

FUUF's Miller to discuss 'Life after Life' Sunday

On Sunday, May 28, from 10 until 11 a.m., at the Florence UnitarianUniversalist Fellowship, Rev. Dr. Ruth Miller's will deliver a message titled: "Life After Life: Experiences of Love surviving Death."

Memorial Day weekend is a time when Americans stop to remember those who have passed on from this life – in their families, and in the many wars this country has participated.

Western culture has a hard time with the idea of death and grief, partly because of the attachment to a materialist view that says "only what I can see and touch exists."

Yet most other cultures on the planet recognize death as simply the shedding of a body, and more and more evidence is

surfacing that supports that idea.

Miller, who is working on a research project exploring the reality of communication with "discarnate beings," will share some of the evidence suggesting that a loving relationship never really ends.

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 the service.

Every Sunday evening at 5:30, Jim Tubesing leads Peaceful Meditations at the Fellowship Hall.

Call 541-997-2840 with any questions or for more information.

Evangelical church to hold rummage sale and car wash

The Florence Evangelical Church is holding a fundraising rummage sale on Saturday, June 3, at 1318 Rhododendron Dr.

The church is located on the corner of Laurel and Rhody, one block off of Highway 101 and is seeking donations of gently used items such as toys, books, tools, household items and clothing to sell at the fundraiser.

The church will also be conducting a car wash at the Sears's parking lot from 10 to 2 p.m. on the same day, if weather permits.

Proceeds from this annual sale help to pay tuition for young people to attend the church camp each summer.

If community members have items to donate to the sale, contact Rob at 541-997-5159 to arrange for pickup of the donation.



God has a great plan for you

our true value to Him if we are insecure and have a low opinion of ourselves.

Because I was sexually abused by my father throughout my childhood, I believed I was damaged goods and could only have a second-class life.

I was so insecure and thought no one could really love me or accept me. I believed my worth was based on what I did; the only time I felt good about myself was when I worked hard and was productive.

But as I became serious about my relationship with God and began to seek a closer walk with Him, I discovered that my past didn't have to determine who I am or what my future would be like.

Learning about God's love for me and who I am in Christ changed everything.

Jeremiah 29:11 (AMP) says, "'For I know the plans and thoughts that I have for you,' says the Lord, 'plans for peace and well-being and not for disaster to give you a future and a hope.'" And John 10:10 (AMP) says Jesus came that we "may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance [to the full, till it overflows]."

If you have a poor self-image, you won't be able to fulfill God's plans or enjoy your life. Because we can't live with His peace and know

But as we discover who we are in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17), we gain the confidence we need to become what God created us to be and to make a difference in this world. And we realize that the less we think about ourselves, the happier we will be.

I remember when God dealt with me about my selfish, self-centered, "What about me?!" attitude. He spoke to my heart one day and said, "You're selfish. You've studied My Word about spiritual warfare, prosperity, healing, having power and authority as a believer in Christ...but how much time have you studied about My love?"

It made me realize I would never be happy and have peace until I learned to love like Jesus loves.

When we know and experience God's love, we can share it with others. Imagine what the world would be like if everyone who calls themselves a Christian would really love each other with His love.

Think about it: There would be no gossip, no judgment or criticism, no exclusive attitudes that make others feel rejected, and people's needs would be met much more than they are.

Being a servant is the high call of God on our lives! And Jesus gave us very real, practical examples of how to love others like He loves us by serving them.

John 13:1 says Jesus "loved them to the last and to the highest degree" (AMPC). In the following verses, He demonstrates what it means to love others like this.

In those days, there were servants who washed people's feet when they came to visit. It's likely they were considered the lowliest servants in the household. Now Jesus, the Son of God Himself, got up from supper, took the servant's towel, and proceeded to wash the disciples' feet. His message to them was to love one another by being a servant. Because God wants His love to flow through us and touch other people's lives.

Love is not just a feeling or a theory; it's a decision we make and an action we take. It's so important for us to study what the Bible teaches about God's love so we can learn to love like Jesus-to be a servant who "washes feet" by helping others.

Matthew 7:12 (NIV) says, "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you..." Showing God's love means investing in the lives of others by giving them support, encourag-

ing them, helping to meet their needs-serving them as we're able to do it.

It's easy to want to help people you like or those you want to impress, but when it comes to doing something for someone you don't know or even your family, it can be a different story.

We have to realize we're naturally selfish, and we must make a conscious decision to think of others on purpose or we'll miss many opportunities to serve them.

I want to encourage you to read John 13 and pay close attention to what Jesus did and what He said. Spend some time studying scriptures about God's love and pray for Him to show you ways you can serve the people in your life.

You'll probably find it's easier and more simple than you thought it would be to help make someone's life better.

God wants us to have success and enjoy our lives, but He wants us to die to self, get over being the center of our world, and begin to focus on looking for someone who needs our help every day.

When you do this, you'll discover you're actually more secure, content, peaceful and happy than you've ever been in your life.

For more information, visit www.joycemeyer.org.

Baha'i to host Awakening Peace Celebration May 28

Everyone is invited to attend the Awakening Peace Celebration on Sunday, May 28, from noon to 4 p.m. at the Florence Senior Center, 1570 Kingwood St.

Musician and storyteller Mary Beth Nickel will perform "Dispelling the Myth of Us vs. Them;" there will Indian Education drumming and dancing; and Sufi dancer Stephen Pierce.

There will also be poetry for

Peace and children's face painting by Susan Peavey.

On Monday, May 29 at 6:30 p.m., at 875 Seventh Street, everyone is invited to join a group of friends from varied spiritual paths to discuss the nobility of a life well lived.

The greatest gift a human being can make to God is a life lived in the knowledge and the worship of God. In fact, one's life is the most creative endeavor one undertakes. When a soul

who has lived an exemplary life departs from this plane of existence, his or her passing becomes an instrument of education to other souls.

The manner in which one plans for the distribution of one's belongings, the manner in which one's funeral and burial occurs reflect one's commitment to God, the beauty with which one's grave is maintained; all of these become a further reflection of the nobility

of a life well lived.

Bring your thoughts on the distribution of one's belongings and the manner of one's funeral and burial.

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.

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

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Presbyterian Church features Near-Death seminar May 30

Barbara Bartolome of Santa Barbara, CA will present a seminar for the public on Near-Death Experiences at the Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw from 3:30-5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 30. She is a member of the International Association for Near-Death Studies.

Barbara has had two near-death experiences and was recently featured on the NBC Today Show in a segment titled "Do You Believe?", in December 2016.

Barbara's 1987 Near-Death Experience will be reenacted on a new, syndicated Cable TV show in the fall, on "Mysteries of the Unexplained."

Bartolome was born and raised in Salem, Oregon and has lived in Santa Barbara since 1983. She worked at UC Santa Barbara, as did her husband, Vi, while they raised their five children.

She is a popular speaker across the nation and is stopping in Florence on her way to an engagement in Portland. Barbara is strongly committed to the IANDS organization's purpose in promoting responsible, multi-disciplinary exploration of near-death and similar experiences.

If you or a loved one has had a near-death event, she will welcome hearing about it. Barbara was like many near-death experiencers and didn't tell anyone about her experience for many years.

She strongly feels that her NDE story helps others eliminate their fear of death and it provides proof that our consciousness... our soul... ultimately survives the death of our physical body.

This Seminar is sponsored by the Presbyterian Church for the community.

There is no charge and nothing to purchase.

Volunteer van drivers needed for Friends of Florence Van

The Friends of Florence, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, is in need of volunteer drivers.

The only requirement is a clean driving record and under the age of 80.

Friends of Florence drivers provide free transportation, Monday through Friday, for cancer patients seeking treatment in the valley.

Drivers transport patients needing radiation treatment at the Willamette Valley

Cancer Institute in Eugene or the Oregon Urology Center in Springfield.

Drivers leave Peace Harbor Hospital at 8 a.m. and are usually back in Florence between noon and 1 p.m.

There is no charge for this service. Drivers usually only drive one day each month.

For more information or to volunteer as a driver, contact Bart Mealer, Driver Supervisor, at 541-997-8663.