

Connections

December 2021

God With Us...A Look at 3 Little Words

Corey Laughary, Pastor

Our theme for Advent 2021 is "God With Us."

To say "God with us" sounds nice, but what does it really mean? Maybe you think I'm being a bit silly by asking that question about a short statement with only 3 words and 9 letters. You might be thinking, "Isn't the meaning obvious?" Yes, the basic meaning is obvious, but the depth of that meaning is great. So let's do this, let's ask one question for each of the 3 words and see what the Spirit can teach us about the statement: "God with us."

- Who is God?
- What does "with" mean?
- And who is "us" anyways?

Who is God? God is the eternally existing being, completely good, responsible for creation, a perfect community of love known as Father-Son-and-Holy Spirit. God always has existed and always will exist. God is love. God is all wise. God is the most powerful. God is all-compassionate. God is perfectly just, good, and holy. God didn't have to make us, but wanted to make us. God didn't have to restore us to relationship, but chose to restore us through Jesus. God doesn't have to invite us into the Divine eternal Kingdom, but God wants us there. God is good beyond our wildest imaginations and wants the absolute best for us. God is greater than we know or can imagine.

What does "with" mean? "With" is a cool word. The biblical Greek word for "with" is "meta," a preposition that can mean - amid, among, accompanying or in the company of someone. It definitely does not mean: far away, against, absent, opposed, distant, ghosting you, or abandoning. "With," in this sentence, is a preposition that connects God and us, and "with" means connecting, drawing near, being together with us. God is not far from us, but with us. God is not forgetting we exist, but is drawing near to us, wanting to be together with us.

And who is "us" anyways? Some of my favorite Bible words are whoever, everyone, and all. Examples will show why: "...**Whoever** believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16b), "**everyone** who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" (Romans 10:13), "But to **all** who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God" (John 1:12). Who is us? **WHOEVER** believes, **EVERYONE** who calls on the Lord and **ALL** who receive Jesus. "Us" is any person anywhere, of any age, any background, with whatever struggles they have. God wants every person to be part of the "us."

The perfect eternally existing loving Being (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) came to be alongside us, in our midst, drawing near, connecting to any, all, whoever, everyone that would depend on Jesus.

Jesus is God with us - and this is very amazing Good News!

Depending on Jesus,

Pastor Corey



"The perfect eternally existing loving Being (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) came to be alongside us, in our midst, drawing near, connecting to any, all, whoever, everyone that would depend on Jesus.."

“
Therefore the Lord
himself will give
you a sign.
Behold, the virgin
shall conceive and
bear a son, and
shall call his name
Immanuel.

Isaiah 7:14

Palouse Federated Church
635 N. Bridge St.
Palouse, WA 99161
(509) 878-1509
www.palousechurch.org

Corey Laughary, Pastor
Cell | (509) 336-9154
corey@palousechurch.org

Tina Laughary, Congregational Care
Phone | (509) 878-1334
tclaughary@yahoo.com

Vanessa Moore, Youth Leader
Cell | (509) 595-1910
vanessa@palousechurch.org

Hua Ming Newman, Worship Arts
& Tech Assistant
huaming@palousechurch.org

Tim Sievers, Connection Director
Cell | (509) 595-2778
tim@palousechurch.org

An Invitation

Tina Laughary, Congregational
Care Director

This is our 18th Christmas in Palouse. There are so many things I love about this time of year. From the Christmas lights on Main Street to the Lion's Club welcoming Santa—Palouse Christmases are the best! That first Christmas back in 2004 we opened our home, the PFC Parsonage for tours and Christmas goodies—our very first “open house.” The parsonage was always the church's house, but our home, and we wanted everyone to feel welcomed there, and so the tradition continued.



2021 has been a year full of change for the Laughary family. We no longer live in a parsonage. Our home has moved a whole two blocks from the church to a house we own. One thing hasn't changed—we still want you, our church family—our community, to feel welcome in our home. We would like to invite you all to join us for a slightly different Christmas Open House.

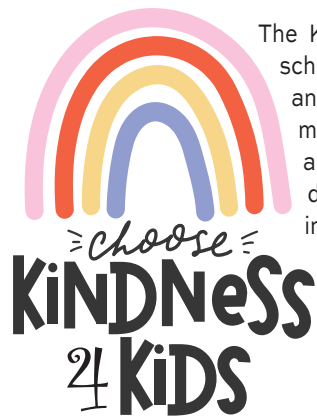
**Laughary Family
Christmas
Open House**
Dec. 22
6-8 PM
Come & Go
200 E. Maxwell St.
Palouse, WA

Please join us for a Christmas get together at our new home, 200 E. Maxwell Street on Wednesday December 22nd from 6-8 PM. Come for the whole time, or just drop in. We will serve some Christmas goodies and enjoy being together. Also—Danny will be home from Harvard so plan to catch up with him as well! No, there won't be fruitcake at our house this year, but—there will still be fruitcake available - come to either the 9 or

11 AM service at PFC on December 5th or 12th for your mini-fruit cake!

What a blessing and a joy to celebrate our 18th Palouse Christmas—we wouldn't want to be anywhere else.

Kindness for Kids Food Pantry



The Kindness for Kids food pantry at the school is in need of instant oatmeal cups and cereal cups (the ones you just put the milk in and use it as a bowl). Also needed are apples and oranges. Bring your donations to the church and leave them in the clear plastic bins.



Palouse Food Pantry

December 15th

1-2:30 PM & By Appointment
Calvary Chapel of Palouse

Order Online: palousefoodpantry@gmail.com

Or Call the Pantry: (509) 595-3048

In-person pick up, or delivery by request.

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

Wed. | 10 AM | Ladies

Wed. | 6:30 PM | Middle School

Wed. | 7 PM | High School

Thurs. | 9 AM | Ladies



Sunday School is in session! All ages (age 3 and potty-trained through 5th grade) are meeting together for Sunday School each week. Join us each week in the basement classroom from 10:15 – 11 AM as we learn about Jesus and his love.



Christmas Giving Opportunities

Christmas Food Boxes and Vouchers

Are you interested in supporting individuals and families in need during this Christmas season? Our annual Christmas Food Boxes and Vouchers provide food and funds to folks to empower them to fill their cupboards, make their own special holiday meal and just have a bit more during the holidays. Local schools, agencies and groups help us identify people in need. Recipients are everyone from seniors on a fixed income to working-poor families and single parents. If you know of someone in need let us know soon. We will be contacting people through Dec. 20. Donations can be received through Sunday, December 19.

Lakeland Village Residents

For many, many years we have provided gifts for Eastern State Hospital residents. This year we are moving away from that program, as giving to ESH became very restricted and limited. Instead, we will provide gifts for residents at Lakeland Village that don't have much family support. Lakeland Village is a residential facility in Medical Lake, WA for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Donations must be received by Sunday December 12. See church e-mails for more details.

Uganda Orphanage Resident Gifts and Christmas Party

We are sponsoring the residents of the Hope 4 All Children Orphanage in Uganda. We hope to provide each resident with a set of new clothes and a pair of shoes. The average cost per student is \$30. Any monies given beyond the clothing gift need will be given to fund a Christmas party for the residents and also set aside for future education needs.

All Christmas Giving can be done via check or cash dropped off at the church building, or online at PalouseChurch.org - look for the giving option.



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

A Very Very Merry PALOUSE CHRISTMAS

THURSDAYS
DEC 2, 9, 16

Nights of Peace
6pm-8pm at Holy Trinity Chapel

SATURDAY
DEC 11TH

Holiday Shopping Specials
10am-4pm in Downtown Palouse

SUNDAY
DEC 12TH

**Christmas Caroling
& Chili Dinner**
Meet at 5pm at Palouse Federated Church

THURSDAY
DEC 16TH

Christmas Concert (Middle/High School)
6:30pm at Garfield School Gym

SATURDAY
DEC 18TH

**Gingerbread House
Extravaganza!**
Dropoff from 11am-12pm at the Palouse Library

Christmas Cookies & Hot Cocoa
11am-2pm downtown by City Hall

Santa Comes to Palouse
12pm at the Palouse Community Center
(Hosted by the Lions Club)

Double-Feature Drive-in Movie
6pm at the RV PARK: Charlie Brown's Christmas
followed by the Muppet's Christmas Carol

SUNDAY
DEC 19TH

Christmas Pageant
6pm at Palouse Federated Church

MONDAY
DEC 20TH

Christmas Concert (Elementary School)
6:30pm at Palouse School Gym

WEDNESDAY
DEC 22ND

**Palouse Christmas Special:
Homebound for the Holidays**
Premiers at 7pm on YouTube and 107.5 FM

THURSDAY
DEC 23RD

**World Famous Palouse
All-Around-Town Christmas Parade**
Meet at 5:30pm at the Palouse Federated Church
Motorcade begins at 6pm sharp!

FRIDAY
DEC 24TH

Christmas Eve Services
7pm and 11pm at Palouse Federated Church



**Holiday
Cheer**

brought to you
by neighbors
and friends



Learn more at VISITPALOUSE.COM/CHRISTMAS

Spiritual Growth Guide

Coming Soon in 2022

Corey Laughary, Pastor

The Update to the PFC Spiritual Growth Guide is (finally) available for pre-order now. This is a great resource for the start of 2022.

New Content Includes:

Real life, practical material for personal OR group reflection. There are four new sections, dozens of completely new pages designed to help you grow spiritually and develop different parts of your life.

- SECTION 4 | ON GRIEVING, DEATH, CELEBRATING & LIFE

A section that will help whether you are grieving or you know someone who is grieving. But this section also is about the celebrating that we are to have in life. Real help for matters of life, death, grief and joy.

- SECTION 5 | SELF-CARE

How do you best care for your own soul? Is it selfish to take care of yourself? How should the Christian think about mental health? How can I help someone who is really struggling?

- SECTION 6 | SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

Christianity has ancient practices that have helped people live faithfully. This section will teach and train you in prayer, fasting, study, celebrating, worship and more.

- SECTION 7 | ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Our final section is a "catch-all" section that has practical resources for longtime and new believers, room for weekly sermon notes, Bible reading plans and more. We will likely be adding new information in section 7 over time. It is an intentionally unfinished section.

Do you want a spiritual growth guide for yourself or your group?

Pre-Order your copy by contacting PFC at (509) 878-1509 or next@palousechurch.org.

If you have a previous version, we can provide the updated sections, or a whole new copy. The cost is a suggested donation of \$10 for a full copy, or \$5 for just the paper update.

Wednesday Nights @ PFC Resume in January

Pastor Corey will be leading Spiritual Growth Guide Discussions starting at 6:30 PM.

There will be time for any and all Bible questions, working through real life spiritual challenges, and having prayer together.

Join us Wednesday nights starting January 5th!

First meetings will discuss:

January 5th

PERSONAL GOALS - How to develop the best goals for your life and actually accomplish them!

January 12th

DIMENSIONS OF LIFE - Including...Spiritual, Emotional, Relational, Financial, Physical - what areas of your life do you want to see God improve in 2022?

The Changing Nature of Relationships

Tim Sievers, Connection Director



As many of you will no doubt know, The Palouse City Council recently appointed me to the position of Mayor. This new role comes with a new set of responsibilities, that, if we're honest with ourselves, will add an additional layer to our relationship with one another as we interact not just as brothers and sisters in Christ, but as city leader to city resident.

Pastor Corey and I, in consultation with the church Leadership Team and an outside advisor, believe this change in our relationship necessitates a few clarifications regarding my role and responsibilities here at Palouse Federated Church.

We want to assure you that my position and responsibilities here remain the same. I will continue in my role as Connection Director with the same dedication I always have had. However, what will change is that I am choosing to clarify my boundaries so that I can focus on my work at PFC while I am at PFC. Therefore, though it will be difficult for me, I am asking for your cooperation in helping me keep city business out of the church. While I am at church, I need to keep my attention on the duties I have here. Should you address a question or comment to me regarding city business, I will politely ask if we can schedule a meeting to connect when I am not on duty here at the church. You always can feel free to contact regarding city issues me via phone after hours or at my city e-mail:

(509) 595-2778 | tim.palousecc@gmail.com

Let me thank you in advance for working with me to keep these boundaries clear so that I can have a healthy relationship with the church and do my best for the City of Palouse too.

Christmas Program

Camille Wadleigh, Director

The Christmas season is nearly here, and we at Palouse Federated Church are beginning work on our annual **Christmas Program**, which takes place on **Sunday, Dec. 19 at 6 PM** in the church sanctuary, **with a time of fellowship to follow the program.** Our program promises a faithful reenactment of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem and the birth of Jesus, our blessed Savior.

Meet the wise men as they follow the divine star in their search for the promised Prince of Peace. Hear the beautiful words of the angels as they guide the shepherds. Delight in seeing cute little kids dressed up as the shepherds' flock.

There will be wonderful music, a bit of dance, and the opportunity at the conclusion for all of us to join voices in a few of the season's most beloved carols. What a great way to celebrate the Christmas season – with a true remembrance of what Christmas is really about!

Do you know some kids or teens who would like to participate? We have a role for everyone and a job for anyone who would just like to help out.

Rehearsals are Sunday evenings at 5:30 PM. Please direct any questions you might have to Camille Wadleigh at (509) 878-1201. Come join us!



635 N BRIDGE ST | PALOUSE, WA 99161