

Connections

July & August 2021

Lamp & Light Journey
July 4 - Sept. 12



**Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.**

~ Psalm 119:105 ~

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Everyone Loves a Good Comeback

Corey Laughary, Pastor

Everyone loves a good comeback. You know what I mean?

The boxer who is getting pummeled (think of “Rocky”!) and yet somehow, against all odds, punches their way back and wins the match.



That team that is losing in the 2nd half of the game, with little hope of winning, but somehow, they fight their way back and end up on top in the end.

The runner who trips and falls in the race, but somehow against all the odds she gets up and amazingly races to victory.

God is the author of the greatest comebacks. Jesus Christ Himself came back from the dead to give us new life - the greatest comeback!

We love comebacks and the good news is God wants us all to have the best comebacks in our life. When we trust God and follow the Spirit in obedience, God helps us to comeback better out of despair or difficulty.

Do you believe in the God of “Comebacks”? I sure do! I believe God wants the best “Comeback” for the Body of Christ right now.

Our theme for mid-summer this year is “The Comeback is Stronger than the Setback.” We have had our fair share of setbacks, but the Lord is not done with us yet. We may be down, tired, weary, disconnected or exhausted - but if we let God lead us and we commit our ways to Him, there is a way forward, a comeback, that will be far greater than our setbacks.

How can I believe this? Because God is greater. Allow me to share some scripture: 1 John 4:4, “...children, you are from God and have overcome them [setbacks], for God who is in you is greater than [the setback maker] who is in the world.” And in Romans 8:31, we read, “If God is with us who can be against us?” Jesus is greater than all our setbacks (John 16:33) and greater than the enemy who wants us to lose. God has the best plans for us - deep and everlasting relationship with Him (Jer. 29:11-15).

Friends - join me on this journey of praying for God’s Comeback for all of us. May we see the Holy Spirit move inside and outside of the Church. May we see a deep Comeback of God in our time!

Hope Over Fear

Terry Keller

There's nothing like a week or more of 90-110°F, during a drought, to make me panic about climate change. According to the 2018 National Climate Assessment, the Pacific Northwest has warmed nearly 2°F/1°C since 1900. According to the Union of Concerned Scientists, in Washington state we have historically had 4 days per year with a heat index above 90°F. They predict an increase to 17 days per year by mid-century and 35 by 2100. We're having 10 or 11 days right now, and we aren't even at the quarter century mark.

I admit, as Katherine Hayhoe describes, to feeling like I'm on "a giant ship heading straight for the iceberg, and you're accelerating, and it just seems like nobody's paying attention." I hear ads for the same carbon-intensive lifestyle with its requisite wares and it's such a disconnect. Or discussions about the economy that are business as usual with no reference to climate and I wonder what is going on. Do we all have our heads in the sand?

Katherine Hayhoe suggests that fear is what keeps us from acting. I think there's also a lack of knowledge about what we personally can do—it's easier to ignore it. But, 108°F, forecasted for June 28, is kind of hard to ignore and affects all of us, some more than others, so we're going to have to face this and get to work on reducing our impact. Hayhoe says, "We know from looking at the science that things are not going to be better than we think. If anything, they're likely to be worse than we think.... So the choices that we make today really do matter... We are trying to do something that we've never done before, which is accelerate the transition of our economy off an old source of energy to a new one. And for that we need that hope.... the hope that God has put us here for a reason. He has poured out his love into our hearts. He has given us not a spirit of fear.... He has given us a spirit of power to act, of love, to care for others and a sound mind, again, to make good decisions.... [W]e know that we are called to be present here in this moment to be God's hands and feet in this world."

So instead of feeling like I'm on the Titanic, I'm looking at drawdown.org. The pie chart shows the amounts of various sources of emissions, according to drawdown.org. Electricity and the food system are the biggest sources of emissions and it turns out we can help reduce greenhouse gases in those and the other areas.

For today, I'm going to mention some electricity solutions. I've mentioned LED lights before. They use 90% less energy than incandescents, 50% less than fluorescents. They're more expensive, yes, but the price is going down and you save money on electricity. Start with LEDs in your most frequently used lights and go from there.

Dry your clothes on a clothesline—in this heat, it's almost dry before you get it all hung up. Get drying racks to use inside in the winter. You may have to adjust to doing only one load a day in the winter, but that's easier than adjusting to drought and weeks of 90 + temperatures, in my opinion.

Check to be sure your home is fully insulated. Fill cracks and gaps. You'll save on heating and cooling costs, moisture infiltration and reduce carbon emissions.

Solar panels—not a cheap solution, but then climate change's impacts aren't cheap either. Solar panels do not need to cover all of

your electrical usage—they can be partial. Perhaps Solar Water Heating is a first step. According to drawdown.org, "...SWH is among the most effective ways to convert solar energy into thermal energy. Payback periods are as short as two to four years, depending on specifics of system and location." Household water heating consumes 25% of residential energy usage. Solar Water Heating could reduce that part of our residential usage by 50-70%. Other ways to reduce hot water energy usage: use an efficient dishwasher rather than washing dishes. Do laundry in cold water. Take shorter showers. Get a low-flow shower head. Consider on-demand tankless water heaters instead of a tank. Big or small, we can all make a difference.

***"But if we act,
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Try to reduce your use of cloud storage and the internet. Server farms are sucking up a lot of electricity. I certainly don't need to save all the photos I've ever taken or get all the emails I currently get. Digital storage seems like it takes no space at all, but it really eats up power.

The less electricity we use, the less electricity has to be generated. That will reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

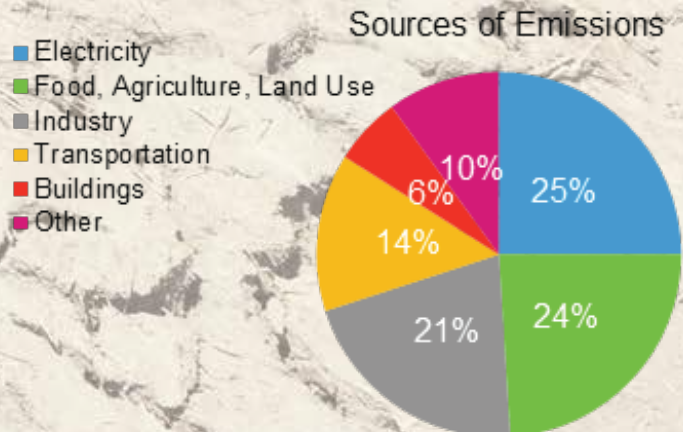
Drawdown.org has a long list of solutions. I'll be talking about more of the items in future articles. Some things we as individuals can't do. We can, however, encourage our governments at many levels to take the steps necessary to reduce carbon emissions. Our representatives need to know that we, the people, expect them to act to mitigate climate change. Our future depends on it.

Doing nothing in the hope it will go away is like not studying for an exam in the hope it goes away. It just makes things worse. But if we act, use our knowledge to make smart decisions, be God's hands and feet in this world, we will be renewed. Isaiah 40:28b-31 tells us that "The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary, his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength....but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint."

¹ <https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/chapter/24/>

² <https://www.ucsusa.org/about/news/northwest-region-areas-feels-temperature-exceeds-90-degrees>

³ <https://biologos.org/podcast-episodes/katharine-hayhoe-global-weirding/>



Are You Ready to Serve?

Tina Laughary, CCT Leader

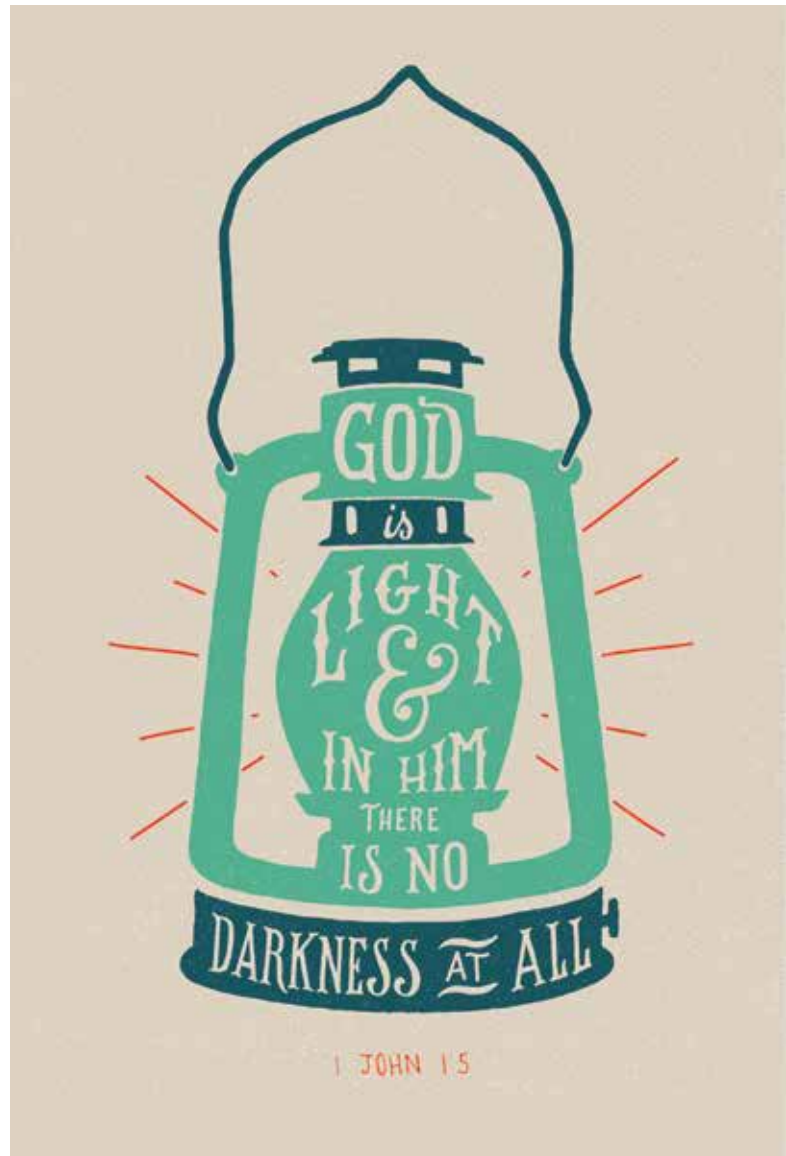
I am loving my new role as Congregational Care Coordinator here at PFC. Encouraging our church body to check-in with and care for one another has led to so many wonderful stories of connection. I feel honored to get to facilitate these interactions.



Occasionally, I learn that someone within our church has a need and I get to connect them with someone who can help. To do this well, I am compiling lists of people I can contact to help meet those needs. We call these “care teams.” Signing up for a care team does not obligate you to do anything. It just means I might contact you when a need arises to see if you are available to help. I am currently looking for more volunteers to serve on the following teams:

- Transportation (to help provide rides to appointments, etc.)
- Home Repairs (to work on small safety issues in homes)
- Tutoring & Homework (temporary help for families struggling with schoolwork)
- Meals (to provide meals during times of transition or medical need)
- Congregational Care Team (communicating and checking in monthly with others from the church and community)

If you would like to sign up for one of these teams or would like more information, please contact me by phone or text (509) 595-4706 or e-mail tclaughary@yahoo.com.



Congregational Meeting Update

Corey Laughary, Pastor

On June 27, we held a congregational meeting to vote on the sale of one of our church-owned properties. A quorum was present and a unanimous vote approved the following motion:

A motion to list and sell the property and house at 600 N. Bridge St., Palouse, WA 99161 (Legal Description: Lot 7 and Lot 8, Block 11, BEACHES ADDITION to the town of Palouse, according to the plat thereof, recorded in Block B of Plats, Page 14, records of said [Whitman] county. Assessors Tax Parcel No(s): APN: 1-0725-00-11-07-0000; 1-0725-00-11-08-0000), for market value and to utilize the proceeds as follows: 1) Tithe 10% of proceeds to support our mission priorities, 2) Create a budget stabilization/housing allowance subsidy fund using 50% of proceeds, 3) Designate 10% of proceeds for ministry support, 4) Designate 15% for upgrades to 620 N. Mary property/house, and 5) Set aside 15% for property stewardship issues.

The church board now is in the process of carrying out this process. We welcome your continued prayers for this transition and invite you, at any time, to bring your questions or concerns to any of the board members: Brenda Cook, Cam Heusser, Pastor Corey Laughary, Dennis Griner, Jim Fielder, or Peggy Collier.



Vacation Bible School

Brenda Cook, Children's Ministry Director

What: Fruits of the Spirit Vacation Bible School

When: August 2-6, 9-11 AM

Where: Palouse City Park (Hayton-Greene)

Who: For all kids entering Kindergarten through 6th grade

Join us outside in the park for Bible stories, games, crafts, snacks and learn about the Uganda school mission! We will learn about Love, Joy, Patience, Kindness and Faithfulness from Galatians 5:22-23a. We can't wait to see you all!

Register: www.palousechurch.org/vbs

Finding Common Ground

Tracy Lee Sievers

The past year has brought to light so many disagreements, from politics to pandemic and everything in between. We struggle to find ways to even talk with those we don't agree with and often say things we wouldn't have said outside of the frustration of the moment.

Even simple things like love for our country and community have become divisive topics. So, how can we find common ground and reclaim the love and respect we used to show our neighbors regardless of their thoughts and ideals that differ from our own?

In their book, *The Art of Neighboring*, Jay Pathak and Dave Runyon offer some suggestions for being neighborly and showing the love of Christ to the community around you.

Regardless of who your neighbor is or how bad a human being you think he is, you're called to love that person. You might not be called to be best friends with him. But if the person lives near you, you are called to be a good neighbor. Believe it or not, when friction exists, great opportunities exist as well.

Luke chapter 10 addresses this issue as well when Jesus commands us to love our neighbors - all of them. Verses 25-29 read:

And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "what is written in the Law? How do you read it?" And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "you have answered correctly; do this and you will live." But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" (ESV)



Jesus then goes on to tell the story of the Good Samaritan. What's so challenging about this story is that Jesus has chosen the most repugnant person a Jew could think of, a Samaritan, to use as his example of goodness. This is Jesus's example of neighboring - to serve the "Samaritans" in our lives - those no one wants to even breathe the same air as.

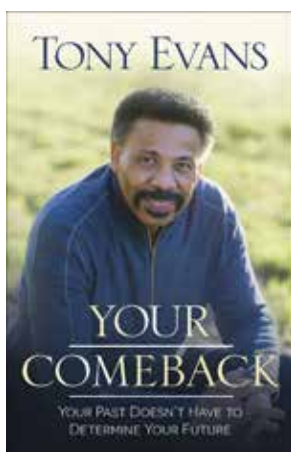
Pathak and Runyon continue:

Real relationships are almost always messy.But if we're to love people the way Jesus commanded we need to be willing to push through when things get complicated. Being a good neighbor isn't something that we can just check off the list. It has to become a way of life for us, and it is a primary way that God can use us.

They continue, "When groups of like-minded people gather around kingdom causes, good things happen."

It can be hard to set aside disagreements to love the people God has placed around you. It can be really challenging work! But it is always worth it to show God's love to others! Find some common ground. Perhaps share a meal, talk about something you both enjoy (gardening, living on The Palouse, WSU football, a distaste for hot weather, etc.) and begin a relationship that transcends your disagreement, do something kind for them for no reason (mow their yard, rake their leaves, shovel their snow, leave a bouquet of flowers on their porch, etc.), and remember to pray FOR the person (that God would display his love for them, that they would have a good vacation, that they would have a day that causes them to smile, etc.). Hopefully, over time, God will help you begin to see the person as God's child whom God loves, and less like a person you don't agree with.

It's not always easy, but living out God's call on our lives never really is. I promise, though, that it will always be worth it! If you'd like to learn more about God's call to be a good neighbor, check out Luke 10 and maybe even pick up a copy of *The Art of Neighboring* to read for yourself. I think you'll be blessed.



"Comebacks give us hope, and hope is the very thing that makes our hearts beat strong."

Sometimes it feels like you're 31 points behind at halftime, like you've fallen too far or experienced too much defeat to be used in mighty ways by God.

In his book, *Your Comeback* (available at the church for a \$10 donation), Tony Evans shares stories of comebacks, not simply to inspire, but to give you hope. The same God that orchestrated a comeback for Naaman, Hannah, and Joseph is ready to give you a comeback too!

Get your book today! It's a great addition to our summer series: The Comeback is Always Greater than the Setback.

Adams Adventures: Update

Joe & Karen Adams, our missionary partners with Mission Aviation Fellowship in Lesotho, report that they are excited to be busy again. For the first time in almost a year, doctor teams are visiting the isolated clinics and flying patients from their mountain villages to visit specialists.

The Flying Pastors are expanding their reach and activity as they seek to fulfill Christ's mission to make disciples among the mountain peoples. A second pastoral couple is now in the isolated mountain community of Kuebunyane. The Basotho couple will be supported by MAF and the Flying Pastors as they share about Christ with their own people.

Prayer Requests

- Pray for Mantlibi Mafa as she departs for a year of mechanic's school in the U.S.
- Pray that Karen can continue to bring God's truth and love into the lives of the at-risk youth at the Beautiful Dream Society.
- Pray the the Flying Pastors can continue to bring spiritual and physical hope through Christ!

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)
Tuesdays | 7 PM

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



Palouse Ice Cream Social

Hayton-Greene Park

Sunday, July 11, 2021
Noon to 3 PM

Live music, pie and ice cream, and those
famous Lion's Club burgers!



Palouse Food Pantry Distribution Day | July 28 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.

Bible Study Schedule

In-Person and Zoom Options Available
Contact the Church or Your Bible Study Leader for
More Information

Tues. | 5:30 AM | Men

Tues. | 10 AM | Mixed Group

Tues. | 7 PM | High School

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

Lamp & Light Journey

Tim Sievers, Connection Director

I've recently been reflecting on a verse God keeps bringing to mind. I memorized it when I was (much) younger, and it has stayed with me all these years:



Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
and do not lean on your own understanding.
In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths.

Proverbs 3:5-6 records these words of wisdom from a father to his son, and they have brought me comfort and direction in difficult times. In the midst of uncertainty, Solomon tells us – trust in, lean on, and acknowledge God – and he will make straight our paths...and he has! I'm so grateful for a scripture verse hidden in my heart (Psalm 119:11), that lights my path in the midst of troubled times (Psalm 119:105).

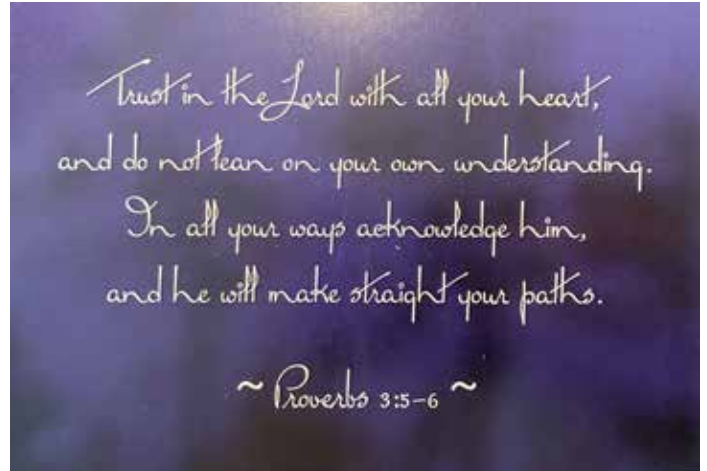
This beautiful encouragement is our kickoff verse for our Summer Lamp & Light Journey. We'll be looking at 11 verses starting July 4 and carrying us late into September, and I encourage you to accept the challenge of not just memorizing these scriptures, but hiding them in your heart.

Matthew 4 records the story of Jesus being tempted by the devil. Jesus, each time counters the temptation with the truth of scripture,

beating back the devil's snares, saying: "It is written..." Jesus himself used God's Word to counter the temptations he faced, and there's no greater example for us than to look to him.

I hope you'll join us for the Lamp and Light Journey this summer, I know you'll find encouragement in the midst of difficulty, salvation in the midst of temptation, and hope in the midst of despair.

"In the midst of uncertainty, Solomon tells us - trust in, lean on, and acknowledge God - and he will make straight our paths..."



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