

INTERFAITH VOICES

We are all searching for peace

The search for peace seems to be a universal aim for all of us. Where do you find peace



ALICE RAMPTON

in a noisy, chaotic world that is ever-changing? I posed this question to friends on Facebook. The responses

were poignant: ■ In stillness, simplicity and reflection ■ Syncing with nature’s rhythm ■ Pondering pleasant memories ■ Engaging in therapy with a trusted counselor ■ Being in or nearby a temple

■ Praying in solitude ■ Taking long walks or a hike in the forest, on the beach, by a river ■ Being still in quiet moments ■ Listening to music ■ Meditating, relaxing and breathing deeply ■ Turning off distractions, noises contention ■ Reading Scripture and other inspiring books

Our individual sanctuaries are found in so many places. One of the places I seek and find peace is in a temple of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Temples are sacred “Houses of Learning” designed to help God’s children feel close to Him and His Son, Jesus Christ. They are places of quiet and beauty where individuals can ponder their relationship to the divine and to others. We believe that eternal promises can be made in temples that strengthen individuals and families, through generations.

Our church has been a temple-building organization since its founding in 1830. But the pattern was set long ago. In Exodus, we

ABOUT INTERFAITH VOICES

The weekly “Interfaith Voices” column includes a regular rotation of writers representing the broad spectrum of spiritual voices throughout the mid-valley. The column is coordinated by the Reverend Barbara Nixon, who can be emailed at revbabs2000@gmail.com.

learn about the Tabernacle of the Israelites, built to specific requirements, as a sanctuary of Jehovah.

King Solomon oversaw the building of a temple around 1000 BC and upon completion, “...the king and all the people dedicated the house of God.” (2nd Chronicles 7:5).

Hindu and Sikh temples have dotted the Asian continent for centuries. I remember, as a 9-year old living in Bangkok, visiting the beautiful Buddhist temples. Even as a child, I felt a sense of reverence watching the monks in orange robes pray and tend to temple duties.

Individuals and religions throughout the world have been building temples since the dawn of time.

In 2022, the ground was broken in Springfield for the building of the third Latter-day Saint temple in Oregon. Construction on this “House of the Lord” is now complete, and it has been named the Willamette Valley Oregon Temple.

Once the temple is dedicated in June, entrance is reserved for members of the Church. But before that happens, the doors are flung open wide for public tours of the interior and to enjoy the beautiful grounds.

Those who have participated in a tour at other temples often comment on the peace that they feel while there. Like the Israelites of old, special care is given to ensure that the finest workmanship and materials are used in building these temples. The design of a temple and the visual images all point to the divinity of Jesus Christ.

The temple tour is approximately 25 minutes with a quiet, walk-through experience, including printed signs in English and Spanish describing each room. All ages are invited — from a little child to an older person in a wheelchair. The tours are free, and there will be no proselyting.

Public open house tours of the Willamette Valley Temple will be held April 23 through May 9 (excluding Sundays), 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Drop by at your convenience as no reservations are required. This website has additional information on location, parking, and other details: WillametteValleyOregon-Temple.org.

There are many paths for seeking peace. For me, the temple is one of those paths where I go for safety, clarity, comfort and peace. The public open house tours provide a way to share this sacred place with friends and neighbors while celebrating its location in the Willamette Valley.

Alice Rampton is a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. She co-directs a nonprofit agency for Ukrainian children through the Corvallis Sister Cities Association, volunteers for the Benton County Historical Society, and has co-authored a book for grieving parents. She and husband Mark have seven children.

Texas Bible curriculum draws attention

HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH Associated Press

Biblical stories like Jonah and the whale would be required reading for Texas public schools students under proposals that are putting the state at the center of another contentious wrangling over the role of religion in classrooms.

Religious leaders, teachers, parents and students spent hours Tuesday before the state education board arguing about the reading list for the state’s 5.4 million kindergartners to 12th-graders. The debate is part of widening efforts in the U.S. to incorporate religion in schools, mostly in Republican-led states, driving legislation and legal action.

Nationally, U.S. President Donald Trump has pledged to protect and expand religious expression in public schools. Texas, a red state that is home to about one in 10 of the nation’s public school students, often helps set the agenda.

RELIGION CALENDAR

Sunday service: Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 2650 NW Highland Drive in Corvallis, will share God’s Word and Holy Communion at 9 a.m. Sunday, April 19, both in the sanctuary and via livestream worship at www.svlc-corvallis.org and facebook.com/shepherdcorvallis.

This third Sunday of Easter, Pastor Eric Bohlmann’s sermon will be about the “Resurrection Family.” Shepherd of the Valley is a place of personal and group well-being, inviting you to find rest and renewal in Jesus Christ.

Fellowship time will immediately follow the worship service. Multi-gen Bible study and Sunday School for younger children both begin at 10:30 a.m. and offer opportunities for further study of Jesus’ teachings and for discovering ways to apply them in everyday life.

Multi-gen Bible Study will reflect on and discuss the themes woven throughout the worship service readings, with particular focus on what it means to be part of the resurrection family.

Shepherd of the Valley is fully accessible.

Sunday worship: First United Methodist Church, 1165 NW Monroe Ave. in Corvallis, will hold a worship service at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, April 19, in person and at facebook.com/CorvallisFUMC/live.

What Hope Is: We’ve talked about what hope isn’t. But what is it? Having cleared out some of the clutter this last week, it’s time to invest in ideas of hope that are sturdier than what we’re leaving behind.

This week we will explore some nuances and possibilities of what hope might be. Here we find not definitions but excursions: detours

and discoveries, parables and promises. As we continue, listen: Where are you being invited next? Where do you sense resistance? What might that resistance be telling you?

Baha’i devotions and discussion: “Gifts of Paradise” is set for 10:30 a.m. Sunday, April 19 via Zoom. The Zoom room will open at 10:15 a.m.

During 12 days on a garden island

in the Euphrates River near Baghdad, Baha’u’llah (The Glory of God) made public His mission. Join us Sunday as we celebrate the holiest days of the Baha’i calendar.

All are welcome to enjoy fellowship, readings and discussion. Please visit https://tinyurl.com/2e-jv7cth, where you will find a copy of readings for Sunday and a Zoom link to join the meeting.

FREE ESTATE PLANNING WORKSHOP

TUES, MAY 5th

6-7.30pm

WILLS + TRUSTS

POWER OF ATTORNEY

TAX LAWS

CHARITABLE BEQUESTS

Corvallis Library, Main Mtg. Room

645 NW Monroe, Corvallis

Hosted by Greenbelt Land Trust

Presentation by Claudia Dean, JD

Marek & Lanker Law Firm

MID-VALLEY

WORSHIP DIRECTORY

ALBANY

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Hope Church

2817 Santiam Hwy. SE

(541) 967-HOPE (4673)

www.hope.church

Pastor Mark Robinson

Sunday Worship 9am & 11am

Wednesday Classes 7:00pm

CONSERVATIVE BAPTIST

Willamette Community Church

420 3rd Ave. SE

541-926-8881

Scott Miller, Lead Pastor

www.wccalbany.com

Sunday Worship 9am & 10:30am

CHRISTIAN

Crabtree Christian Church

37650 Crabtree Dr., Crabtree

Dave Nolte, Pastor

541-619-8688

Sunday School, All Ages 9 am

Sunday Worship Service: 10 am

www.crabtreechurch.com

Eastside Christian Church

1910 Grand Prairie Rd SE

(541) 928-9349

www.eastsidechristianchurch.com

Sunday Service: 8:45am (in-person) and 10:30am (in-person and livestream) Preaching Pastor Ben Atchley

First Christian (Disciples of Christ)

432 Ferry St. SW

541-926-8606

Revs. Allison and Jared Ruari

Sunday Worship Service, 10 a.m.

Website: fccalbany.com

Facebook: facebook.com/FCCAlbany

Free Community Meal, 5-6 p.m. Thurs.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

Christian Science Society

537 7th Ave. SW

541-926-7979

Sunday Service 10am

Testimony Meeting 1st & 3rd Wed.

3:00 p.m. Nov. - April; 6:30 p.m. May-Oct.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Hill Street Church of Christ

1805 Hill St. SE, Albany

541-926-0606

Jonathan Harless, Minister

Sunday School for all ages: 9:30am

Sunday Worship 10:30am & 5pm

Wednesday Worship 6pm

hillstcoc.org

EPISCOPAL

St. Martin's Episcopal

257 E. Milton, Lebanon

541-451-1159

email: stmartinslebanon@gmail.com

Sunday Worship Service 10 a.m.

www.stmartinslebanon.org/

www.facebook.com/St.Martins.Lebanon

EVANGELICAL

Sodaville Evangelical

38200 Middle Ridge Dr., Lebanon

541-259-2153

Pastor Winston Thurton

Sunday School 9:30am

Fellowship 10:25am

Worship 10:45am

Congregational Prayer 6pm

www.sodavillechurch.org

LUTHERAN

Christ Community Lutheran Church (LCMC)

Pastor Fred Westerhold

541-259-7729

320 Market St., Lebanon

Adult Forum/Sunday School 9:00am

Traditional Worship 10:00am

Fellowship 11:30am

Immanuel Lutheran (LCMS)

154 Madison S.E.

541-926-3495

Rev. Larry Oliver, Pastor

Sunday Worship 10:30am,

Sunday School 9am

Adult Bible Study 9am

MENNONITE

Albany Mennonite

Along I-5 on Century Drive

541-926-1443

Peter Epp, Pastor

Sunday School: 10am

Sunday Worship 11am

www.albanymennonite.org

METHODIST

First United Methodist

1115 28th Ave. SW, Albany

(541) 928-3505

Rev. Alyssa Baker

Online & In-person Worship: 9:30am

www.albanymethodist.org

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

The Salvation Army

345 Columbus St. SE

541-928-4774

Major Mike Johnson & Major Rachel Johnson

Sunday School: 9:30am,

Sunday Worship: 11am

PRESBYTERIAN

Oakville Presbyterian Church

29970 Church Drive, Shedd

541-758-0647

Worship Service: 10am, Sunday.

In-person and online. See our website: http://www.oakvillechurch.org/

United Presbyterian

330 5th Ave., SW, Albany

541-926-5551

Brandon Lewis, Pastor

10am Online and in-person

Worship Celebration

facebook.com/UPCAlbanyOR

youtube.com/UnitedPresAlbany

church.unitedpres@gmail.com

www.upcalbany.org