forget one of the final questions. He was asked, "Is there anything in life you haven't achieved...something you still want?" He simply answered, "Inner peace."

You see, true peace only comes through a relationship with Jesus Christ. God offers us His peace that "transcends all understanding"(see Philippians 4:7). It doesn't come from our circumstances, and it's not something we can buy.

God's peace is vital to us because life is unpredictable. When the storms of life begin to swirl around us, there is only One Person who can give us peace in the midst of the storm.

Jesus is the "Prince of Peace," and as you spend time with Him

in prayer and through His Word, you will sense His supernatural peace that transcends all understanding.

## Joy for the Journey

John 10:10 says, "The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows)" (AMPC).

God wants us to enjoy our lives. That used to be a big problem for me because of the sexual, physical and emotional abuse I endured growing up. As a result, I never really got to be a kid, and I never truly understood what it meant to enjoy my life.

However, joy is part of God's kingdom package (see Psalm 16:11). Like His peace, we can receive and live with God's joy in every circumstance, regardless of what is going on around us.

The dictionary partially defines joy as "a calm delight" and "extreme merriment." I particularly like "a calm delight" because even when we're not

doing something we consider exciting, we can still have the joy of the Lord deep inside of our soul.

We often look forward to the weekend or the next fun event in life, but God wants us to experience His joy and satisfaction every single day.

In fact, Nehemiah 8:10 says, "...The joy of the Lord is your strength" (NIV). Through the ups and downs of everyday life, God wants to strengthen us for the journey and experience His delight in everything we do.

God isn't against us having "things", He delights in being good to His children. But He doesn't want those things to have control of us.

I encourage you to put God first in your life. Develop a relationship with Him and ask for His guidance and direction. Because there is a way to truly enjoy your life, and it's all found "in Him."

For more information, visit [www.joycemeyer.org](http://www.joycemeyer.org)

## FUUF to discuss the nature of reality

On Sunday, March 26, from 10 until 11 a.m., the Rev. Dr. Ruth Miller will lead a worship service titled "The Nature of Personal Reality" at Florence Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

In the early 1960's, a poet named Jane Roberts began

speaking words that she was hearing in her head.

She came to identify the source of those words as a being called Seth, a person whom she and her husband had known in a previous life and who was now explaining to her how life works, from the "other side of the veil."

Over the next couple decades, her husband wrote several thousand pages of notes from Jane's sessions, many of which were compiled in a series of books, now known as "the Seth material."

Miller has studied this material for decades and will

offer the fellowship a model of life and the universe, based on Seth's descriptions, that also complies with modern science.

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

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

Visit the UU Fellowship's website, [www.florenceuuf.org](http://www.florenceuuf.org), or call 541-997-2840 with any questions or for more information.

## Spirituali-Tea to consider spiritual solutions to problems

On Monday, March 27, at 6:30 p.m., everyone is invited to join a group of friends from varied spiritual paths to discuss spiritual solutions to economic problems.

The Baha'i writings say:

"Among the results of the manifestation of spiritual forces will be that the human world will adapt itself to a new social form, the justice of God will become manifest throughout human affairs and human equality will be universally established.

"The poor will receive a great bestowal and the rich attain eternal happiness.

"For although at the present time the rich enjoy the greatest luxury and comfort, they are nevertheless deprived of eternal happiness; for eternal happiness is

contingent upon giving and the poor are everywhere in a state of abject need.

"Through the manifestation of God's great equity the poor of the world will be rewarded and assisted fully and there will be a readjustment in the economic conditions of mankind so that in the future there will not be the abnormally rich nor the abject poor."

Please bring information you may have about this subject.

The gathering will be held at 875 Seventh St., and 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.

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

## The First Baptist Church Family

Invites you to join us on Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00PM

Presented by Chosen People Ministries

"The Messiah in the Passover"

1935 East 25<sup>th</sup> Street

Call 541-997-7660 for information.

Everyone is welcome.

"Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt."  
- Exodus 12:13

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.

## JOIN US IN WORSHIP

WATCH! 3 ANGELS BROADCASTING NETWORK  
(3ABN) TV UHF Channel 48.

24 hour Christian TV highlights Bible studies of prophecy, inspirational music, health lectures, healthy cooking and more.

BAY BERRY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP SINGSPARATION

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

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE GROUP

"God Is Principle"  
Meeting Friday at 3pm  
575-313-3640

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](http://florencecrossroad.org) • [office@florencecrossroad.org](mailto: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](http://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 @ 8 a.m.  
Online Worship Service@ [www.florencenaz.com](http://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 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

1st Sunday of each month worship at 10:30 am  
2nd-5th Sundays worship at 9am and 10:30am  
Every Sunday Adult Sunday School at 9am  
Children and Youth Sunday School at 10:45 AM  
2nd & Kingwood • (541) 997-6025

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.  
Website:[florence4square.com](http://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](http://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](http://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 Bencoter

ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

2135 19th St. -- 997-6600  
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

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Deadlines for press releases and news items are by noon Mondays and Thursdays. Email them to:

[PRESSRELEASES@THESIUSLAWNEWS.COM](mailto:PRESSRELEASES@THESIUSLAWNEWS.COM).