



Hood River Valley Christian Church Newsletter

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www.hoodrivervalleychristianchurch.com

and on Face book

July 10, 2024

Sunday Worship Time

10:30am Worship

Minister

Rev. Alicia Speidel 541 601-1949

aliciaspeidel@gmail.com

Church Administrative Assistant

Kathy Holmson office hours 10am-1pm or as needed

hrcchurch@gmail.com

Website: www.hoodrivervalleychristianchurch.com

July 14 is Recycling Sunday ~ more information inside!



**Celebrating Dot's 100th Year!
Saturday July 20, 12:00-3:00pm**

Dot Swyers' family invites us to an open house at the church to celebrate her 100th year (Dot's birthday was January 4). Hope you are able to come for the celebration!

No gifts, please, but you are welcome to make a donation to FISH Food Bank in Hood River or charity of your choice in honor of Dot.

Christmas in July! Donations for the church make a difference in our budget.



Kleenex
Reams of 8.5 X 11" white copy paper
Envelopes self sealing #10 legal size
Dawn dish detergent
Coffee (grounds)
Paper dessert plates

Paper Towels

Bleach
Powdered creamer
Napkins

Sunday Adult Study 9:30am For the next couple of months we're going to be looking at parables of Jesus. A title for the series is "An Unexpected Kingdom." Meet in the Vista Room 9:30-10:15am Sundays.

Sunday Worship

9:30am Adult Sunday School

10:30am Worship

Special Music

July 14

Jo Herring & Margaret

July 21

Tiffany Ryan, guest pianist

LINKS:

Sunday Worship July 7 <https://www.facebook.com/100064940580441/videos/1018137836536123>

Celebrating 60 Years of Faith and Friendship!



Two Churches Become One!

Between now and HRVCC's 60th anniversary celebration in November, our church story will be shared via newsletter 'snippets'. Many of you know our history...some may not. Either way, it's a wonderful story well worth retelling!

Once upon a time in 1963, there were two churches: a 'town church' (First Christian Church at the corner of 9th and Eugene led by Jim Edwards) and a 'country church' (the Valley Church on Barrett Drive led by Leo Horner). Both were facing the same dilemma: the loss of their ministers! The solution? Merge the two churches into one!

Soon, the first of many meetings began with congregation chairmen Keith Short (First Christian) and Ted Perry (Valley Church) leading the way. As plans for a brand new church got underway in January 1963, the town and country congregations began worshipping together under the leadership of interim minister B. Ross Evans, who came from Texas with his wife and three daughters. Florence Radliff continued to provide beautiful sanctuary flowers for the new church family just as she had for the Valley Church for many years.

And so began the journey toward the creation of Hood River Valley Christian Church! More to come in the next newsletter!



The Valley Church, Barrett Drive



First Christian Church, 9th & Eugene

A few members of our church family might recall August 16, 1964 when the first worship service at Hood River Valley Christian Church's 975 Indian Creek Road location was held. What a grand day it must have been, and what a joy it will soon be to commemorate 60 years of ministry!

Many of us weren't there when the real work of physically building our church took place. But one thing we DO know: HRVCC did indeed get off the ground and continues to positively impact us, our families, our communities and even the world through the generous giving of time, talents and tithes.

So...let's celebrate each of those 60 years of faith! A small committee has begun planning a 60th celebration of 'thanksgiving' to be held Sunday, Nov. 17 following worship. *Please mark your calendars now and share this date with your families!*

The invitation to attend, to revisit our church's 60-year history and look to the future will go out to past and present members and families, retired pastors and others who have walked with us on our faith journey. With a theme of "60 Years of Sowing & Growing in Faith", we will celebrate with music, history, photos, memories and, of course, wonderful food and friendship. More announcements will be forthcoming, and your stories (which we'll be seeking!) will paint a rich church history for all to learn from and enjoy! We have been richly blessed by the Lord's steadfast presence in the life of our church. Thank you, everyone! ~ ~ Pastor Alicia

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Layla, JJ & Rider Gaffney	Sharon & Gordon Cook	Lauree Winfield	Vicki White
Katy White	Bonnie McCollister	Stacey Jubitz	Doris Lewis
Suze Nigl's niece Trisha	Barbara Frasier's friend Julie		Tedra Turner

CAMP SONGS! Next month we will celebrate the return of our youth from church camp by singing their songs with them. In preparation, on Sunday August 4, we will sing some camp songs from earlier generations. On the front narthex table is a partial list to stimulate your thoughts. We invite you to list some of your favorite camp songs on the accompanying pages.

Thank You from the Kummer Family A big thank you for your prayers, calls and hugs to us on Bob's passing. We feel so blessed with all the love and support we received. We are doing well considering. It's not going to be easy but we know life goes on.

With love, Mary, Dean, Kristy and families

Attention, Women: We have just received word that our Filipino student, for whom we have provided school support for about 10 years, is turning 18 this month and will no longer be eligible for support. I am sending a final letter to Rainier Bendanillo and a graduation gift of \$100. The question is whether or not we wish to sponsor another child through Disciples' mission program, Global Ministries. Or we could switch to a similar program for an elder in need of assistance. Please let me know your thoughts. Thanks. Mary Anne Parrott

Sunday Adult Study 9:30am For the next couple of months we're going to be looking at parables of Jesus. A title for the series is "An Unexpected Kingdom." Meet in the Vista Room 9:30-10:15am Sundays.

The Secret Place A daily devotional for June, July, August is available in the lobby. Suggested donation per copy--\$2.

Recycling Day is July 14



**Protecting
God's World**

What to bring:

#2, #6 plastic

Plastic caps and lids

Plastic straws and liquid pumps

Foam: trays, containers, blocks and coolers

Miscellaneous: small electronics, laptop computers, cell phones, wires, Christmas lights

Please bring a small donation to help defray the recycling fee. Mary Anne Parrott has more information about recycling.



Quarters (25 cents) Needed for Laundry Love

Laundry Love is a program that helps folks in need wash their clothes at Eco Laundry. We can help by collecting quarters to use in the washers and dryers. A jar for collecting quarters is outside Alicia's office. Thank you.

Regional biennial assembly is coming up September 27-28!

Will you be attending? Hood River Valley Christian Church needs voting delegates! Sign up with Pastor Alicia.



To Hood River Valley CC and Rev. Alicia Speidel,

Our biennial Regional Assembly is before us! On September 27 and 28 we will gather in Portland at First Christian Church to worship, celebrate, learn, and handle the region's business affairs, primarily electing our new officers.

Our Assemblies are open to all members and participants of congregations in the Region. Persons must be registered in order to vote and to attend workshops. Worship services are open to everyone.

Each congregation is entitled to a voting delegate for every 25 participating members up to 500, and one delegate for every 100 participating members over 500, as determined in the most recent Yearbook. Because Disciples no longer publish a Yearbook and have switched to the Alex digital reporting system, we will use the numbers as recorded in Alex as of April 1, 2024. The participating membership recorded for your congregation is 150; therefore, we request that your congregation send 6 delegates. In addition, your congregation may designate alternate delegates, up to your number of delegates.

Side note: this is an additional reason that it is important to do your annual Alex report!

In order for congregational delegates to be able to exercise their vote, congregations must submit their names to the Credentials Committee; in addition, delegates must be registered for the Regional Assembly and attend in person. Absentee and proxy voting is not allowed.

Submit names of delegates to the Regional Assembly by email to RAcredentials@oidisciples.org; include name, email address, phone, and home address. Submit delegates and any alternates by August 13.

In addition to delegates from congregations, every member of the Regional Board is a voting delegate to the Assembly, and every ordained or commissioned minister with standing in the Oregon & SW Idaho region has voting rights in Regional Assemblies.

We look forward to seeing you in Portland on September 27 & 28! Registration information is coming soon.

Rev. Renee Bridwell

Disciples All-Region Picnic – July 13th

Disciples in Oregon/SW Idaho All-region picnic, sponsored by the New Church Team, will be 11a – 2p on July 13th at **Champoeg State Park**. Come share lunch, worship, and games and get to know people from other churches around the region. Chicken, drinks, and table service provided; please bring a side dish or dessert to share.



FISH Food Bank

July 2024

FISH Update Newsletter

I hope you had a wonderful 4th of July weekend with your friends and family. Hopefully, this long weekend has given you time to reflect on all the blessings in your life and allowed you to recharge.

As we expected June was a very busy month at the FISH Food Bank. A high number of farmworkers, many who are picking cherries, found a need to access the food bank. This last month, we had one of the highest all-time single days for the FISH Food bank, we served 99 families between the morning and afternoon distribution. That day we fed 265 different individuals. In June 2024 FISH provided food to 772 different families and fed 2161 individuals.

The high number of clients is putting a strain on FISH's resources. Jacqueline has had to adjust some of the amounts of food to ensure that everyone receives a fair share of food. The number of farm workers accessing the food bank is high. It is good to remember the importance this group of these individuals are important to the economy of area. The area's orchardists need individuals to pick their fruit.

The sad part is many of these families come here with nothing and until they can find work or start working, they have very limited resources. Last week an agency worker brought a family to FISH, it was a dad, mom and three little kids (one child was about 5 months old.) They just got to the area, had been sleeping in their car and had no food. We were able to give them some food and one of the FISH volunteers gave several ideas of orchardists who needed workers and had housing for them. This is not an unusual situation, one Friday night we had already closed and a family stopped by and asked if they could just have a little food like rice and beans to get them through the weekend. Of course, we let them shop and not just for rice and beans.

While we are assisting farm worker families, we are also seeing many locals too. When looking at the sign-in sheets, I find many of the return clients had not been to the food bank in months. One night a client was a little grouchy and she said she was very hungry as she was out of food. Then the next day she sent a text apologizing for being a little short with the volunteers. Then she sent a second text saying something like, "being poor shucks." It is hard to be in a good mood when your stomach is empty.

Another one of our clients who is homeless and living in his truck (which of course doesn't work) is desperately trying to find somewhere he can park the truck and just live. Currently he is at a friend's place, but that friend is having to move, so there goes his parking spot. Having to worry about your next meal, where you are going to stay and how to stay cool in 100-degree weather must be a difficult way to live.

It is gratifying to know that FISH can make these individuals' lives a little easier. But we can only do it because of the great help from FISH volunteers. It always amazing how even on very busy days it all works out. For example, on the day we had 99 families, I had 4 volunteers cancel at the last minute. But then other volunteers not scheduled just showed up to help. I truly believe that because of the great work FISH does, that there is some power watching over us.

On an ending note, the day we served 99 families when we were leaving the building for the night, we discovered someone had stuck a \$50.00 bill in the door. It was a great way to end a busy day.

Thanks for all you do, I am sure the summer will continue to be busy, but we will make it happen.

Billie Stevens
FISH Food Bank

What is the difference between FISH, Columbia Gorge Food Bank and Oregon Food Bank?

Now that FISH is seeing high client numbers, often over 50 a night, our food supply is being stretched to the limits. The problem is FISH is serving almost twice as many families as they were in past years. Unfortunately, the food availability from the Oregon Food Bank is less than what we have been receiving in past years, which requires FISH to purchase from local suppliers.

I know some of the volunteers have been getting fundraising requests for money from FISH, the Columbia Gorge Food Bank, and the Oregon Food Bank. And some individuals are asking "what is the difference between each of these groups?"

It can be confusing because each of these organizations are working to eliminate hunger because they believe no one should be hungry. But each of these organizations has a little different focus.

FISH Food Bank, as you know, is an actual Food Pantry, which means we provide food directly to clients. Families walk in our door, and they walk out with a grocery cart full of food. Money donated to FISH remains in our community and the money goes to purchasing food for clients. A small amount goes to keeping the FISH building open and for staff.

Columbia Gorge Food Bank is located in The Dalles, and it is a regional food distribution warehouse for about 40 partner agencies in Wasco, Hood River and Sherman Counties. They do not serve clients directly; they work with agencies/organizations that provide food for clients. They receive the food from the Oregon Food Bank, and they work at securing food from other sources that is then distributed equitably to the 40 different partner agencies. The money donated to them goes to helping purchase some food, paying to distribute the food to the different agencies, paying for their building and upkeep. They are also responsible for ensuring that all the agencies they work with are in regulatory compliance and they work to bring donations to the network.

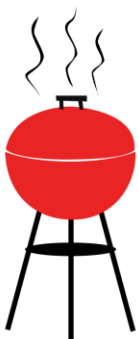
Oregon Food Bank works with 21 Regional Food Banks (in our area it is the Columbia Gorge Food Bank). They collect and distribute food across Oregon and Southwest Washington, with the goal of helping ensure free food is available to everyone experiencing food insecurity. The Oregon Food Bank does not distribute food to clients. They distribute USDA Commodities as well as donations from the food industry to the 21 Regional Food Banks.

The Oregon Food Bank distributes food equitably across the regions and works on policies and programs to address the root causes of hunger. Donated money helps pay for salaries of staff, helps pay for transportation of food, some specialty programs plus a lot of other areas.

Each of the three organizations has an important role in eliminating hunger. It is up to you to determine where you want to focus your donation. FISH is more local while, while the Columbia Gorge Food Bank focuses on our region, and the Oregon Food Bank focuses statewide.

If you have additional questions, feel free to ask. We will try to find answers for you. Billie

FISH July Donation Theme: BBQ Season!



"We believe in supporting our families with items that bring joy. This July, we're excited to announce our monthly donation theme: BBQ Season! Donations of BBQ essentials can help our families enjoy the summer"-- FISH Food Bank Staff

Here are some suggested food ideas:

Ketchup	Mustard	Mayonnaise	BBQ sauce	Hot sauce	Soy sauce	Chips
Salad dressing	Balsamic vinegar	Olive oil	Pickles	Relish	Honey	

Every little bit helps and goes a long way in helping client families have what they need for a BBQ. You may drop off donations in the lobby at church. As always, donations of any non-perishable foods, personal care items, diapers and other baby items, or pet foods are welcome. Thank you for your continued support and generosity!

Church Calendar

Monday-Saturday July 8-13

Pastor Alicia is out of town

Wednesday July 10

9:00am-Noon Quilters meet
9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop open
7:00pm Wednesday prayers for our church

Thursday July 11

7:00am Men's Bible Study

Saturday July 13

9:00am-3:00pm Thriftshop open

Sunday July 14 Recycling Sunday

9:30am Adult Sunday School
10:30am Worship
3:30pm Hope and Life church worship

Tuesday July 16

10:00am Women's Bible Study
4:00pm TOPS group

Wednesday July 17 No Newsletter

9:00am-Noon Quilters meet
9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop open
7:00pm Wednesday prayers for our church

Thursday July 18

7:00am Men's Bible Study

Saturday July 20

9:00am-3:00pm Thriftshop open
Noon -3:00pm Reception honoring Dot Swyers

Sunday July 21

9:30am Adult Sunday School
10:30am Worship
3:30pm Hope and Life church worship

Tuesday July 23

10:00am Women's Bible Study
4:00pm TOPS group

Wednesday July 24 Newsletter

9:00am-Noon Quilters meet
9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop open
7:00pm Wednesday prayers for our church

Scriptures for Sunday July 14, 2024

2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19 and Psalm 24
Ephesians 1:3-14
Mark 6:14-29

SERVING Sunday July 14, 2024

Elder this Week Rod Parrott/Thelma Warnock
Communion prep Mary Finley
Coffee Hour Barb and friends
Deacons Servers
Thank you to our deacons for serving communion as needed each week

Scriptures for Sunday July 21, 2024

2 Samuel 7:1-14a and Psalm 89:20-37
Ephesians 2:11-22
Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

SERVING Sunday July 21, 2024

Elder this Week Chrystal Akin
Communion prep Barb Ritoch & Maggie Strasser
Coffee Hour Judy & friends
Deacons Servers
Thank you to our deacons for serving communion as needed each week

Church Staff Summer Schedule

The church newsletter will be published every other week (for most of the summer) beginning in mid-June. Schedules for two weeks will be included.

July 7 – 13 Pastor Alicia is out of town.
July 14-20 Sable Duback is out of town.
August 5 – 9 Middle & High School Camp.
Pastor Alicia is director and will be attending.
August 22-26 Sable Duback is out of town.
August 31 – Sept 6 Pastor Alicia will be attending Pension Fund gathering in Washington, DC