

QUARTERLY MEETING

JOIN US FOR OUR QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING
SUNDAY | NOVEMBER 29 | 5 PM

Pastor Corey & the Church Leadership Team will host our quarterly business meeting, which will include ministry and financial updates, a presentation of the budget for 2021 and electing members of the Executive Board. **The Zoom link and call-in information will be sent by mail in mid-November, and by e-mail the week before.**

Limited in-person participation will be available for those without access to the Internet.

QUESTIONS?

Contact the church office:
(509) 878-1509



Veterans Day Remembrance Service Wednesday, Nov. 11 at 11 AM

In this season of gratitude, join us at the **bell tower** at Palouse Federated Church for our annual Veterans Day Remembrance Service and express your gratitude to those who serve and have served our country. We'll be outdoors and socially distanced, but masks are required.

SAVE THE DATE
Thanksgiving Service
Wednesday, Nov. 28 at 6:30 PM
Zoom & Limited In-Person Seating

Connections

November 2020



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Gratitude Lights Our Way

Tim Sievers, Connection Director



In 2016, we started a Fall Gratitude Campaign. That first year, we put up the “10,000 Reasons Wall” and filled it with gratitude. Everything from family, to God’s goodness and grace, the wonderful community in which we live, cats, dogs, turkeys and snow was posted on the wall. We quickly saw how much we had to be thankful for as hundreds of cards went up on the wall. I also challenged myself to write 30 thank you notes that month – one for every day to express my gratitude to those people who had impacted my life in significant ways in the previous year. I encouraged you all to do the same. Together we sent more than 800 thank you notes out into the world! I’m still in awe of your participation and response.

The Covid-19 pandemic has thrown a wrench into our gratitude traditions. We’re not assembling large groups in the church facility, but, because we believe practicing gratitude is an important spiritual discipline, we’ve come

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“How fitting that we start this month and this period of increasing darkness with gratitude for Jesus...”
—

up with new ideas for our gratitude campaign this Fall. I’m really excited about our theme, “Gratitude Lights Our Way,” and I hope you will continue to be thoughtfully engaged again this year.

November, and our month of gratitude, starts on a Sunday, and it’s also the day our clocks “fall back” and darkness comes a littler earlier in the evening and, the darkness continues to increase until the Winter Solstice.

As is our tradition here at Palouse Federated Church, on Nov. 1, the first Sunday of the month, we will have communion together. You may remember that another term for communion is eucharist – a Greek word that means “thanksgiving.” As we partake of the bread and the cup, we do so in a spirit of gratitude for the sacrifice of Christ on the cross that brings us redemption and hope. How

fitting, that we start this month and this period of increasing darkness with gratitude for Jesus, who the Gospel writer John says was “the light



of men,” and of whom he also writes: “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it” (John 1:4-5). This is the same light which we long for in the season of Advent which begins at the close of the month on Nov. 29. The prophet Isaiah wrote of the promised Messiah:

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.
 Isaiah 9:2

My prayer in this season is that our gratitude for Christ will light our way through this period of physical darkness and the very real emotional and spiritual darkness we experience due to our continued suffering in the midst of a global health pandemic and a tumultuous election season. May gratitude truly light our way and help us remember that we have hope in Christ the light of the world that cannot be overcome by any darkness we might face.

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**“My
 prayer in
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 gratitude
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 way...”**
 —————

Here’s what you have to look forward to:

1. Our gratitude wall moves outside to the **“Tower of Gratitude”** aka the bell tower. Magnetic cards are available at the church, along with sharpie markers, for you to write what you’re grateful for and stick it to the bell tower. Let’s fill it up as a public testimony of our gratitude and may it encourage our community and all who pass by.



2. **Gratitude Rocks** – we have created some beautiful rocks with messages of gratitude for you to discreetly leave for people to find or keep for yourself as a reminder to be grateful. We’ll gather photos on Facebook and Instagram using the hashtag: #gratituderocks. **Feel free to make your own Gratitude Rocks!**

3. **Thank You Cards** continue to be available at the church office. **How many can we send out this year?**

4. We’ll have a hybrid **Thanksgiving Service** using Zoom with space for up to 10 in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, Nov. 25 at 6:30 PM. If you want to attend in person, RSVP to the church office.

5. **The Lamp & Light Journey** is back for a special Gratitude Edition with four verses (see below) to memorize in the month of November. We have postcards again for you to hang up in your house as a reminder and prompt for memorization or you can send them to a friend or neighbor to bring a little encouragement to their day.



Above: Lamp & Light Journey Gratitude postcards with scripture memorization verses. **Below:** Gratitude Rocks - take one of ours or make your own.



What’s Your Next Step?

Pastor Corey Laughary

I was thrilled to be involved with the recent baptisms of Molly Quigley and Asher Sievers. It is a true joy and honor to see people take their next step in their journey of Depending on Jesus. I am here to serve as a minister that helps shepherd people along in their journey. This means helping people to take their “Next Steps.”



What is your next step in your walk with Jesus?

Do you want to be baptized? Do you want to confirm or affirm your baptism and publicly rededicate yourself to Jesus? Perhaps you want to take the step of learning how to study the Bible? Maybe you are wanting to take the step of finding your personal ministry? As a parent, do you have a child or children you want to dedicate to raising in the Christian faith? Do you want to know more about our local church, maybe even become a member?

We need to follow through on taking real life steps in our journey of following Jesus. If you know that God is calling you to a next step that is listed above, or to another step not listed, please contact me ASAP. Just because we are in this weird Covid-19 season doesn’t mean our faith journey is on pause. We have to keep moving! So take the next step, we are here to help.

We will have two opportunities in November to talk with me and others who are looking at making next steps in their lives. Please reserve your spot in one of these two meetings. The meetings will be in person, with Zoom available as an option for those who need or prefer it. Contact me to reserve your spot: corey@palousechurch.org or call 878-1509.

Sunday, Nov. 8 at 12:30 PM
Sunday, Nov. 15 at 5 PM

If these times don’t work for you, reach out and we’ll find a time!



Ministry Update

I appreciate your prayers and encouragement as I continue to be part of a growing movement of training folks to have basic Mental Health First Aid. Recently I went through online training to become certified to teach both Adult and Youth Mental Health First Aid via online technology and also in a “blended” format. Blended teaching means that people can take part of the class online straight from the Mental Health First Aid Web site and then finish their training with me teaching an in-person or online class. There are now three ways to become a Mental Health First Aider - an in person class, blended class, or fully online/virtual.

If you are interested in taking either the Adult Mental Health First Aid or Youth Mental Health First Aid, in any format, please call or e-mail me and let me know you are interested. If you have a club, group or workplace that would be interested in the training please also let me know. Because of donations, we offer the training at a very low cost.

crafts + kids

Seasonal Craft Day for Kids
Kindergarten through 5th Grade
10 Kids Max Per Session

Gratitude Lights Our Way
November 11
1 PM & 3 PM

Sign-Up
palousechurch.org



Resting Gently With the Tides

Jim Fielder, Executive Board Chair

In my last newsletter article, I finished with the following paragraph:

We are all in this storm together; all desiring to be at anchor in a safe harbor. Each of us are in a different boat, with our own challenges. We will arrive soon, but dangerous waters must be navigated as we approach the shore. Be safe, communicate, pray and care for one another, and never forget that Jesus has something wonderful ahead for us when we are resting gently with the tides.

That phrase; resting gently with the tides, is something that comes from my years of sailing. I've searched far and wide to remember where I might have picked up those words. It may have been something from a fellow sailor or something I read. I do know that it was something that I used when I completed a ship's log entry. On our boat, we faithfully wrote in our ship's log at the end of each day we were cruising. The entries were about our journey for the day, who was aboard with us, where we had been, who we'd met, about the books we'd read, or the wildlife we had seen.

Our sailboat was shared by four families, and every summer we each took a two week turn and had back to back vacations. Whenever there was a crew change and one family turned the boat over to the next family in the rotation, it was time to review the log entries from the last family's adventures.

Life, just like cruising, is a series of journeys. Sometimes our daily lives have a rough patch where we crave for the journey to be over; the same is true with cruising. A storm at sea is a lot like the storms of life that require our heightened attention.

During these times we have to be aware of what's going on around us. This awareness allows us to consider the ways the

storm is affecting our ship. If the waves and wind are too strong, you might have to change course and point the ship in another direction. You might have to change sails, to prevent damage to the ship. You have to consider the safety of the crew. As you navigate a storm, you have to constantly reassess your situation and learn from what's working and what's not working - readjusting and monitoring as you go.

When I first learned to sail, my mentor taught me several things. One of them I call scanning or taking inventory of what the situation is presenting. Here's my list: wind, waves, debris, traffic, rig, obstructions, crew, and my gut feeling. I'd look at the wind; where was it coming from, was the wind building, was the wind dropping, are there gusts that are headed our way? The waves; are they breaking, are they building in height, is there debris in between the waves? The debris; is there debris in my path, logs, patches of seaweed, things that I need to steer around? The traffic; is there traffic coming my way, is there traffic I will be crossing in front of, will the traffic pass behind me? My rig; are my sails free from tears, are all my lines doing what they should, nothing loose or flapping, is my rig holding up and not going to be the next problem? The obstructions; do I know where I am, are there reefs or rocks underwater that will be a problem, am I aware what the charts say will need to be avoided? My crew; how are they doing, are they seasick, are they in need of a break, are they holding up. And lastly – me, how do I feel about our passage – do I have doubts that could risk the ship and my crew, or are we doing our best as we head towards safe harbor?

These tasks are a lot of what your Executive Board and the Reopening Task Force have been focusing on. We have been

constantly reassessing our situation and how we can be a caring community. Take time to listen to Pastor Corey and Tim as they present their weekly podcast segment – “Called to Care.” We are called to care for our congregation and our community. We have been scanning our situation, making adjustments, reassessing, listening, watching, and praying.

Aboard ship, I have had to make passages that required these things. I have sat out storms because I could and made my intended journey at a later time when things were right. I've

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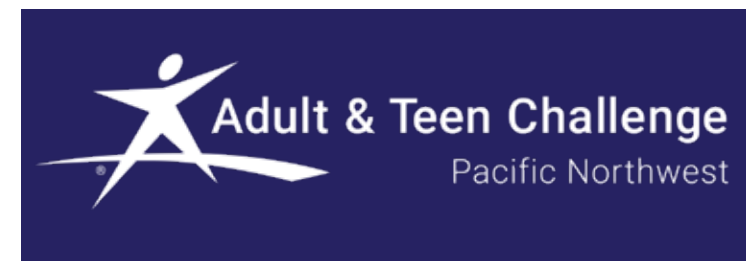
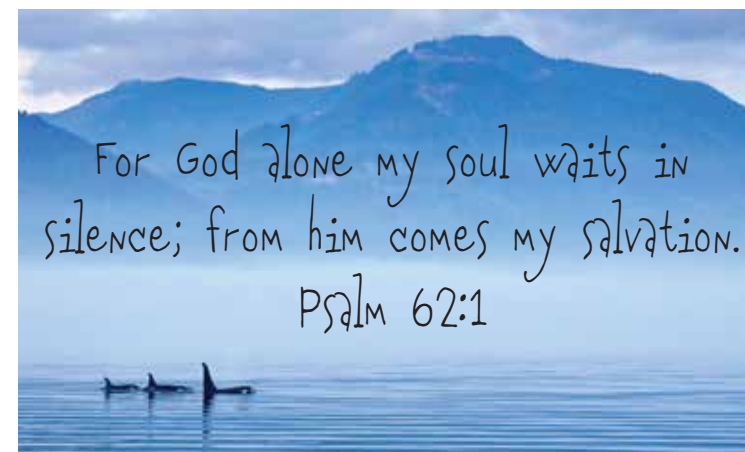
ventured out into what appeared to be calm waters only to round a cape and find trouble waiting that was not predictable. For all those times at the end of the day or later, I have always found safe harbor and wound up resting gently with the tides.

This year, this season, we are in is one of those storms. We all are longing for safe harbor, and it is ahead. The journey may be longer than we want it to be, but we are all journeying together.

Safe harbors are just a point of time, as we all have to move onward in life and move forward to what lies between us and our next journey. Sometimes we move from harbor to harbor without a wave or ruffle as the waters are calm and smooth.

We need to claim the promises of Jesus and be patient and reassured that he will be our capable Captain as we navigate these waters together. As we are called to care, He will bring us to that safe harbor once again.

So, one more time, be safe, communicate, pray and care for one another, and never forget that Jesus has something wonderful ahead for us when we are resting gently with the tides.



Supply Drive

We're collecting items for the Adult & Teen Challenge Spokane Men's Center Pantry for the month of November. Adult & Teen Challenge is a faith based, one-year residential discipleship program with the purpose to restore hope to those who suffer from addictions as well as other serious, life-controlling issues. ALL items MUST be brand new and remain sealed in their original container, NO exceptions!

**Please bring all donations to PFC Building
 by Wednesday, Nov. 28.**

PERSONAL ITEMS

Winter Gloves *
 Knit Caps *
 Wool/Tube Socks *
 T-Shirts *
 Boxer Underwear *
 3-Blade Disposable Razors *
 Shaving Cream
 Shampoo *
 Body Wash for Men *
 Deodorant for Men *
 Bath Towels
 Washcloths
 Twin Size Sheet Sets
 Twin Size Blankets
 Pillows

HEALTH ROOM

Cough Syrup (non-alcoholic) *
 Cough Drops *
 Coldeez(Zinc Lozenges) *
 Airborne Chewable *
 Decongestant
 Acid Reducer
 Tums
 Pepto Bismol
 Anti-fungal Cream or Spray
 Allergy Medicine
 Ibuprofen
 Tylenol
 Mens Multi Vitamins *
 Vitamin C *
 Vitamin D *
 Fish Oil Capsules *

CENTER SUPPLIES

55 Gallon Trash Bags *
 13 Gallon Trash Bags *
 Ziplock Sandwich Bags
 Foil
 Plastic Wrap
 Paper Towels *
 Napkins *
 Paper Plates
 Bleach
 Pine Sol Cleaner
 Window Cleaner
 Liquid Dish Soap *
 Laundry Soap (Pods) *
 2-Ply Toilet Paper *
 Office Copy Paper *

Monthly items needed are marked with an astrex (*)

Isn't God Good A Reflection on FAMILY: It's Essential & Surviving

Betty Sawyer



Look around at what's worked during this pandemic. One thing has held steady, and maybe even grown better: THE FAMILY. It persists. It's "regenerative, it will always rise again" (Ells, "The Invincible Family").

The family is surviving. It ensures the continuity of humankind. It can be a haven from the world. A place of intimacy, love, trust, warmth, tenderness. In the family of God, like Psalm 91 says, God our Father "will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you shall find refuge; His faithfulness is a shield and buckler." We all are part of God's family, and he is our refuge. He has created families, and a dear friend commented, "I think God created family because he created us for relationship. We weren't made to exist on our own and we need one another in all areas of life--physically, mentally, spiritually and socially. We need to learn to exist in relationship and we are so much better because of it!"

As I've pondered the good and bad results of our pandemic, I've prayed for families to thrive. In a quick survey, some of my Facebook friends responded to a question: "What do you think when you hear the word 'family'?" The responses: "I think of how much I love mine!"; "Home, love, together, blessed, family farm;"; "Love"; "Home. Together time. Adventure. Snuggles"; "Large holiday meals and stress"; "Arguing, yelling, financial stress but love and blessings"; "Support in the best and worst of times"; "Love, security, acceptance, hugs, warmth, laughter, stories, memories"; "Loud, crazy, laughter, arguing, forgiveness"; "Love, togetherness, joy, support, caring, kisses and hugs and even sometimes pain or hurt." Another response: "Honestly, THE CHURCH."

As we see different views of the family, this remains: it is to be a place where we take care of one another. It can be the church, it can be the circle of friends, it can be those in your home. There are all kinds of families, yet they all need to thrive on love, forgiveness and caring.

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"I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of God! He will hold me fast. Eternally!"
—

Some awesome scriptures come to mind about nurturing within a family. For instance, a mother's care: 1 Thess. 2:7 says - "But we proved to be gentle among you, as a nursing mother tenderly cares for her own children."

We see how Jesus, while dying on the cross, saw the need for his own earthly family in John 19:26 - "When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, 'Woman, behold, your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Behold, your mother!' And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home." It was a caring, family thing to do as Jesus cared for others, even as He was dying.

So, remember to appreciate your family. Build up others in your family. Encourage one another. Wherever you find your family, always remember God is our Father and loves you more. Find your family. Find your Father in heaven who cares for you. Build your family on our Heavenly Father. Families, as God created them have a lot of power. It cannot be permanently crushed. It continues to be the basic unit of belonging. And I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of God! He will hold me fast. Eternally!

The family gets a perfect 10! God is GOOD.



Wildfire Relief Fund Update



Heidi and her 8-year-old son Jace. Diana and her 11-year-old daughter. John and Carolyn, a senior couple. What do they have in common? Unfortunately, they all lost their homes in Malden, WA to a wildfire that spread rapidly on Labor Day.

Palouse Federated Church is receiving financial donations only (please no donations of "stuff" at this time) in order to bless these families and help them on their journey to restore their homes and move through this stressful transition time. Here are some additional ways you can help these families:

1. Keep them in your prayers- pray for peace, encouragement, strength and wisdom.
2. Volunteer for a work party clearing property in Malden, day and time to be announced.
3. Donate to our wildfire relief fund. You can designate your check or online donation to wildfire relief. Just make sure checks are still made out to Palouse Federated Church, and clearly note that it is for fire relief.
4. Find a way to bless them in the upcoming Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas times. Contact Pastor Corey for ideas and help connecting.

Filling the Gap for Ross Point

Betty Sawyer

The board at Ross Point recently sent out a letter on the impact of Covid-19 on our camp. They ask for us to stand with them to fill in the gap.



How can you help?

Pray for the board and staff, for God's peace and faith to rule, and for this season to pass quickly. Pray for the staff's health and for the health and safety of any guests they have the opportunity to serve.

Help the camp survive financially during this time (lost revenue from this year is \$647,000 to date, and as a result, they have reduced all permanent staff with 10 - 75% reductions while trying to stay open for guests)

Pray for additional bookings for the camp to minister to others at this awesome site.

I've decided to double my monthly donation to Ross Point Camp and I urge others to dig a little deeper and help the camp with prayer and/or monthly giving. Remember - God loves a cheerful giver, and you will be blessed when you give.

Mail your blessings to Ross Point Camp and Conference Center, 820 S. Ross Point Rd, Post Falls, ID 83854 or give online at www.rosspoint.org. Questions? Call Ross Point at (208) 773-1655.

Adult Bible Study Schedule

*Hybrid = Zoom + In-Person

Tues. | 5:30 AM | Men Hybrid

Tues. | 10 AM | Mixed In-Person

Wed. | 9 AM | Ladies Hybrid

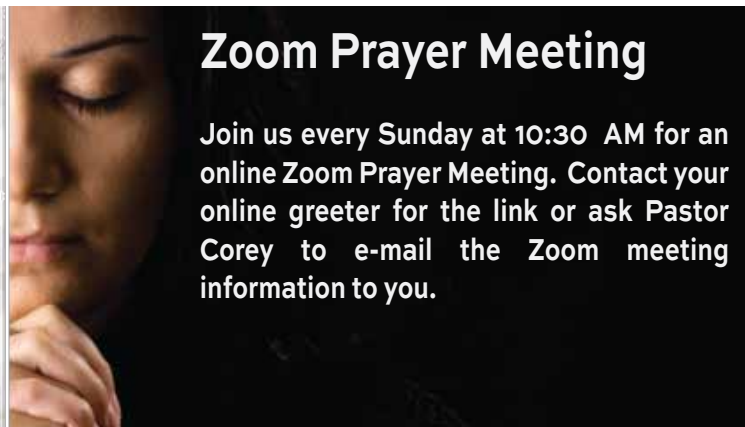
Wed. | 6:30 PM | Mixed Hybrid

Thurs. | 9 AM | Ladies Zoom



Zoom Prayer Meeting

Join us every Sunday at 10:30 AM for an online Zoom Prayer Meeting. Contact your online greeter for the link or ask Pastor Corey to e-mail the Zoom meeting information to you.



Youth Group Activities

Middle School Youth Group

(Grades 6-8)

Wednesdays | 6:30 - 7:30 PM

High School Bible Study

(Grades 9-12)

Sundays | 6:30 PM

Masks and permission slips required. Please contact Vanessa Moore for forms or with any questions:

(509) 595-1910

vanessa@palousechurch.org

