Connections February 2018

Amazing love
how rich and pure
how measureless
and strong
from age to age
it will endure
and will ever
be our song."



Contents











02 Feature | The Love of God Tim Sievers

03 Feature | A Gift of Hope Tina Laughary

05 Feature | Living Like Jesus & Loving Like Jesus Tracy Lee Sievers

Sharing the Love of God Young Life

06 Feature | Ash Wednesday Is Near Pastor Corey Laughary

07 Feature | Sermon Schedule

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THE LOVE OF GOD

Tim Sievers

One of my college friends sings and plays with a worship band at his church in St. Louis, MO. In 2014, the band released a worship album called Songs from the Book of Ephesians, which featured a song that quickly became a favorite to me-The Love of God.



I don't know the science behind it, but there's no doubt that music captivates the heart. The best song writers and musicians combine their lyrics with music in a way that connects to your soul and stays with you long after the song comes to an end.

The lyrics spoke to me at that time and in all the years after they still strike a chord in my heart. No matter what I've faced in terms of earthly or spiritual challenges they live inside me.

The lyrics that speak most to me are these:

Could we with ink the oceans fill
And were the skies of parchment made
Were every stalk on earth a quill
And every man a scribe by trade
To write the love of God above
Would drain the oceans all dry
Nor could the scroll contain the whole
Though it be stretched from sky to sky

This song was so powerful to me in the midst of my most recent darkness. It's easy, when things aren't going your way to feel like God has abandoned you. I know, for myself, when people in my life, whom I loved and called friends, turned on me and I subsequently lost my job, my home, and my reputation in the community - there were times I felt that way. Abandoned and alone - tossed aside - all for being faithful to God's calling and leading in my life. But in the midst of those dark days, God would bring the words of this song to my mind and to my heart. And so...I sang. I sang of God's love - rich - pure - measureless - strong. And when I sang, my heart was refocused and I could see clearly God's love and care all around me. He

"But in the midst those dark of days, God would bring the words of this song to my mind and to my And so...I heart. I sang of sang. God's love - rich - pure - measureless strong. And when I sang, my heart was refocused and could see clearly God's love and care all around me."

surrounded me with people who loved and encouraged us and who financially supported us. And if that wasn't evidence enough of his deep love - he reminded me of his sacrifice - surrendering the life of his own son to a cruel and gruesome death - that I might be able to have a relationship with him. That's Amazing Love!

I thought, when I heard the song, that it was an original. I

had grown up in the church and never heard it before. And I never gave it another thought - until we moved to Palouse and it showed up in the 9 AM worship service one morning - the words and melody just a little different. But the verse that spoke to me so powerfully before was right there in the hymnal word for word.

So what was the song's origin, I wondered.

It turns out the original hymn is credited to Frederick Lehman, who composed it c. 1917. But, truly he can receive credit only for the first two verses and the chorus - which are beautifully written of their own accord. That third verse, the one that so impacted me, has deeper roots. It has been widely reported that the third verse was found written on the wall of a patient's room in an insane asylum, perhaps in quiet moments of lucidity amidst the neverending horrors of insanity.

But, its roots run deeper still to medieval Judaism. A Jewish rabbi and poet, Meir ben Yitshak Nehorai of Worms (Germany) penned the words in the 11th Century in the face of great persecution as the crusaders marched across Europe wreaking violence against the Jewish people. The poem, alternately called both *Akdamut* or *Hadamut*, was written in Aramaic and consists of 99 couplets.

Bolstered by its close relationship to a Yiddish folktale where a Jewish champion bests an oppressive sorcerer that had killed more than 30,000 Jews, the poem found its way into the Jewish liturgy surrounding the Feast of Shavuot or Pentecost. The demoralized and defeated Jewish populations took heart from the words and found consolation, hope and strength to face the continued persecution.

The poem, in its original vernacular speaks of a great God. The unfortunate soul in the insane asylum slightly altered the ancient Jewish text to proclaim not God's greatness or power, but his love. A love so great the Psalmist himself couldn't help but declare it time and time again in his writings. Consider these verses from Psalm 103:8-11 -

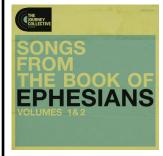
The Lord is merciful and gracious,
 slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
 He will not always chide,

nor will he keep his anger forever.

He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.

11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

God's love is vast, unmeasured, rich, pure, strong and steadfast. The psalmist knew it. Rabbi Meir knew it. I know it. And I pray you come to know it too!



Listen to The Love of God online at:

music.thejourney.org/ track/the-love-of-god

A GIFT OF HOPE

Tina Laughary

People I love have gone through a lot of terrible, heavy things lately. Tragedy has struck. I cannot help but think back to recent events in our family that were tragic and terrible. When I am praying for my loved ones, in the midst of their tragedy, I pray for God's peace for them. Those are not vain or idle words to me.



They are words of hope and expectation because I too have expérienced God's peace. It is à peace that my circumstances did not warrant - a peace that I did not deserve to have a peace that comes only as a beautiful gift from God. His peace engulfs us and carries us through the storms of life.

Jesus prepared His disciples for the dark days in front of them, saying in John 16:33 -

"In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.'

Jesus never promised protection for his believers from the tragic events of this world. He did however promise us that He HAS overcome the world. He has won a victory against the darkness. Jesus' life, death and resurrection have changed the paradigm of this present world. All the death, all the pain, all the sadness, all injustice, all suffering is temporary. Jesus has ended it all.

I know Jesus has overcome the world. I know suffering is temporary. I believe it in my mind and yet-it still hurts. Death "feels" permanent, pain "seems" unending. In these dark times we must hold tightly to the promises of God. We must remember who He is and that he can be trusted.

Our God is love. Our God is Good. Our God is light. Our God is hope. Our God is an anchor. Our God is the truth. Our God is Life. Our God is mercy. Our God is comfort. Our God is peacé.

The other day I was taking a late afternoon walk and praying to God as I did. I was praying for friends who are in the midst of incredible grief. I was praying for them to experience God's peace, for them to be overwhelmed by His comfort. Honestly, though I was in the midst of prayer, my heart was very heavy. As I turned around to head for home, I stopped speechless at what was before me. As the sun be-

gan to dip down in the sky it slipped behind clouds and I was left with a breathtaking view. Immediately I felt overcome by the truth that the God who created the idea of beauty and this beautiful sight before me was holding my friends tightly in His hands. They are experiencing the



very real devastation of death, just as our family has, but God has overcome death. We will be reunited with those we have lost and that reunion will never end.

Whether you are experiencing your own pain or grief, or just walking through it with a friend, take heart - you are not alone. God walks through the valley of the shadow of death alongside us. May his presence bring you comfort, may He brings you peace and may his promises bring you hope.

ADVANCE CARE PLANNING

Have you expressed your wishes for health care treatment and appointed the people you want making your decisions if you are not able to make decisions for yourself? In other words - do you have an Advance Care Plan?

Advance-care planning is a thoughtful, intentional, and meaningful process where you can reflect upon and discuss what's important - especially if you're faced with a life-limiting illness or life-threatening injury.

Often people mistakenly think advance-care planning means receiving no care at all. Rather, it means receiving care that matches your wishes. It's a heartfelt discussion of what life looks like for you and then puts your wishes into a legal document. This guides your family and your healthcare providers in honoring your wishes.

Pastor Corey is trained in facilitating Advance Care Plans and would be glad to walk you through the process. Please contact him for more information.



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 about 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 email 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.

LENT SOUP SUPPERS Theme: Restored

Wednesdays 2/21-3/28 @ 6 PM

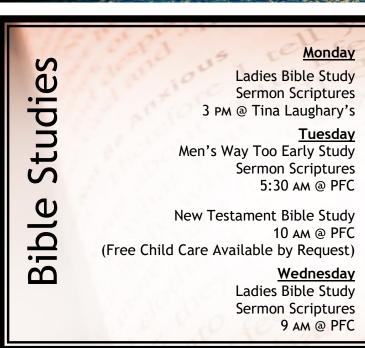
The people of PFC will share stories of restoration from their journey with Jesus.

Sign up for soup or bread in the Fellowship Hall



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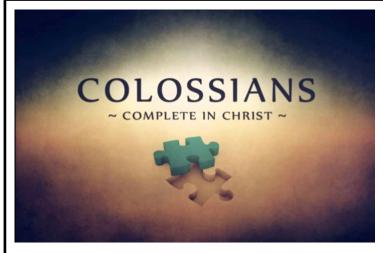
BAPTISM & MEMBERSHIP

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.



CONTACT
PASTOR
COREY IF YOU
WANT TO BE
BAPTIZED!



COMPLETE IN CHRIST: COLOSSIANS

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. We recently began 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!

LEVITICUS

AGE OLD QUESTIONS

Some things change, and some things don't.

Just like we do today, Ancient people had questions about how to relate to God. The Hebrews of the Old Testament age were people like you and I. They needed rules and boundaries for relationships, and they needed direction and guidance for their nation.

In the Book of Leviticus, God is calling out to His people and providing them with rules, ceremonies, leadership and wisdom that if rightly followed will help set them apart among the nations. As Christians we can see this book as both historically important to the development of Israel, and as preparation for God's plan to send the Messiah, Jesus Christ, through the line of Israel. There's a lot to learn from this book, so I encourage - don't avoid reading it, or avoid the sermons just because we're dealing with difficult issues.

We started a sermon series in late January on the book of Leviticus. This is, to many, a strange and difficult book to read. 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.

RESOURCES:

Check out "The Bible Project" at their Web site: theBibleProject.com (or search "The Bible Project" on YouTube), they have great videos for all books of the Bible, including two on Leviticus.

Free online class on Leviticus:

www.covenantseminary.edu/resources/studies-in-leviticus/

LIVING LIKE JESUS & LOVING LIKE JESUS

Tracy Lee Sievers

Did you know that God's love for you is relentless? He goes to extensive lengths to draw you to Him. He wants to support and comfort you and to celebrate alongside you. He wants you to trust Him. He wants to lead



you. Most of all, He wants relationship with you.

"God loves your neighbor too! How will they know? Someone needs to tell them. That someone...is YOU!" God loves your neighbor too! In fact, God wants relationship with every member of the human race. If you don't have a relationship with Him, I invite you to talk with anyone leading our ministries at PFC so we can help you understand how you can seize the opportunity to make that happen! I promise you won't regret it. If you already have

relationship with Him, then you've got a job to do! Look around you. Who do you interact with daily? The others in your home, those you speak to on the phone, those in your workplace? Who do you cross paths with regularly? The barista at the coffee shop, the checkout clerk at the store you frequent, the postal carrier, the woman that walks her dog past your house each afternoon? God loves each of them too! How will they know? How will they come to understand that The Creator cares for them? Someone needs to tell them. That someone...is YOU!

YOU are uniquely positioned to share the love of God with each person you meet. What does it look like? How do you do it? It can seem overwhelming; it's such a big job, yet at the same time it's so simple.

Living like Jesus lived (also called "incarnational living") means loving people where they're at, speaking truth when there is an opening, and not judging others. Kevin Harney writes in his book *Organic Outreach for Ordinary People*:

Some believers run from the world and avoid engagement in culture, but this is not the way of Jesus. He left the glory of heaven to walk upon this earth; he connected with people from every walk of life and loved them deeply. His example calls us to engage intimately with people and to listen with open ears to those around us and to the voice of our culture. Make space in your daily schedule for those who are far from God, and be ready to sacrifice whatever it takes to bring God's love to this broken world...don't forget to let his joy fill you to overflowing.

Jesus loves all people. He eats with everyone. He loves intensely. He feeds the hungry, cries for justice, and cares for victims. Jesus attends the parties and interacts with those you don't expect Him to. Age doesn't matter to Him - He cares for the youngest, the oldest, and everyone in between. Even the smallest details aren't too small for his attention. His sacrifice on the cross is for all people. The love of God through Jesus knows no bounds.

Invite a friend to our Sunday morning services on 2/18. Pastor Corey will present the Gospel in a clear and compelling way!

Jesus is counting on you. He's counting on you to tell them. He's counting on you to befriend the ones who do not yet know Him. He's placed you in this spot at this time to do exactly that. Are you doing it? Are you using your natural everyday interactions to show the world around you the love of God? If so, keep going! If not, it's time to make a change. Be intentional about focusing on Jesus and ask him to guide you as you go throughout your day. Ask him to help you notice the opportunities to live in ways that point others lovingly toward him. Make time in your schedule to love those around you, especially those not like you and those far from God, in Jesus' name! When the subject comes up, share your love of Christ honestly and authentically.

If you'd like more information about doing relational outreach or just want to chat more about this I invite you to contact me at tracylee19@hotmail.com or 878-1380. I'd be happy to set aside time to explore the topic of incarnational living with you. Together we can reach our community with the transforming love of our Lord!

SHARING THE LOVE OF GOD

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:34-35)

Every two weeks 6-8 Young Life leaders meet with high school guys and girls for Campaigners - a meal and Bible Study held in homes around the area. The alternate weeks, all the leaders meet with GPHS students on Mondays for crazy fun with a purpose called Club.

Many hosts have volunteered their homes and food for Campaigners as they show the Love of God to our youth and their leaders.

Let Betty or Mark Sawyer know if you want to help host a Campaigners event on a Monday evening. And help show the kids in our area hospitality and the love of God. Kids

love it (as do the WSU student leaders and our local staff)!



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 an Oikos list? Revisit it to add people who have entered your sphere of influence and start praying for them today!



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!

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PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Pray for the family and friends of Eric Gearhart.
- Pray for the family and friends of Davis Collier.
- Pray for a missionary friend of John & Audrey Ayers undergoing treatment for cancer.
- Pray for the family and friends of Shannon Zimmerman (Robin Blair's sister).
- Pray for Praise, Pastor Martin's daughter, who needs heart surgery.
- Pray for the Water Well in Uganda it is in need of repair.
- 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 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.
- ◆ Oralene Romjue (cancer)
- Patty Myott and her declining eyesight.
- Judy Hart (stroke)
- Meredith Willcox-Norris (cancer)
- 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 Reuben Merry Arnetta Tompkins Patty Myott Joanie Bagott Frances West Dory Tuttle Don Gilliland Steve Gill

ASH WEDNESDAY IS NEAR

Pastor Corey Laughary

This year Ash Wednesday is on Valentine's Day. Ash Wednesday floats around on the calendar. This does not occur very often, but it does in 2018. We have a collision of the church's calendar and one of its most somber days with a mostly secular holiday supposedly focused on



romantic love. My aim here is not to bash Valentine's Day, but rather to lift up the importance of Ash Wednesday and that it indeed deserves our attention, and dare I say more prominence in our culture than the "holiday" it is sharing calendar space with this year.

Ash Wednesday is about admitting our mortality. "From dust we came, and to dust we shall return." We utter this on Ash Wednesday and we receive it with faith. Romantic love is not going to be experienced by all, but all human beings will die. This is important to admit. Our life will end with an earthly death. Have you admitted that to yourself? Truly?

Ash Wednesday starts the Season of Lent in the Church. This is season of fasting and preparation. We are preparing to remember and experience our need of the crucified and risen Savior, Jesus Christ.

I urge you to strongly consider attending one of our Ash Wednesday events - we have a morning event, Coffee and Ashes at the Green Frog from 6:30 - 8 AM, and our evening service will be in our church sanctuary at 7 PM. Come and receive a mark of ashes, remember your mortality, and remember your need for a rescuer to save you from sin and death. Having a smudge of ash on your forehead is probably not what most people are expecting to see on February 14th. It doesn't scream "attractive Valentine's date material" - but it does say something far deeper. It says, "I know I am marked with death. I know I am mortal. And I am placing my hope in the One who has conquered death itself."

Depending on Jesus,

Pastor Corey

Come make ashes with us-Sunday Feb. 11th at 5 PM - Each year we make our own ash for "Ash Wednesday" by burning the palm branches from the previous year's Palm Sunday service. For us this is a symbolic tying together of our Church calendar. Children, youth and adults are welcome to attend, and participate in grinding the burnt palms into fine ash.



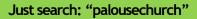
FEBRUARY SERMONS

February 4	9 & 11 AM	Age Old Questions: Clean, Unclean & Holy	Leviticus
	6 PM	Complete in Christ: Jesus Christ [Part 1]	Colossians 1:15-20
February 11	9 & 11 AM	Age Old Questions: Rituals, Forgiveness & A Priest	Leviticus
	6 PM	Complete in Christ: Jesus Christ [Part 2]	Colossians 1:15-20
February 18	9 & 11 AM	Restoration Through Repentance	Psalm 51
	6 PM	Complete in Christ: Lost Then Found	Colossians 1:21-23
February 25	9 & 11 AM	9 & 11 AM Restoration Through Rebuilding	
	6 PM	Complete in Christ: Paul's Care for the People of Christ	Colossians 1:24-29



BISHOP PLACE WORSHIP SERVICE

Sundays at 1:30 PM 815 SE Klemgard St Pullman, WA 99163 Do you use Spotify? Check out the PFC Worship Playlist and sing along with songs we sing at our 11 AM worship services.







PALOUSE FEDERATED CHURCH CALENDAR

Saturday	m	10	7:30 AM Men's Breakfast	24	3 Bible studies with an * indi- cate they are held at PFC.
Friday	2	6	16	23	2
Thursday	1	∞	15	22	максн 1
Wednesday		9 AM Ladies Bible Study*	14 6:30 AM Coffee & Ashes at the Green Frog 9 AM Ladies Bible Study* 7 PM Ash Wednesday Service @ PFC	21 9 AM Ladies Bible Study* 6 PM Lent Soup Supper	28 9 AM Ladies Bible Study* 6 PM Lent Soup Supper
Tuesday		6 5:30 AM Way too Early Men's Bible Study* 10 AM Bible Study*	5:30 AM Way too Early Men's Bible Study* 10 AM Bible Study*	5:30 AM Way too Early Men's Bible Study* 10 AM Bible Study* 7 PM Board Meeting	5:30 AM Way too Early Men's Bible Study* 10 AM Bible Study*
Monday		5 3 PM Ladies Bible Study @ Tina Laughary's	3 PM Ladies Bible Study @ Tina Laughary's	3 PM Ladies Bible Study @ Tina Laughary's	26 3 PM Ladies Bible Study @ Tina Laughary's
Sunday		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	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	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	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

Depending on Jesus to Restore Our [Imperfect] Lives