

# Connections

June 2021

## Life Lessons Update

Corey Laughary, Pastor

20 Graduating High School seniors participated in the Class of 2021 Life Lessons program, including 17 students from Gar-Pal, 2 from Potlatch and 1 from Pullman. Each is headed off to post-high school life - some to trade schools, others will be attending college, still others are entering the military or the work force.

The program included lessons on finances, relationships, mental well-being, connection to God, and their eternal future; and 20 adults from Garfield and Palouse volunteered as mentors for the students.

Thank you for praying for Life Lessons and these students. We appreciate those who were able to give towards the Life Lessons fund that helps us award \$250 to each student who completes the program.

Students shared faith decisions, prayer requests and their next steps in life. We are glad to report that two students have decided to believe and will hopefully be receiving baptism this summer, while others asked to receive a Bible.

We continue to believe Life Lessons is a great outreach to bless young adults as they head into post high school life. If you would like to know more, or if you would like to share this ministry with another church or small town, please talk to Pastor Corey for more information.



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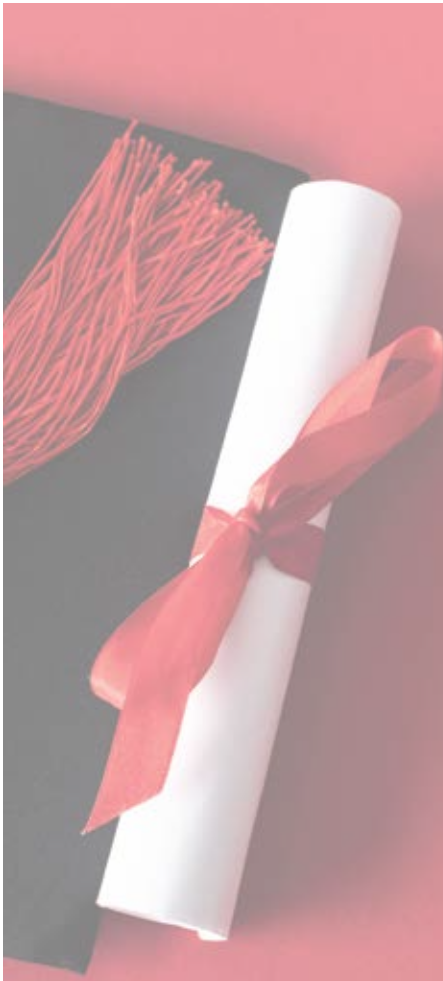
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### Baccalaureate Service

Wednesday, June 2 at 7 PM  
Garfield City Park

Join us for our annual Baccalaureate Service honoring our graduates. This is a great opportunity to show support for our GarPal grads, parents and families.

Pastor Corey will deliver the message, and together we will pray for our graduates and their families as they mark this achievement and life transition.

### Graduation Sunday at PFC

On Sunday, June 6, we will honor PFC's Graduates! We will pray for the graduates at both the 9 & 11 AM services, and weather permitting, at 10:15 AM, we will host a reception outdoors in front of the church building to celebrate!

# The Earth is the Lord's

Terry Keller

*"The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof,  
the world and those who dwell therein;  
for he has founded it upon the seas,  
and established it upon the rivers."*

~Psalm 24:1-2 (RSV)

What does it mean to say the earth is the Lord's? I think we humans currently treat the earth as our possession, to do with as we please. We take the fulness of it for our own use and then demand/coax more out of it. I don't think that all humans have done this throughout history, but certainly the dominant cultures of our age are doing it now. We continue to do it even when we know it's not good for us. We are so short-sighted.

What would change if we took this statement seriously? "The earth is the Lord's...and those who dwell therein..." I think Christianity accepts that people are the Lord's, at least those who accept the Lord. But, I'm not sure Christianity takes seriously the idea that **all** who dwell on earth are the Lord's. If it did, would we be using and abusing God's creatures as we are? Think of all the habitat we've destroyed for cities, roads, and agriculture, with the subsequent loss of birds, insects, wildflowers, trees - even humans.

I'm not saying that the correct way to live is to leave no trace, as in backcountry camping. I am saying that we're not considering the consequences of our actions carefully enough. We're not considering how we're impacting the Lord's creation. We're caretakers, not owners. Caretakers don't get to do with the owner's property whatever they want. They can try it, but there are consequences. And that's where we are today - we are facing the consequences of our willful disregard of our caretaker status, the true ownership of the earth and the fulness thereof.

"The average abundance of native species in most major land-based habitats has fallen by at least 20%, mostly since 1900. More than 40% of amphibian species, almost 33% of reef-forming corals and more than a third of all marine mammals are threatened. The picture is less clear for insect species, but available evidence supports a tentative estimate of 10% being threatened. At least 680 vertebrate species had been driven to extinction since the 16th century and more than 9% of all domesticated breeds of mammals used for food and agriculture had become extinct by 2016, with at least 1,000 more breeds still threatened" (From the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).

Climate change is exacerbating this rate of extinction. The warmer the planet gets, the more difficulty plants, animals, insects, and humans will have just to survive, let alone flourish. As Katharine Hayhoe, a climate scientist and Christian, said in a Biologos interview:

"But the reason why we care about climate change is because it is, as the US military now calls it today, a threat multiplier. In other words, it takes every issue that we already care about today, and it

makes it worse, especially the more vulnerable we are, the more at risk we are.

"So climate change doesn't only take issues like biodiversity loss, and deforestation, and air pollution and make them worse, although it certainly does that. It also takes issues like poverty, and hunger, and lack of access to clean water, and disease, and political instability, and refugee crises, and it makes those worse." See the whole very interesting interview at:

<https://biologos.org/podcast-episodes/katharine-hayhoe-global-weirding/>

Climate change is here. The impacts are happening sooner and with more severity than scientists predicted, because as Hayhoe points out, scientists are conservative in their predictions. So, things are worse than they predicted. "So we have already seen a 1 degree celsius increase in the average temperature of the planet, and we already have at least another half degree baked in due to our past choices" (Hayhoe, Biologos interview). We're in dangerous territory. If we want to keep warming to less than 2 degrees celsius, we need to work on solutions now.

Read the interview with Hayhoe mentioned above. Check out monthly action items at <https://climatecaretakers.org/monthly-actions>. Call or write your elected representatives and urge them to work on climate change. Here are a couple more Web sites to check out: <https://drawdown.org>; <https://creationcare.org>. Pray. Pray without ceasing. Be a caretaker of the Lord's earth and all who dwell therein.

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***"Be a  
caretaker of  
the Lord's  
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therein."***

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# Congregational Meetings

## What You Need to Know...

Corey Laughary, Pastor

### June 13 | 10:15 AM | Fellowship Hall/Zoom – Financial update

**Purpose:** To review PFC's current financial status and to update the congregation on the budget shortfall that was occurring after the first quarter of 2021.

**What You Need to Know:** All are welcome to attend this meeting. All questions are welcome. Financial reports will be shared covering the first five months of 2021.

For more information, or if you have questions now, please call the church office: (509) 878-1509 or e-mail: corey@palousechurch.org.

### June 27 | 10:15 AM | Fellowship Hall/Zoom – Vote on Listing and Selling 600 N. Bridge St. Property

**Purpose:** The Board of the church is recommending the listing and sale of the 600 N. Bridge St. property. This motion must be voted on by the membership of the congregation. A letter with the motion and board recommendation will be mailed out to every member in early June.

**What You Need to Know:** All are welcome to attend this meeting. Only members of PFC can count towards quorum and vote on the motion in question, but all are welcome to ask questions and have discussion. This property sale vote is occurring with the approval of the church's Stewardship Committee and moving forward, the resources from a sale will help PFC implement a stewardship plan for our remaining properties (620 N. Mary St. & 635 N. Bridge St.) as well as provide financial support for a mission and ministry fund, and resources for a housing allowance for Pastor Corey's family.

For more information, please feel free to contact Board Moderator Jim Fielder at: (509) 592-7574 or jim.fielder@outlook.com, the church office (509) 878-1509, or Pastor Corey: corey@palousechurch.org.

## The Giving Wall

Palouse - our home - a place where neighbors help neighbors. There are many in our community who can use a little extra help these days, and the Palouse Market now is hosting a Giving Wall, where you can donate gift cards for people who need a little extra help purchasing items they can't get elsewhere, such as toilet paper or other paper products. Buy a gift card and hang it on the wall.

If you need help, it's a no questions asked process - just take a gift card from the wall and use it. You can find them on the wall by the shopping carts.



## Youth Camps at Ross Point

For PFC Scholarships  
Contact Brenda Cook

Middler Camp  
2nd - 4th Grades  
June 20-23

My First Camp  
Children Under 2nd Grade  
June 25-26

Junior High Camp  
6th - 9th Grades  
June 27 - July 2

Senior High Camp  
9th - 12th Grades  
June 27 - July 2

Register at: [www.rosspoint.org](http://www.rosspoint.org)



REAL HELP FOR REAL PEOPLE

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# COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH TOOLS

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Learning basic mental health tools to better prepare people to help people in real life situations.

**June 12 | 9 - 11 AM**  
**Palouse Federated Church**

Community Mental Health Tools is a 2 to 2.5 hour class for individuals and groups. It's aimed at people who aren't professionals in mental health fields.

Participants will receive:

QPR Suicide Intervention Certification.

Post-Suicide and Post-Trauma follow up training and discussion to aid individuals, families and communities.

Resiliency Basics to help youth and young adults have better life outcomes.

Self-Care training, encouragement and goal-setting to help process stress and develop health.

**Instructor: Rev. Corey Laughary is an experienced pastor, coach, EMS volunteer and small-town chaplain.**

**He is a certified Mental Health First Aid Instructor (Youth and Adult) and certified QPR Instructor. Corey provides direct (never pre-recorded) in-person or online instruction, with personal service and follow up as needed.**

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**Community Mental Health Tools has a \$25 per person cost.**

**Grant funding may be available through the Greater Columbia Accountable Communities of Health through the Whitman County Health Network. Please inquire.**

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**For more information or to schedule a training, call or text Corey at 509-336-9154**

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

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 | June 23  
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 Available  
Contact the Church or Your Bible Study Leader for  
More Information

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)

# Operation Christmas Child Update

Cheri Brunner

Olan received an Operation Christmas Child (OCC) box long ago as a child and accepted Christ. When he was older, he decided to go back to the village he grew up in, bringing with him one friend and OCC boxes. A poor community, far out in the country, the children were thrilled to receive boxes of their very own.

Unfortunately, someone saw them doing this and went to the local religious people and got a group of people together to stone the infidels. Before they could return to the village, however, a little boy, prompted by the Holy Spirit, spoke to Olan and his friend and told them they needed to leave soon as people were coming to kill them! They ran out just in time, and as they got in their car stones rained

down upon their car – but, they got away safe.



About a year later, Olan received a call from the people who threw the stones at him. They wanted Olan and his friend to come back! Upon their return, they were welcomed by those who had sought to kill them, together with

their children, who were the happiest their parents had ever seen.

Olan was able to go to the home of a poor woman who had a brain tumor and slept most the day. When he got there, she was awake and he spoke to her and her children about Christ and they all accepted Him as their Savior. She was healed, and her home now is a discipleship learning center. Another family of 6 people all came to Christ.

All this done in a country closed to the gospel. Where there is persecution of believers, OCC people see God do more miracles.

I hope you can see that God is still working with great strength through Operation Christmas Child boxes. The virus could not stop these boxes from going out all over the world and saving lives for the Kingdom of God!

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## Did You Know?

*You can build a box online all year long, and all of these boxes are saved for children in closed countries – more than 400,000 in 2020 alone!*

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635 N BRIDGE ST | PALOUSE, WA 99161