CONNECTION POINT JANUARY 2021

CONNECT, ALIGN, LIVE

WE ARE COMMITTED TO FOLLOWING GOD TOGETHER CONNECTED WITH HIM, COMMITTED TO EACH OTHER AND PARTICIPATING IN HIS LIFE TOGETHER

Links

<u>Website</u>

<u>Facebook</u>

<u>Soulfire Student Ministry</u> <u>Facebook</u>

Sunday Messages

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COVID-19 UPDATES

Sunday Service -

Sundays at 10am. We have worship and a short message or time of encouragement. After service we have leadership available for prayer. Face coverings requested. There is no coffee corner. We will have childcare after the worship portion of service for kids 5th grade and under in the coffee corner or nursery depending upon the age of kids present.

Facebook and YouTube

Services are streaming now on YouTube for our 10am service and shared onto Facebook and our website later. <u>Facebook</u> and <u>YouTube</u> are where you will find much of our communication. We are also loading the audio on the website if video is hard for you to stream. The 1st and 3rd Tuesdays from 7-8pm each month you can join Dave and Trish Pierson on our Facebook for live worship. The 1st will be held at PCF and in person attendance is welcome. Please join us in these media areas and stay up to date with us!

Needs

Please if you find yourself in need of anything please reach out! Call, zoom, facetime, whatever it is... reach out.

If you find yourself in financial need please don't hesitate to contact us. Let me know or contact the deacon team directly at: deacons@welcometopcf.org

Tithe

Although we are having services, we are not having a specific offering time during service, however, offerings are still be counted and deposited weekly. There is a box outside the main doors if you would like to drop off your tithes instead of mailing. Otherwise, mailing and Tithe.ly.com work as well. *Thank you to all! Your faithfulness in this time is so greatly appreciated!*



The church budget vote occurred December 20th and was unanimously approved. If you have any questions feel free to contact the deacons: deacons@welcometopcf.org

Peninsula Christian Fellowship 253-851-9972 <u>3114 45th St Ct NW, Gig Harbor WA 98335</u> www.welcometopcf.org



This Starry Night - Christmas Eve Story By Charles Wilder

Tonight I want to tell you a story. A story I have told you many times, but each time I tell it I learn more about myself than I had before. I realize the impact it has not only on me, but anyone who hears it. I will tell you this story over and over again, in fact it will be your story! The World needs to hear it and share it. Every star filled night takes me back to the beginning of this story.

12 months ago I was making some of the most important plans of my life. Work was going smoothly, relationships were perfectly normal, life was going on just as it should. We were making lists of all the things we wanted to do together. Oh you should have seen this list there were so many adventures, places to visit, events to attend and so much more. This year was going to be amazing, so many hopes and dreams lay just out of reach by days on the calendar. We were making the plans for our most important adventure and suddenly we were hit with news that dropped us to our knees. Suddenly time stood still, and I was in a fog. This was no ordinary fog that rises from the fields on a fall evening, but rather thick and harsh like smoke. Every breath I took in made me cry even harder, I was filling with rage and bitterness. Why have my joy filled plans come crashing down like a load of bricks falling from a building? All that was left are broken hope strewn about the ground.

Many months passed and since that time I have had my ups and my downs. Sadly, far more downs than ups if I am being truly honest with you. And there I found myself on that calm cool night sitting on the dirt looking at the stars above. The heavens distort with every tear that rolls from my aching eyes. Another one forms and rolls down my dusty cheeks. I am questioning my identity as a husband, no matter how hard I try I keep failing. And as a father my track record is no better. Here I am on this starry night I have let you both down in one simultaneous moment! My heart aches when it should be happy, my identity has been stripped away. I honestly don't know how I can continue if the last few months define who I am.

You see on this starry night we finally got into town. This journey was not one that was easy or desired, as the government has forced our hand. As we got into town, I went to the first hotel and it was booked solid, not a single suite or closet available to rent for the night. This was the case for every hotel, Airbnb, and house that I tried. There wasn't even a hospital with room for us. Your mother's labor pains were growing more and more frequent and painful. I must find her a place. Then I found a simple barn. A barn for my wife! Is that really the best I can do? And the time has come for you to be born! I am excited, scared and filled with panic to remember what we need to do, there were so many things to remember to care for you and your mother in this moment. Next thing I know I am holding you and filled with joy about this life that I hold in my hand. A bad dad joke comes to my mind; I am going to ask you all the time if you were born in a barn. Fortunately, that joke will end with us and the rest of the world will never have to suffer through it! I look around to soak this moment in and I am hit with the reality that we are still in



this barn. And the only bed I see for you is a meager feeding trough. I laid you down and that is when I went out to sit in the dirt and look up to that starry night.

The calm of this silent night is displaced as I hear the rushing of sandals slapping the hard packed dirt street. This group is talking so fast and excitedly, I am wondering if they just came from the tavern. As they burst from the shadows, I can now see they are shepherds, and they are heading straight for us. My heart sinks as I am certain they are going to kick us out of their precious barn. Instincts kick in and the strength and desire to still be a good husband and father empowers me, and I jump to my feet and rush to intervene. I am prepared to fight this mob off if that is what it takes to protect my wife and you. They stop just a few paces in front of me, and ask if the messiah who was just born was inside. Suddenly my mind rewinds back 9 months and I see the angel standing before me telling me what was about to happen to change our lives and this world forever. Breathing again I see the shepherds still standing in front of me. I stutter for words not knowing if I am even making sense, I invite them in and the next few hours melt away. They sang and danced, then hugged us and cried with us. They blessed us with the telling of how the angels appeared before them this very night.

And now this story starts to impact me in a new way, and it is all because of you. I always knew that the angel had shared this amazing news with your mother and I, but I still wondered if it was a hoax or a twisted dream. But these shepherds just confirmed the good news that I had buried in my own self-doubt. Your birth and the chaos of these last 12 months leading up to this starry night has changed me.

I knew despair and I called it my friend, but you my Lord have replaced it with hope!

Grief and sorrow were the chain around my neck, but you my Lord have destroyed these chains and showed me joy!

The internal conflict about who I am raged like a fire, but you my Lord snuffed it out and now I know peace!

I felt like an unloved husband questioning the truth of this child, but you my Lord showed me the truth and showered me in the understanding of love.

Here I am now months later from that starry night. The clouds above me part and I see those glistening gems floating above and the tears start all over again. I will never stop telling you this story. I need to tell your story to everyone. Not for my glory, but so every broken person will hear of you and be healed by your story.

My son I doubt I can even fully dream of what the rest of your story holds. The things you will say, the things you will do, if people will listen and watch they can be changed like me. You my Lord are the perfect gift.

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1-Alvin Johnson 1-Gill and Gina Amon, 1992 9-Mae Litzenberger 9-Jonathan Pierson 18-Charles Wilder

20-Hannah Bernadelli 23-Jason Weron 28-Ediberto Abdalla 30-Robert and Cheryl Miller, 1980



We are ready to start back on rotations for Sunday volunteer areas!! Helps to consider:

Greeting, Kids (infant -5th grade), Projection, Streaming, Sound, Cleaning (Post Service)

If you are able to help in any of these areas, even if only once a month, please email the office at office@welcometopcf.org and let April know!

PCF Night of Worship

Join us Tuesday January 5th from 7-8pm on YouTube live, Facebook live or in person at PCF for worship with Dave and Trish Pierson.

Please e-mail us at office@welcometopcf.org with any questions!



This image makes me smile... I will do my best to get you what you need! Always. I am in the office twice a week on Tuesdays and Wednesdays for sure from 1pm-4pm. Hours fluctuate, so please contact me if you plan to come in! If you have a need and haven't been able to get me, call or text me personally: 360-710-9206 or email the office. I will get back to you.



Women's Prayer Group

Join other women of PCF in prayer 6:30-8pm on the first and third Monday nights of every month. The group is currently meeting in via Zoom. Contact Diane Smith (253-970-1568) or at markdianewife@hotmail.com for additional information.

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SOULFIRE MEETS SUNDAY MORNINGS FROM 8:30-9:30AM IN THE COFFEE CORNER. SNACKS PROVIDED. IF YOU ARE BETWEEN THE GRADES 6TH THROUGH 12TH GRADE, JOIN US BEFORE CHURCH FOR DIVING INTO A BIBLE STORY! SEE CHARLES FOR QUESTIONS.



Life Group Schedule

Key Peninsula Leaders: Jason & Trish Weron Wednesday 6:45-8:15pm <u>Gig Harbor/Downtown</u> Leaders: Tom & Christine Bender Wednesday 6:30-8pm <u>Tacoma</u> Leaders: Peter & Betsy Smith Wednesdays 6:30-8pm <u>Gig Harbor</u> Leaders: Ted and Diane Wilder Thursdays 7:00-8:30pm <u>Olalla</u> Leaders: Tom and Laurel Fisher Thursdays 6:30-8pm <u>Gig Harbor</u> Leaders: Dennis and Aileen Amico Fridays 7:00-8:30pm



We are looking to update the directory this month. If you have any changes in the following areas; Membership Status (moved onto a new church, moved out of area, etc.), Address, Phone Number, Email Address, Marriage and Children, please let the office know by January 15th.

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