
DISCIPLE DIGEST

Highline Christian Church, 14859 1st Avenue South, Burien

Life Can Be Hard

Stephen Ministers are lay congregation members trained to provide one-to-one care to those experiencing a difficult time in life, such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, relocation and more.

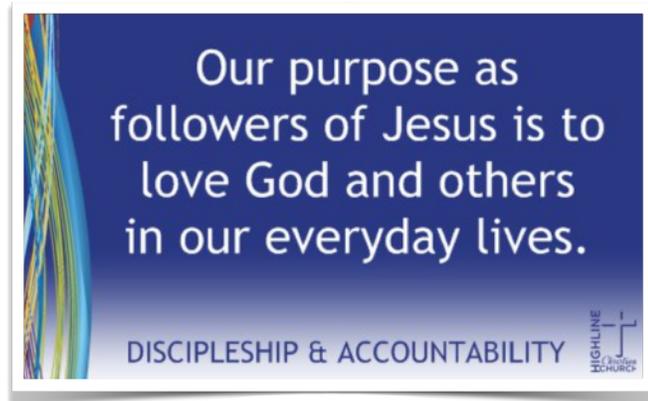


Stephen Ministers come from all walks of life, but they all share a passion for bringing Christ's love and care to people during a time of need.

If you would like to receive a Stephen Minister or would like more information regarding Stephen Ministry please contact the church office by [email](#) or phone, 206-243-4333.

Prayer Requests

If you have a prayer request, our Prayer Team would like to pray for you. You may enter your request on the APP by tapping on "Connect with Us," through the [HUB](#), or by email at office@highlinechristian.org.



Attitudes & Routines

2020 has been one interesting and crazy year. Nobody entered the year thinking our lives were going to be turned totally upside-down, and yet, here we are living with a very new reality. What was first thought to be something that was only going to affect us for a couple of weeks to a couple of months has stretched out to nine months and counting. As has been said before, Covid acts as both an accelerator and a vise. It's normal for people to have an ebb and flow of daily routines, attitudes, and emotions, yet for some reason, over the past nine months the frequency of the ebb and flow has increased. Maybe you are like me, have you found yourself more tired lately? Have you found yourself experiencing an increased amount of sorrow, depression, or anger? Have you noticed your feelings going back and forth between happy and sad or joy and sorry with greater frequency? Have you wondered how so many things can be canceled and yet there still doesn't seem to be enough time in the day, week, or month? What's going on here? I'm not a doctor of any kind, yet I believe we are experiencing the accelerator effects of Covid on our lives and it is affecting our mental, emotional, physical, and spiritual well being.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Attitudes & Routines...

In like fashion, Covid has been described as a vise and it is squeezing out of us, or revealing in us what is stored up inside. Pre-covid, Barna studies were showing a decline in church attendance across all age ranges. With church buildings being closed and church meetings being canceled, the realities of our relationship with Jesus is being revealed and now churches across the nation are experiencing a great decline in people engaging in the life of the church.

These new realities do not need to remain as our new norm. Moving into 2021 does not guarantee the effects of Covid are going to miraculously disappear as though it was something relegated to 2020. Rather, thinking logically and realistically we still have a long road ahead of us dealing with the many changes this past year has introduced. New Years is a good time to examine your life from the past year, and to plan and implement new routines or practices to help you grow in areas you need it most.

Philippians 2 reminds us that our attitudes should be the same as that of Christ Jesus. As you evaluate the past year, how was your attitude in general? How was your attitude toward political agendas? How was your attitude toward covid regulations? How was your attitude toward your employer? Your co-workers? People with differing views than you? How was your attitude toward your faith family? How was your attitude toward those who were sick with Covid? How was your attitude toward your family? Toward others close to you? In what areas of your life is the Holy Spirit inviting you to change your attitude to be more like Christ's attitude? Read Philippians 2:1-11. Reflect on the various ways Jesus displayed his attitude in this passage and in the Gospels, and ask the Holy Spirit to bring to

mind areas in need of transformation. Read the passage again slowly, listen for the words or phrase that stand out to you. When you hear the phrase that stands out, stop and invite the Spirit to share more. Journal about the attitude that was revealed in you over the past nine months and the attitude the Spirit is inviting you to grow in. What is one thing you can repetitively do each day to grow in an attitude of Christ likeness?

We all have some form of daily, weekly, monthly, and annual routines. We know we have those routines in part because when they were interrupted this past year due to Covid you may have experienced frustration, confusion, or anger. As you evaluate your routines from the past year, how have they changed? What routines were helping you in Christlikeness? What routines were okay to have, but maybe not beneficial? Jesus had his routines or customs also. Read through one of the Gospel accounts and notice things Jesus routinely did. What is the Spirit inviting you to change about or add to your routine to help you draw nearer to Jesus?

As we enter this new year, a year where Covid and all its effects will still exist, how will you grow with Jesus? How will you re-learn how to move back to a normal ebb and flow of thoughts, emotions, and activity in your life? What new routines will you seek to keep, what routines will you change, and what routines will you get rid of?

May the Lord bless you as you enter the new year. May He open your eyes to His faithfulness in 2020 and encourage you to walk deeper with Him in 2021 noticing His presence moment by moment. May you constantly be reminded that God is making all things new and join Him in the journey of doing so.

Moment by moment with Jesus,
Bret Thorson
Discipleship Minister

Operation Christmas Child



For those who may have missed last month's newsletter article, we are thrilled to share that Highline Christian Church contributed

512 Operation Christmas Child boxes to the worldwide effort to bless children and spread the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

Boxes are sent to children over several months, so if you tracked your box on-line and haven't heard yet where it was sent, you will. I found out that my box went to **Haiti**! If you find out where your box was sent, I would love to know. Continue praying for the child who will receive your box!!

For **January**, we are collecting



Socks. We need socks for boys and girls, but a higher need for boy socks. They need to be socks that can fit a child age 2-14.

If you have any questions about Operation Christmas Child or need your donation picked up or arranged for drop off, please contact Tammie Lindblom.

Christmas Tree Stand Was a Success!

We had some changes this year but a fun and successful one. Due to a tree supplier pulling out the Sunday before we opened, we only had 350 trees to sell this year (we usually sell around 600). We opened the stand the day after Thanksgiving (as usual) and had all our trees sold by the end of Sunday 10 days later. The shortest stand opening ever.



Things were different due to Covid but many things were the same and it was just as fun as ever. It seemed that people were very anxious to get a tree and get it up earlier. Our sales were strong from the first day of opening and never really let up until we were out of trees. Once again you were responsible for that success. We had great "masked" crews working the stand. We were able to share the excitement of Jesus, Christmas, family and "Church" at Highline Christian Church. It was fun!! – THANK YOU!! Special call outs to: Santa John for once again being at the stand each day, Tony B stepped up and was there most days to open the stand and work a shift, and also to Bret and family who stepped in to get the stand opened and they ran the stand with Santa for the first three days. - THANK YOU!! To the others of you that took time to "work" the stand – THANK YOU!! Many of you prayed for the stand and the people working and coming to buy a tree.

THANK YOU!! To the crews that took the time to make the trip to Onalaska and back to pick up and deliver trees...THANK YOU!! (we would not have had trees without your efforts!!). To the many others that set the stand up and then took it down before the rains hit - THANK YOU!!

MAY JESUS, the baby of Christmas and our Resurrected LORD and King be lifted up and shared by all our efforts this year!!

Happy New Year!!

Prayer for the Nation

Our Tuesday night prayer group Prayer for the Nation has continued to pray. Our responsibility is to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17) in every situation. In fact, II Chronicles 7:14 says, "If My people, who are called by My name will humble themselves and pray, and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven, I will forgive their sin and heal their land." This means you and I because we are God's people. There are commands and wonderful promises in this one passage for us to obey. We begin every prayer time with this Scripture. Won't you consider joining us? Each Tuesday we meet from 7:00 to 8:00. At present we pray using FaceTime. As our group begins to grow, we will switch to a Zoom format. Call Connie to tell us you desire to join this group.



Young Adult Ministry



Our Young Adult ministry is growing! We still have been meeting at the Church building even through the newest mandates have made it harder and have put fear into most people. I have had the honor to encourage, help and pastor quite a few Young Adults as well as help a few move locationally in this tough season. God has been so faithful and showing up in our YA ministry. We have been enjoying our time together on Thursdays, gathering as

we do Young Adults Service, our last one was last week, we did a Mug exchange and of course a TON of sanitizer with it, along with Christmas music, reading and a game or two. We are taking the last 3 weeks off in December to give everyone time to be with family as well as give our leadership a break.

Josh

Youth Ministry

We have been doing really well as a Youth Ministry. Navigating the newest restrictions has been very challenging however we have been able to still meet in person at the church building for the last few weeks. I have been doing my best to lead our teams



to do what is safe, fun and beneficial for everyone. We also had a parent meeting a few weeks ago just trying to do better at communicating with parents. We have some great signs of growth going on with our High School students and recently have had the opportunity to do a Christmas service that had a few extra games, Christmas songs and of course the reading of the Christmas story. The last 3 weeks of December we are taking off for students to be with Family and have time to enjoy time at home during the Christmas season.

World Outreach



Greetings Church Family,

This month I have been thinking a lot about the Asian Children's Mission that Highline Christian Church has supported for several years now. Joanna Jones has been working with ACM for over ten years. She is based in Oregon state and flies back and forth to Myanmar (formerly Burma) to work on site with the children's homes and schools that ACM established. Due to the Covid issues this year, international travel has been suspended and Joana's work has been conducted from stateside. She is a great encourager for the Burmese people and keeps information about the work in the forefront.

This year has been especially difficult for Joana as her daughter passed away from a heart condition that she has been struggling with for a number of years. Please keep her in prayer as she is guardian of her granddaughter and is fighting for permanent custody. Joana is the stable influence in this little girl's life and with grieving for the loss of her mother, she needs this stability to continue.

In preparing for HCC's newsletter, I was looking through past ACM newsletters and came across an article that Joana had written in 2017. It is so appropriate for today and the challenges we have all faced in 2020.

(see page 6)

As we move into 2021, keep these scriptures from Isaiah in your heart knowing that God will continue to be with us in this new year as he has been in the past.

God Bless you church family, as you enter a new year of serving our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Lyla Moreland

World Outreach ~ ACM *Continued*

“I will lead you in paths you do not know.”

Soon after I retired in 2006 I volunteered at a missions conference. My first task was to



check in at the hotel, but I could not find it. The more I drove, the more confused I became. I was just about to return home out of frustration, when the street sign came into focus. And that was when God spoke to me about

leading me in paths I do not know.

I believe God speaks most clearly and directly through His Word, and so I began a search for this phrase, which I found in **Isaiah 42:16.**

I never studied cross-cultural ministry, nor spent years trying to learn a new language. I just accepted a surprising invitation to Burma and was led to amazing Myanmar partners in the Gospel. We came alongside each other to form a mission and ministry.

We are now 10 years into this adventure called Asian Children’s Mission.

The paths in Burma have become somewhat more familiar to me, but the paths in my own family are not nearly so well known — paths that have led through physical illness, severe mental illness, autism, a bitter divorce and more.

My faith in the leadership of the Holy Spirit in the work in Burma has seldom faltered. But faith has been severely challenged in dealing with crippling family issues.

Sometimes it is useful to go back to the roots of our calling and ask the ancient questions — **Is God good? Is God worthy of my trust?** In the midst of a storm, the clear answer is often clouded with fear. Like the Israelites who kept forgetting how Jehovah had led them out of Egypt “with a strong arm and an outstretched hand,” I need to remember how powerfully I have been led in the past to accomplish what I never could on my own.

This is a call to all of us who stumble on our

paths. Isaiah 42:16 reads: ***“I will bring the blind by a way that they know not: I will lead them in paths that they have not know. I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight. These things will I do***



unto them, and not forsake them.”

There is recognition of our helplessness on these unknown paths. And there is promise. Let us remember how we have been led in the past, to find our faith for the present.

Early Elementary

Early Elementary is learning a lot about Jesus as we study what the adults are studying on Sunday mornings. We meet in the Lodge in the South building for the 9:00 service and the 10:40 service. You can register your child for class on the website or the app.

We have been learning more about who Jesus is! We have looked at how Jesus is worth loving, worth following, Jesus is welcoming, and Jesus is the Messiah. As we have been learning about how Jesus lived and responded to God, we are looking at how we can live and respond to God.

The kids are working hard on learning Remember Verses each week. We are learning to respond to God in many ways! We have been doing some dances this month to respond in worship! We have also practiced sitting and listening quietly as Jesus did to hear from God.

When students come to class, please have them wear their mask and bring their Bible! We are learning to use our Bibles to read God's word!

Early Childhood

Resuming “Schedules” with Littles

By Charlene Crawford

As I write this, Christmas break has not even started, so thinking about resuming a typical weekly schedule in January is NOT what I want to be thinking about. I prefer contemplating sleeping in, lazy days, Christmas Day, days after Christmas thinking about what a fun time we had. How about you?

As we come to 2021 and all of the new routines we hope to enjoy, here are some thoughts that might help make the transition back to scheduled life a bit easier to handle with little ones.

- Talk about the change to come in a light-hearted manner. “You get to go back to school in just three days.”
- Re-establish bed-time and routines starting at least 3-4 days before routines come.
- Provide nutritious foods.
- Get good sleep!
- Plan small celebrations for small accomplishments.
- Anticipate tears and tantrums will return briefly.
- Validate feelings and then ask if help is wanted.
- Be patient with yourself and with your family.

In case you have not heard it enough, 2020 has been a VERY DIFFICULT year. As you look to 2021 and the possible return to a more typical lifestyle, I encourage you to find one or two new routines that you would love to have in your home. Perhaps a morning prayer to say and memorize together or short Bible-reading time might bless your family. Here’s a brief prayer written by Francis Xavier (BOCP) that might be suitable for your family.

“O God, grant that we may desire you, and desiring you seek you, and seeking you find you, and finding you be satisfied in you for ever. Amen.”

May you desire, seek, find and be satisfied in God in 2021.

Facebook Group for Early Childhood Families

Interested in being part of the HCC Early Childhood (private) group?

Request Charlene Henney Crawford as a FB friend along with a message that you want to be in the HCC EC group. Charlene will add you. This group is used to show EC activities, send reminders, and other encouragement



We offer our condolences to Greg Duff and his family as they mourn Greg's father.

Worship Service Times

Saturdays - **6:00**pm
Sundays - **9:00**am, **10:40**am.
Adult & Student Ministries are available at 9:00 & 10:40am.

Contact Us

Phone:
206.243.4333

Website:
highlinechristian.org

Email:
office@highlinechristian.org

Office Hours

Due to the pandemic, our office is temporarily closed. Emails and messages are checked on a regular basis. Please leave a message and Kim will contact you in a timely manner.

Next eNewsletter Deadline

January 24, 2020

Third Saturday Work Party

January 16th
8:30 - Noon



All are invited to join us for the Third Saturday Work Party. We will be doing general grounds maintenance & fix-its and could use your help. Meet us here in the HCC Parking lot. For any questions, contact Gregg.

Sunday, January 24th HCC Outreach Dinner Transform Burien



Serve a meal and provide food and clothing services to those in need in our community.

The 4th Sunday of each month:

2:30 to 3:30 PM - Set Up and Serve
3:30 to 5:00 PM - Serve
4:45 to 5:45 PM - Clean Up

Opportunities:

Set Up
Kitchen-Cook/Prep
Meal Server
Food Bank
Clothing Bank
Hall Monitor
Prayer and Conversation with Attendees
Clean Up

Location:

Sunnydale School
15623 Des Moines Memoria Drive S
Burien WA

Contact

Don Berg
206-243-4333



2020-2021 Elders



Bruce Ernst, Elder Chair



Ray Adams



David Cowan



Les Fader



Tim Knight



Konrad Lindblom



Dave Rogge



Paul Smith



Bret Thorson

HCC Staff



Tim Knight
Senior Pastor

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Bret Thorson
Discipleship Minister

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Jack Fratangelo
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