

people around the globe, as we exploit land in order to grow cash crops, extract oil, gas, and minerals, build resorts, subdivisions, highways, airports.... We're poisoning and destroying this beautiful Earth. This can't be what God had in mind.

Ellen F. Davis, a professor at Duke Divinity School, suggests that we confuse "have dominion over" with "domination." She continues:

Since the Renaissance, Gen 1:26 has frequently been invoked in the West to support the project of "conquering," "commanding," or "enslaving" nature through scientific and technological means. Another difficulty with the common translation is that the Hebrew phrase (radah b-) includes a preposition that is in most cases not equivalent to the English preposition "over." A more satisfactory translation of that crucial verse might be "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness, so they may exercise skilled mastery among [or, with respect to] the fish of the sea and among the birds of the air." ... We fulfill our role in the created order only when we recognize our responsibility to help perpetuate other creatures' fruitfulness.

This makes way more sense. It makes little sense for God to have created all of this, declared it good and then put

short-term-gain humans in charge. If God is love, and we're made in God's image, then giving humans dominion over Creation really means we bear the loving creative responsibility to nurture Creation and help creatures of all kinds flourish. We're not royalty, we're servants.

Right now, we're facing a crisis of our own making: climate change and the destruction of Earth as a habitable planet. We, the redeemed, in the image of God, are called to nurture and love this Creation and let it flourish.

How do we do that? That's a conversation we need to be having, with neighbors, in our community, in our church. Here are a few ideas to get started with: Buy locally-grown food as much as possible, or grow your own, if you can. Plant a tree. Stop spraying your lawn with chemicals. Swap out your incandescent light bulbs for LEDs or compact fluorescent bulbs (we have some slightly used ones, if you would like them). Save on heating and cooling costs by closing your curtains at night to keep heat in or, in summer, closing during the day to keep heat out. PFC could find ways to help reduce heating costs. Most of all, we need to work together to use our God-given creativity to find solutions that help Creation flourish. Let's start talking and doing this crucial work.



Connections

March 2021

More God

Corey Laughary, Pastor



What if I told you that God's resources are always greater than the enemy we face?

I'm guessing most of us who know the Lord are well aware that God is always the greater force. But, in real life, we often don't have our eyes open to the "More God" strength that is surrounding us. Check out the story in 2 Kings 6 - the Israelites are facing their enemies, the Syrians, and they appear greatly outnumbered.

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"God always is more, and has resources to help you win the battle!"
—

But, Elisha knows better - he believes in the God who always is "More." Elisha's servant isn't convinced that the battle is winnable for the Israelites, but Elisha tells him, "Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them" (2 Kings 6:17). Then, Elisha prays and asks God to open his servant's eyes so that he can see the angelic forces of God that are standing nearby on a mountain "full of horses and chariots of fire."

God then strikes the Syrian army with a type of blindness. Suffice it to say, the Israelites end up the victors. They won because God had more for them than they needed to defeat their enemy.

When you are facing fears, anxieties, poor health, depression, job loss, family issues, battles with temptation and sins - please know this - God always is more, and has resources to help you win the battle!



Pastor Corey leads our outdoor Ash Wednesday Service.

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**Lent Soup Suppers
Wednesdays
through March 31
6:30 PM on Zoom**

Join us for More God testimonies and devotions. Contact the church for the Zoom link.

You can access online worship resources, sermon audio, newsletters, and online giving at: www.palousechurch.org

Congregational Care Ministry

Tina Laughary, Congregational Care Leader



I feel fortunate to be able to announce something new in the life of our church. Palouse Federated Church's brand-new ministry called the Congregational Care Ministry in 2020 shined a spotlight on a very real area of our church. We have not had in place any type of system for checking in on each other, making sure there are no needs going unmet within our congregation. Certainly, many of our members have done a wonderful job checking in on their friends and neighbors, but we have not done so in a way that makes sure no one falls through the cracks. Going forward, we want to do a better job caring for each another. No one should fall through the cracks! This is why the church board has created the Congregational Care Team.

Caring for our brothers and sisters in Christ is nothing new for God's church. As we see in the book of Acts, God's people have always taken care of one another, sharing food, shelter, resources—whatever was needed. Palouse Federated Church also has a history of generosity and hospitality. In our present day, one of the greatest needs we see is companionship. Since Covid-19 came into our lives a year ago, many of us have been cut off from our friends and family. We have not been able to worship together in the way we are used to. Many of us are lonely.

The Congregational Care team will be dividing up church members to "check-in" on our church family on a regular basis. The purpose of the check-ins will be encouragement and fellowship. We will also be praying regularly for those on our care list as well as checking to see if there are any needs we as a church can help meet.

How you can help: I have been hired by the church board to work very part time leading our Congregational Care Team, but our team needs members! Would you like to volunteer a small amount of time each week to check in with members of your PFC family? Your level of commitment is up to you! You could have as few as 2 or as many as 10 folks to check in with. Check-ins could be as formal as an in-person visit or as informal as a text message—you decide. If you would like to help us reach our goal of making contact with everyone who attends PFC at least once a month, please let me know, I would love to give you more information and have a conversation with you. You can call or text me at (509) 595-4706, e-mail at tclaughary@yahoo.com or even leave a message at the church office (509) 878-1509 and I will get in touch with you.

How Big Is Your God?

Jim Fielder, Board Chair



These words are a twist on the title of the book we are covering during our Lenten Soup gatherings – *Not God Enough*. Do you look beyond the little things that are common every day when you consider God? Is God your personal assistant – whose job is to make life easier for you? Or is he like a gas station attendant (remember those full-service guys) that gives you a spiritual fill-up every Sunday to get you through the week? Is he your YES man that tells you just what you want to hear? Or is he your Savior and your Lord?

When we understand just how big God is, we have more hope, more courage, more peace, and more joy.

This last year has been a tough one, we haven't been in our physical building together to worship or fellowship together. We've had to flex our understanding of worship and fellowship. I am so proud of PFC in all the ways we have been able to innovate, respond, adapt and not let the pandemic get in the way of what God is calling us to do in our community and our world. Whether it has been worshipping online or on the radio, at a Zoom Bible study, calling a friend, supporting victims of the Malden and Pine City fire storm, building a shed in Malden, recording hymns from our homes for worship, honoring our veterans, worshipping outside for our Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve fireside services – we have been the Church, all of us together.

As your staff and executive board have gathered together to plan, we have done so with discernment and prayer. The standard we have based our decisions on has been – Called to Care. As we are seeing Covid numbers headed downward, we have initiated our reopening roadmap and we are headed on a pathway to back into the church building to worship and fellowship together.

It will be a gradual stepped approach to gather both responsibly and effectively. It's an exciting time to look forward to being together again.

It's also time to look around us to realize how big our God really is. Look at everyday things with a new light and see the awe that God has put before us. Time to be grateful and see him in all things. Time to be amazed at the things he has done and continues to do.

I remember back several years ago I was visiting my mother in

Continued on Next Page...

Oklahoma and dropped by a Walmart to get some things for her. The self-checkout lines were something new and all the regular lines had long lines. I headed over to a self-checkout line that only had one person checking out ahead of me. There stood a bewildered lady who was just staring at the screen and not checking out. I waited a couple of minutes and gently asked if I could help her. She stated she had no idea of what to do and didn't have time to wait in a long line. She gladly accepted my assistance as I showed her how to scan her items. I did one and then let her do her other two. After each time she scanned her item, she'd look at the screen in amazement and say, "how'd you do that". I told her their computer knew all the products she was buying. She finished and said thank you and life moved on. A year later, I was working with a new student at the hospital where I worked. For those who do not know I am a retired Respiratory Care Practitioner who worked in Adult Critical Care and Neonatal Critical Care. The student was watching me as I monitored a piece of equipment and did a quick calibration. They looked at me and dropped that line again – "how'd you do that". I explained and showed them another time, that's



Having Dominion

Terry Keller

Humans are self-centered. We tend to think we're the pinnacle of God's creation—we were created in God's image, after all. We're more important than plants and animals. Earth was created for us. It's all about how things work for us. Isn't it?

We're now in the season of Lent, which began with Ash Wednesday and the reminder that we are made of dust and to dust we shall return. That's humbling. Maybe Lent is the time to reflect on our place within God's creation.

In Genesis 1:26, we read that God says, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness..." What does that mean? Are we omnipotent? Hardly. Omniscient? No. Perfect? You only have to look around to see that's not true. Creative? Yes. God is love so what about love? Jesus showed us what that means, loving us up to, through and beyond his own death. Perhaps being made in God's image means being created to love as extravagantly and creatively as God does.

what learning is about. A few minutes later I was called to the delivery of a high-risk infant. I was part of a 3-person team that attended these deliveries; a neonatologist, a RN and myself. The delivery went smoothly, a beautiful baby girl arrived, we did a quick eval, dried her off and wrapped her in a prewarmed blanket. I called the dad over to count fingers and toes, dad's love to do that! I then handed her to her Mother for her first look. With Dad nearby and they both responded lovingly – "she's perfect". I replied, yes, she is, and with that I exited the room, I looked skyward and said "God, how'd you do that?" The miracle of birth, the miracle of two people coming together and creating a third person – all put in motion by someone other than us – all perfect and by someone who is bigger than all of us.

As we regather together, let's be in awe of all that has gone on this past year. We have had to relook at how we worship – yet we have worshipped. We have had to relook at how we care for each other and our community – and we have cared for each other. We have lost friends and acquaintances – we have suffered loss. We have served our community both locally and around the world. We have realized how to be the church regardless of where we are and how to worship in different ways. Let's now move on to be the church together as we reopen – and let us remember that word – TOGETHER. It's because we have a God that is bigger than all of us! Let's move forward with courage, hope, peace, and joy – TOGETHER.

Also, in Genesis 1:26, humans are given dominion over fish, birds, cattle, all the earth and every creeping thing on the earth. Over the millennia, we've taken those words to heart and run with them: Humans, created last, not as an after-thought but as the best of God's creativity, are in charge; God said so! But what if we misunderstood?

When it comes to climate change and the condition we currently find the earth and ourselves in, that charge to "be fruitful, multiply, have dominion" is problematic. Our "dominion" has resulted in pollution—of air, water, soil; destruction—of forests, wetlands, grasslands, oceans, rivers, sea ice, ethnic groups, species; loss of habitat—for birds, insects, polar bears, salmon, whales, coral... (estimates are that about 1 million animal and plant species are threatened with extinction, many within coming decades); inequities—for

"Perhaps being made in God's image means being created to love as extravagantly and creatively as God does."

Continued on Back...

TBD

Unrestricted Worship

In-person worship, at normal capacity with optional facemasks and social distancing will resume when the Covid-19 infectious rate numbers are below 75 per 100,000 for a 28-day period.

3/28

Safe Start Expansion

Live worship services with facemasks and social distancing required. **Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall.** Limit of 30 in each space - reservations required.

3/21

Safe Start Worship

Live worship services begin with facemasks and social distancing required. **Sanctuary only.** Limit of 30 - reservations required.

STARTING 2/21

Adult Bible Studies

Adult Bible Studies reopen to in-person meeting when the infectious rate numbers are below 200 per 100,000 for a 14-day period.

2/28, 3/7 & 3/14

Worship Watch Parties

In-person watch parties in the sanctuary to watch the pre-recorded service. Limit of 30 - reservations required.

More information on Worship Watch Parties is on the back of this newsletter.

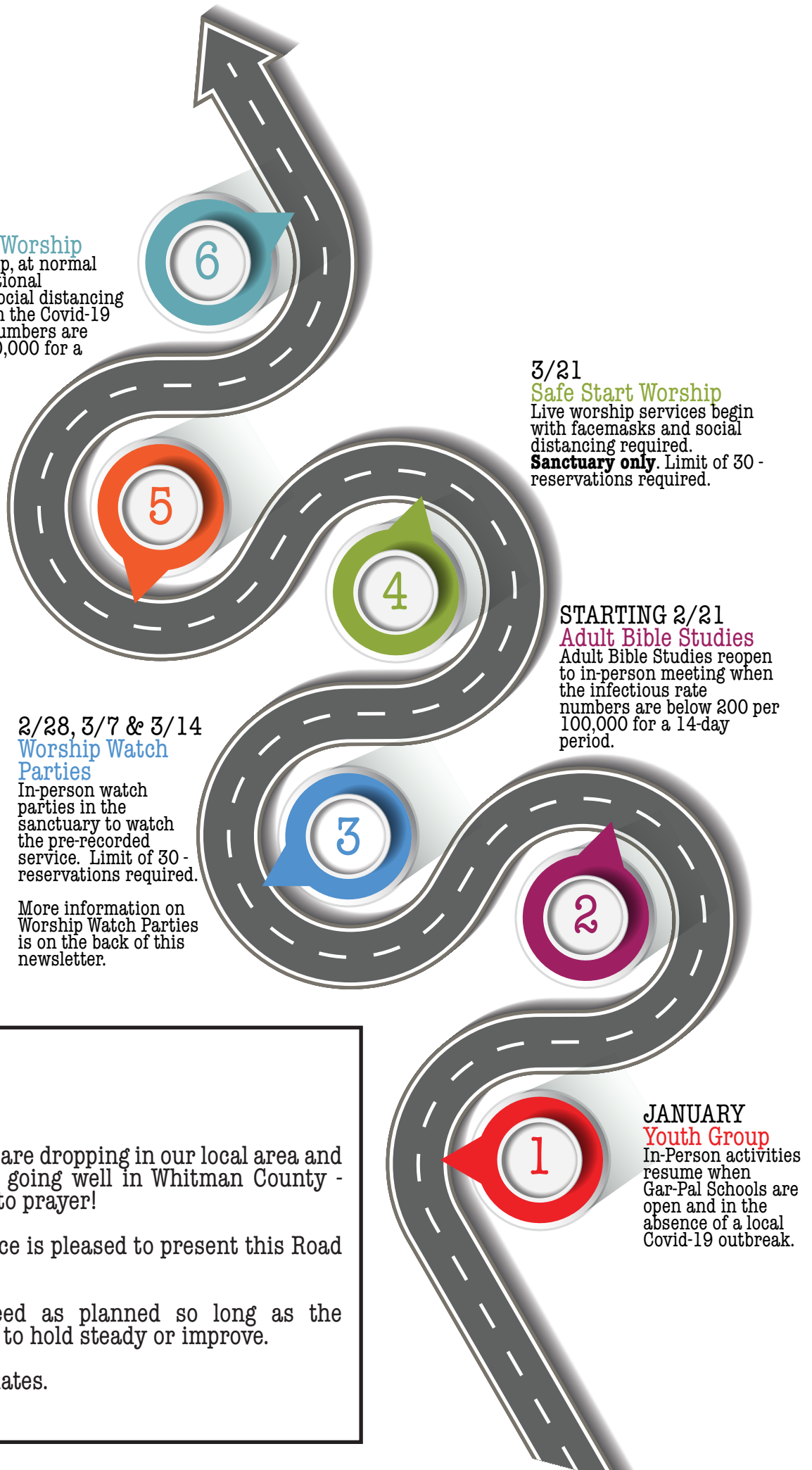
Road Map to Reopening

Covid-19 infection rates are dropping in our local area and vaccination progress is going well in Whitman County - these are both answers to prayer!

The Reopening Task Force is pleased to present this Road Map to Reopening.

These steps will proceed as planned so long as the infection rates continue to hold steady or improve.

Stay tuned for more updates.



JANUARY Youth Group
In-Person activities resume when Gar-Pal Schools are open and in the absence of a local Covid-19 outbreak.

Youth Group Activities Hybrid (Zoom+In-Person)

Middle School Youth Group (Grades 6-8)
Wednesdays | 6:30 - 7:30 PM

High School Bible Study (Grades 9-12)
Contact Vanessa Moore for Current Schedule

Please contact Vanessa Moore
with any questions:
(509) 595-1910
vanessa@palousechurch.org



Adult Bible Study Schedule In-Person & Zoom Options Available

Tues. | 5:30 AM | Men

Tues. | 10 AM | Mixed

Wed. | 10 AM | Ladies

Wed. | 6:30 PM | Mixed (Postponed for Lent)

Thurs. | 9 AM | Ladies



JOHN READING PLAN

Join us on a journey through the Gospel of John. We're recommending a simple plan that covers one chapter a day. Simply pick a day to start and read one chapter every day and you'll be done in 21 days. If you want to join a You Version Bible App reading plan, let us know and we'll help you get started. New groups are starting all the time.

Day 1 - John 1

Day 2 - John 2

Day 3 - John 3

Day 4 - John 4

Day 5 - John 5

Day 6 - John 6

Day 7 - John 7

Day 8 - John 8

Day 9 - John 9

Day 10 - John 10

Day 11 - John 11

Day 12 - John 12

Day 13 - John 13

Day 14 - John 14

Day 15 - John 15

Day 16 - John 16

Day 17 - John 17

Day 18 - John 18

Day 19 - John 19

Day 20 - John 20

Day 21 - John 21



**Palouse Food Pantry
Distribution Day | March 24
1-2:30 PM & By Appointment
Calvary Chapel of Palouse**
Order Online: palousefoodpantry@gmail.com
Or Call the Pantry: (509) 595-3048
Orders will be delivered or you can pick up.

Zoom Lobby

Come hang out with us in the Zoom Lobby every Sunday at 10:15 AM. Contact your online greeter or the church for the link.

