



# *Connections*

*January 2018*

*"Set your resolutions  
and go forward in  
the new things you  
believe God is calling  
you to do - but -  
be ready to receive  
God's surprise  
blessings and  
changes to your  
plan."*

# Contents

02



02 Feature | Something New  
Pastor Corey Laughary

03 Feature | The First Gift  
Tim Sievers

05 Feature | My Daily Darkness  
Tina Laughary

06 Feature | Prayer Requests  
Church on a Hill Podcast

07 Feature | Sermon Schedule

06



06



Palouse Federated Church  
635 N. Bridge St.  
Palouse, WA 99161  
(509) 878-1509  
[www.palousechurch.org](http://www.palousechurch.org)

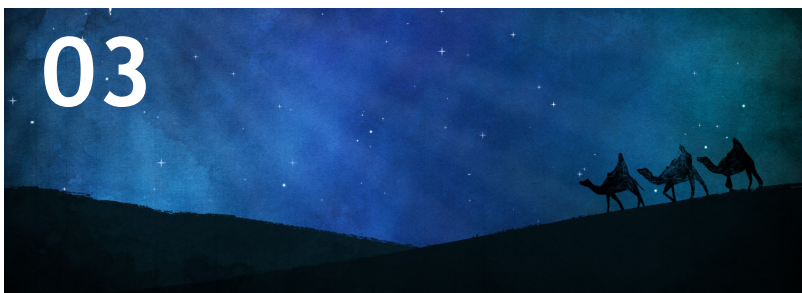
Corey Laughary, Senior Pastor  
Cell | (509) 336-9154  
[corey@palousechurch.org](mailto:corey@palousechurch.org)

Tim Sievers  
Communication & Connection Director  
Bishop Place Ministry Team Leader  
Cell | (509) 595-2778  
[tim@palousechurch.org](mailto:tim@palousechurch.org)

05



03



**PALOUSE**  
*federated*  
**CHURCH**  
DEPENDING ON JESUS



## SOMETHING NEW

Pastor Corey Laughary

How does God lead us to do something new?

We can fool ourselves into thinking we are completely in control of starting something new. We make a plan. Stick to the plan. And see the plan come to fruition. Usually, however, it's not that simple.

Planning and preparation aren't bad when starting something new, we just need to realize God might have a completely different, and often surprising set of twists and turns.

For the first three Sunday mornings in January, we will be learning how God started a new church, using Paul and his team, in a city called Philippi. Strange as it may seem, the first three converts to join this new church were: a businesswoman who specialized in purple goods, a slave girl recovering from demon possession, and a jailer who had nearly committed suicide. Now, my guess is that no one in a planning room, weeks before going to Philippi, would ever draw up the beginning membership of the church to include the three core people that we are going to learn about in Acts chapter 16. But, God's plan does include a seller of purple goods, a once demon possessed slave girl and a formerly suicidal jailer.

This is where we need to admit when we are starting something new it is important to roll with the changes that God brings along. It is great to make plans and prepare. It is just fine to make goals for the New Year. Set your resolutions and go forward in the new things you believe God is calling you to do - BUT - be ready to receive God's surprise blessings and changes to your plan.

I hope you can be a part of the message series starting January 7 called "Something New." My prayer and hope is that Jesus will use this series to increase our trust in Him and His good plan for our life.

Depending on Jesus,

Pastor Corey

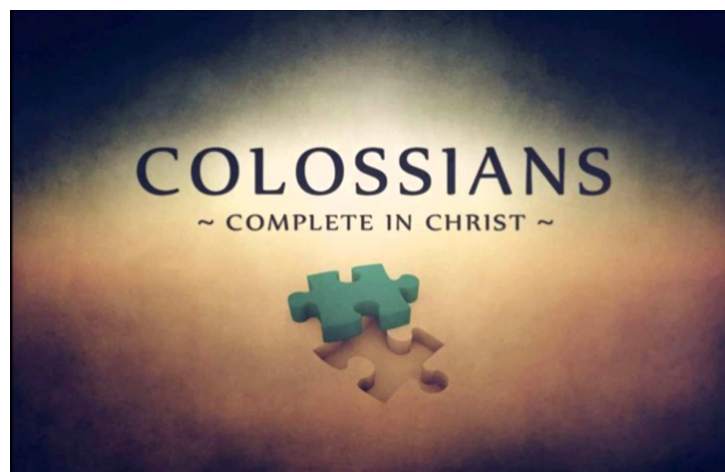


“Planning and preparation aren't bad when starting something new, we just need to realize God might have a completely different, and often surprising set of twists and turns.”

## LEVITICUS

### “AGE OLD QUESTIONS”

At the end of January we will begin a new sermon series based on the book of Leviticus. To many, this is a strange and difficult book to read, so we wanted to provide you with some resources to help those who are interested in learning more about this often ignored book of the Bible. In the sidebar to the right you can find those resources.



## COMPLETE IN CHRIST: COLOSSIANS

### New Sunday Night Series Starts Jan. 7

You're invited to Sunday Nights @ PFC our weekly service at 6 PM. If you've never been, it's a laid back group that meets in the Fellowship Hall. Pastor Corey teaches for about 45 minutes and we have the Lord's Supper together. It's a simple time of learning and spiritual growth. This month we are starting a study of Paul's letter to the Colossians. This little letter is deeply encouraging and calls us to find our secure identity in Christ, so we are calling the series "Complete in Christ." Sunday Nights @ PFC is open to all and free childcare is available for families who need it. We hope to see you there!

## RESOURCES FOR BIBLE LEARNING

Free online class on Leviticus:

[www.covenantseminary.edu/resources/studies-in-leviticus/](http://www.covenantseminary.edu/resources/studies-in-leviticus/)

Check out [www.myBibleplans.com](http://www.myBibleplans.com), a 100% free Web site where you can create your own Bible reading plan and receive daily e-mail reminders.

## JANUARY READING PLAN

DATE	SCRIPTURE PASSAGE	DATE	SCRIPTURE PASSAGE
01/03	Leviticus 1	01/17	Leviticus 15
01/04	Leviticus 2	01/18	Leviticus 16
01/05	Leviticus 3	01/19	Leviticus 17
01/06	Leviticus 4	01/20	Leviticus 18
01/07	Leviticus 5	01/21	Leviticus 19
01/08	Leviticus 6	01/22	Leviticus 20
01/09	Leviticus 7	01/23	Leviticus 21
01/10	Leviticus 8	01/24	Leviticus 22
01/11	Leviticus 9	01/25	Leviticus 23
01/12	Leviticus 10	01/26	Leviticus 24
01/13	Leviticus 11	01/27	Leviticus 25
01/14	Leviticus 12	01/28	Leviticus 26
01/15	Leviticus 13	01/29	Leviticus 27
01/16	Leviticus 14		



## THE FIRST GIFT

### Matthew 2:1-12

Tim Sievers



Christmas is my favorite time of year. I love Advent and the anticipation of Christ's arrival. I love the smell of evergreen and roasting chestnuts. I love the brilliance of Christmas bulbs strung on homes and trees that bring light to the darkness. I love the warmth of a fire while watching the snow gently fall to ground. And I love the traditions of Christmas too. I love how we hang the greens, light the advent candles, sing Christmas carols, and how we celebrate by coming together with family and friends around the table to share in a meal and recognize the gift we were given those many thousands of years ago.

But have you ever stopped to think about how quickly Christmas goes. Preparations begin as early as September, but the day after Christmas everything seasonal is on sale. But, it's still Christmas...at least for the church it is. Christmastide only ends with the arrival of Epiphany on January 6. Epiphany celebrates the arrival of the wise men to worship Jesus.

Tradition holds that three wise men followed the star to Bethlehem. Every nativity scene, whether on the front of a church bulletin or the ones you have at home will bear witness to the "truth" of the three wise men. There's even a Christmas carol dedicated to these characters: "We Three Kings." But, if you look in the scripture there is no reference to the number of wise men. The scripture simply says that there were wise men; that they came from the East; and that they followed a star to Jerusalem seeking the child who was born king of the Jews.

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**"But were there really just three gifts that fateful day when the wise men followed the star and called on Mary and found her with Jesus?"**

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The scripture also tells us that the wise men opened their treasure chests and offered Jesus three gifts - gold, frankincense and myrrh. Perhaps it's from the identification of the three gifts that tradition has inferred there were three kings.

Three gifts...three kings. Three kings...three gifts. Gold...frankincense...and myrrh.

But, were there really just three gifts that fateful day when the wise men followed the star and called on Mary and found her with Jesus?

If we look to scripture we will find that the first gift the wise men presented was not myrrh. It was not frankincense. And it wasn't even gold.

Let's look at Matthew 2:11:

<sup>11</sup>On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; *and they knelt down and paid him homage*. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Before opening their treasure-chests and offering the child Jesus gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, first they gave him the greatest gift of all. In humility, in reverence, and in submission, they knelt down and paid him homage. The word in Greek that is translated as "paid him homage" refers to the custom of prostrating oneself at the feet of a king. The imagery is clear and dramatically expresses the idea of giving not just gifts, but our entire selves to Christ.

However, verse eleven is not the first time we encounter the idea of paying homage. In verse two, the wise men came to Jerusalem asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." And in verse eight we see the duplicity of Herod when, after hearing from the wise men the exact time when the star had appeared, he sent them to Bethlehem saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."

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**"Before anything else...homage. In kneeling and paying homage the wise men express their relationship to Christ. First homage. First worship. First giving themselves completely to Christ."**

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But the irony of Herod's situation is that in sending the wise men to Bethlehem, he unknowingly states the truth of what he needs to do. Herod the despot. Herod the fear monger. Herod, empowered by Caesar to do anything and everything necessary to maintain Rome's absolute dominion, even the murder he would later perpetrate on the children of Bethlehem, needs to prostrate himself before the compassion, justice and grace incarnate in the child the wise men are seeking.

What gets lost in the pageantry, carols and Epiphany celebrations is that the wise men do not immediately present their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The first thing they do upon entering the house and seeing Mary and the child is to kneel down and pay him homage. Only after this act of worship, of completely surrendering themselves to Christ do they present their other gifts.

The order of the actions is significant. Before anything else...homage. In kneeling and paying homage the wise men express their relationship to Christ. First homage. First worship. First giving themselves completely to Christ. Then they offer their other gifts.

The wise men's first gift was homage. ***What will your first gift to the Christ child be?***



What's the next step in your spiritual journey?

Baptism?  
Membership?  
Bible Study?  
Service?

January 21  
@ 10:15 AM

# NEXT STEPS

## Bible Studies

### First Monday Monthly

Starting Point: Bible  
6:30 PM

### Monday

Ladies Bible Study  
Sermon Scriptures  
3 PM @ Tina Laughary's

### Tuesday

Men's Way Too Early Study  
Sermon Scriptures  
5:30 AM @ PFC

New Testament Bible Study  
10 AM @ PFC

(Free Child Care Available by Request)

### Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study  
Sermon Scriptures  
9 AM @ PFC

## BAPTISM & MEMBERSHIP

If you are a believer in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior and haven't been baptized, now is the time to step up to publicly proclaim what Jesus Christ has done for you. Talk to Pastor Corey about baptism anytime. Baptism is something that Jesus commanded the Church to do (Matt. 28). It is truly a joyous occasion, and should not be feared for any reason.

If you are a person that believes in Jesus and has been baptized, but you have never taken the step to become a voting member of our local church, consider that now is the time to step up into church membership. All that is required is faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, a Christian baptism, and submission of PFC's membership agreement. Voting members (who are 18 and older) vote on who is on the Executive Board, have a right to vote on property decisions, and the hiring and firing of pastoral staff. Membership is not required to participate in the life of our church, however it is a show of commitment to the work of Christ here in this part of the world. If you are interested in membership, or have any questions at all, please talk to Pastor Corey, or Executive Board Chair, Butch Smith.

**BAPTISM**  
TAKE YOUR STEP

CONTACT  
PASTOR  
COREY IF YOU  
WOULD LIKE  
TO BE  
BAPTIZED!

## christmasgiving

### Palouse Care Network | Adopt-A-Family Update

Generous Gifts were given to a family of six that our church adopted at Palouse Care Network. Pictured below are John and Betty Sawyer delivering snow boots, coats, dresses and outfits, diapers, blankets, quilts, sheets, toys, books, a coffee maker, and a Bible all wrapped for them.



## NEW! YOUNG LIFE INTRODUCES WYLDLIFE FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL

At our fall banquet, Ben Wilson was introduced as our new Middle School staff leader. Watch for announcements regarding plans for Middle School parent contacts and activities. Ben says, "Leaders are excited about building relationships with students at the Middle School. I am in the process of meeting with faculty and community members to find opportunities for us to do contact work with middle schoolers and their families."



Our committee met with our GarPalYoung Life leaders at Jim and Carol Fielder's home in December and provided thank-you gifts for our leaders. Campaigners Bible Studies continue every other week. Thanks to the Fielders, Sawyers, Laugharys, Smiths and Pauls for opening your homes as a meeting place for our kids. And thanks to all who donate soup and bread.

# MY DAILY DARKNESS

Tina Laughary

The word “darkness” paints a vivid picture for us. We all know what darkness is—especially this time of year. It creeps in early, cannot be ignored, and gets in the way of all we are trying to accomplish. Dangerous hazards hide in the darkness, trying to con-



vince us they don’t exist, until we trip on them and they leave their scars in our lives.

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**“What is it we love most about the darkness? It’s seeing the light ripping through it...Light gives us hope, calms our fears and helps us to see our way.”**

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What is it we love most about the darkness? It’s seeing the light ripping through it. We are mesmerized by a giant yellow moon, the stars forming shapes above us, the flickering of a flame, a candle cutting through the abyss or a warm, twinkling strand of lights. Light gives us hope, calms our fears and helps us to see our way.

Darkness had fallen on the world. In a moment when our selfishness showed its true colors, humanity took the apple and opened the floodgate of sin and darkness. The darkness in our hearts poured out and we were left blinded by our sin. Through the years, since the garden, the prophets had spoken about the coming of a light—a light that would show us a way out of our sinfulness, out of the dark.

Isaiah 9:2

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.”

And again in Isaiah 60:1-3

<sup>1</sup> Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.  
<sup>2</sup> For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you.  
<sup>3</sup> And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

After the prophets, the waiting continued - until the day the of John the Baptist. John wandered out of the wilderness proclaiming the arrival of the Light:

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

<sup>9</sup> The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who did re-

ceive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

Finally, a solution to the darkness that envelops humanity. His name is Jesus, the Light of the world, sent of the Father, that we may walk in His Light again.

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**“I have been saved from my darkness and it is now my job to bear witness to the Light.”**

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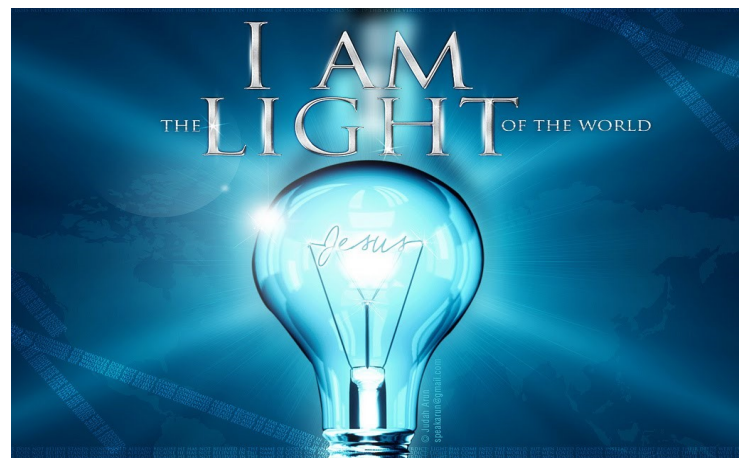
You may be thinking, this sounds an awful lot like an Advent article, not a New Year’s article and you are right, it is. My question for you though is this, “How will you take your Advent convictions with you into the New Year?” We paused, we reflected, and we experienced the awe of Advent, but it’s January now, and life goes on. I’m not talking about a New Year’s Resolution to keep Advent with you. Instead, I am calling for a daily resolution. Remember your darkness daily. But also remember that the Light has come. The truth of this Light should affect the way we live daily.

I don’t know about you, but I am tired of making New Year’s goals that only last through March (ok, more like February). Don’t get me wrong, I want to change and grow in the New Year, maybe more than I ever have. But I have come to believe the best way to make that happen is to intentionally set aside time daily to ponder the reality of my condition. I have been saved from my darkness and it is now my job to bear witness to the Light.

Here are some daily questions to ask:

- ♦ What obstacles will I face today that may keep me from sharing the light of Jesus?
- ♦ What will my strategies be to address those obstacles?
- ♦ How did I do yesterday in sharing the light of Jesus?
- ♦ What do I need to change about myself to be a better witness and how can I work toward that change today?
- ♦ Is there someone in my life who is stumbling in the darkness?
- ♦ How can I point them toward the light?

My goal is to make 2018 a year to witness the Light. Not by setting lofty goals but, instead, by living intentionally daily. The Light has come! Praise be to God for not leaving us blinded in darkness. Thank you, Jesus, for being a light unto my path. Light each of my days and lead me down your path.







## PRAYER REQUESTS:

- ◆ Pray for the family and friends of Marian Seilstad.
- ◆ Pray for the family and friends of Bruce Baldwin.
- ◆ Pray for the family and friends of Kenny Perry.
- ◆ Pray for Gary Brunner, recovering from a fall.
- ◆ Pray for Amy West, cancer.
- ◆ Pray for Tecla Blood, ongoing health issues.
- ◆ Pray for Pat Collier, recovering from open heart surgery.
- ◆ Pray for Carrie Doramus' dad, Richard, dementia.
- ◆ Pray for the community of Freeman, WA.
- ◆ Pray for Dolores, friend of Nancy Wolf, broken pelvis.
- ◆ Pray for Charlotte, friend of Don Gilliland, Parkinson's.
- ◆ Pray for Don Gilliland, ongoing health issues.
- ◆ Vicki Burnham (cancer)
- ◆ Paula Fielder Leftwich (cancer)
- ◆ Monte, friend of Tecla Blood—ongoing health concerns.
- ◆ Willy Mayhan—ongoing health concerns.
- ◆ Brittany Sawyer's Uncle Jon—Early onset Alzheimer's.
- ◆ Idella Griffin—recovering from a broken vertebrae.
- ◆ Camille Wadleigh's mother—ongoing health concerns.
- ◆ Pastor Tim Petty— (Malignant Melanoma)
- ◆ Oralene Romjue (cancer)
- ◆ Don Comstock's health.
- ◆ Patty Myott and her declining eyesight.
- ◆ Judy Hart (stroke)
- ◆ Meredith Willcox-Norris (cancer)
- ◆ Carol Heinlen's niece Barbara
- ◆ National and community leaders.
- ◆ Pray for our nation - that peace, compassion, love and unity win out over hate, discord and division.
- ◆ Pray for those impacted by wildfires, hurricanes, flooding, and earthquakes.
- ◆ Your Oikos—those that God has strategically and supernaturally placed in your life.
- ◆ Active duty service members.

## PRaises AND PRAYERS FOR THESE MISSIONS AND MINISTRIES:

- ◆ Pray for the Bible study at Eastern State Hospital and the residents.
- ◆ Praise God for our youth ministry leaders. Pray for youth to come to Christ.
- ◆ Pray for our missionaries and partner church and orphanage in Uganda (pastors, teachers, orphans).

## REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS:

Richard Keyser	Patty Myott	Dory Tuttle
Reuben Merry	Joanie Bagott	Don Gilliland
Arnetta Tompkins	Frances West	Steve Gill

## OIKOS - "EXTENDED HOUSEHOLD"

Oikos is a Greek word meaning extended household. Pastor Tom Mercer says your Oikos is made up of the 8 to 15 people you interact with on a regular basis that God has supernaturally and strategically placed in your life—friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers. Nobody is better equipped to share the truth of Jesus with them than you.

An Oikos list is your personal "household" of relationships. Pick up and fill out one of our Oikos Prayer Cards and start praying for the people in your Oikos to grow in their relationship with Jesus.

Already have a list—maybe you need to revisit it and add or remove people who have moved in and out of your sphere of influence.

Remember—pray for them daily.

**8to15**

**Did you know there's an Oikos app for iPhone and Android? Search "8to15" in your app store and you'll be on your way to receiving daily reminders to pray for your Oikos!**

## CHURCH ON A HILL PODCAST



Pastor Corey Laughary and Tim Sievers have started a new podcast. They review the sermon, discuss upcoming events and ministry opportunities and generally have a good time—there's usually a joke or two thrown in to lighten things up.

Each podcast is less than 20 minutes so it's easy to listen to on your way to or from Pullman or Moscow...or anytime!

You can find us on SoundCloud - search "Palouse Church on a Hill," or you can click on the link in the weekly e-mail or on Facebook.

If you have ideas for topics or guests let us know! And we would love to have your feedback, so please, let us know how we're doing.

## YOUVERSION AKA THE BIBLE APP

If you have a smart phone or tablet you can have the Bible with you anywhere you go using the FREE App from YouVersion - "The Bible." The Bible App provides access to many English translations of the Bible and also includes Bible reading plans and resources to deepen your study of God's Word. Consider arming your device with the Bible App today. A kid's version, "The Bible for Kids," also is available and has engaging Bible stories and games to help kids grow their knowledge and faith.

# JANUARY SERMONS

January 7	9 & 11 AM	Starting Something New—Part 1	Acts 16:11-15
	6 PM	Introduction to Colossians & Jesus Comes to a Small Town	
January 14	9 & 11 AM	Starting Something New—Part 2	Acts 16:16-24
	6 PM	Complete in Christ: Greetings	Colossians 1:1-2
January 21	9 & 11 AM	Starting Something New—Part 3	Acts 16:25-40
	6 PM	Complete in Christ: Always Thank God	Colossians 1:3-8
January 28	9 & 11 AM	Age Old Questions: Rules, Taboos, and Offerings	Leviticus
	6 PM	Complete in Christ: Prayer Teaching	Colossians 1:3-8



**BISHOP PLACE  
WORSHIP SERVICE**

**Sundays at 1:30 PM  
815 SE Klemgard St  
Pullman, WA 99163**

**Youth Group  
6th - 12th Grades  
Sundays 3-5 PM**

**Be on the lookout for something NEW - A NEW Sunday School Classroom in the Basement!**





# PALOUSE FEDERATED CHURCH CALENDAR

# JANUARY 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 5:30 AM   Way too Early Men's Bible Study* 10 AM   Bible Study*	3 9 AM   Ladies Bible Study* <b>6:30 PM   Starting Point: Bible</b>	4	5	6
7 9 AM   Worship 10:15 AM   Fellowship 10:15 AM   Sunday School 11 AM   Worship 1:30 PM   Bishop Place 3 - 5 PM   Youth Group 5 PM   Young Men's Study 6 PM   Simple Service	8 3 PM   Ladies Bible Study @ Tina Laughary's	9 5:30 AM   Way too Early Men's Bible Study* 10 AM   Bible Study*	10 9 AM   Ladies Bible Study*	11	12	13
14 9 AM   Worship 10:15 AM   Fellowship 10:15 AM   Sunday School 11 AM   Worship 1:30 PM   Bishop Place 3 - 5 PM   Youth Group 5 PM   Young Men's Study 6 PM   Simple Service	15 3 PM   Ladies Bible Study @ Tina Laughary's	16 5:30 AM   Way too Early Men's Bible Study* 10 AM   Bible Study*	17 9 AM   Ladies Bible Study*	18	19	20 7:30 AM   Men's Breakfast
21 9 AM   Worship 10:15 AM   Fellowship <b>10:15 AM   NextSteps</b> 10:15 AM   Sunday School 11 AM   Worship 1:30 PM   Bishop Place 3 - 5 PM   Youth Group 5 PM   Young Men's Study 6 PM   Simple Service	22 3 PM   Ladies Bible Study @ Tina Laughary's	23 5:30 AM   Way too Early Men's Bible Study* 10 AM   Bible Study*	24 9 AM   Ladies Bible Study*	25	26	27
28 9 AM   Worship 10:15 AM   Fellowship 10:15 AM   Sunday School 11 AM   Worship 1:30 PM   Bishop Place 3 - 5 PM   Youth Group 5 PM   Young Men's Study <b>5 PM   Annual Mtg./Dinner</b> 6 PM   Simple Service	29 3 PM   Ladies Bible Study @ Tina Laughary's	30 5:30 AM   Way too Early Men's Bible Study* 10 AM   Bible Study*	31 9 AM   Ladies Bible Study*	<b>FEBRUARY</b> 1	2	3 Bible studies with an * indicate they are held at PFC.

## Depending on Jesus to Restore Our [Imperfect] Lives