

December 24, 2025



Hood River Valley Christian Church Newsletter

541-386-2608 hrcchurch@gmail.com

<https://www.hoodrivervalleychristianchurch.org/> and on [Facebook](#)

Sunday Worship Time

10:30am

Church Administrative Assistant

Sable Duback

Minister

Rev. Alicia Speidel 541-601-1949

aliciaspeidel@gmail.com

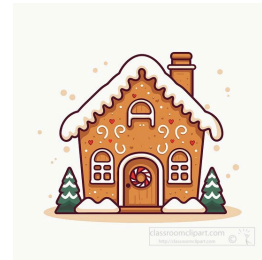
Office hours 9am-12pm or as needed

Sunday Worship

9:30 Adult Lectionary Preview

10:30 Worship

Link to Worship on December 21-[Facebook](#)



*Prayer
Requests*



Sharon & Gordon Cook

Carol Sabins

Lee Repp

Vestena Emerson

Vicki White

Ken Hansen

Hopkins Family

Bev Carpenter

James Gaffney

Bud Harris

Tyler Luna

*Please hold Jan Behrmann's friend, Pat Byrne's new great grandson Weston in your thoughts and prayers for healing and recovery.

*Prayers for healing and recovery for Laurie and Linda's dad Bud Harris as he has recently gotten out of the ICU.

* Prayers for Tyler Luna as he fights stage 4 lung cancer. For his family, his wife Sel and their two children.

*Prayers for the family of Anse Hopkins as she was recently called home to be with the Lord.

Please email any prayer requests to hrcchurch@gmail.com or call our office at 541-386-2608.



Kim Cantrell- 04

Diane Hayes- 08

Jason Ritoch- 12

Brenda Ritoch- 13

John Isle-21

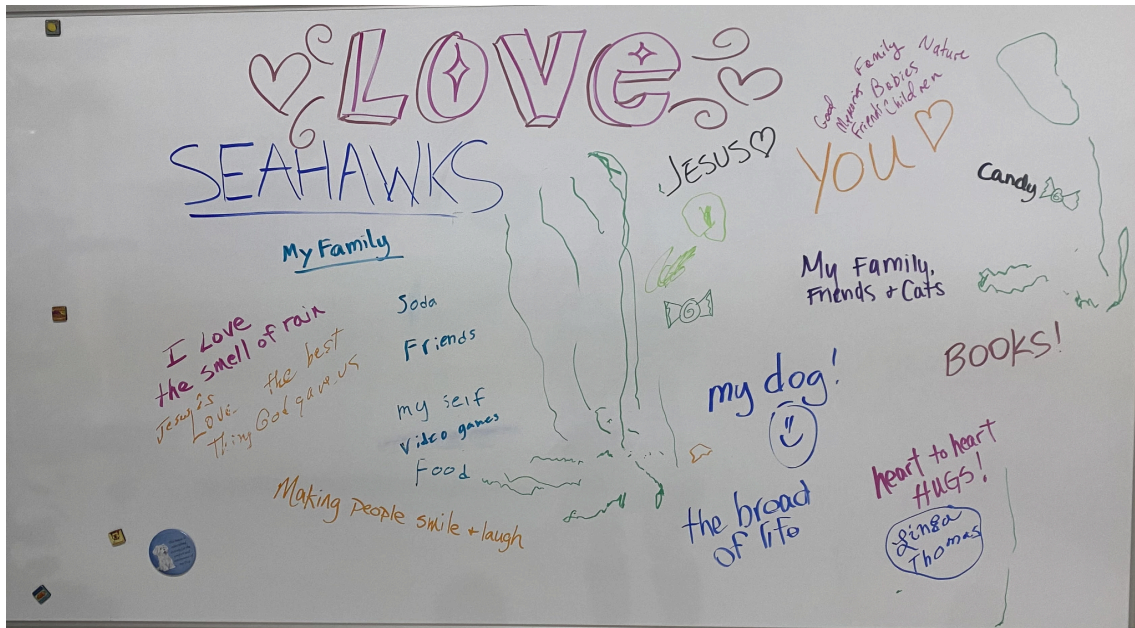
Carla Bailey- 22

Gladys Sawyer- 23

Ellen Hopkins- 24

Katie Ramfield-24

Nola Hardman- 25



The culmination of the Advent season is upon us, the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, Christmas Day. The hope, peace, joy and love candles have been lit with the Christ candle to be lit on Christmas Eve. The songs have been sung. The praises have been given. It is all happening. It is all around us. It is within us.

May you breathe deeply as Christmas Day arrives. May you sense the breaking in of God's light. May you know the Spirit is alive and well. And may you be the hope, peace, joy and love that are needed. Christmas blessings from my family to yours as we celebrate the birth of the Christ child.

~ Pastor Alicia





**Supplemental
Nutrition
Assistance
Program**



How can we Help our Neighbors?

Hood River has an outstanding, mostly volunteer staffed food bank offering food assistance to people who are hungry. FISH food bank is on the frontline fighting hunger in our community. FISH accepts non perishable food, garden

and orchard produce, and cash and checks which is used to purchase needed food—especially fresh foods such as eggs and dairy.

Our continued support of FISH is important in these troubling times. We will be donating funds from our church's Help a Neighbor fund to help FISH purchase needed food. Please give as you are able to support the food bank's work of keeping families fed in Hood River County.

Thank you.

More information:

—checks may be mailed. FISH mailing address is 1767 12th Street, #147, Hood River, OR 97031

—food items can be dropped off at FISH 1130 Tucker Road HR

FISH also accepts toiletries, baby items such as diapers, and pet food.



If you are able to donate to help those in the Pacific Northwest who are affected by the current floods please address your payment to Week of Compassion designated for the Northern Lights Region.



We need official greeters to welcome people as they arrive for worship on Sunday mornings.

The responsibility of a greeter would be to stand near the front doors beginning at 10:15am with bulletins in hand to warmly greet those who enter. If you are interested in doing this, please let Pastor Alicia or Sable know. Then a schedule will be created. Thank you!



ADVENT SCHEDULE:



Wednesday Dec. 24- 7pm Christmas Eve service at HRVCC.

Thursday Dec. 25- MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Sunday Dec. 28- Carols Sunday. 10:30am Worship.

Sunday Jan. 04- Epiphany Sunday. 10:30am Worship.



Poinsettias have been purchased in memory of and in honor of loved ones. They are used for decorating the sanctuary during the advent season and can be taken home after the Christmas Eve service.

Name:

Joanie Logan in memory of the Lingren family.

Virginia Sheppard in memory of Bill Sheppard.

Margaret Marshall in memory of Ned Marshall.

Rod & Mary Anne Parrott in memory of Ralph & Evelyn Helseth

and Floyd & Doris Parrot.

Judy Hiatt in memory of Chuck Hiatt, Lee & Minnie Hiatt, and Gladney &

Berenice Hamilton

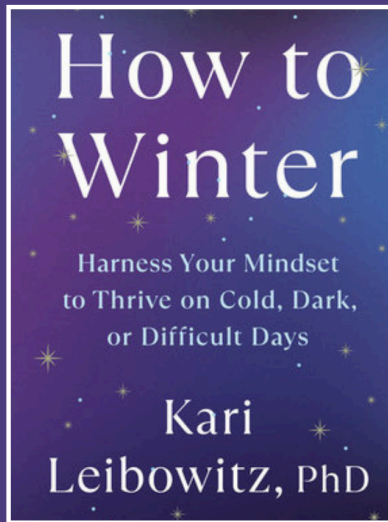
**Please stay behind after Worship
on January 04 to help un-decorate
the church!**

We need many helping hands.


UNDECORATE
the Church

HOOD RIVER COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT &
GORGE HAPPINESS PRESENT:

Book Club & Community Circle



Every 1st and 3rd
Tuesday
from 11:30-1:00 PM

December 2
December 16

January 6
January 20

February 3
February 17

Attend when you can!

CONNECTION + MEDITATION + DISCUSSION
WITH EMILY MARTIN



HOOD RIVER LIBRARY READING ROOM

502 State Street
541-386-2535

www.hoodriverlibrary.org



WWW.GORGEHAPPINESS.ORG

Please purchase ahead of time or get a copy of the book from the library to read along with the group (library copies will be available to borrow during our first meeting on Dec 2).

No need to read anything from the book before our first meeting. We will read and discuss a few chapters every 2 weeks.

Each circle includes:

- ~ Time for connection and reflection
- ~ Mindfulness Meditation
- ~ Time for book chapter discussion

Come as you are--even if you haven't read the chapter! We want to sit in community circle with you. Attend when you can.

Questions? Contact Emily Martin

503-358-1949

A reminder: Church meetings or Thriftshop days may be cancelled if the weather causes hazardous driving conditions. If local schools have cancellations, church activities are likely cancelled as well. Call your group leader before you venture out.



The holiday feast might be over, but the joy of sharing a meal continues!

We invite everyone to join us for a special "Holiday Leftovers" Coffee Hour next Sunday December 28 after the service.

If you have extra treats, savory snacks, or holiday favorites remaining from your celebrations, we would love for you to bring them in to share with your church family.

How to Participate:

- What to bring: Leftover cookies, breads, appetizers, or savory bites (pre-cut or ready to serve is appreciated!).
- When: Next Sunday, during our usual Coffee Hour.
- Where: Drop off your contributions in the kitchen/fellowship hall before the service begins.

Let's keep the festive spirit alive and enjoy one last taste of the season together. Whether you bring a dish or just bring yourself, we can't wait to see you there!



Christmas messages:

Merry Christmas and good health to you in 2026
~The Holmsons

Merry Christmas to all and blessings for a joyful
new year.
~Dot Swyers

Merry Christmas to all of you- may 2026 bring you
laughter, smiles, joy and peace.
~Suze Nigl

Christmas blessings of joy, peace, hope and love.
~Rod & Mary Anne Parrott



All good wishes to my dear church family for a wonderful year ahead. May 2026 find you in your favorite pew every possible Sunday so he can show life is good for you.

~Thelma Warnock

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a year filled with love, joy, peace, and hope.

~Otto & Jan Behrmann

Merry Christmas- may God's peace and love carry you into the new year.

~Jerry & Gladys Sawyer

May God bless each and every one of you as we remember the true meaning of this holiday season.

~Judy Hiatt

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! May 2026 bring you nothing but blessings.

~Chance, Sable, James, Layla, Rider



Church Calendar

Wednesday December 24

Thriftshop CLOSED

7:00pm-Christmas Eve Service here at HRVCC

Thursday December 25

Merry Christmas!

Saturday December 27

9:00am-12:00pm Thrift Shop open

Sunday December 28- Carols Sunday

9:30am Lectionary Preview

10:30am Worship

4:00pm Hope and Life Church worship

Tuesday December 30

10:00am Women's Bible Study

1:30pm Chimes practice

Wednesday December 31

New Year's Eve!

Thrift shop CLOSED

Thursday January 01

Happy New Year!

Saturday January 03

9:00am-12:00pm Thrift shop open

Sunday January 04- Epiphany Sunday.

Gathering for FISH

9:30am Lectionary Preview

10:30am Worship

4:00pm Hope and Life Church worship

Tuesday January 06

10:00am Women's Bible Study

1:30pm Chimes practice

Wednesday January 07

9:00am-12:00pm Thrift shop open

9:00am-12:00pm Quilters meet

Thursday January 08

7:00am Men's bible study

1:30pm Chimes practice

Saturday January 10

9:00am-12:00pm Thrift shop open

Sunday January 11- Second Sun. Recycling

9:30am Lectionary Preview

10:30am Worship

4:00pm Hope and Life Church worship

Serving Sunday December 28, 2025

Elder this week	Jennifer Stager
Communion prep	Judy Hiatt
Coffee hour	Carol and friends
Deacon	Otto and Jan

Scriptures for Sunday December 28, 2025

Isaiah 63:7-9
Psalm 148
Hebrews 2:10-18
Matthew 2:13-23

Serving Sunday January 04, 2025

Elder this week	
Communion prep	
Coffee hour	Jennifer and friends
Deacon	

Scriptures for Sunday January 04, 2025

Jeremiah 31:7-14
Psalm 147:12-20
Ephesians 1:3-14
John 1:10-18

