

# Connections

Missionary & Ministry Edition

May 2021



HOLY SPIRIT, ADVOCATE, COMFORTER,  
SACRED GUIDE, PROMISE, GIFT,  
PROVISION, OUTPOURING,  
EXPERIENCE, WIND, BREATH, FIRE,  
INDWELLING, WISDOM, INSPIRATION,  
ENTHUSIASM, ABIDING PRESENCE...  
PENTECOST  
STARTS 5/23

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## Mission Aviation Fellowship

Joe & Karen Adams, Lesotho, Africa

Thank you! We are so grateful for your generous support of our work with MAF here in Lesotho.



Joe & Karen enjoying a bike ride.

Over the past month we have been moving toward something more like normalcy. Grace and Tim are still doing homeschool and recently have had opportunities to play with friends for the first time this year. We have been able to go to church and begin to engage in personal ministry. We took on a Mosotho nanny whom the kids love. Having her service is allowing Karen to focus on homeschool with Grace, and allows us to spend more time together as a couple.



Home School with Grace & Tim.

With lockdown restrictions easing, MAF is again transporting the Flying Pastors as they fulfill our Lord's commission to make disciples among the isolated people of the mountains. We also had opportunity to transport coronavirus vaccine to these same isolated areas. Thank you so much for your support that enables us to bring the message of Jesus along with tangible evidence of His love in the form of medical help, Matthew 4:23.

Please pray that we continually fix our eyes on Jesus and thus reflect the light of Christ to all around us in everything we do. Pray for the Spirit's work among the new believers in the mountains, that God would transform their hearts and lives into a reflection of the image of Christ. The needs in the culture here are so deep and we see more and more clearly that Christ working in each heart is the only solution to these needs. If you feel God calling you to pray specifically for the mountain people who have begun to follow Christ, we have a weekly prayer request on WhatsApp that you can join here:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/FKB7hSUAYuGCtT2WqKJH7L>

Thank you again for your prayers and support!



Coronavirus vaccine flight.





## Neighbors Helping Neighbors

*Tim Sievers, Connection Director*

On Labor Day, 2020, the city of Malden and surrounding areas were devastated by raging wildfires, which resulted in the loss of homes, businesses, city infrastructure, and much more. Pastor Corey quickly reached out to connect with local officials and determine a way for our church family to help.



Malden leaders and PFC folks helped connect us to a few families with whom we began a relationship. The church board established a fund and we started to advertise the need. It started with a gift of \$50 near the end of September. Since then, \$11,000 has been raised to support our neighbors in Malden. The first payments helped sisters Heidi and Heather to purchase home items for their temporary residences to replace what was lost. Next, your donations helped replace family photos that were destroyed in the fire. You built a shed for John & Carolyn Bliesner to store what little they have while they work to rebuild their home and their life. You provided funds for Diana to purchase the materials to construct a shed at her home. Your gifts helped provide fuel for the Bliesners to travel between their temporary residence and home site, and to help them purchase a truck when theirs could not be repaired. And most recently, your gifts helped Diana and her daughter Briaunna furnish their new home. Since September 2020, we've distributed \$8,970.88 of what has been raised, and still we're receiving donations and helping out when a need arises.

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***“Since then,  
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—



***John Bliesner and his new-to-him truck.***



***Top to bottom: Exterior view of Diana's new home in Malden, Interior view of Diana's living room, and a photo of Diana and her 90-year old neighbor Jim, who she hosted for dinner in her new home shortly after moving in.***

# Mission “Reboot”

Walt & Jeanine White, Global Consultants

We hope you have had a joyful Easter. As we were discussing the resurrection of Jesus with Bengali friends via ZOOM, an Australian who is learning Bengali looked up the word for resurrection on her phone. The English word for its translation came up, “Reboot.”



Walt and I feel “rebooted” after a year of more rest, more reading, and travel on land only. Since we had received our second Covid-19 vaccine, and had heard the airlines were taking extreme precautions, we chose to fly to Arkansas, where our daughter, Joy, and her family are currently living. We are waiting to go to Bangladesh until decreased numbers of people are contracting Covid-19 and there are no requirements of quarantine upon arrival.

However, we continue to be communicating with people in Bangladesh. The Bible studies with women leaders of Symbiosis have taken place weekly. Zoom provides a marvelous means of communication, but is dependent on electricity and Internet working in all five locations from which we “meet.”

Apparently, word spread that Walt and I were “meeting” by FaceTime with a couple for worship. Another family asked if we would have weekly worship with them. We are encouraged as the wife and mother in this family has chosen to read the Scripture. In the previous years we have known her, she has never mentioned her faith.

Another woman we have known for many years recently spontaneously in three of our FaceTime chats told us how important faith in Jesus is to her and how reading the Bible at bedtime gives her peace. We have been thrilled as daily communication, daily prayer, and looking to the Bible has



Walt and Jeanine serve as International Ministries global consultants, training teams working with historically under-served religious groups including pastors, missionaries, development workers, and partners; teaching them to be more effective communicators of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Jeanine works with women and children, helping them to overcome social and cultural obstacles. Walt teaches workers to identify clashes between worldviews so that they can make disciples of Jesus Christ in ways that are both faithful to Scripture and culturally appropriate. They seek to increase the longevity of cross-cultural workers and to strengthen their effectiveness in a holistic way.

unexpectedly deepened our relationships and “rebooted” our Bangla language!

Covid-19 is unrelenting in Bangladesh. The director of Symbiosis contracted it and he was hospitalized. The lack of oxygen in his body temporarily affected him mentally! Although some of the staff within Symbiosis have been diagnosed with the disease, none have died from it, for which we are thankful.

What a beautiful time of year this is! We are hoping you have all stayed healthy and are enjoying these days.

Thank you for your continued gifts for the support of our work and for your prayers for us.

## Life Lessons

Since 2014, PFC and other local ministries have partnered to offer the Life Lessons program for local graduating seniors. God has blessed this program, and we've served more than 100 graduates and given away more than \$20,000 in scholarship awards.

Each year, the students take classes on “Finances, Relationships and Your Future,” and spend time with Christian mentors. We've seen many young adults make faith decisions during this program, and many others who build bonds with our program volunteers.

This year, Life Lessons takes place May 16, 19 and 23 in-person and via Zoom from 7 - 8:30 PM. If you know a graduating senior locally, encourage them to connect to this vital program that helps in the transition from high school to college and /or career.

## How you can help!

### Pray

Please pray for the Life Lessons program, the youth who will participate and our mentors.

### Give

You can give financially to help cover the program costs as well as the \$250 scholarships for the students. You can give at [PalouseChurch.org](http://PalouseChurch.org) - look for the Life Lessons option, or just note Life Lessons on your check or offering envelope.

### Serve

Serve as a volunteer mentor. Contact Pastor Corey: [corey@palousechurch.org](mailto:corey@palousechurch.org)



# Hope for Our Planet

Terry Keller

In the February newsletter, I looked at Genesis 1:26 where humans are made in God's image, in order to care for all of God's creation and help it flourish. In Genesis 2, we get another account of creation. Genesis 2:15 says, "Yahweh God took the man and settled him in the garden of Eden to cultivate and take care of it." Young Evangelicals for Climate Action have looked at the Hebrew in this verse and here's their understanding of it:

"Taken together then, these two Hebrew words [avad, shamar] in Genesis 2 are much closer to something like, 'The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden to serve and to protect it; to serve and to protect creation.' This is the proper shape of our relationship to the rest of creation, this is what it means to rule over the fish in the sea and the birds of the air and the creatures that move along the ground: to be in a special relationship of service with the earth and all its creatures, and to actively and jealously protect it with the same tenacity that God protects his people."

[https://yecaction.org/file\\_download/inline/e9c68022-3732-4c4e-a7fd-4d566e89693e](https://yecaction.org/file_download/inline/e9c68022-3732-4c4e-a7fd-4d566e89693e)

We're supposed to care for and protect creation the way God cares for and protects us. How does that understanding change the way we behave toward the Earth we live on?

Recently, I came across an article in The Guardian: 'Our biggest challenge? Lack of imagination': the scientists turning the desert green. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/mar/20/our-biggest-challenge-lack-of-imagination-the-scientists-turning-the-desert-green>

The piece starts with a couple of photos of the Loess plateau in China, one from 2007 that shows a beige arid landscape and the other of that same landscape in 2019, looking lush and green, as a result of scientists' work. That's encouraging. Now a Dutch company of holistic engineers, Weather Makers, hopes/plans to do the same for the Sinai Peninsula.

Apparently, the Sinai was green 4,500 to 8,000 years ago. (See the article for more information.) Human activity - cutting down trees, overgrazing, and subsequent erosion and lack of rain, contributed to the desert conditions there now. But the Weather Makers plan to dredge the lake, which has filled with silt due to the erosion, haul that up to the hills and work on greening back down to the lake, which will change weather patterns, including bringing more rainfall. It's an exciting project.

"If anybody doubts that the Sinai can be greened," Van der Hoeven told the Egyptian delegates, "...," then you have to understand that landing on the moon was once thought unrealistic. They didn't lay out a full, detailed roadmap when they started, but they had the vision. And step by step they made it happen." This is key: we have to have a vision for "greening" our world.

The article states that "There is no better mechanism for removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere than nature, but in the past 5,000 years, human activity has reduced the Earth's total biomass by an estimated 50%, and destroyed or degraded 70% of the world's forests." No wonder we're having climate problems.

But there's hope. 2021 is the beginning of the UN's Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. The article gives a number of examples: The UN wants to restore 350 million hectares of land by 2030, potentially removing 13 to 26 gigaton of carbon from the atmosphere; the UK plans to create large tracts of woodland every year through 2025; India has pledged to restore 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030; and Africa is planting an 8,000 km line of trees across the Sahara Desert. While these initiatives are not the total answer to our carbon and fossil fuel emissions problem, they are movement in the right direction.

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***"But what if, instead, we think of this as an opportunity to return to our created purpose: to care for and protect creation?"***

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Often, when we consider climate change, we think only of having to cut back, of deprivation, of living in the cold and dark, of having to walk everywhere, of no more car trips, no more travel - of impossible and uncomfortable changes to our American lifestyle. But what if, instead, we think of this as an opportunity to return to our created purpose: to care for and protect creation? What if, here on the Palouse, we work together to restore streams, to allow wetlands to flourish instead of cultivating and planting to the edge of every little creek? What if we recreate or allow habitat for pollinators, allowing wildflowers to grow at the edges of our roads and our fields? What if we quit killing everything that doesn't fit our monocultural farming and gardening practices? What if we care for and protect our part of creation, right here? It's not everything that needs to happen, but it's part of the solution.

There's hope. Things are happening around the world. We can do our part at Palouse Federated Church. Plant a tree, a shrub, lettuce, strawberries, coneflowers. Pray. Talk with your friends and neighbors about climate change. Let's restore our relationship with God's creation.

# Congregational Care Team

Tina Laughary, CCT Leader

Have you ever thought of how you could use your God-given talents and abilities to serve your church and community? Occasionally, at the church, we hear of a need within our congregation/community and we love it when we can turn to you to help meet that need. We are working to put together groups of people we can turn to when these needs arise. Some of these groups, or “teams,” already exist, while others will be new. By volunteering to be on a team you are not obligating yourself to anything, it simply means you may be contacted if we are made aware of a situation you could help with and you can decide if you are able to meet that particular need or not.



Here are some of the teams we are putting together:

1. The Meals Team—to provide meals during times of transition or medical need.
2. The Prayer Team—to confidentially lift up prayer needs.
3. The Transportation Team—for rides to appointments, etc.
4. The Errands & Groceries Team—to pick up prescriptions, groceries, etc.
5. The Yardwork & Snow Removal Team—occasional help for those with a temporary need.
6. The Home Repair Crew—to work on small safety issues in homes.
7. The Technology Team—to provide help using technology or accessing information.
8. Tutoring/homework team—temporary help for families struggling with schoolwork.

**“Have you ever thought of how you could use your God-given talents and abilities to serve your church and community?”**

Would you prayerfully consider joining one of these teams? Our goal is not to make you busier, but to make it easier for you to share your gifts with those in need. It is a wonderful way we can give back to the God that blessed us with our talents from the beginning.

Another way you could serve is by joining our Congregational Care Team. Our newly formed CCT is off and running, working hard to keep our PFC family connected during these challenging times. As of right now we have 23 team members checking in with more than 130 families. It is not too late for you to join the team. If you have a desire to help connect to and care for God’s church—this team may be for you!

For more information or to join a team you can call the church (509) 878-1509 or contact me by phone/text or e-mail at: (509) 595-4706 or tclaughary@yahoo.com

# Quarterly Meeting & Financial Update

Corey Laughary, Pastor



We held a well-attended and encouraging congregational meeting on Sunday April 25th. The Board reported to the church family that giving was down 31% from 1st Quarter 2020, our lowest giving in more than 5 years for the 1st Quarter. Though this is somewhat difficult news to digest, I appreciated that the congregation responded with faith, helpful comments and positive questions for how we could move forward. The Board presented budget amendments that will reduce 2021 expenses, while also presenting that utilizing savings and cutting personnel costs are also under prayerful consideration. PFC has been blessed with a strong legacy of faithful givers that has allowed us to be debt free and to own multiple properties. One other option under strong consideration is the selling of the 600 N. Bridge Street property, moving the Sievers to 620 N. Mary (now the “Parsonage”), freeing up our family to purchase a home in the Palouse community. This option provides budget stabilization, funds to steward the parsonage, seed money for ministry/mission funds and the ability to fund a pastoral housing allowance. This is a developing situation.

It is most important to trust God and to work together to provide for the ministry the Lord is calling us to in our region. I appreciate all who give to support God’s work! Thank you! If you would like to know more about PFC’s current financial situation please feel free to contact me, or Jim Fielder (Board Moderator) or ask to attend a PFC Board meeting. There will likely be a special congregational meeting soon.

On a personal note, if the Lord wills it, we are very much looking forward to buying a home in the Palouse community. We would like to finally, officially, plant some deep roots here by purchasing a home.

Please keep all of these developments in prayer- and may we all trust God for our personal provision and for the provision of Palouse Federated Church.

Depending on Jesus,

*Pastor Corey*

## Finances

- 2020 was a strong financial year.
- Many faithful givers.
- Less givers now, and less giving.
- Giving is down significantly in 1st Quarter.
- Board stewards resources for the congregation.
- 2021 Budgeted expenses have been lowered.
- If giving doesn’t improve or stabilize, savings and personnel expenses could be reduced.
- We have options and assets .

## Facilities

- PFC is blessed with multiple properties.
- Property can be an asset or liability.
- Selling 600 N. Bridge could reduce liability exposure, and generate stabilizing cash reserves.
- Cash reserves could be used to provide for staff, mission and property expenses.
- Laughary family wants to purchase a home.

WHATEVER YOU DO  
*in word or deed*  
DO EVERYTHING  
IN THE NAME OF THE  
LORD JESUS





# Ross Point Camp

Chelsea Arnold, Ross Point Camp

Chelsea Arnold, the Resource Development Administrator for Ross Point Camp, here. Ross Point and Palouse Federated Church have been long-time partners. We so appreciate all that this church has done to boost the mission of Ross Point.



As you may be aware, camping has long been considered one of Christianity's most effective mediums for impacting lives and growing the Church. For decades, clergy and lay leaders in all denominations have realized that the spiritually-focused, challenge-oriented temporary community inherent in Christian camping is unsurpassed for igniting faith, instilling character, and implanting ideals in participants, regardless of age or background. Christian camping also is considered by many to be the best means for inspiring an individual to a life of service.

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**“We hope to provide a glimpse of God’s universe through hearing the gospel and experiencing Christian community...”**

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Last summer was no exception to the great impact that camp can have in the lives of young people. Over the two weeks of camp, 12 campers were baptized, and 14 expressed that they made significant commitments to God! We sent around a form for campers to share about their experience. On those, several campers mentioned that they heard God speak to them for the first time. A few said they made new friends. Many of the campers stated that they are closer to God now than they were before coming to camp. Others talked about learning how to pray and read their Bible.

We look forward to our upcoming summer camps for children and youth. We hope to provide a glimpse of God’s universe through hearing the gospel and experiencing Christian community, and to reinforce the ministries for the church through spiritual

development, education, social groups, and recreation. This year’s theme is “Grace Upon Grace,” inspired by the John 1:16, “From [Christ’s] fullness we have all received, grace upon grace” (ESV). As directors and counselors for this summer met to prepare for camps, they discussed the various ways that they want to teach kids about God’s grace; receiving unconditional love from God, and extending that mercy, forgiveness, and love to others.

In the wake of a year of isolation, we believe that camp is even more crucial. American Christian Camp President and CEO Tom Rosenberg stated, “Summer camps provide the optimal context for kids to practice social-emotional learning (SEL). After such an isolating and traumatic year of disruption and loss, the SEL outcomes that result from camp experiences will help young people prepare to thrive in school this fall.”

In addition, there is evidence to suggest that camps can run safely. The ACA conducted a survey of camps who ran during the pandemic and there were overall positive results. The survey screened 90,000 campers from 486 camps that ran in 2020 and found only 102 total COVID-19 cases identified (less than 1 percent of campers and camp staff). Out of those 486 camps, only 74 camps experienced at least one COVID case (30 campers and 72 staff). “The science demonstrates that camps that have implemented strict, layered mitigation strategies — including masking, cohorting, physical distancing, cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, proper handwashing, and respiratory etiquette — have been able to safely operate in person,” said Rosenberg.

We hope to see Palouse Federated Members at camp this summer volunteering as camp counselors, as parents dropping off campers, and of course as campers attending camp. Please go to [rosspoint.org](http://rosspoint.org) or e-mail [rp@rosspoint.org](mailto:rp@rosspoint.org) or [chelsea@rosspoint.org](mailto:chelsea@rosspoint.org) for more information. God bless!



## Hope for All Children Orphanage: Uganda

Tim Sievers, Connection Director

The church’s partnership with the Hope for All Children Orphanage in Buwenge, Uganda continues to thrive. Each month, we send \$750 to help pay for food, medicine, electricity and other basic necessities.

Like us, our partners in Uganda have been navigating the challenges of the Covid-19 world in a tense political environment. Your prayers are greatly appreciated.

Just this month, 20 youth at the orphanage returned to school, which was made possible through your tithes and offerings and special gifts.

We currently are in the process of working together with our Ugandan brothers and sisters to replace the mattresses for the orphans, which we hope to accomplish in just a few months working in partnership with Pastor Martin’s church.



## Youth Group Activities (Zoom+In-Person)

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

High School Bible Study (Grades 9-12)  
Sundays | 5 PM

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



Young Life Golf Tournament  
6/26 | WSU Golf Course  
\$150 Per Golfer  
Contact Betty Sawyer  
to register!



**Palouse Food Pantry  
Distribution Day | May 26  
1-2:30 PM & By Appointment  
Calvary Chapel of Palouse**

Order Online: [palousefoodpantry@gmail.com](mailto:palousefoodpantry@gmail.com)  
Or Call the Pantry: (509) 595-3048  
Orders will be delivered or you can pick up.

## Bible Study Schedule

In-Person and Zoom Options Now Available  
Contact your Bible Study Leader for More Info.

Sun. | 5 PM | High School

Tues. | 5:30 AM | Men

Tues. | 10 AM | Mixed Group

Wed. | 10 AM | Ladies

Wed. | 6:30 PM | Mixed Group

Wed. | 6:30 PM | Middle School

Thurs. | 9 AM | Ladies



You can access online worship resources, sermon audio, newsletters, and  
online giving at: [www.palousechurch.org](http://www.palousechurch.org)





# Spotlight: Missions

Here at PFC, we tith 10% of your tithes and offerings to missions. On top of that, we have lots of other mission giving opportunities with special offerings and as needs arise. Below is a breakdown of 2021 mission giving through April 30:

Mission Northwest	\$528
Care Net of the Palouse	\$528
Uganda	\$3,065
Walt & Jeanine White	\$1,729
Whitman Co. Chaplaincy	\$340
Joe & Karen Adams	\$1,270
Konnor Massa	\$150
Adult & Teen Challenge	\$304
Kairos Outside of Eastern WA	\$304
Ross Point Camp	\$590
Gar-Pal Young Life	\$1,662
Malden Fire Relief	\$3,400
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$13,870</b>



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