

# Palouse Federated Church

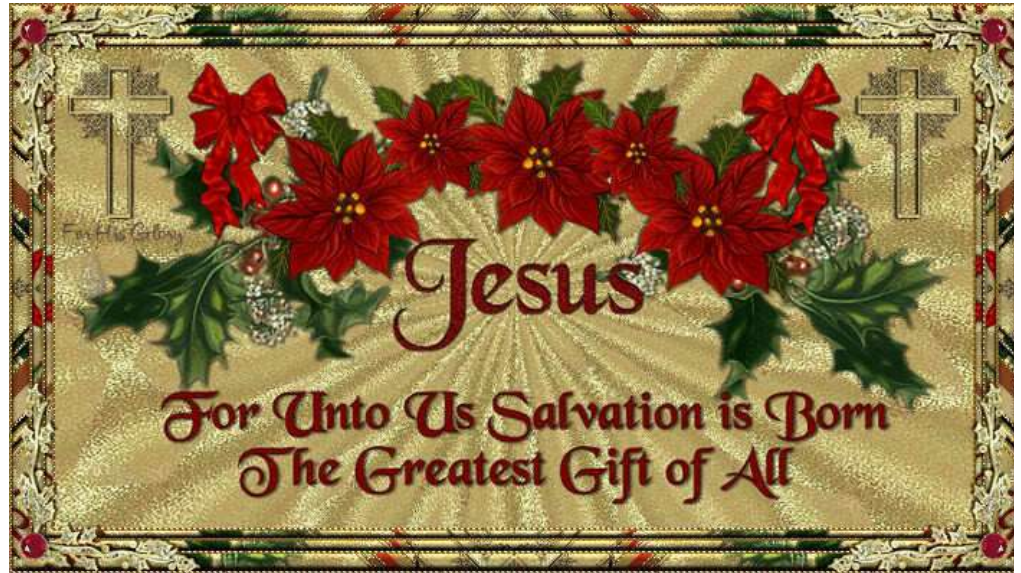


*Our Mission:  
Worshiping  
God and  
forming one  
another into  
loving servants  
of Christ and  
the world*

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## Presence over Presents

I don't know about you, but when I was a kid the Christmas season was mostly about presents. What was I going to "get" was top on my mind. Not very spiritual I guess. The truth is giving gifts is a wonderful part of the Christmas season. Indeed giving to others can be an expression of our faith, and truly an act we do to honor God- if we give with proper motive.

But it is not nicely wrapped presents that I want to emphasize this month. This month we are going to hear a great deal about "Presence."

The greatest truth about Christmas is that God's very presence came into the world as the baby Jesus of Nazareth- born to young parents in Bethlehem. But before we jump ahead to the stable scene, we want to spend some time learning and hearing about how God prophesied the coming of His presence, and put a plan in action to prepare the world for His arrival.

These prophecies and preparations are wonderful scriptures and messages to

hear as we approach Christmas. They help us prepare our hearts and make more room in our lives for the Presence of God. We will discuss specifically how you can go about making room in your life for God's presence.

You could have the best decorations, the most wonderful seasonal food, sweet music playing in your house, everything on the surface could scream: "Christmas is in this house!" **If you have all the trimmings, but you don't actually have Jesus Christ in your heart and home- if He is not present- then you are not really having true Christmas, you are just playing winter feel-good games.**

So in December we will have messages and scripture that encourage you to have the true presence of Jesus Christ in your heart and home. No one wants an empty Christmas, right?

Let's let God fill our holiday season with His presence.

*In Christ ~Corey*



**A message from  
Pastor Siemers' son  
(Interim Pastor in  
1980's):**

Dear Pastor & Church,  
Thank you for providing  
a place for my father to  
serve as an interim  
pastor. Both mom and  
dad are now with the  
Lord in Heaven. Dad  
died in May of 2010 and  
Mom died in October of  
this year. They served  
the Lord faithfully from  
the late 1930's until the  
time they died.

Thank you  
Dick Siemers

## *Advent – What is it? ~ By Pastor Corey*



**The new-year began Sunday  
November 27<sup>th</sup>.** What? That's right-  
the Christian year begins with the  
season of Advent, which is the four  
weeks prior to Christmas. Advent is a  
season of preparing ourselves to live  
for God's arrival into our life. In  
worship we hear scriptures and  
messages that remind us to "watch" for  
the coming of Christ into the world.  
Advent inevitably ends up being a  
preparation for Christmas, but it is  
intended to be a season of its own. I  
would challenge you in the 4 Sundays  
of Advent to consider this question:  
"Based on the way I live today, am I  
prepared to have Christ come literally  
strolling into my house or workplace?"  
What would Jesus find in your life

that you are leaving a mess, even though  
you know you should clean it up? What  
person have you been meaning to share  
your faith story with, but you just  
haven't gotten around to it?

Life is short- none of us knows how  
many days we get. And none of us know  
when Christ shall return. So use Advent  
this year to reset your life towards living  
as each day could potentially be your  
last. You'll be glad you did.



### *Blast from the Past: December 1979 ~ Pinky Glass*

"Do you remember the old song,  
\*What are you doing New Years, New  
Years Eve\*? Well we know what the  
Willcox Family, Bud and Joanie  
Bagott and Bob and Carol Hickman are  
doing, they are traveling to Pasadena to

support the Cougs. My guess would be  
that anyone that supports the Cougars  
will have their TV set on channel 4 to see  
the Cougars beat Michigan. (It doesn't  
cost anything to be optimistic)."

### *Special Occasions: Birthdays & Anniversaries*

#### **December Birthdays**

Pr. Tom Geshay, December 2<sup>nd</sup>  
John Hawbaker, December 4<sup>th</sup>  
GA Perry, December 4<sup>th</sup>  
Harvey Woodford, December 4<sup>th</sup>  
Robin Blair, December 12<sup>th</sup>  
Ariel Hoffman, December 12<sup>th</sup>  
Tyrel West, December 12<sup>th</sup>  
Carol Heinlen, December 12<sup>th</sup>  
Michael Echanove, December 17<sup>th</sup>  
Wil Edwards, December 17<sup>th</sup>  
Lorraine Gilliland, December 17<sup>th</sup>  
Scott Kent, December 19<sup>th</sup>  
Camille Wadleigh, December 20<sup>th</sup>

Bob Brown, December 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Brad Pearce, December 24<sup>th</sup>  
Joanie Bagott, December 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Adrian Green, December 27<sup>th</sup>  
Suzanne Keller, December 29<sup>th</sup>  
Robin Woltering, December 29<sup>th</sup>  
Ben Barstow, December 30<sup>th</sup>  
Sue Foster, December 30<sup>th</sup>  
Carissa Person, December 31<sup>st</sup>

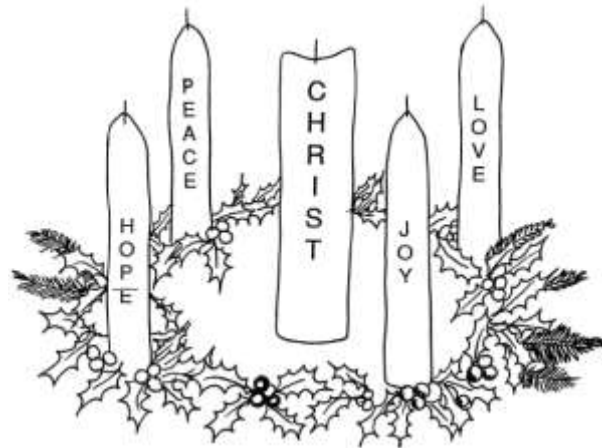
#### **December Anniversaries**

Mark & Brittany Sawyer, December  
Roger & Amy Culley, December 21<sup>st</sup>  
Robin & Willy Woltering, December 31<sup>st</sup>



# Palouse Federated Church

*New Vision Statement:  
"All Generations Together Harvesting All Generations of the Palouse for Jesus Christ"*



## *Sabbatical for Pastor, PLEASE READ*

From June 10<sup>th</sup> to August 10<sup>th</sup> the Laughary Family will be on Sabbatical Leave from their full-time ministry duties. "We will be out of the area for nearly the entire time," says Pastor Corey. The goal of the Sabbath time is for rest, renewal and re-tooling.

Committee (Kent Keller, Brenda Brown and Casey Blood) has encouraged the development of the Sabbatical, and the Executive Board is also in agreement. The hope is this will be an effective time of rest, renewal and re-tooling for Pastor Corey. More information and specifics about the Sabbatical will be developing as we draw nearer to the date.

Sabbaticals are a common, healthy practice for churches and clergy that form a long-lasting effective partnership. The Pastor Relations



## *PFC Christmas Wish List ~ Bob Brown, Board Representative*

Christmas is approaching and many of us are making plans for gifts to family, friends, and those we appreciate over the year. In this time of giving, have you considered making an additional gift to the Palouse Federated church? A gift beyond your weekly giving?

need. If you feel moved to pay for an appliance in its entirety that would be wonderful, but we need the equipment to match. So if you think you will pick up a dishwasher or stove on your next shopping trip, try to control that urge and simply make the donation in cash, indicating the purpose of the contribution.

If the idea is appealing, you should consider some current needs of the church. Right now, we need new kitchen appliances. An increasingly busy event calendar has put our kitchen equipment to good use. However that equipment is beginning to show signs of wear. Our ranges, dishwashers, coffee maker and garbage disposal all need replacing in the near future. So consider a gift that contributes to this

If a smaller gift is more within your means, any amount you can give will help us meet the need for new appliances. Again, make sure you indicate that your gift is for kitchen appliances.

Thank you for considering a gift to PFC this Christmas!

### 2012 Goals-

*Pastor Corey has produced his 2012 annual goals for his role as senior pastor of Palouse Federated Church. A copy of his goals will be posted on the bulletin board and distributed at the next quarterly meeting.*



**Parents Day Out will be held on December 10, 2011**

Starting at 9:00 am and  
Ending at 3:00 pm  
Cost: FREE

There will be Free time & games upon arrival, Kids in the Kitchen, Lunch, Crafts, Movie & Popcorn and a Story.

We are asking for volunteers to commit to a 3 hour block of time 9-12 or 12-3 and of course utilize the other half of the day to spend child free!

Parents Day Out was a wonderful last December and we are looking forward to making it wonderful again this holiday season!

Contact Tereasa Hemphill for additional information 509-592-3680.

*SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM*

A reminder to the Parents of Sunday School kids: We will started practice for our Christmas play on Nov. 27 at the start of the 11:00 service. Each Sunday thru Dec 18, we will have the kids come directly downstairs at 11:00 so we have time to practice and also have time for a Sunday School lesson. The Christmas program is scheduled for **Dec. 18 at 7 pm.**

Also, we are looking for three puppets, any style, bigger than an average hand. We also need hula skirts, Hawaiian shirts, sombreros, ponchos, kangaroo and koala stuffed animals. If anyone knows sign language we could use their help as well. If you have questions, would like more information or want to volunteer, please contact Olivia Barron at [livvy\\_licious@yahoo.com](mailto:livvy_licious@yahoo.com)

*PFC Business Meeting / Community Blood Drive*

As we close out a great year 2011, it is time to get ready for 2012. We will have a Business meeting on **December 11, 2011 at 10:17 am.**

Agenda items are;

- Constitution revisions
- Current Budget update
- Budget for 2012
- Committee elections

God is good, Butch Smith, Board Chair

Palouse Community Blood Drive sponsored by the Palouse Federated Church

**Tuesday, December 13, 2011, 1:30-6:30pm** at the Palouse Federated Church Fellowship Hall

To schedule your appointment or for more information contact Butch Smith at 509-878-1939

**Church Data**

	<b>Total Church Attendance</b>	<b>Sunday School Attendance</b>	<b>Plate Offering</b>
October 30, 2011	123	30	\$1,666.00
November 6, 2011	121	26	\$4,129.00
November 13, 2011	112	28	\$1,734.00
November 20, 2011	129	29	\$2,195.00
November 27, 2011	115	24	\$1,423.00

*Seeking Volunteers for the Sound Ministry ~ Tim Bren*

If you can walk through your house and flip light switches on and off as you go, turn the TV on and change the channels and volume, or manage a radio well enough to get a satisfactory sound out of it, then you are certainly technically qualified enough to be a volunteer at church in the sound mixing ministry. We would like to have a few more people mixing sound for us during second service, so if you

would like to become involved in the church service, and if God is calling you to serve the music / sound ministry, please let Pastor Corey, Pastor Mark, or me know, or you can e-mail me at: [eph.511@gmail.com](mailto:eph.511@gmail.com).

Thank you, Tim Bren



**Harvest of  
Community  
Celebration &  
Dinner**

Thank you for all who contributed to make our annual Harvest of Community Celebration and Dinner a success. Cathy Blood led a dedicated crew in the kitchen that made sure the food was hot and good! It was especially fun to see so many from our communities at the dinner.

**Just one star.**  
Christmas card friends.  
A load of coal.  
The kidnapped doll.  
Sincerely,  
The night of the blizzard.  
The Christmas miracle.  
The candy cane.  
Once upon a tree.  
Grandfather's tallest Christmas.  
The dollhouse.  
I wonder.  
The empty manger.  
The gift that kept giving.  
Next time it will be different.  
One solitary life

*Next Time It Will Be Different*

The First Time Jesus Came  
He came veiled in the form of a child.  
A star marked His arrival.  
Wise men brought Him gifts.  
There was no room for Him.  
Only a few attended His arrival.  
He came as a baby.



The next time Jesus comes  
He will be recognized by all.  
Heaven will be lit by His glory.  
He will bring rewards for His own.  
The world won't be able to contain His glory.  
Every eye shall see Him.  
He will come as Sovereign King and Lord.

*Bethlehem ~ Taken from Christmas Abundances  
By Candy Paull*

David watched his sheep there. Ruth met Boaz there. Jacob's love, Rachael, is buried there. The history of Bethlehem is rich in images from the stories of the Bible.

Its name means "House of Bread," and it is fitting that the One who called Himself the Bread of Life should be born there. The area is situated on a low steep ridge in the rocky hills south of Jerusalem surrounded by green fields and lush olive groves. Six miles to the north is the golden city of Jerusalem.

To the east is a harsh wilderness, with the Dead Sea just beyond. Because the town is on the main route between Jerusalem and Egypt, there has been a caravansary, or inn, there since the time of David.

Bethlehem was not considered an important town at the time of Christ's birth, just as its favorite son, David was not considered important as the youngest son of Jesse. David was a

mere shepherd boy. But David was eventually crowned king of Israel.

Little, unimportant Bethlehem became the birthplace of the Messiah. Sometimes our lives are like Bethlehem—we have to learn to see the potential in a common unimportant place and allow God to come and do a miraculous thing there.



## Mission Accomplished

Thanks to God and many generous people the mission to get Young Life started in Garfield and Palouse has been accomplished.

Starting in January 2012, Mark will be a part time paid staff member of Young Life. Mark was hired by Palouse Federated Church as a 3/4 time associate pastor with the understanding that PFC would help in the establishment of the Young Life program for Garfield/Palouse.

Mark will continue to be a 1/2 time associate pastor for PFC with the following responsibilities;

**Sunday Servant +  
Worship Leadership  
Development +  
Youth +  
Discipleship +  
Missionary Leader.**

Thanks to all who helped to get Young Life up and running.

Butch Smith,  
Board Chair

“Redefining Popular” is the theme chosen by Mark and Brittany Sawyer for the youth retreat at Ross Point (December 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>). Their theme is focusing on the way Jesus came and demonstrated a lifestyle that contradicted secular culture and even the religious leaders of his day. He taught that the first in the world would be last in the Kingdom of heaven. Look to at Jesus’ parable of the workers in the vineyard:

### The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard

<sup>1</sup> “For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup> He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup> “About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. <sup>4</sup> He told them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ <sup>5</sup> So they went. “He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. <sup>6</sup> About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, ‘Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?’ <sup>7</sup> ““Because no one has hired us,’ they answered. “He said to them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard.’ <sup>8</sup> “When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.’ <sup>9</sup> “The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. <sup>10</sup> So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. <sup>11</sup> When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. <sup>12</sup> ‘These who were hired last worked only one hour,’ they said, ‘and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.’ <sup>13</sup> “But he answered one of them, ‘I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius? <sup>14</sup> Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. <sup>15</sup> Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ <sup>16</sup> “So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

As Christians we should strive to model Jesus' lifestyle; therefore we need to redefine what is popular in our life. The media, our peers, and the tempter will push us towards being first, however OUR goal is to finish last in the worlds eyes so that we can be first in God’s eyes. When we grasp this choice, God will challenge and change us into the best version of ourselves.



**PRAYERS & PRAISES**

Praise God for a wonderful Thanksgiving!  
 Our prayers are with the family of JR Young, the family of Anna Million, Walt White, those in financial, emotional, or spiritual need, the youth of our community, students beginning college, all the staff, teachers and students in our community, our community, the marriages in our communities, people who are visiting in worship, for those in need of a relationship with Christ.



**Bible Book of the Month: ACTION! The Gospel of Mark ~ by Pastor Corey**

“Action!”- The Gospel of Mark is going to be a Bible book that we will hear from a lot in our worship services in the next 12 months. It is the shortest of all the Gospels. It does not contain a birth account of Jesus. It does not contain long prayers or long parables that you find in the other gospels. It is action oriented. It is widely reported by ancient historians that the Apostle Peter was a likely source for the content of Mark. Though Mark himself was a young, likely teenage first-hand witness for part of Jesus’ ministry, there is much in the Gospel that Mark could not have witnessed himself. So it seems appropriate that we should then also read the epistles (that means “letters”) of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter. Peter became a major leader in the first century Christian movement. Ready-set-action!

- |                    |                          |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| _ Day 1 — Mark 1   | _ Day 13 — Mark 13       |
| _ Day 2 — Mark 2   | _ Day 14 — Mark 14       |
| _ Day 3 — Mark 3   | _ Day 15 — Mark 15       |
| _ Day 4 — Mark 4   | _ Day 16 — Mark 16       |
| _ Day 5 — Mark 5   | _ Day 17 — 1 Peter 1     |
| _ Day 6 — Mark 6   | _ Day 18 — 1 Peter 2 - 3 |
| _ Day 7 — Mark 7   | _ Day 19 — 1 Peter 4     |
| _ Day 8 — Mark 8   | _ Day 20 — 1 Peter 5     |
| _ Day 9 — Mark 9   |                          |
| _ Day 10 — Mark 10 | 2 Peter 1                |
| _ Day 11 — Mark 11 | _ Day 21 — 2 Peter 2 - 3 |
| _ Day 12 — Mark 12 |                          |





By using GoodSearch.com to search and GoodShop to shop you can earn real donations to our youth ministry. One extra step for you, and no extra costs....

Try it out....

Earn Donations for Palouse Federated Church When You Buy Holiday Gifts!



## Christmas Gifts for Eastern State Residents ~ Peggy Collier

We are providing Christmas gifts again this year for two patients at Eastern State Hospital. If you would like to contribute money or buy a gift, the deadline is Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>. Money can be donated in the offering plate by designating "Eastern State Patients" on an envelope or on the memo line of a check made out to Palouse Federated Church. I will use the money to go shopping for the patients, and then Pat and I will take the gifts to the hospital near

Medical Lake. We have two young men this year. Andrew W. is 25 years old and he has asked for an extra-large jacket, a handheld radio with headphones and batteries, and a phone card. David Y. is 21 and would like an extra-large hooded sweatshirt, an analog watch, and an extra-large flannel jacket. Thank you for your help on this project. In most cases the gifts we provide are the only gifts that these patients receive, and your generosity is very much appreciated.

## Palouse Habitat for Humanity

Finish your holiday shopping and support Palouse Habitat for Humanity and other local non-profits at the 3rd Annual Alternative Giving Market of the Palouse!

**WHEN: Wednesday, December 7, 2011 from 4-8 p.m.**

**WHERE: Prichard Art Gallery, 414 S. Main Street in, Moscow, during the Night Up the Night Holiday Parade.**

**ONLINE: <http://www.agmpalouse.org> November 25-December 10**

**ALSO: At the Winter Market at the Moscow 1912 Center Saturday Dec. 3 and Dec. 10**

Palouse Habitat is one of 27 local nonprofits included in this fun holiday event.

Honor the spirit of the season, and give family, friends, neighbors and co-workers a meaningful, sustainable gift.

Buy your wood-working uncle five 2x4 studs to go into a wall!

Give your children's teachers a window because they've brightened the world!

You'll receive a card to share your gift with them.

Make a difference with your holiday giving! Merry Christmas!

# Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

# December

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 12pm Palouse Roundtable
<b>4</b> 9am: Worship 10am Parsonage Open House 11am: Sunday Schl 11am: Worship 2-4pm: Open Gym, 5:00pm: Youth Grp 6pm: Theology 7pm: Worship	<b>5</b> 6:30 – 8pm TOPS	<b>6</b> 8:30am: Bible study with Mom’s @ PFC 8:30am: Women’s Bible study @ Penny Thurman’s home 10am: Bible study, PFC	<b>7</b> 12pm: Community lunch	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 9am-3pm Parents Day Out
<b>11</b> 9am: Worship 10am:Fellowship 10:15am: Srm. Prep 11am: Sunday Schl 11am: Worship 2pm: Christmas Movies 2-4pm: Open Gym, 5:00pm: Youth Grp 6pm: Theology 7pm: Worship	<b>12</b> 6:30 – 8pm TOPS	<b>13</b> 8:30am: Bible study with Mom’s @ PFC 8:30am: Women’s Bible study @ Penny Thurman’s home 10am: Bible study, PFC	<b>14</b> 12pm: Community lunch	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Men’s Breakfast 7:30am: Cook 8:00am: Eat  5pm Caroling and Chili
<b>18</b> 9am: Worship 10am:Fellowship 10:15am: Srm. Prep 11am: Sunday Schl 11am: Worship 2-4pm: Open Gym, 5:00pm: Youth Grp 6pm: Theology 7pm: Christmas Program	<b>19</b> 6:30 – 8pm TOPS	<b>20</b> 8:30am: Bible study with Mom’s @ PFC 8:30am: Women’s Bible study @ Penny Thurman’s home 10am: Bible study, PFC	<b>21</b> 12pm: Community lunch 7pm: PFC Executive Board Meeting	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 7pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service  11pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
<b>25</b> 10am:Unified Christmas Service	<b>26</b> 6:30 – 8pm TOPS	<b>27</b> 8:30am: Bible study with Mom’s @ PFC 8:30am: Women’s Bible study @ Penny Thurman’s home 10am: Bible study, PFC	<b>29</b> 12pm: Community lunch	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	

**Pastor Corey’s schedule:**  
Office, Mon-Thurs 9:00am-1:30pm  
On-Call for Emergencies 24/7  
Available for appointments and visits 509-  
878-1334

## Palouse Federated Church

635 N. Bridge Street  
PO Box 535  
Palouse, WA 99161  
509-878-1509 (church)  
509-878-1334 (parsonage)  
pfcoffice@palouse.com (office)  
thelaugers@yahoo.com  
(pastor)

Pastor Corey's Office Hours:  
Mon-Thurs 9am-1:30pm

### Sunday Schedule

**9am** Worship (childcare available age 5 and under)  
**10am**- Fellowship Time  
**11am** – Sunday School  
**11am** – Worship (Childcare available, Youth Sunday School Available, age 2 yrs through grade 5)  
**5pm** – Youth Ministry  
**6pm** – Theology  
**7pm** – Worship

*We exist to worship God and to form one another into loving servants of Christ and the World.*

Find us on the Web:

[www.pfc.palousechurch.org](http://www.pfc.palousechurch.org)

Check us out on Facebook!

## *December Sermon Series: "Presence: Desiring More Christ this Season"*

**December 4, 2011** "Make Paths for Presence" part 1 of "Presence" – Mark 1:1-8

**December 11, 2011**, "The Presence of Decoration and Clothing", part 2 of "Presence" – Isaiah 61:1-2, 8-11

**December 18, 2011**, "Presence – Magic or Mystery this Christmas?" part 3 of "Presence" – Romans 16:25-27

**December 25, 2011**, "Jesus is the Presence of God" part 4 of "Presence" – John 1:1-14

**Christmas Sunday ONE  
Worship Service at 10 am  
with lots of Christmas  
Songs!**

### **OPEN GYM!**

*Open Gym at the Garfield-Palouse High School Upper Gym –*

*Sundays from 2:00-4:00pm*



PO Box 535  
635 N. Bridge St.  
Palouse, WA 99161

