

The Monthly Heartbeat

The Hope in Christ Church Newsletter

August 2018 Issue

How are We to Worship God?

By Pastor Scott

Worship is such a hot button and personal, though not private, affair between God and his people that discussions of the right and wrong ways to worship often end up with great passion and emotion spent in defending one's own worship style. But what if there are better ways to think about worship that actually broaden our understanding of worship instead of limiting it?

Recently, after reading John 4:24, **“God is spirit and His worshippers must worship in spirit and truth,”** I was reflecting upon the Westminster Shorter Catechism question about “Who is God?” The answer is, “God is a spirit whose being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth are infinite, eternal and unchangeable.” It was at this point that it suddenly dawned on me that each of the attributes of God describes a way his people are to worship Him. For example, 1 John 4:8 declares that **“God is love.”** Might we be able to also say, ‘God is love and His worshippers must worship Him in love?’ Isn't that the summary of the Law; the greatest commandment (Mt 22:37)?

How about, “God is holy, and His worshippers must worship Him in holiness?” Is this good theology? Yes, and here is why: The angels stand around the heavenly throne crying day and night, **“Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord God Almighty...”** (Rev 4:8). And the Word commands us to **“Be holy, for I am holy”** (Lev 11:44). We know that Jesus himself declares that God alone is good (Lk 18:19). Is it, therefore, right to assume that since “God is good, His

worshippers must worship Him in goodness?” I believe it is. In fact, any attribute of God ought to characterize the worship rendered to the Lord by the people of God. Since God is just, we must worship him in justice. Amos 5:23-24 calls on the people of God not to worship with songs if they are not at the same time worshipping by pursuing justice. **“Let justice roll down like waters,”** the prophet cries. Since God is true and there is no falsehood in Him, and since He cannot lie (John 7:18), we must worship Him in truth. Since He is wise, we must worship in wisdom. Because He is powerful, we must worship with power.

Practically, what this means is that worship isn't just the singing of songs and the giving of gifts and the praying of prayers and the hearing of the Word preached on Sunday mornings. Worship encompasses every area of life. When we pursue justice in the public sphere as Christians, we are worshipping the Lord. When we use all our strength to work hard and provide a quality product for the clients we serve, we are worshipping with our power. When we create beautiful artwork or listen to good music, we are worshipping the Lord in goodness. When we care for a child, serve a need, welcome a neighbor, we are worshipping in love.

I think what impressed itself upon me most out of this lesson from the Lord, was that a singular focus on any one of these ways of worshipping the Lord is to miss out on seeing the full picture of who God is and why He is worthy of worship. So instead of limiting our worship, maybe we need to expand our worship to encompass the fullness of the God to whom we have been called into a relationship.

Family Promise Update

Dear Hope in Christ Family,

Thanks to all of you who helped to make our first ministry with Family Promise a success. As you know, we were asked to assist First Christian Church to host families over a two-week span (July 1-15) rather than one week and you stepped up to the plate!

And here are two thank-you notes we received from the Family Promise leadership team. The first note was included in the weekly report sent out to all Family Promise participating churches.

Herm Laninga

Volunteers Make It Happen . . .

Enough said . . . Pictured here are Bud and Herm with one of our kids. According to Hope in Christ's Volunteer Coordinator, Ali Laninga, this young man asked to play "Sorry" every time Herm or Bud was there. Herm (left), happens to be Ali's husband and co-Volunteer Coordinator, along with Lorraine Brouwer. And together, with First Christian Church's Volunteer Coordinator power team of Pastor Tamalyn Kralman and Megan

Shoemaker, it has been a great 2 weeks for our families. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts, First Christian and team for working so hard and loving so easily.

Sarah Lane

Executive Director, Family Promise

Dear First Christian, Hope in Christ, Congregation Beth Israel & North Lake volunteers,

Thank you so much for offering up the generosity of your many and varied talents over the last two weeks. You have created a space for our families that was rich with simple experiences that are part of making life sweet. I remember when my children were young how much they loved to play "Sorry." Over and over again, in fact. Many thanks to the men who answered the call when "Sorry" playmates were needed.

And speaking of making life a little sweeter, does it get any better than making brownies with beets grown in your own garden? I think not! In fact, all of the food was delicious. I heard the BBQ was a particular favorite.

Thank you all for bringing your attention and focus to every detail. Things ran smoothly because of your care! As our program continues to expand, we are ever more appreciate of how and why that is happening. Thank you to each and every one of you.

Paula Tarleton

Leadership Team, Family Promise, A Program of Interfaith

Our next opportunity to serve will be the week of Sept. 2-9.



Northwest Hispanic Ministry Report for July 2018 by Joe Strong

(NWHM, 701 W. Blackburn Rd., Mt. Vernon, WA 98273)

What a difference the people who have recently immigrated from Venezuela have made on our Amor Viviente Church! These people had belonged to churches in their country and now have expectation of what churches do. Most are educated and able of expressing themselves in public. Jaime, a petroleum engineer, helps with our worship team, two others are able to give messages, while a third has organized an outreach team and has visited labor camps. Thank you, Lord. Besides these people, we have a young woman, Yazil, who is a part of a YWAM team in Lynden, who is also a part of our church. Yazil is in a unique role being raised as a migrant Mexican/American child in California but has integrated well into the US culture. She is very fluid between the two cultures and on fire for Jesus. This all makes for a very glorious Sunday morning worship service.

By far the hardest day of each week is when I visit the Whatcom County Jail. I have the freedom to go wherever I want to inside and spend time with every type of person you can imagine. The hardest men are those who have lost hope and those who are hard core drug users. I have been working with one man of 46 years of age who never learned to read and write. He has dyslexia and is a drug addict. He tried cutting his wrists, putting a gun to his head and overdosing with pills. He had been locked up for 6 months before working up the nerve to speak with me. I offer each man a relationship with the only person who can make a difference in their lives, Jesus. I have a lot of friends among the inmates who I pray with and encourage as I do my rounds. Continue to pray for me on Mondays.

Every week, I receive a multitude of phone calls. I get calls from rehab centers, prisons, our Bridges of Hope house as well as former and present church members. Nearly, every call is a person reaching out for help. I in turn need God's help and wisdom in order to be a blessing. Pray for me in this.

On a side note; My family and I arrived in Western Washington 25 years ago, this month, after being in Central America as missionaries with Christian Reformed World Missions for many years.

This ministry functions by your donations and your prayer support. Thank you for being faithful. Many people are blessed and God's kingdom is advancing.

Thank You!

From
Christie Miller
Director
Creative Youth
Theater

July 10, 2018

Hope in Christ Church,

How can we begin to even say THANK YOU for allowing us to "invade" your facility for another production of Creative Youth Theater, 2018. You are amazing hosts and we count it a great privilege to be here these two weeks.

The forty kids involved in this year's program demonstrated so much growth, learned teamwork skills, and in a few of the skits were able to gently present the Love of God to the audience.

It was amazing for me to watch the growth in each of these participant's lives. Know that your generosity has touched these kids' lives forever! They take these memories with them into so many areas of their lives. My prayer for them is that they become bold communicators of God's love.

God's blessings on your church. As I arrived each day, I sat and prayed for the kids involved, and that God would continue to bless the ministry of your church. With sincere gratitude, Christie Miller

Getting to Know Our Church Family

By Elaine Snapper

This month I'm featuring Donna Van Beek. Now, most of you know that Donna isn't a new member, but I'm running low on new members to feature, and I didn't want to neglect the older members. I'm sure not everyone knows the life story of all our older members. Donna is one of those ladies who usually occupy the back row, center aisle of the church.

Donna was born on a 160-acre farm on the prairies of Southern Central North Dakota. Their farm was just three miles from the South Dakota border; therefore, their mailing address was Polluck, South Dakota. She joined two older brothers, ages four and two; and on her second birthday her third brother joined the family. A little sister trailed on behind nine and a half years later, and Donna was thrilled to have a baby sister.



To attend school, Donna went to a rural elementary school with about 15 other students, most of whom were relatives of hers. Her usual mode of transportation for the 2 ½ miles was to walk, or she could ride horseback. In the winter, her dad would

bring them with a horse drawn snow sled.

The family had no electricity until Donna was about ten years old. Their water supply needed to be transported up a large hill with buckets. Therefore, needless to say, they had no indoor plumbing. When she was thirteen her uncle and aunt moved west, so they purchased and moved to their farm, which was a much nicer house and a bigger farm, but still they had no indoor plumbing. However, the well was closer to the house. Their source of income was milking the cows, harvesting the crops, and haying, which the whole family was expected to help with.

To attend the Strasburg High School, which was about 12 miles away, Donna car pooled with neighbors.

The year 1953 was a memorable year for her. She graduated from high school, got engaged to be married, and her family sold everything except household furnishings and moved west. They stayed with her mother's uncle until her dad purchased a small farm on the Abbott Road near Lynden. Shortly after moving to this area, Donna got a job working at Rainier National Bank in Lynden.

In June of 1954 her fiancé, Glen, graduated from Central College in Pella, Iowa and came west. They were married on July 2, 1954. After three months of marriage, he

got called to fulfill his duty for Uncle Sam; and after basic training in California, he was sent to Germany for 18 months. During this time Donna moved in with her parents and continued working at the bank.

In September 1956, Glen was discharged from the service and he attended WWU for a year and a half to get his degree in teaching. In January 1958 he received his first teaching position in Chimacum, Washington, which is near Sequim. They would move back to this area in the summers in order for him to obtain his master's degree. All in all, they moved 15 times (they were getting that down to a science) before settling on the Slater Road for 37 years. It was at this time that they joined our church. When their youngest daughter was in 8th grade, Donna began working as a bookkeeper part time, which shortly turned into full time. After Glen retired in 1989, she continued working until 1995, during which time they also did marketing for the artwork of their son, Randy. In 1998 they sold their property on the Slater Road and had their home built on Barkley Hill, where she currently resides.

In April 2003 God called Glen home with a sudden heart attack. His funeral service was the first funeral service conducted in our current church. Pastor Gord conducted the service, and Glen's sudden passing was a shock and sad time for everyone who attended the church. Many people, including this writer's husband, enjoyed his stories.

In 2013 Donna was diagnosed with breast cancer, and Donna states that was a debilitating journey to recovery with amazing help from family, chemo and radiation. Praise God she has now been cancer free for five years.

Over the years God has blessed them with five wonderful children, all of whom are married with children of their own. Her three daughters live in the Seattle area, and her two sons live locally. She is the proud grandmother of 14 grandchildren (five married) and four great grandchildren. She thanks God for each one of them. What a blessing they have been to her while adjusting to live without Glen.

Her family has been instrumental in including her on many trips. As a family they go to Winthrop annually and have done so for about 20 years. The family rents a large house and all enjoy each other's company. She has gone to Hawaii with her son Randy and his wife Marlene several times. When Glen was alive they traveled to the East Coast and also enjoyed a tour of Europe in 1985. They also spent a few weeks in the winter in the Palm Springs area.

Donna is currently involved in the Women's Bible Study at church. Previously she was our church representative for the Interfaith Coalition, and she volunteered at Love, Inc. She's always ready to lend a helping hand, whether it is for the bazaar or any other need.

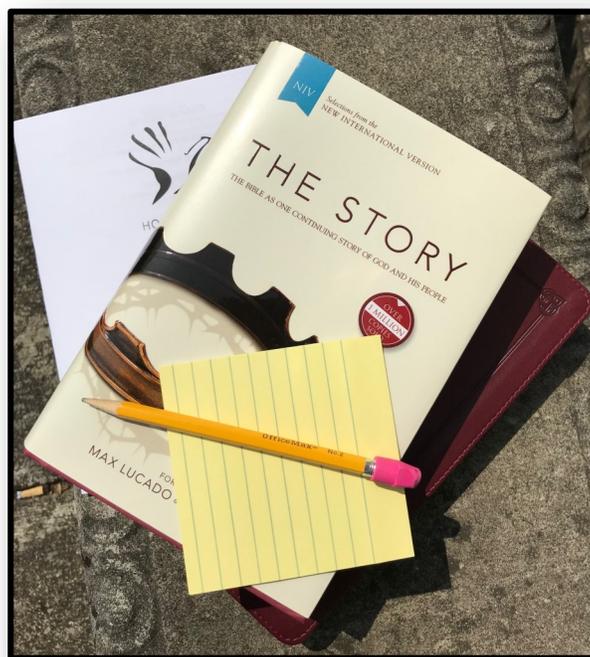
Donna has attended our church for 65 years. We're blessed that she has been with our church so many years and participates in so many activities. She enjoys her friendships and the Bible study group. Studying "The Story" has been very enlightening and she plans to resume that in the fall.

The Rest of “The Story – God’s Story”

By Don Recker

The participants in our initial 21 week study/discussion series in *The Story* have been blessed beyond expectations! The number of participants, which remained high over the months that we read, meditated on, and discussed *The Story* from the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament, support this positive assessment. If you didn't participate in the first segment of our journey through *The Story*, we'd love to have you on-board for the next leg of the journey. If you ask any *The Story* participant for his/her recommendation, we're confident you'll want to join us as we resume our journey, taking up the New Testament portion of *The Story* (ch.22) on consecutive Sundays beginning September 9th. If you don't have a personal, free copy of *The Story*, several styled samples are on display in the foyer.

As we resume, we'll follow the same structure we've been using, with minor tweaking possibilities: a chapter of selected Scriptures for personal reading each week; Pastor Scott preaching from the assigned scriptures. Then, in the post-service Sunday School hour, personal remarks and a video overview of each segment by series editor Randy Frazee, and small circle groups in which to discuss the Scriptures we've read, sharing personal thoughts/questions/insights.



Looking Ahead...

What's next, after we've completed the nine remaining chapters of *The Story*?

Early next year, Council proposes to take up Zondervan's sequel to the *The Story*, titled *Believe the Story*, (Living the Story of the Bible to Become Like Jesus.) Both *Believe* and *The Story* are structured by Pastor Randy Frazee.

Believe is divided into three 10-part segments: (1) Key beliefs of the Christian faith; (2) Key practices of a disciple of Jesus; (3) Key virtues of a person who seeks to become more like Jesus.

Ask God's personal and communal blessing for HICC's continued journey on the Vitality Pathway.

Items of Interest from July's Council Meeting

By Joe Pruitt

1. The motion that was passed by the elders for the “Believe” study (3 ten-week sessions starting in January) was also discussed and approved by the deacons. Discussed the possibility of having the new Vitality Team promote the “Believe” study to the congregation at the Sep 30th potluck.
2. “Safe Church” discussion regarding polices related to Friendship, Sunday School, office, GEMS, ets. Don Recker provided a handout “Active Shooter and Violent Intruder Response Faith Based Supplemental” to read and give feedback next month.
3. The Legacy/ LOWPC renovation project was discussed.
4. Strategic Planning Team (Vitality)
 - a. Still waiting for information regarding a workshop by Tina Crosby.
 - b. The outside signage has arrived, discussed possibility of additional signs in the parking lot.
 - c. The mission statement artwork for the foyer has been shipped.
 - d. Vitality Team is in the process of recruiting members for the new team.



The Hospitality Team is planning a birthday dinner celebration for all ages!

Day: Friday, November 9th, 2018

Time: 6:00 PM

Place: Hope in Christ Church

More information will be coming in future Sunday bulletins, and issues of *The Heartbeat*.



Giving in June 2018

| | <u>June</u> | <u>Year-to-Date</u> |
|--|-------------|---------------------|
| Designated Fund Offerings: | \$ 6,204 | \$ 27,381 |
| General Fund Offerings | \$18,595 | \$139,075 |
| Rent / Utilities Income | 981 | 13,990 |
| Total Undesignated Income | 19,576 | 153,065 |
| General Fund Expenses (18,513) | (127,971) | |
| Income Over(Under) Expenses | \$ 1,063 | \$ 25,094 |
| | | |
| Total 2018 budget, including ministry quotas | | \$ 224,758 |
| Year-to-Date Budget for 7 months | | \$ 131,109 |
| Total Undesignated Income | | <u>153,065</u> |
| Income Over (Under) Budget | | \$ 21,956 |
| | | |
| Loan Balances: | | |
| Classis: \$ 17,500 | | |

Deacons Digest

By Elaine Snapper

The deacons met on Wednesday, July 11th at 6:00pm, just prior to the Council meeting.

Chairman, Terry Vander Woude, encouraged each of us to send a note or email to each family in our district, advising them that we are assigned to be their deacon.

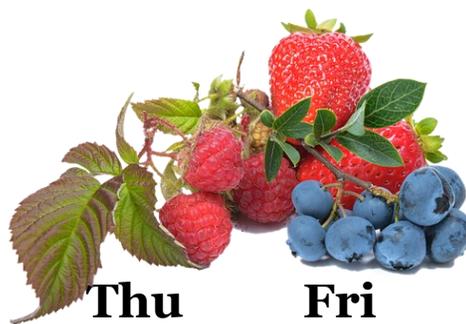
A couple people were suggested to help with the preparation of communion since Connie is unable to help with that at this time.

The request from Lighthouse Mission to use our parking lot once a month was discussed. Volunteers will be needed to help with the portable showers. Terry will attend the meeting on Tuesday, July 31st at noon to learn more about it.

The deacons are still willing to accept monetary donations towards the new signs that were designed for our church.

It was reported that Family Promise was doing well, and no money was needed at this time.

August 2018



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

| | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|---|-----------|-----------|
| | | | 1 7 PM Elders 7 PM Deacons | 2 6:30 AM Men's Group 7:00 PM Praise Team | 3 | 4 |
| 5 8:15 AM Prayer 9:30 AM Communion & Worship | 6 7 PM PreTeen Catechism 8 PM Teen Catechism | 7 | 8 7 PM Council | 9 6:30 AM Men's Group 7:00 PM Praise Team | 10 | 11 |
| 12 8:15AM Prayer 9:30 AM Worship 4:30 PM -Roberts Group -Jesus Gathering | 13 7 PM PreTeen Catechism 8 PM Teen Catechism | 14 | 15 | 16 6:30 AM Men's Group 7:00 PM Praise Team | 17 | 18 |
| 19 8:15AM Prayer 9:30 AM Worship | 20 | 21 | 22 7:00 PM Worship Planning Team | 23 6:30 AM Men's Group 7:00 PM Praise Team | 24 | 25 |
| 26 8:15AM Prayer 9:30 AM Worship 4:30 PM Roberts Group | 27 | 28 6:30 PM Boer's Bible Study | 29 | 30 6:30 AM Men's Group 7:00 PM Praise Team | 31 | |

Happy Birthday !

| | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>6 Thaddeus Speyer</i> | <i>15 Micah Obbink</i> | <i>17 Dan Grover</i> |
| <i>7 Don Knutson</i> | <i>15 Scott Emory</i> | <i>24 Abee Koning</i> |
| <i>13 Joe Zylstra</i> | <i>15 Zachariah Koning</i> | <i>31 Don Nokleby</i> |

August

2018

Greeters Schedule

- 5 Herm & Ali Laninga
- 12 Don & Tena Vanderpol
- 19 Karen Smith, Chris Pike
- 26 Joe Pruitt, Helen Bowman

Cookie Schedule

- 5 Gloria G, Rockelle R, Jan S
- 12 Mona R, Darlys R
- 19 Ida R, Jen R, Marjie H
- 26 Jolene S, Megan S

Serving Assistants

- 5 Chantel, Caleb, Amariah
- 12 Amber, Michal, Mattea
- 19 Kylie, Zeke, Brenna
- 26 Faith, Micah, AnaMaria

Prayer Room

- 5 Christine Speyer
- 12 Ali Laninga
- 19 Denise Doezema
- 26 Lanny Speyer

Offering Schedule

- 5 Kingdom Advancement
- 12 Kingdom Advancement
- 19 Outreach
- 26 Kingdom Advancement

Ushering Schedule

- 5 Helen Bowman, Bud Brouwer
- 12 Deloris Perry, Elaine Snapper
- 19 Joe Zylstra, Barb Z ylstra
- 26 Ken Wick, Len Vander Woude

Foyer Monitor

- 5 Bud Brouwer
- 12 Mike Button
- 19 Joe Zylstra
- 26 Len Vander Woude

*Not Able to Serve When Scheduled?
Please call someone on the list and
make a plan to trade dates.
Thank you for your help!*

Would you like to serve in one of these areas, but have not been added to the list yet? Please call the church office at 360-733-6177 and let us know. It would be great to add you in! If your name is not on the birthday list for your month, please let us know that as well. Our desire is to include everyone who attends regularly, so please help us to keep our lists up-to-date.