

Peace Harbor keeps patients, families connected through 'virtual visits'

As restaurants, gyms, parks and other gathering places begin to resume normal operations under Lane County's COVID-19 Phase One Reopening, PeaceHealth Peace Harbor Medical Center and other Oregon hospitals are continuing temporary, state-mandated visitation restrictions aimed at reducing the spread of the new coronavirus.

While these restrictions have helped keep Oregon communities safe, they have been difficult for patients and families. To address that, Peace Harbor has taken steps to keep patients and their loved ones connected through technology.

Launched in April, the Virtual Visitor program allows hospital patients to have online video visits with loved ones who cannot visit in-person. Run by Peace Harbor's Spiritual Care team, the program has two dedicated iPads on-hand for patients who don't have their own video-capable devices.

Chaplains arrange the call, deliver the iPad and provide whatever help the patient needs to set up a FaceTime or Zoom meeting. Afterward, they retrieve and sanitize the device. If a patient is in isolation for infection concerns, someone on the patient's bedside care team can retrieve the device

in order to preserve personal protective equipment (PPE).

To participate in the Virtual Visitor Program, family and friends need a phone, tablet or computer with video chat capability, as well as a reliable internet connection and a webcam. Apple users should already have FaceTime installed on their devices. Anyone using a non-Apple (iOS) device must have Zoom accounts.

Virtual Visits are available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The last visit of the day should be initiated before 4:15 p.m. Anyone can request the service by asking a hospital chaplain

or by calling 541-902-6708 to set up a virtual visit.

In addition to virtual visits, loved ones can also connect with patients through PeaceHealth's Email A Patient program at <https://app.peacehealth.org/EmailAPatient/>. Messages are printed out and delivered to patients twice daily.

While visitation restrictions may soon be eased, as of now most patients cannot have loved ones accompany them inside the hospital or have visitors. Exceptions are made for laboring mothers, children, patients near the end of life and anyone who needs special assistance.

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"I am enjoying settling into the new position. It is great to be in such a dog-friendly community, and to be working with such a committed staff," he said.

Brown begins his new position facing equally new challenges that have required adapting to the

COVID-19 restrictions. Among them are limiting on-site activities and scheduling appointments for services.

"OCHS is operating by appointment only and we have been able to maintain our staffing levels, although COVID has impacted the number of active volunteers," Brown said. "We have been able

to maintain great foster support as well as to continue transports with our adoption partners."

Brown's start at OCHS comes just before the organization's annual membership meeting, during which current board vacancies will be filled by a vote of members. Participants will also have the chance to talk with Brown

and other directors on plans for OCHS.

The humane society's upcoming board election could provide an opportunity for Brown as he works to rebuild confidence in an organization that has weathered heavy turbulence over the past three years. This includes inquiries by the Oregon Department of Justice, a complete turnover of a previous board, the firing and resignation of managers and newly elected board members amid accusations of improper conduct.

Into this shifting landscape enters Brown, who is unfazed by the recent troubles and looking forward to his responsibilities.

"Social distancing and the shut-down has certainly posed challenges, but the first thing I am trying to do is meet with as many supporters, stakeholders and detractors as possible in order to gain as much insight into the challenges and needs of the organization," he said.

The position of executive director at OCHS has been vacant since the unexpected resignation of the organization's first-ever executive director over disputes with board members.

In a statement released by the OCHS board, Brown was welcomed and introduced to humane society members.

"Charles Brown comes to Oregon Coast Humane Society with over 20 years' animal shelter experience. He brings with him experience in achieving and maintaining no kill status at numerous animal shelters, including Terre Haute Humane Society and Carroll County Humane Society. He has launched many successful annual fundraising events throughout his career," the statement read.

The statement also said that Brown and his family "are very excited to be a part of the Florence community."

According to Brown, he

has served in a wide variety of positions related to animal welfare, fundraising, grant writing and retail management.

He said he believes his experience as CEO of Hawaii Island Humane Society, where he managed three animal care facilities, and the Terra Haute Indiana Humane Society, where he was the director, have prepared him for the OCHS position and allowed him to spot some areas that will be among the first to be addressed.

"The shelter needs some major updating. The building has been clearly well maintained but has not had any major upgrades in years," Brown said. "We hope to be launching long overdue upgrades to our animal housing area and we are in the process of conducting a needs assessment and a master plan for renovations. ... I also see the need for conducting capital campaigns for shelter improvements.

"I believe OCHS has the opportunity to pioneer the field of virtual volunteering, and of course save more lives."

The opportunity presented at OCHS was one Brown said he is pleased to tackle.

"I have been in animal welfare and animal sheltering for over 20 years. I have worked in diverse settings and with a variety of people, but I like to think my career started when my grandfather and I rehabbed two orphan black bear cubs for the Pennsylvania Game Commission," he told Siuslaw News. "I have been able to follow my passion and I have a really strong background in operations and well as public engagement."

Anyone interested in fostering or adopting a pet, volunteering or making a financial contribution to OCHS can call 541-997-4277, stop by the humane society, 2840 Rhododendron Dr., or visit oregoncoasthumane.org.

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<p>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.</p>	<p>NEW LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH, E.L.C.A. 21st & Spruce Street – 997-8113 Pastor Rachel Simonson – All are welcome Sermons are on YouTube at https://youtu.be/jcTJVWp_6ps. www.florencenewlife.org</p>
<p>CROSS ROAD ASSEMBLY OF GOD Corner of 10th & Maple – 997-3533 We will be live streaming from Facebook at 10am Sunday morning. Link to our website https://www.florencecrossroadag.org/church-online All other platforms will be update after the service. florencecrossroadag.org office@florencecrossroadag.org</p>	<p>PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE SIUSLAW 3996 N Hwy 101 997-7136 Traditional Worship Service 10:00 a.m., Reverend Greg Wood Worship services and all group meetings in the church have been temporarily suspended at least until the end of March. Our 10am Sunday worship service will be available via Zoom using your phone, tablet or computer. Church members and friends will be called this week and given phone in/logon information. You can also call the church office for this information. All Welcome. Come as you are.</p>
<p>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - SBC 1935 25th St. – 997-7660 • Pastor, Ron Allen Services on Facebook live Sunday's at 11:00 am Wednesday's at 6:00 pm All Bible studies held at the church including Sunday morning, Thursday Ladies study, and Children's Programs are suspended. Blessings on you and your family.</p>	<p>RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS) "War is still not the answer." FCNL Since we meet in homes, we are taking a mindful pause. Call 997-4237 or 902-9511 for information.</p>
<p>FLORENCE CHRISTIAN CHURCH 2nd & Ivy – 997-2961 – Non-Denominational Services suspended this week. We will continue to meet as The Church through our Community Groups. We are working on options for you and will communicate that with you soon.</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>FLORENCE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 12th and Nopal – 997-9020 Services will be available via YouTube. Follow the link at http://florencenaz.church/</p>	<p>SAINT MARY, OUR LADY OF THE DUNES CATHOLIC CHURCH 1.5 miles south of river on Hwy 101 – 997-2312 COVID-19 Compliant Masses have been scheduled. Please call our office for details.</p>
<p>FLORENCE EVANGELICAL CHURCH 1318 Rhododendron Dr. • 541-997-2523 Sunday Service 11am (Children Sunday School) Mid-Week Activities, all ages.</p>	
<p>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.</p>	
<p>FLORENCE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP 87738 Hwy 101 at Heceta Beach Road All are welcome to explore the answer. In lieu of our regular service, we will be videotaping the sermon and have it available from YouTube (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1h3s3lhuRKRCXNxbF8H3Nw). www.FlorenceUUF.org - (541) 997.2840</p>	
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