

'Finding Peace in a Chaotic World' theme for spiritual renewal weekend

Contemplative Outreach practitioner Susan Rush, from Santa Fe, N.M., will lead the 2020 Spiritual Renewal Weekend from March 7 to 8 at the Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw.

The multi-denominational Renewal Weekend, conducted annually since 1997 in Florence, will feature three independent seminars on Saturday and a



COURTESY PHOTO

Contemplative Outreach practitioner Susan Rush will lead the renewal weekend in March.

combined worship service on Sunday.

In the Saturday seminars at 10:30 a.m., 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. in the Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall, Rush will guide participants in the use of contemplative tools such as stilling, pausing and centering prayer to assist them in responding to the world as Christians.

Each of Saturday's sessions deals with a separate focus; participants may be present for any or all of the seminars.

A light lunch will be served between the first and second sessions.

On Sunday, she will speak from the pulpit of a multi-denominational worship service at 10:30 a.m. in the Presbyterian Church sanctuary. She will preach from Romans 12:2: "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds."

A spiritual director and retreat facilitator, Rush has

been active in Contemplative Outreach for three decades.

With a 40-year career in nonprofit health care, she has experience in various settings with faith communities, patients, staff and governing boards. Her recent service in the world carries a strong spiritual care aspect.

Her clinical pastoral education and certification through the Shalem Insti-

tute and the Formation for Contemplative Outreach Service program assist her in supporting others through spiritual inquiry.

The Spiritual Renewal Weekend, formerly known as the Ecumenical Lenten Renewal, is sponsored by the Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw, Florence United Methodist Church, New Life Lutheran Church and Saint Mary, Our Lady of the Dunes, Catholic Church.

Call to artists made for 'Where Art Though?'

Backstreet Gallery invites community members and artists to enter the annual community art challenge, "Where Art Thou," for two- and three-dimensional creations.

The show will be displayed at the Florence Events Center from Feb. 25 through March 31.

Entry forms are due Friday, Feb. 14, at Backstreet Gallery, 1421 Bay Street.

Artwork is to be delivered to the FEC on Feb. 25, between 10 a.m. and noon.

Entry forms available at Backstreet Gallery, online at www.eventcenter.org or at www.backstreetgallery.org.

Two independent artists will judge the show: World traveler and photographer

Jim Buch, with multimedia artist Geoffrey McCormack.

Best of Show and People's Choice award-winners will have a month-long show at Backstreet Gallery.

There will be a reception honoring the artists on March 4, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the FEC.

The reception is open to the community and will include refreshments.

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"In Search of the Lord's Way"
Sunday, 7:30 AM
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www.churchofchristflorence.org

Big Wave open mic is Tuesday

Florence Big Wave First Tuesday Open Mic will be hosted Tuesday, Feb. 4, by the Florence Regional Arts Alliance, 120 Maple St., in Historic Old Town Florence.

Doors open at 6:30 and the open mic starts at 7 p.m.

Come ride the wave to this Florence Big Wave Poetry-sponsored event with your favorite poems, stories and prose.

The event is free and open to everyone, with a five-minute time limit.

For more information, visit the "Big Wave Spoken Word" Facebook Page.

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'Kindness' topic of next FUUF meeting

On Sunday, Feb. 2, starting at 10 a.m. at the Florence Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Dr. Marcia Pearce will share a message titled, "Be Kinder to Yourself, More Than You Have Ever Been Before."

Author Dr. Ernest Holmes once said, "Every person is surrounded by a thought atmosphere."

As with many things, Holmes was way ahead of his time.

Those 'atmospheres' can now be measured by scientific instruments.

Pearce says, "Our thought atmosphere contains our own magic medicine. We can learn how to let it radiate for our own best healing."

The fellowship, located at 87738 Highway 101 (at Heceta Beach Road), is wheelchair accessible.

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

See FUUF's new website at www.FlorenceUUF.com.

the spotlight

A weekly roundup of shopping, savings and doings around town.

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