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## Hood River Valley Christian Church Newsletter

541-386-2608 [hrcchurch@gmail.com](mailto:hrcchurch@gmail.com)  
[www.hoodrivervalleychristianchurch.com](http://www.hoodrivervalleychristianchurch.com)

and on Face book

**July 26, 2023**

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### Sunday Worship Time

10:30am Worship

### Minister

Rev. Alicia Speidel 541 601-1949  
[aliciaspeidel@gmail.com](mailto:aliciaspeidel@gmail.com)

### Church Administrative Assistant

Kathy Holmson office hours as needed  
[hrcchurch@gmail.com](mailto:hrcchurch@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.hoodrivervalleychristianchurch.com](http://www.hoodrivervalleychristianchurch.com)

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### **SPECIAL SABBATICAL EDITION see inside**

***Special Summer Worship...bring a potluck lunch item to share and a lawn chair for seating if you have one.***

### **July 30 Outdoor Worship at Lloyd and Barbara Frasier's**

7130 Dee Highway, Parkdale

#### **Directions to Frasier's house:**

If coming via Dee Hwy, follow directions to Parkdale.

If coming via hwy 35, turn right at Woodworth Rd. At junction with Dee Hwy, turn left and follow Dee directions.

It's the first set of mailboxes after you pass the milepost 16 marker, and pass under the Bonneville power lines. Turn right, ours is the first one.

**If passengers use a wheelchair or a walker**, continue down the driveway and park in front of the garage. There is a wheelchair ramp.

Barbara says: "My granddaughter will be by the mailbox to help direct by 10am. Otherwise, turn immediate left into the circular driveway. After parking, just walk into back yard.

Overflow parking available in the field."

**Potluck lunch follows worship** Bring food to share. The Frasier's will provide coffee, water, and lemonade.

### **SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE**

9:30am Adult Sunday school classes, nursery available

10:30am Sunday Worship with Children Worship & Wonder

### **EVENING PRAYER ON FACEBOOK**

5:00pm Monday-Thursday as schedules allow.

#### **Links:**

Thursday July 20 <https://www.facebook.com/100064940580441/videos/660595922267749>

Monday July 24 <https://www.facebook.com/100064940580441/videos/665255848972484>

## PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Layla, JJ & Rider Gaffney  
Bev Thomas

Sharon & Gordon Cook  
Katy White

Lauree Winfield  
Stacey Jubitz

Vicki White  
Bonnie McCollister

++Rider, JJ and Layla Gaffney were in a car accident a couple of weeks ago. JJ and Layla are physically okay. Rider experienced a traumatic brain injury and will need extra assistance for weeks and months to come. All three children are dealing with PTSD and trauma from the accident. Prayers of healing, strength and perseverance for the children, parents and grandparents during this time.

++ Nancy Krieg is at Columbia Basin in The Dalles for rehab.

++David Nash is at Hood River Care Center for rehab.

++ Those attending Elementary Church camp this week—youth Aubri Crosswhite and counselors Melissa Crosswhite and Kailey Speidel

## **EARTH CAMP VBS July31-August 3 at Riverside Community Church**

**Come explore with us as we learn about Mother Earth's Wondrous Creatures**

For kids ages 4-12, \$20 per day, \$80 for the week (scholarships available)

Visit <https://riversideucc.com/> for more information or call 541 386-1412



**Thank you to Tom Biddle** for baking the communion bread loaves we use every Sunday (and to Cindy Biddle for making the delivery!)

**Christmas in July!** Great job everyone collecting donations for the church and FISH Food Bank. We've gotten a lot for FISH so last Friday I took 85 lbs of food (including 16 jars of jam!) to make room for more donations! Thanks for your generosity. **Pick up a list of needed items on the table in the lobby.**



**What  
can I  
recycle?**

### **Next recycling collection will be August 13.**

Collecting: #6 and rigid plastic marked PS; foam coolers and irregularly shaped styrofoam; foam take-out containers/trays free of food, egg cartons; non-transparent containers such as yogurt cups, colored plastic cups and lids, bread bag clips.

**Note:** all containers must be clean. See the bulletin board for a reminder and this list.

### **Coffee Klatch Gatherings**

**Thursday July 27, 10:00am** at Bev & Linda Thomas's home in White Salmon.

**Thursday August 10, 10:00am** at Shar Wilkins home.

Call Thelma 541 645-3748 for carpools and other information.

### **Women, Wine, and The Word**

**Wednesday August 2, 4pm at Stave and Stone at the vineyard**

Women are invited to join for a time of fellowship to talk about a scripture passage centered around women. Gather at Stave and Stone Winery at the Vineyard (3827 Fletcher Dr, HR). Come grab a beverage (non-alcoholic or alcoholic beverages are available) and a snack while we share how the passage intersects with our lives. Invite friends from outside the church, too

**Lunch Date and Party Saturday September 23** "Getting to know you" event for all ladies of the church. Details are still being worked out. Mark your calendars!

## SABBATICAL INFORMATION

**INTERIM MINISTER** While Pastor Alicia is on sabbatical, Holly Greenidge who will serve as interim minister. Holly will meet the congregation on August 13, Alicia's last Sunday before her sabbatical. Then Holly will preach on August 20. Following that she will lead worship on September 10, September 24, October 8, October 22 and November 5. Every Sunday Holly is in worship, she will also be present for pastoral visits, meetings, questions and discussions on that Monday or Tuesday. Make sure to reach out if you have a need or simply want to get to know her better.



**August 27, October 15 & November 5** - Reverend Ruth Fletcher

**September 10 & 17** - Reverend Steve Knox

**October 1** - Reverend Monica Meyers Greenberg

**October 8** - Reverend Gary Young

**October 29** - Reverend Jenny Crosswhite

**November 12** - Raiza Spratt

**September 3 and September 24**, Mary Anne and Betty will be leading worship with a focus on music and hymns.

**October 22**, Jelani Greenidge will be offering his gifts of music throughout the entire worship service. He will be playing and singing, a true blessing for our congregation.

### Hospitality to visiting guests

(as well as all visitors) during the sabbatical is a calling to each member of the congregation to be welcoming. There will be a few special opportunities to take a visiting leading home or out in the community for lunch after Sunday's service. If you are interested in volunteering to host, sign up on the table by Alicia's office door; this is an interest-finder, not a commitment on your part.

**Welcome our various guests with smiles, open hearts and your nametag.**



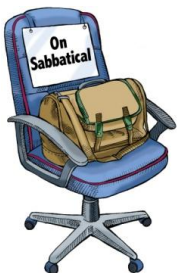
*Make Our Guests Welcome*

**If you have a need or concern while Pastor Alicia is away**, please reach out to an elder, Kathy in the office, or a member of the sabbatical committee (Mary Anne Parrott, Betty Osborne, Suze Nigl, Sharon Smiley and Wes Bailey). In addition, there will be a list of who to contact for various needs on the bulletin board outside of Kathy's office.

**Be in prayer** Over the course of the sabbatical you are invited to be in prayer. Pray for the congregation. Pray for the ministries of the church. Pray for Pastor Alicia. Pray for Geoff, Kailey and Jackson. Pray for yourself. Pray that all will "savor" this time as we learn, grow and deepen our faith. This is a time to be intentional in our prayer lives.



**prayer**



**Where is Pastor Alicia?** To keep track of where Pastor Alicia is during the sabbatical and who is journeying with her, check out the list of her "savoring" moments on the bulletin board outside of Kathy's office.

### Special Sabbatical Reading

"Peace is Practice" by Morgan Harper Nichols is one of the books on Alicia's sabbatical to-read list. If you would like to read it too, and have opportunity to discuss it with Alicia after her return, sign up for a free copy by the end of August. Sign up on the table by her office door. A copy of the book is on the table for preview.

# Savor

**What are we savoring?** Every Sunday during the sabbatical there will be a time at the end of worship to write down the answers to the questions "What did you savor today? What did you savor in worship, in the life of the church, in this faith community?" Your answers will be collected and shared with Pastor Alicia when she returns from her sabbatical.

**In addition,** Pastor Alicia will be answering what she savored each day, as well as those who join her during her sabbatical. These will then be shared with the congregation at a later date.



## August 13 Sabbatical Send Off Worship And CAMP SUNDAY

Come celebrate Church Camp and send off Pastor Alicia to her sabbatical to "savor" on Sunday, August 13. Following worship there will be catered lunch by Mt Hood BBQ and The Wasco Brothers band will perform. It will be a party to enjoy.



### Holly Greenidge Interim Minister, preaching August 20

Holly Greenidge is a seminary student pursuing a master of divinity from the Seattle School of Theology & Psychology. She grew up as a Presbyterian pastor's kid in the Midwest, but has lived in the Pacific Northwest for nearly two decades - currently living in southeast Portland with her husband, Jelani.

In addition to spending time and nerding out with church people on all things church-related, she enjoys watching shows, listening to audiobooks, playing board games, exploring local places, going to random tastings, and the occasional nap.



### Jelani Greenidge (Holly's husband) guest musician October 22

Jelani is a passionate communicator with a desire to inform, inflame and inspire. Currently, he serves in a full-time role as missional storyteller for the Evangelical Covenant Church, but he's also a writer, speaker, worship musician, hip-hop emcee/producer, and stand-up comic. Jelani loves playing video games and watching NBA basketball. He and his wife Holly dwell in leafy Portland with Rosie, their robot vacuum cleaner.

### The Wasco Brothers, performing August 13

The Wasco Brothers are a country/honkytonk band based in the Columbia River Gorge. They focus on the musical stylings of the 'golden era' of country music from roughly 1950-1975. They also write and perform original material that would be welcome in any neon-lit bar room from Bakersfield to Nashville.



The Wasco Brothers are:  
Don Campbell- Bass/ Vocals  
Jeff Minnick- Drums/ Vocals  
Mark Womble- Piano/ Vocals  
Larry Wyatt- Guitar/ Vocals



**Rev. Ruth Fletcher, preaching August 27, October 15, November 5**

Ruth Fletcher nurtures positive transformation in individuals and systems through teaching and spiritual leadership. Throughout her life, she has trained leaders, facilitated personal growth retreats, accompanied congregations through change, encouraged imagination, keynoted conferences, preached and led worship, coached pastors, and designed processes for systemic revitalization.

Ruth is an ordained minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). She received her Doctor of Ministry degree from the School of Theology at Claremont and has authored resources regarding peace education, congregational discernment, and the role of the eldership in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Her most recent book is entitled *Thrive: Spiritual Habits of Transforming Congregations*.

**Vote for Your Favorite Hymn!**

“**Top Ten Hymns**” will be the theme of worship on September 3. On August Sundays, those present will have the opportunity to vote for their favorite hymns. In addition to singing the Top Ten on Labor Day weekend Sunday, there will be time for some personal comments about the “why” of the favorites.



**Rev. Steve Knox, preaching September 10 & 17**

Steve's journey in ministry began with youth ministries at First Christian Church in Junction City (where his father, Gilbert Knox, was Pastor), and Coquille, Oregon. After Bushnell University (NCC), he and his wife Christy moved to Alhambra, California, where he served as Associate Minister. After Fuller Seminary in Pasadena, the family moved to Waitsburg, Washington, his first solo pastorate. Then he served the church in Milton-Freewater, Oregon. And finally, the journey took him and his family to the church in Silverton, Oregon.

The journey included missions to Mexico and Ecuador, countless youth camps & church campouts, a bazillion sermons, weddings, funerals, and hospital calls, much sorrow and much more joy, and a whole lotta potlucks. He retired in 2020 and continues to enjoy camping, fishing, spoiling his grandkids, and occasional preaching.



**Rev. Monica Meyers Greenberg, preaching October 1**

Monica Myers Greenberg is vice president of the Foundation's Mountain West zone, which includes the area from Colorado to Northern California and north to Alaska.

Monica is a graduate of Bethany College in Bethany, West Virginia, and Brite Divinity School in Fort Worth, Texas. Originally from Ohio, she served congregations in the Northern Lights Region for 21 years before joining the Foundation staff in 2021. She shares, “I look forward to partnering with people who love the church and have a passion for insuring, through their own generosity, that the church's faith and witness will continue for many years to come.”

Monica resides in Seattle, Washington with her son and their dog. Monica can be reached at [mgreenberg@ccf.disciples.org](mailto:mgreenberg@ccf.disciples.org).



### **Rev. Gary Young, preaching October 8**

Gary turned eighty this past summer. Some sixteen years ago, he retired as a Director of Spiritual Care for a rural hospital.

A storyteller at heart, he turned his creative juices to community theater and playwriting with plays being staged in Colorado, Alaska, and Oregon. In November, he turned his pen, aka keyboard, to poetry and has written around a hundred.

A three time cancer survivor his life mantra is: “Live as long as you can, as well as you can, not a moment less or, a moment more.” He lives in Hood River, Oregon with his spouse, Barbara, and dog, Lewie. In the growing season his yearly garden crop includes garlic (see picture), heirloom tomatoes and a one tree persimmon orchard.



### **Rev. Jenny Crosswhite, preaching October 29**

A native of Hood River, Rev. Jenny Crosswhite has served as pastor of First Christian Church of Santa Paula since February 2012. Jenny is the daughter of HRVCC members Laurie and Scott Crosswhite and was ordained at HRVCC in 2012. She is married to Dr. Daniel Sandoval and has two step kids, Pilar and Eric.

Rev. Jenny also has 27 years of graphic design experience. She holds a dual Bachelor of Arts degree in Graphic Design and Spanish from Western Oregon University and a Master of Divinity degree from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. In 2014 she was elected to the Santa Paula City Council and is currently serving in her third four-year term. She served as the Mayor of Santa Paula in 2016 and 2022. Over the past 9 years, she has also served on the following boards: Southern California Association of

Governments (2023-present), Ventura County Local Area Formation Commission (2023-present), Ventura Council of Governments (2018-Present), Ventura County Transportation Commission (2018-2020, 2023-present), Ventura Regional Sanitation District (2020-2023), and Community Action of Ventura County (2015-2019). She is fluent in English and Spanish.

### **Raiza Spratt, preaching November 12**

As part of the General Ministries of the Disciples of Christ in the United States and Canada, Raiza Spratt helps to equip congregations in collaborative partnerships to prepare and respond to disasters.

Disciples of Christ welcomes all to a life of service, hope and wholeness in a fragmented world and these are some of the guiding principles that Raiza uses when developing opportunities to serve for volunteers. Raiza is the Disaster Response Organizer for Week of Compassion where she witnesses transforming hope and shares the stories of what is possible when we do things together as a community. Because we, together, can transform suffering into hope.



**Pastor Alicia's sermon from July 23, 2023**  
**Scripture: Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24**

"You are enough." "You are enough." That is a statement that Dan Stults, camp counselor, director and friend said often to the youth at church camp. It was his mantra. It was his speech. It was what he stressed, voiced, included during every single keynote that he gave to the high school youth at church camp. And he fully and completely believed it and lived it. He wasn't just saying it to make a pretty point or to create that warm, fuzzy feeling inside.

No, he professed it because it was true. The youth were enough, just as they were, with all of their strengths, weaknesses and growing edges. With everything they brought. With everything they thought about themselves or had others tell them. They were enough, in that moment in time with their imperfections and challenges and beauty. They were enough. They were loved. They were seen as important. They were seen. God said they were enough. You are enough. You are loved. You are valued. You are welcomed. You are needed.

It was powerful to hear him say this to the youth and truly to the adults too. And it made an impact because he didn't just say it once or twice during camp keynotes. He said it all the time. Over and over and over again. He desired for the youth to get it, that they were enough. Coming from Dan I believe that they got it because he had a sincerity about him. He was compassionate. He was real. He had tattoos and piercings. He was faithful, so incredibly faithful. He was passionate. He was intense. He truly lived what he believed, especially when it came to the youth and to all of their individual personalities, similarities and differences. He just had a way about him. And he wanted the youth to have a way about them too. To find their own inner and outer strength. To claim who they were. To be the beloved children of God that they each were.

It's a little reminiscent of our psalm today, of the way the psalmist spoke of God knowing the psalmist and truly knowing all. "O Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away."

And on and on it goes with God knowing fully and truly the psalmist, about having that connection, about having that relationship. There is depth to it. There is a bond that goes beyond a surface level bond. There is meaning, presence and a movement that exists between God and humanity.

It is something to behold. And it goes even further with some of the verses that were omitted from today's lectionary. Verses 13-18 provide even more of that value and connection. Listen to them.

The psalmist was demonstrating how God was saying, "You are enough" to the psalmist and to all. The psalmist was making that clear with his words and images. "I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works. Intricately woven in the depths of the earth."

There was no shortage of the beauty contained within this psalm. No wondering the message that was being professed. No questioning of the relationship that was present. God was there. God was loving. God was devoted. God was compassionate. God was in it from the beginning until the end and everything in between. God was proclaiming the worthiness of all people.

This is an extremely important message and this is a difficult message to hear sometimes. We may not see ourselves as "fearfully and wonderfully made." We may not think we are enough. We may question our worthiness. We may doubt ourselves, our abilities, our qualities, our everything.

We may think other people are enough. Other people have what is needed. Other people deserve to be recognized, appreciated and given these accolades. Other people, not us, not little ol' me, not who I am and what I have to offer. Nope, that isn't enough. That isn't what God and psalmist were referring to in our psalm. That is not what we've got going on.

It's so easy to get caught up in this dialogue with ourselves. So easy. So detrimental too. And so what I bet every single one of us has done repeatedly throughout our lives. Sometimes we've probably been more down on ourselves than other times. We have given in to the negativity, the unhealthy conversations in our head, the criticalness. We have probably even said things to ourselves that we have never said to anyone else and that we wouldn't allow anyone to say about us either. That's how not encouraging and positive we are about who we are sometimes.

That's not good. Like really, that is not good. "For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb." God made us. God created us. Every aspect. Every beauty. Every flaw. Every strength. Every weakness. Every growing edge. It all adds up together to be us, who was formed by God, who is loved by God and who is amazing. Or as Dan said, is enough. We are enough. You are enough.

We forget that. We gloss over that. We think it doesn't pertain to us. To others? Yes, of course, sure, definitely. To us? Not so much or occasionally, every now and then, but surely not all the time. That would be too much. Too much? Nope, not in the least bit. You are enough all the time, through everything, in every single way, with every piece of you. You are enough.

We need to say this to ourselves, to look in a mirror and say these three simple words. And then to expand it from there and speak the words of this psalm. We need to say it until we believe it, until it resonates within, until we know it with every part of our being. Which means we need to say this on a daily basis because it will probably take our entire lifetime, if not beyond that, to 100% believe this statement and know this truth. You are enough.

The song for today voices exactly this sentiment and this reality. It is "Special" by Lizzo. Now, how many have heard of the musical artist Lizzo? I'm not in the least bit surprised. I can honestly predict that much of her music is not up most of your alleys. And again, that's okay because the message you will soon hear I have confidence in knowing that it will be up your alley.

Lizzo is not your stereotypical skinny, super thin female artist. She is a big girl as she terms herself. And she owns her big girlness in a powerful and beautiful way. Because of who she is she has gotten lots of backlash, critique and downright horrible, horrible comments about her body. What she continues to do is be herself and strongly encourage others to be themselves, to own their beauty, to know that size doesn't matter, everyone is to be loved and is loved. Her messages come across loud and clear. She has made a difference in the lives of people of all ages, all sizes, all ethnicities, all. She is putting it out there in proud and profound ways. She still may not be your thing and that's just fine. She is having a positive impact that is to be embraced. And we are going to listen to one of her songs.

Again remember the invitation to listen to the music, to read the lyrics and see what speaks to you, what moves you, what creates an impact for you. You are invited to be open to today's song, just as you have been invited to be open every week we have been listening to songs from different genres that are not in the hymnal. It's a journey with music to demonstrate the power and depth of music that we are not all familiar with.

Today's song is the clean version. And yes, it still contains the word damn in it. Just a little heads up. So see how this song and its lyrics connect to Psalm 139.



And it may take a moment to get it loaded as they change a few of the settings for those watching online, which if you are, you will only see the words, not hear the music. So don't try to adjust your settings or think something has gone wrong. The sound will come back after the song. You'll have to search up the song later to hear it.

(Listen to "Special" by Lizzo.)

"O Lord, you have searched me and known me. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. I am fearfully and wonderfully made."

Special.  
You are enough.

The hope is we will believe these words. The hope is we will claim them for ourselves. The hope is we will live in such a way that we know our worth, that we know God loves us, made us and truly and fully knows us, desiring to be in relationship with each and every single one of us just as we are.

This is the hope. And this is the reality. Because we are fearfully and wonderfully made. We are special. We are enough. We are. No ifs, ands or buts. This is the way it is. So embrace it. Embrace yourself. Embrace all of you. Really, embrace every single piece of you. It is all enough. It is. You are. You are enough.

# Church Calendar

## Wednesday July 26

9:00am-Noon Quilters meet  
9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop  
9:45am Women's trip to Troutlake Abbey

## Thursday July 27

7:00am Men's Study  
10:00am Coffee gathering at Thomases'

## Saturday July 29

9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop

## Sunday July 30

### 10:30am Worship at Frasier's home in Parkdale

11:30am Potluck lunch  
3:30pm Hope and Life church worship

## Monday-Wednesday July 31-August 2

Kathy Holmson out of the office.  
No newsletter Aug 2

## Tuesday August 1

10:00am Women's Bible study  
3:00pm TOPS group meets

## Wednesday August 2

9:00am-Noon Quilters meet  
9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop  
4:00pm Wine, Women & the Word,

## Thursday August 3

7:00am Men's Study

## Saturday August 5

9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop

## Sunday August 6

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

## Tuesday August 8

10:00am Women's Bible study  
3:00pm TOPS group

## Wednesday August 9

9:00am-Noon Quilters meet  
9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop

### Scriptures for Sunday July 30, 2023

Genesis 29:15-28  
Psalm 105: 1-11, 45b or Psalm 128  
Romans 8:26-39  
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

### SERVING Sunday July 30, 2023

Elder this Week Suze Nigl  
Communion Preparer Kathy Holmson

10:30am Outdoor worship at Frasier's home

### Scriptures for Sunday August 6, 2023

Genesis 32:22-31  
Psalm 17:1-7, 15  
Romans 9:1-5  
Matthew 14:13-21

### SERVING Sunday August 6, 2023

Elder this Week Rod Parrott/Thelma Warnock  
Communion Preparer Mary Finley  
Coffee Hour Jennifer Stager  
Deacons Serving Team #3

Betty Osborne, Linda Meyers  
Tatum Wyatt, Jackson Speidel