Connections December 2017

No matter how many times we hear the story, it should cause us to be in awe



Contents



02 Feature | Hush

Terry Keller

03 Feature | Restoring Awe to Our [Imperfect] Advent & Christmas Pastor Corey Laughary

05 Feature | Wait & Wonder

Tina Laughary

06 Feature | Operation Christmas Child

07 Feature | Prayer Requests





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

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

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







Hush

Terry Keller

When asked to write an article for the newsletter on my favorite Christmas carol, I thought, "Sure, I can do that." What I hadn't thought through was that I don't have a favorite Christmas carol. Out of the hundreds of carols, how can you choose just one? I started thinking about all the carols I know and enjoy.

There are the beloved carols of my childhood: German carols, like Stille Nacht (Silent Night), Süßer die Glocken (sweeter the bells), Leise Rieselt der Schnee (softly falls the snow). On the evening of Christmas Eve, after the Christmas program at church, we headed for my grandparents' house. There, with a houseful of cousins and aunts and uncles, we sang those carols and more, interspersed with each of the grandkids having to recite that year's Christmas program poem or pageant lines. As a child, all of that felt like the prelude to gifts, but as an adult, the memory of singing carols in four-part harmony with my family and Grandpa with tears in his eyes, far outweighs any memory of gifts.

As I grew older, I participated in our church's Junior Choir. The carols I remember from this brief time are *The Little Drummer Boy* and *The Birthday of a King*. Our church services were in German but English was creeping in. Those two carols are not just some of my favorites but represent the subtle cultural shift that was happening in the immigrant Russian Mennonite community in the Saskatchewan prairie.

"The world's clamor is silenced in the wonder of the moment when a child is born and hope is restored."

From there, it was on to high school and university choirs. Somewhere during that time, I learned *Still*, *Still*, *Still*, *Still*, first in German and later in English. This carol, or Weinachtslied (Christmas song), is one of my favorites. And wouldn't you know it? - there's very little history to be found about this lullaby carol. The tune is Austrian in origin, from the state of Salzburg. It was first seen in 1865, in a collection of folk songs (*Salzburgische Volks-Lieder mit ihren Singweisen*) by Maria Vinzenz Süß (1802-1868). She was the founder of the Salzburg Museum. The standard German words are attributed to Georg Götsch (1895 - 1956). There are often six verses in German. The English translations or versions, usually in three verses, came later. Norman Luboff arranged it for four parts in 1958.

It's a relatively recent carol, sung mostly by choirs rather than congregations. Like *Stille Nacht (Silent Night)* and *Leise Rieselt der Schnee* (softly falls the snow), it's a lullaby carol about the hush of Christmas Eve, when snow is falling, a baby is born, and his mother is lulling him to sleep. The world, too often ugly, unjust, caught in sin and death, is at peace. Snow gently covers the harshness of the dead winter landscape. The world's clamor is silenced in the wonder of the moment when a child is born and hope is restored. Hush, you can hear the falling snow.

Sources:

https://www.german-way.com/history-and-culture/...christmascarols/still-still/

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Still,_still,_still christmascarols.365greetings.com/2011/10/still-still.html I. Still, still, still
One can hear the falling snow.
For all is hushed,
The world is sleeping,
Holy Star its vigil keeping.
Still, still,
One can hear the falling snow.

2. Sleep, sleep, sleep,
'Tis the eve of our Saviour's birth.
The night is peaceful all around you,
blose your eyes,
Let sleep surround you.
Sleep, sleep, sleep
'Tis the eve of our Saviour's birth.

3. Dream, dream, dream,

Of the joyous day to come.

While guardian angels without number

Watch you as you sweetly slumber.

Dream, dream, dream,

Of the joyous day to come.



RESTORING AWE TO OUR [IMPERFECT] ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

Pastor Corey Laughary

Have you ever just got too darn comfortable?

Usually comfort is a good thing to achieve. Who doesn't love a comfortable chair, or a nice cozy bed?

But, there are some things that should never be too comfortable. And I'd like to suggest that Christmas is one of them.

Christmas, and the Advent season that prepares us for Jesus' arrival, should make us uncomfortable.

We should not be too comfortable with the Christmas prophecies and stories in the Bible.

The news that the Holy God is sending His Son to earth should stir our soul to ask: "Why would the holy God come to be with us?"

The claim that the Son of God would be born to a virgin, seems impossible and strange, a beautiful and bewildering

prophecy. It cannot be reduced to a comfortable greeting card phrase, instead it should startle us and cause us to ask uncomfortable questions, just like it did for Mary, "How can this be?"

"No matter how many times we hear the story, it should surprise us, and cause us to be in awe of God.

Jesus' cousin, the wild and fierce John the Baptist, would definitely upset any of today's Christmas parties. His odor, dress and message would shock us. John's straightforward message today might sound something like, "These parties and decorations can't cover up what's wrong in your life, get ready for the coming of the Lord. Repent of your selfishness, materialness, and lack of worship - confess your sin to get ready for the real Christmas!"

It doesn't make me comfortable to think about John the Baptist, a virgin conception/birth, a poor young couple slogging their way to Bethlehem, or a murderous King Herod planning to snuff out the Messiah.

Advent and Christmas are times to take an uncomfortable, honest accounting of our life. We should ask, "If God loves us so much that he came into our violently broken world as a baby born into difficult circumstances, how am I truly living to honor Him and His great love?"

No matter how many times we hear the story, it should surprise us, and cause us to be in awe of God. This month the Sunday morning messages and reflections will be offered in the hope that God will deepen our Awe of Him. Along with brief messages from me (they are going to be intentionally shorter this month), each Sunday we also will have personal sharing from someone in our church family about what fills them with Awe during Advent and Christmas.

My wish for us is a spiritually uncomfortable Advent and Christmas - a season that will deepen our Awe of God for the whole year round, and encourage us seek the true and deep comfort of forgiveness and restoration through our Savior Jesus Christ.

Depending on Jesus,

Pastor Corey

ADVENT READING PLAN

DATE	SCRIPTURE PASSAGE	Торіс	DATE	SCRIPTURE PASSAGE	Торіс
12/01	Luke 1:1-4	An account from eyewitnesses	12/13	Luke 1:39-45	Mary's visit to Elizabeth
12/02	Genesis 49:8-12	The scepter of Judah	12/14	Luke 1:46-56	Mary's song (Magnificat)
12/03	Isaiah 9:6-7; 11:1-5	A child is born; a branch of Jesse	12/15	Luke 1:57-66	Birth of John the Baptist
12/04	Micah 5:2-4	A ruler born in Bethlehem	12/16	Luke 1:67-80	Zechariah's song (Benedictus)
12/05	Matthew 1:1-17	Jesus's ancestry	12/17	Luke 2:1-7	Birth of Jesus Christ
12/06	Matthew 1:18-25	The virgin birth	12/18	Luke 2:8-21	The angelic announcement
12/07	Matthew 2:1-12	The visit of the magi	12/19	Luke 2:22-40	Simeon's and Anna's prophecies
12/08	Matthew 2:13-15	Escape to Egypt	12/20	John 1:1-5, 18	The preexistent Word
12/09	Matthew 2:16-18	Herod's order	12/21	John 1:6-8, 15	John the Baptist's witness
12/10	Matthew 2:19-23	Return to Nazareth	12/22	John 1:9-14	The Word-become-flesh
12/11	Luke 1:5-25	John the Baptist's birth foretold	12/23	John 1:16-17	The law, grace, and truth
12/12	Luke 1:26-38	Jesus's birth foretold	12/24	Isaiah 52:13-53:12	The suffering servant
			12/25	Revelation 21:1-8	A new heaven and a new earth
					_

WWW.PALOUSECHURCH.ORG 3



christmasgiving

Palouse Care Net | Adopt-A-Family

We have adopted a family from Palouse Care Net again this year. Please submit financial donations by 12/3 (Mark Adopt -A-Family on your check or giving envelope).

Eastern State Hospital

We have two individuals we are collecting items for this year. Please choose an item from the list on the bulletin board and return it to the church by 12/10. Donations also are welcome (Mark ESH on your check or giving envelope).

Palouse Christmas Vouchers

Each Christmas our church reaches out to individuals, families and seniors in our community that are in need and provides food vouchers to our local market. If you know someone in need, or if you want to serve in this ministry, please contact Pastor Corey. Please make your contributions by 12/17 (Mark Christmas Vouchers on your check or giving envelope).

SUNDAY NIGHTS @ PFC

There's some fun and great stuff planned for Sunday evenings in December at PFC. We will wrap up our series in Philippians on Dec. 3. On Dec. 10 we will launch Christmas caroling teams into the Palouse community and return to the Fellowship Hall for chili, cornbread and hot cocoa. On Dec. 17 you are invited to join us for our Christmas Program presented by the Sunday School Classes and our Worship Teams - come enjoy the simple joy of Christmas. Sunday, Dec. 24, we will have two candlelight Christmas Eve Services one at 7 PM, and one at 11 PM. The earlier Christmas Eve service is geared more toward families - you can come casual, dressed up, or even in your PJ's - whatever your family does is fine with us. Then on New Year's Eve, Sunday, Dec. 31, we will have a brief time of prayer and reflection, followed by a fun evening of games and snacks. We will return to our normal Sunday night routine in January, starting with a study of Paul's letter to the Colossians.

SUNDAY NIGHT SCHEDULE

12/03/17 Joy for the Journey:
Sharing, Closing & Connecting
Philippians 4:14-23

12/10/17 Christmas Caroling & Chili Dinner | 6 PM

12/17/17 Children's Christmas Program | 6 PM

12/24/17 Christmas Eve Services | 7 & 11 PM

12/31/17 New Year's Eve Prayer & Reflection
Followed by family fun night - games, etc.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Children's Ministry at Palouse Federated Church will present our annual Christmas Program, Sunday, Dec. 17 at 6 PM. Each Sunday School class is practicing a special piece for the program during class with their teachers and we invite all kids to participate. Kids—if you haven't been attending Sunday School this year—now is a great time to

start-you are always welcomé. Our **PFC** worship teams also will partici-You pate. won't want to miss this special night as we celebrate and remember the birth of our Savior!



WAIT & WONDER

Tina Laughary

The Christmas of 2007 was like none other for me; it was that year that God taught me what the word Advent truly means. I was very pregnant with our third child, HettyLee—expecting her any day. Now, I am the type of person who



day. Now, I am the type of person who needs to have a schedule - to know what is happening and when; but babies don't tell us their schedule. No, instead they come when they are good and ready. So, this control-freak mom went nuts and got everything ready for Christmas early—super early. By the first weekend in December, the tree was up, the presents bought and wrapped, decorations were hung, and even the goodies were baked. I was ready. I also was left with nothing to do—but wait and wonder.

Advent is the period of time when we prepare and wait for an arrival—the arrival of the Savior, the Messiah, Jesus Christ our Lord. I waited nine months for my sweet daughter to enter the world—and it seemed like an eternity. The Jews, however, had waited for hundreds of years for God to

"To a peasant mother, in a stinky stable a baby was born. The answer to the cries and pleas of all the generations ...lay in a manger in Bethlehem

fulfill his promise and send their deliverer. In reality, humanity had been waiting even longer - our wait began the moment we chose to bite into the forbidden fruit. In that moment, we had gotten ourselves into a mess that we could not get out of. The floodgate of sin and selfishness was open and nothing we could do would close it. Praise be to God that He had a plan, even then, to send a redeemer. The wait began in the garden.

For years, generations really, God was preparing His people. Slowly, patiently, He was showing them their deep need for forgiveness and utter inability to earn that forgiveness. He was teaching them who He was - their God, their creator, their true fulfillment. They were learning to be dependent upon their one true God, and they were learning to be obedient. Time and again they learned, they forgot, they repented, and He forgave. Until one day, in the midst of all the waiting, all the preparation, a baby was born. To a peasant mother, in a stinky stable a baby was born. The answer to the cries and pleas of all the generations over all the years lay in a manger in Bethlehem. This baby, who was the Son of God, would grow to be a man. Perfect and spotless, He would pay the price, take on the punishment for the forbidden fruit and every sinful, selfish act that would ever be committed. The waiting was over, the Messiah had come.

As I sat on my couch in 2007, waiting and willing my baby to come, I thought often of Mary. The preparations for my baby were very different from hers, and yet, we were both women, waiting to meet our babies and we were both sinners in need of a Savior.

In this season of Advent, we all will make our preparations. We don't prepare for the coming of the Messiah anymore the Messiah has come and His name is Jesus. Now we prepare to celebrate that coming and remember our need for a savior, a baby, an answer to prayer. We prepare our hearts to welcome Him, submit to Him and serve Him. As we celebrate this season of Advent, let us remember that our Messiah is not a symbolic idea. He was a real baby, born to a real woman, the Son of the one real God. He came to set us free from the reality of death, sin and selfishness. He was, and is, as real as the child that kicked and wiggled inside my body, though I hadn't yet laid eyes on her. Let us not go through the motions of Advent this year...let us feel the reality. Let us welcome the Savior.



BOARD UPDATE

The Executive Board is PFC's main leadership and governance entity—empowered by the congregation and constitution to make most of the financial, business and ministry decisions of the church, including setting the Budget. So it's important you know who is on the Board, and that you pray for the work they do.

Your Executive Board Members for 2018 are: Pastor Corey Laughary, Arden "Butch" Smith, Bill Dernell, Angie Cochran, Wil Edwards and Jim Fielder. We thank Scott Beeson for his years of service on the Executive Board. He is stepping aside to be more involved in a role he plays in the community. Thank you Scott for all the time and effort you gave to the Board and Church! We welcome Jim Fielder to the Executive Board. Jim is originally from Oklahoma, but married a Palouse girl, Carol Myott Fielder. Jim and Carol lived in Bellevue, WA for many years, but recently retired to live in Palouse. Jim was involved in leadership at Bellevue Presbyterian Church, and we are thankful to have his experience and talents on the Board.

Budget - The YTD financial statements were presented at the Quarterly meeting in November, and are available in the Church Fellowship Hall, or from a Board member upon request. It is important to us as a church family to have open financial books. Please feel free to ask questions of any Board member. Thank you for your generous giving in 2017.

WWW.PALOUSECHURCH.ORG 5



Start shopping for your shoe boxes now and take advantage of sales throughout the year. Remember: NO candy or toothpaste as these items slow up customs at airports.

January: Small stocking stuffers, plastic necklace, car or truck with bigger wheels (Matchbox car tires are too small and get stuck in the dirt).

February: Toothbrush and post Valentine's Day sale items.

March: Slinky, yo-yo, ball or a small stuffed toy.

April: Small plastic bowl and cup. Metal fork and/or spoon.

May: Wash cloth, Ivory soap in plastic container (Ivory floats!).

June: Gather a sturdy plastic box or get one from church and start filling it up.

July: Noise maker, game, jump rope, farm animal toy.

August: Small notebook, paper, pencils, pencil sharpener, other school supplies.

September: Crayons and a coloring book.

October: Flip flops, sunglasses from the after-summer sales.

November: Hat and gloves.

December: Socks and a plain t-

shirt.



38 boxes gathered. Children around the world will receive these gifts and the good news of Jesus.



Our smiling helpers pack up the boxes and send them on their way. Soon these packages will be bringing smiles to children around the world.



Have you caught our new CHURCH ON A HILL PODCAST?

Pastor Corey Laughary and Tim Sievers review the sermon, discuss upcoming events and ministry opportunities and generally have a good time—there's usually even 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." You also can access the same information on your computer by visiting YouVersion's Web site at: www.bible.com.



HOLY

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.

For questions about installing or using the Bible App, please contact Tim Sievers, Mikel Nisse or Pastor Corey.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Pray for the family and friends of Bruce Baldwin.
- Pray for the family and friends of Norman Seilstad.
- Pray for the family and friends of Larry Donnelly.
- Pray for the family and friends of Mike Sherwood, uncle to Tim Sievers.
- Pray for the family and friends of Roy Weiker (Kane 8th Grader).
- Pray for Carrie Doramus' dad, Richard, dementia.
- Pray for the family and friends of Larry Holbrook.
- 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.
- Pray for Pat Collier, recovering from open heart surgery.
- Pray for the family and friends of Kenny Perry.
- Pray for Del Turnbough, recovering from surgery and health issues.
- 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.
- Gerry West—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.
- ◆ Callie Anderson (4-year-old with cancer)
- Judy Hart (stroke)
- Brenda Brown (cancer)
- Meredith Willcox-Norris (cancer)
- ◆ Carol Heinlen's niece Barbara (cancer)
- National and community leaders.
- 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 new 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.



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!





Are you a follower of Jesus, but you've never been baptized? Now is the time to step up and receive baptism to affirm the work God has done in your life.

WWW.PALOUSECHURCH.ORG 7

PALOUSE FEDERATED CHURCH CALENDAR

rday	6	16 ۱'s Breakfast	23	30	6 rith an * indi- leld at PFC.
Saturday		1 7:30 AM Men's Breakfast			Bible studies with an * indi- cate they are held at PFC.
Friday	∞	15	22	29	ın
Thursday	7	14	21	28	4
Wednesday	6 9 AM Ladies Bible Study*	13 9 AM Ladies Bible Study*	20 9 AM Ladies Bible Study*	27 9 AM Ladies Bible Study*	3 9 AM Ladies Bible Study*
Tuesday	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*	19 5:30 AM Way too Early Men's Bible Study* 10 AM Bible Study*	26 5:30 AM Way too Early Men's Bible Study* 10 AM Bible Study*	2 5:30 AM Way too Early Men's Bible Study* 10 AM Bible Study*
Monday	4 8:15 AM Mom's Bible Study & Parenting Class* 3 PM Ladies Bible Study @ Tina Laughary's	11 8:15 AM Mom's Bible Study & Parenting Class* 3 PM Ladies Bible Study @ Tina Laughary's	18 8:15 AM Mom's Bible Study & Parenting Class* 3 PM Ladies Bible Study @ Tina Laughary's	25 Merry Christmas	JANUARY 1 Happy New Year
Sunday	3 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 6 PM Simple Service	10 9 AM Worship 10:15 AM Laughary Christmas Open House 10:15 AM Sunday School 11 AM Worship 1:30 PM Bishop Place 3 - 5 PM Youth Group 6 PM Caroling & Chili Dinner	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 6 PM Christmas Program	24 9 AM Worship 10:15 AM Fellowship 11 AM Worship 1:30 PM Bishop Place 3 - 5 PM Youth Group 7 PM Christmas Eve Service 11 PM Christmas Eve 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 6 PM New Year's Eve Reflection Service & Game Night

Depending on Jesus to Restore Our [Imperfect] Lives

DECEMBER SERMONS

December 3	9 & 11 AM	Who Has Time for Advent?	Mark 13:32-37
	6 PM	Joy for the Journey: Sharing, Closing & Connecting	Philippians 4:14-23
December 10	9 & 11 AM	Who Invited Wild John to the Christmas Party?	Mark 1:1-8
	6 PM	Christmas Caroling & Chili Dinner	
December 17	9 & 11 AM	What's the Best Lighting Plan for the Holidays?	John 1:6-13
	6 PM	Christmas Program	
December 24	9 & 11 AM	How is the Impossible-Looking Plan Possible?	Luke 1:26-38
	7 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service		
	11 PM	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	
December 31	9 & 11 AM	Which Way Do We Go?	Acts 16:6-10
	6 PM	New Year's Eve Prayer & Reflection & Game Night	



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

