

Palouse Church on a Hill Podcast

Each week, Pastor Corey Laughary and Tim Sievers co-host the Palouse Church on a Hill Podcast - reviewing the sermon, discussing upcoming church and community events and ministry opportunities, and generally having a good time. The podcasts are short and easy to listen to on your way to or from Pullman, Moscow...or anytime!

Find us on Apple Podcasts, TuneIn, Google Play Music and the SoundCloud App (for smartphones, tablets, etc.) - search "Palouse Church on a Hill," or click on the link in the weekly e-mail or on the church's Facebook page.

The podcast is a great way to keep up with what's happening when you're on the go. Check it out and feel free to share it with a friend.

If you need help connecting to the Podcast, contact Pastor Corey or Tim in the church office and they'll be glad to help you out.

If you enjoy the Palouse Church on a Hill Podcast, make sure you share it on social media.



Quarterly Business Meeting

Monday, May 11 @ 7 PM

Our church is having a VERY IMPORTANT QUARTERLY MEETING - on Monday, May 11 at 7 PM. We will discuss Covid-19 impacts on our ministry and how we are hoping and planning to move forward, and the Laughary family sabbatical coming up this summer. Additionally, we will review quarterly financials and ministry updates.

Please attend this meeting. Call the office before May 10th or on the morning of May 11th, if you need help with the conference call or Zoom app. If you have a regular telephone you should be able to call in to this meeting. But if you are wanting to use Zoom you have that option, and it will enable you to see faces and see who is talking.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8684675631?pwd=SEZpVnJOeEx-Pc3p1RkF0bXBxMnFOQT09>

THE MEETING INFO WILL BE IN THE WEEKLY E-MAIL, SO YOU CAN CLICK THE LINK AND EASILY JOIN THE MEETING.

Meeting ID: 868 467 5631
Password: 1234

Dial by your location
(253) 215-8782

Meeting ID: 868 467 5631
Password: 1234

Connections

May 2020

Worship in the Covid-19 Pandemic

The Covid-19 pandemic has forced us all into many changes. Here at Palouse Federated Church, our weekly worship services, youth group meetings and Bible studies all have changed as we've adopted new technology to help us be the church and be the body of Christ in a world where we can't gather in person.

The pandemic struck in the middle of Lent - a time when we gather more regularly for special services. We had just two of our Lent Soup Suppers under our belt for the year when the crisis came, but Pastor Corey and Tim held virtual soup suppers throughout the season and even offered our special Lenten activities like the Palm Sunday Talent Show, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday online. Our Resurrection Sunday Sunrise Service turned into a drive-by blessing with repeated proclamations that Christ is risen!

The Church on a Hill Podcast has exploded with new episodes and now we have our own YouTube channel with video podcasts. Check us out at: www.youtube.com/palousechurch.

The photos on this page represent just a few of the ways you have embraced the change in beautiful ways. Thanks for sticking with us Palouse and thanks for sticking by your neighbors!



A publication of
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

Vanessa Moore, Youth Leader
Cell | (509) 595-1910
vanessa@palousechurch.org

Tim Sievers, Connection Director
Cell | (509) 595-2778
tim@palousechurch.org



635 N BRIDGE ST | PALOUSE, WA 99161

Sabbatical Considerations

By Pastor Corey



Our family is looking forward to our sabbatical this summer- but it is also a very weird time to go away from our church and community. We love PFC and the Palouse, and we will miss everyone. But there are reasons for seasons of rest and disconnection. We thank you for your willingness to give us this time to rest and regroup.

I want us, as a church, to consider some things during this sabbatical season, especially in light of Covid-19 recovery:

We all need to practice Sabbath. If you haven't been taking an intentional day of rest weekly, use this summer to start the practice. Turn off your phones notifications, stay away from the news, get off social media, don't work- do whatever you need to do in order to have a full day of rest one day a week. Take a break from whatever weighs you down and spend time with God and what ever fills your soul.

The Church is not the building. This Covid-19 season has really shown us that the Church is not the building. We love gathering together, but it is not first and foremost about the location. **The Church is the Body of Christ.** So whatever happens this summer- if you are a follower of Christ, then you are part of the Church.

The Church is not the preacher/pastor. The Church is founded on Jesus Christ and He is the One who builds it. Preachers and pastors come and go, but Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.

The people of God are called to live in healthy relationships in community. As we come out of this Covid-19 season, and head into whatever is next, I encourage you not to just think about your own needs and experiences, rather consider the needs and interests of others. If you think masks are foolish, that's your opinion, but don't disrespect your neighbor who chooses to wear one. If you think masks are required for all, don't hate a person who chooses not to wear one. Don't just listen to your own opinions and ideas, but truly listen to others. Part of what makes PFC a really good community church is that we agree in Christ and His Word, and we seek to be respectful and agree to disagree agreeably on other matters.

Spiritual health is more important than physical health. Though I am not against physical health, I do think spiritual health is primary and we need to invest in our spiritual growth. Physical death will come for us all. *Are we taking seriously the condition of our souls? Are we spending our time on earth to become more Christlike? Are you giving the Holy Spirit space and time daily to shape you into someone who continues to grow in love of God and neighbor?*

Be thankful! I am thankful for our Church and how the Lord has worked through so many. You have been checking on each other and praying for each other during the shutdown. You have been meeting online for worship and Bible study. You have been giving to the church's ministries and to community needs. The church has been far from canceled- indeed the Body of the Church has been very active. Thank you!

I hope to see or hear you at our congregational meeting on May 11 at 7 PM. Please do your best to call in, or use Zoom to join us. We will do our best to meet in this way.

Keep your faith in the One that loves you best.

Depending on Jesus,

Pastor Corey

Laughary Sabbatical 2020

Pastor Corey and family have had a sabbatical scheduled for summer of 2020 since early in 2019. We didn't anticipate the Covid19 pandemic and related government decisions. Even so, the sabbatical plan is moving forward.



Pastor Corey and family will likely be gone starting June 1 and will not be returning to Palouse until August 16. During the first two weeks of June there will be a sabbatical "transition" period. The Laughary kids will be finishing school and Pastor Corey will still be working for PFC and preaching sermons on June 7 and 14.

Starting June 15, the Sabbatical will start, and the Laughary family will commence two months of rest from ministry duties and responsibilities.

From June 15-August 15, Tim Sievers will still be in his normal role. In addition, Tim will be the preacher for the Sundays that Pastor Corey is gone.

For emergencies where you would normally contact Pastor Corey, please contact either Tim Sievers at (509) 595-2778 or Jim Fielder, PFC Board Chair at (509) 592-7574.

For prayer ministry, please send prayer requests in to prayer@palousechurch.org or call the church at (509) 878-1509.

For visitation requests please call Angie Mills-Cochran at (509) 595-0972.

If you are in need of Christian counsel for you or someone you know, we have arranged to send referrals during this summer to Laura Rehwaldt, a licensed Christian counselor- her phone is (206) 91-7138, and her e-mail is lrehwaldt@mylifesptherapy.com.

Please DO NOT directly contact Pastor Corey from June 15 - August 15. IF there is something you think Pastor Corey needs to know about, please contact the church office or Jim Fielder, Board Chair.

Pastor Corey will be off social media, and will not reply to texts, messages or phone calls during sabbatical.

We encourage you to pray for the Laughary family for a period of deep rest during their sabbatical summer.

Relying on God & Easing Up in a Covid World

By Tina Laughary



Corey and I had been married less than a year when we packed all of our belongings into a tiny U-Haul trailer hooked up to our minivan and headed across the country. We moved to Philadelphia to pursue education and spread our wings as a couple. It was a world of unknowns that was both scary and exciting. I was ready for adventure—I had my best friend by my side. A few years later I couldn't have been happier or more terrified to bring our first baby home from the hospital. I had looked forward to being a mom for many years and yet, suddenly realized I had no idea how to raise a child. Again, I breathed a prayer of relief that Corey was with me, in this new and riskier adventure. The pattern repeats itself time and time again throughout our marriage and life together. God brings us unknowns and opportunities for adventure, I feel better able to face them with Corey by my side. It was just about six weeks ago when the news started to get darker and more real. Covid-19 was about to turn our world upside-down—and it has. I remember where I was standing in the pharmacy when I learned that schools would be closing and the kids staying home. At that moment, even with all the fear and unanswered questions, it felt like the beginning on a new adventure.

Multiple times during this pandemic, I have found myself praising God that I am so fortunate. I did absolutely nothing to deserve the wonderful circumstances I find myself in. My family members are healthy, our needs have been met, my children still have access to their teachers and educational resources. I have so much to be thankful for. I have even mentioned to multiple people how grateful I am that I actually like spending time with all four of the people I am locked in a house with! My children make me laugh and my best friend is by my side. So why do I find myself getting so emotional? Why are some days harder, longer and sadder than they should be? Why do I find myself grumpy and losing my patience with these four wonderful people of mine? Why, though I am so blessed, do I want to complain?

"I am learning...that I cannot pull myself up by the bootstraps and make it through this time. I must rely on God's strength and surrender to Jesus."

From the conversations that I have had with many of you—I know I am not alone in these feelings. It has really helped me understand the emotional baggage we are all dealing with when I heard Corey explain it as grief. Each of us are living through our own personal grief. This uncaring virus has stolen something different from each one of us. We are all experiencing our own individual losses as well as the corporate losses that come with us not being able to join together. So, as a mom I am dealing with three very different children who all are grieving a different set of losses in their own individual ways. I am learning how to best support them and allow them to be angry, sad, distant, frustrated, etc. I also am supporting my husband, who is going through those same emotions, as I am attempting to process them all myself. Not to mention the myriad family, friends and neighbors who also need support and understanding. I am not writing this to show how bad I have it. On the contrary, I am writing to point out what YOU are dealing with and maybe haven't had the time to process for yourself.

Even when you see life as an adventure, and you are blessed enough to have your very best friend by your side, these are not easy days my friends. God is teaching me a couple of very important lessons during these precious Covid days. One lesson I am learning is that I cannot pull myself up by the bootstraps and make it through this time. I must rely on

God's strength and surrender to Jesus. In practical terms, I have to spend more time with Jesus. Starting my day in prayer and scripture has never been more important and I am finding that I have to set aside additional times of prayer throughout the day. One simple tool I have found is an app I've downloaded on my phone called "One Minute Pause." The app guides me twice a day through a one minute centering prayer. It has helped me focus on what is important and set my attitude straight throughout the day.

The second big lesson God is teaching me is that I need to ease up. By that, I mean that I need to take a deep breath before I get offended, offer a little extra grace to those around me, take myself a little less seriously and be gracious with myself when I find myself in a funk. Romans 12:18 has been a theme verse, of sorts, for me. It says: "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."

Yes, we still are discipling our children. They still need boundaries, and they still need consequences, but they also need liberal amounts of grace. Yes, my husband is wonderful and I thank God for him every day, but sometimes he's hard to live with and I need to just let some things go. Guess what—his wife is pretty difficult to live with too and he also offers her grace and forgiveness (thankfully!!).

At this point, the quarantine life may feel less like an adventure and more like drudgery. Let me assure you, we will get through this. Though we all are grieving different losses, we all are grieving together. Let's give each other some space to feel all of the feelings. But let us also remind each other of truth. Scripture is the best way I have found to remind myself of what is true. Our God does not change. He is love. There is nothing that can separate us from His love. These things were true before Covid-19 existed and they will be true when it is gone. Hold on to the truth. God loves you. He wants you to be patient, not only with those you live life with but with yourself as well. I am praying for you my friends.

"The second big lesson God is teaching me is that I need to ease up...take a deep breath before I get offended, offer a little extra grace to those around me, take myself a little less seriously and be gracious with myself."

Adult & Teen Challenge Update

By Tyson West

The Spokane Men's Campus of the Pacific NW Adult & Teen Challenge program is humbled by God's continued faithfulness as we walk through this interesting time. We have received overwhelming support from our donors through our Matching Gift campaign and were able to raise almost \$350,000. We are currently working on a Virtual "Night of Hope" event which will be held on May 15th and features a special message from football great, Tony Dungy. The silent auction for the event is currently open and will continue through May 17th. You can register online: <https://one.bidpal.net/nightofhope/>



Our staff, students, interns and volunteers have all been blessed with good health and we are working on several campus projects. We have just completed a 24-box square foot garden complete with a drip line water system. One of our student teams has been painting the interior of our offices and helping to brighten everything up. We are also enjoying weekly hikes on our neighboring trails.

While this is a trying time none of us were prepared for, it has also been a time of reflecting on God's consistent love for us and how we can find joy in the darkest times. We are dedicated to maintaining our mission to put hope within reach of every addict and their families. Thank you for being a part of this mission with your faithful giving and support. God Bless you.

Camp Talent Show Fundraiser

We were disappointed to not be able to host the Palm Sunday Pancake Supper fundraiser for Camp Scholarships this year, but hope you enjoyed the virtual talent show. If you missed it, you can find it online at:

www.youtube.com/palousechurch

We appreciate too your continued generosity, which has raised \$4,235 for camp scholarships!