



Making God the true focus in your life

Throughout my journey with God in this life, I've found that spending time with Him and acknowledging Him in all of my ways is the most important and rewarding habit I can ever develop (see Proverbs 3:6).

I can tell you from experience that God's help and presence in our lives is vital.

He is the author of all true success and everything that is good. And spending time with God through prayer and His Word is a prerequisite for having a great life and fulfilling your purpose.

Now, it's true that we can improve ourselves through discipline and even have some success, but will power will only bring us so far.

The truth is that nothing can really take the place of having a healthy relationship with God.

I absolutely love Hebrews 11:6. It says that God "is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him" (NKJV). When we draw near to Him, He fills our lives with His strength, peace, joy, provision, and favor...and blesses us in ways we can't even imagine.

If we are diligent in seeking God, slowly and surely we become better people.

Putting First Things First

When it comes to our everyday lifestyle, it's impor-

tant to ask: Am I putting God first?

It can be easy to put ourselves first...

Or our friends...

Or our possessions.

But when we put everything else ahead of the Lord, we cheat ourselves out of the good life that God wants us to have.

I tried for many years to work God into my schedule, but it seemed like I never found time. I had good intentions, but procrastination got the best of me.

I was always going to spend time with God later on... or after the "one more thing" I needed to do.

The result?

Not much was working right in my life or in my ministry. I was frustrated most of the time and felt like I was barely making progress. I'm grateful to say that God finally got through to me! I have learned how to work my schedule around God, rather than trying to work Him into my schedule.

Jesus said in Matthew 11:28, "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

The answer to my problem (and yours) is simple: Come to Jesus!

It's not about having a program to follow-it's simply about forming a habit of putting God first in everything we do.

If we will seek first His Kingdom, He has promised to add everything else that we need. (See Matthew 6:33.)

Where to Begin

I remember when my ten-year-old granddaughter came to me and said, "Grandma, I want you to tell me how to spend more time with God because I'm so busy." I thought that was cute.

I thought, Honey, if you think you're busy now, you just wait!

I told her what I'm about to tell you: Just start somewhere.

So many people never start at all because they think they need a huge chunk of time to begin.

Or they end up doing nothing if they feel like they can't do everything.

Here's what I recommend: Start by taking some time in the morning to talk with God in prayer and read His Word-even if it's just five or ten minutes.

If you plan on spending your time with Him later in the day, then I encourage you to take at least a few moments in the morning to get started with God on your mind.

Acknowledge Him and ask for His help. It can be as simple as saying, "God, I love You, and I appreciate everything You do for me. I really need Your help with my day."

Sometimes we are defeated because we try to begin where

we should be finishing, or we try to do what someone else is doing.

The truth is that God will meet you where you are right now.

As you take a step of faith, He will give you the grace and strength you need!

So don't allow yourself to do nothing simply because you can't do a lot. Start small and go from there.

Today, I can truly say that I am addicted to spending time with God — He has become a necessity that I require every day!

If you are at a point in your life where you are ready to make Him your number one priority in every area of your life, then take a moment right now and ask Him to help you get started.

As you do, you'll find that His guidance and presence are things you just can't live without.

Joyce Meyer is a New York Times bestselling author and founder of Joyce Meyer Ministries, Inc.

For more information, visit www.joyce-meyer.org.

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Spirituali-Tea to discuss purpose of law

The public is invited to join a group of people with diverse spiritual thoughts and paths. The group's objective is to trust one's own path enough to be open to the value of the thoughts and paths of others.

The topic for this week's gathering is "The Purpose of Law," which is there to ensure the wellbeing of all.

The public is encouraged to bring their thoughts on the

subject for open discussion.

The discussion will be held on Monday, Aug. 21, at 6:30 p.m.

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.

Come and join us at our Tops meetings.

Join with us, to listen and participate in programs that help us on our journey to weight loss.

Every Wednesday, Weigh in begins at 7:45 am to 8:45 am. Meeting starts at 8:50 am to 9:50 am.

Meet us at New Life Lutheran Church, 21st and Spruce street. Call Tracy at 541-360-1716 or Aurelia at 541-902-7574.

Voice your opinion! Submit letters to: Editor@TheSiuslawNews.com.

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FUUF TO DISCUSS COMMUNITY RIGHTS

Sunday, Aug 20th from 10 to 11 a.m., the Florence Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (FUUF) guest speaker will be Michelle Holman. She will talk about her experience as a member of the Community Rights Movement.

Holman has lived in Western Lane County's Coast Range for more than 30 years and has been active in the anti-herbicide struggle since the late 70's.

After many years of her community's unsuccessful fight to stop government-protected aerial spraying of toxic chemicals by private logging companies, Holman renounced traditional activism and joined the Community Rights Movement.

She's also served on the Mapleton School Board for 25 years where, 20 years ago, the school district stopped using toxic chemicals on school

grounds.

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

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

Call 541-997-2840 with any questions or concerns

7th Annual SIUSLAW OPEN AT OCEAN DUNES GOLF LINKS

Saturday, September 16th
To Benefit Siuslaw Outreach Services

Registration 9:00 am Shotgun Start 10:00am

Entry Fee : \$89 per player or \$320 per 4 person team

Early Registration Discount if Received by September 1: \$75/Player or \$295 for Team of Four

Fee includes Green Fees, Cart, Gift Bag, Snacks & Delicious BBQ Meal

Entry forms available at Siuslaw Outreach Services, Ocean Dunes, Oregon Pacific Bank and Abel Insurance

For more info call 541-997-2816 or online florencesos.org

LOTS OF PRIZES TO WIN!

\$5,000 Putting Contest!
One Player selected at Random

Abel Insurance Agency
Risk Management & Consulting Services

ENTER FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A 2017 FORD F150 for hole-in-one on designated hole.

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Banner Bank
Chad E. Clement, D.D.S.
Tony's Garage

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

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
Wednesday, 7 p.m. - Family Connections
Adult Bible Class, 9:30am on Sundays.
Sunday Services, 9am and 10:45am.
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 @ 8 a.m.
Online Worship Service@ www.florencecnz.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.

Join Us In Worship
4 lines, approx 15 words, \$10 a week
4 week Minimum
Deadline 3 p.m. Mondays.

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 Time: Sunday at 10:00 a.m.
Coffee Fellowship Following Service
2nd & Kingwood • (541) 997-6025

FOUR SQUARE 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

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
Senior Center, 1570 Kingwood • 541-991-9398
Sunday Services: 10am and 6pm
Wednesday 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 & Mon. 5pm
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 Benschoter

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

To be included in this directory contact the Siuslaw News at 997-3441, or drop off information at 148 Maple St., Old Town, Florence.