



Hood River Valley Christian Church Newsletter

541-386-2608 hrcchurch@gmail.com
www.hoodrivervalleychristianchurch.com

and on Face book

August 23, 2023

Sunday Worship Time

10:30am Worship

Interim Minister

Rev. Holly Greenidge 503 381-8027

hollygreenidge@gmail.com

Church Administrative Assistant

Kathy Holmson office hours as needed

hrcchurch@gmail.com

Website: www.hoodrivervalleychristianchurch.com

On Sunday, August 27, we welcome Rev. Ruth Fletcher to our pulpit.

Scripture: Isaiah 25:6-9

Sermon Title: Anticipate

Please wear your nametags.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

9:30am Adult Sunday school classes, nursery available

10:30am Sunday Worship

This Sunday will feature a light lunch after worship to enable participation in the hour long workshop with preacher Ruth Fletcher which will begin in the Vista Room about 1/2 hour after worship ends. The topic is "Listening Prayer". Ruth writes: "Jesus promised the Spirit would walk with us, teach us, guide us, and comfort us. But how can we understand the Spirit when it so often speaks in sign, symbol and metaphor? In this session we will explore how to still our own house through Listening Prayer so we can connect with the Spirit and hear what it is saying."

LINK:

Sunday Worship August 20 <https://www.facebook.com/100064940580441/videos/634552961987938>



Baked Goods Needed We can use some extra baked goods to have on hand in the freezer for coffee hours. Cookies, brownies, and quick breads are all good options. Thank you.

ALSO Thanks to the women who host our coffee hours every Sunday. You are appreciated!

About Church Giving

Online Giving To donate online to Hood River Valley Christian Church, go to <http://www.hoodrivervalleychristianchurch.com/donate/> and make a donation

Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement App

on your Smartphone or tablet. A onetime gift can be made or you can set up online giving on a regular basis. **USPS Mail** You can also give to Hood River Valley Christian Church by mailing a check to: HRVCC 975 Indian Creek Road, Hood River, OR 97031

In the Sanctuary For offerings and tithes, there is a deposit box at the entrance of the sanctuary, inside the double doors. Offerings may be dropped off at any time.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Layla, JJ & Rider Gaffney	Sharon & Gordon Cook	Lauree Winfield	Vicki White
Bev Thomas	Katy White	Stacey Jubitz	Bonnie McCollister
David Nash	Nancy Krieg	Suze Nigl's niece Trisha	

++Rider, JJ and Layla Gaffney recovering from injuries and trauma from a vehicle accident last month. Prayers of healing, strength and perseverance for the children, parents and grandparents.

++Chrystal Akin's friend Jared, 16 years old being treated for a recurrence of leukemia.

++The family of Bob Fawcett who died a couple of weeks ago. He was living in California closer to his family.

++People of Maui, Hawaii affected by devastating fires. Week of Compassion is responding.

Donations may be made at <https://www.weekofcompassion.org/give.html> designate "HAWAII Fires"

Thank You Church Members – Thank you to everyone for all the very thoughtful and kind cards! I enjoyed reading each one. Thank you. Stefanie Olson

Coming in September! Women's Ministries is having a "Getting to Know You" dessert party on Saturday, September 23, 2-3:30pm at the church. Thelma and her committee are planning the event. It will feature dessert and everyone is invited to bring their hobby. Special recognition of the ladies who do such admirable jobs for our church. They hope people will come via carpool (Thelma is coordinating rides). Mark your calendar!

Women's Bible Study is are gathering in the Vista Room on Tuesdays at 10:00am for coffee and visiting. Please join them! Bible study will resume on September 5, studying "Gratitude".

Turkey roaster available Bev Thomas has a big turkey roaster she would like to pass on. If you are interested, please contact Bev.

Looking to borrow a bread making machine for World Communion Sunday (October 1). Contact Mary Anne Parrott.



Having a meeting at the church? Please lock up when you leave. We keep the church doors locked unless we are having a worship service or a group meeting of some kind. When you are finished please lock the outer door after making sure lights are turned off and air conditioning/heat settings are adjusted. This is especially important during the week when the day care is in operation as we need to have some control over who is coming into the building while children are here.

Note from our interim minister...

It has been such a delight to be with you all these past two Sundays. You all did such a great job honoring your pastor and sending her off well for her sabbatical. You are rising to the occasion and loving one another well. It is inspiring to see you being the church to one another. I have enjoyed beginning to get to know you all, and I look forward to savoring the next couple months together.

This last Sunday, there was much for me to savor... such incredible music, wise leadership from Sharon, and several people working behind the scenes to make our worship together special. What an unexpected delight to have visitors from France with us, as well. You all did such a great job of making them feel at home while they were with us, just as you have shown such great hospitality to me.

It is a privilege to see the ways that God is working among you. May we all continue to be sensitive to God's leading as we continue to be the church together in this season of savoring!

Blessings, Holly

SABBATICAL NEWS

INTERIM MINISTER While Pastor Alicia is on sabbatical, Pastor Holly Greenidge will serve as interim minister. Holly 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.

Pastor Holly's contact information is phone 503 381-8027 email hollygreenidge@gmail.com

September 3 Hymn Sunday featuring congregational favorites. Betty Osborne and Mary Anne Parrott will lead a special hymn-singing worship service.



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.

If you have a need or concern while Pastor Alicia is away, please reach out to an elder, Kathy in the church office, or a member of the sabbatical committee (Mary Anne Parrott, Betty Osborne, Suze Nigl, Sharon Smiley and Wes Bailey).

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.



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.

LAST CHANCE

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.

LAST CHANCE TO ORDER

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.

Pastor Holly's Sermon August 20, 2023 Scripture
Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24

To Be Known

What do you think it *means* to be *known*? I can tell you what it **doesn't** mean. The first thought that pops into my mind is that song about Santa Claus...

"He knows when you are sleeping, he knows when you're awake. He knows when you've been bad or good, so be good for goodness sake." That's not what we're talking about here.

God is not like Santa Claus. This is not a "You better watch out" situation. God's not keeping score on all the good and bad things you do, deciding whether to give you a new bike or a lump of coal. God's not keeping score on all the good and bad things you do, deciding whether to love you or reject you. The truth is, God is not going to reject you. With God, you are truly, deeply, fundamentally loved.

So, if it's not that, then what *does* it mean to be known? Okay, this is another song from my childhood - a very different one. When I was in elementary school, I used to walk around the house singing, "If you don't know me by now, you will never never never know me." Do you remember that one?

It was a catchy tune, but also, I think there's something about being known that is so core and fundamental to who we are that we feel it from the time we are children. It's so important that at least one songwriter can't imagine staying in a relationship where he doesn't feel known.

As I think about being known, I'm thinking about the people who are close enough to me that they know that I'm not that functional in the morning until I've had coffee. The ones who know that when you eat at my house, my husband will be doing the cooking. And that you should be glad about that. The ones who know that my biggest pet peeve is the sound of someone crunching ice. My whole body tenses up.

Have you ever had friends who have known you for a long time tell you something about yourself that you hadn't realized? I have. Here's a few things I've learned about myself from people who know me well. They've told me...

"You're loyal."

"You have a LOT of thoughts."

"You're very frank."

"You were quite loud the first couple years of college."

"You're kind of a klutz."

"You really like the book of Psalms."

Having someone know you like that *can* feel really scary. Have you ever had the thought, "If they really knew **me**... they wouldn't like me anymore." There is risk to letting people really know us. Humans can't always love you unconditionally. However, God **does** love you unconditionally. In relationship with one another, sometimes we catch glimpses of that God-sized love with skin on.

Even though it's scary, there is something **so beautiful** about being known. When someone really knows you, they help you to know yourself better. They help you to know how you're unique and gifted, as well as where your growth edges are. They help you to know what you do that's hurtful to other people without even realizing it.

Their love means more because it feels more real - because they know the real you and they still love you.

That's the kind of love that's being described in this Psalm. The kind of love that nothing you can do is going to cause God to reject you. Nowhere you can go will cause God to abandon you. No thought you can think or feeling you can have is going to chase God away.

As I've been reflecting on this Psalm this week, I've decided to pray it in my own words:

*O Lord, you have already searched me and you already know me.
You know when I'm sitting, when I get up... You already know what I'm thinking.
You know the journey I'm going through. You know me when I'm lying down for bed at night.
You know all of my quirky ways, my annoying habits, and every unique thing that I bring to the table.
Before I say a single word, you already know every word I'm going to say.
You encircle me and envelope me with your love and your goodness. You are close enough to touch,
and you give me gentle nudges along my journey.
I can't even fully absorb this. It's too wonderful and amazing.
Even if I could fly higher than any bird or airplane or space shuttle, I couldn't find a place where you
would be far away from me. You'd be there with me in space. If I dug a hole deeper than the Grand
Canyon, you would still be present with me. I could fly in any direction, east, west, north, south.... You
will always be right there.
I could be in a place that was so dark there weren't even any stars. You would still see me as clear as
day. You're the one who made the light! You don't need light to see me. You can see into the very
depths of who I am, and you're still not going anywhere.
Thank you, God.*

There was a Samaritan woman that Jesus met by a well. You probably remember this story: Jesus sees her and knows her so deeply that he is able to tell her things about her life that he would have no earthly way of knowing. Things that bring her shame within her community.

Being known in this way by Jesus has such a profound impact on her that she immediately goes to the people in her community to share about this incredible Jesus. She shares with the very people who have likely shamed her in the past. But this is too good not to share. Too *important* not to share.

And when people hear about it, they have to come and meet this Jesus for themselves.

Hear this beautiful prayer from verses 23 and 24:

"Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts.
See if there is any wicked (or hurtful) way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

Even though we know that God already has searched us and that God already knows us, it still takes bravery to pray this prayer. That is because we have to trust in that solid foundation of being loved and accepted by God just as we are.

A lot of us know this - in our heads - really well. We grew up reading the Bible verses and singing the songs. But it's different to really know it - in our hearts. It's an ongoing lesson. This is so much of the journey of discipleship. We don't grow in order to receive love. We grow in the context of already being loved.

So then, we can pray like this:

God, I know in the marrow of my bones that you love me deeply. You know everything I think, feel, and do, and you still want to be close to me. Train me, God. Teach me. Help me grow and learn. Show me the ways that I can be hurtful to others. Show me the ways that my inaction contributes to hurting people that matter to you, oh God.

You see, God knows the intentions of our hearts. But that doesn't always match the impact we have on other people. Sometimes they're the same. Sometimes our intentions are worse. Then we pray, God work in my heart and help me to love people. Sometimes we have the best of intentions, and people still get hurt. And we need God's help to show us the hurtful ways and help our actions match what's in our hearts.

Having your hurtful ways pointed out to you can be painful. But we have to stay with that foundation of being loved unconditionally by God. Especially when God shows us something that is in our hearts that is painful to look at.

I'm thinking of the rich young ruler that came to Jesus seeking guidance. "I keep the commandments. What else do you want me to do?" And Jesus, who KNEW what was in this man's heart, shared with so much love for him, "Sell your belongings, give to the poor, and come and follow me." And the man was grieved. And Jesus had so much compassion for him. Because this man had a LOT to give up.

This was not going to be a small sacrifice. He would lose the wealth that he had built up. Jesus brings good news to the poor and to those in need – to anyone who is on the margins. But it's not always good news for those of us who have a lot. Whether it's time, talent, or treasure. Sometimes, God shows us what's in our hearts, and we grieve. And Jesus sees and knows and cares and loves.

And after this man walks away, Jesus tells his friends... this kingdom of God stuff is so hard for rich people. I mean, none of us can do this without God's help. But some people have to humble themselves so much. The Kingdom of God asks of us to be humble and vulnerable and filled with wonder like a child. When life is already excruciating, you don't have far to go to be humble.

Have you been in that place? Where you don't have to *remember* to pray, 'cause you're like, "God help me get through this day, help me get through this next hour."

Then there are seasons when life is a little easier. And maybe we have more to lose. And that journey humility and vulnerability and wonder is a hard journey to choose, but that IS the journey Jesus invites us on. With all the love and grace there is.

So we don't pray this lightly. But we do pray this:

God search me. Know me. Show me the hurtful ways in me. Guide me along this journey.

Then, when it's hard, and we wonder if we are really loved, we go back to that first part. We remember that God knows us intimately and still wants to be near us. In both of these, we don't do this alone. We do this in community because that is God designed us. We are not meant to do this alone.

Christianity is not a solitary sport. When we're all together, we form the body of Christ and we experience Christ in a unique and essential way. Often, it's in relationship with others that God shows us the hurtful ways in us. And it's others who can remind us and show us that we are, indeed, loved by the God of the universe.

It's messy and it's beautiful. Personally, I have a strong internal resistance to the messy part. Do you? My default preference would be that I want to learn and grow in private. If I'm getting something wrong, I want to go home and fix it before anyone notices, and hope they forget how I used to be!

However, if others only ever see the finished product, then I won't be truly known by my faith community. God works in the midst of the messiness. If we don't invite others to know us, then there are ways that we miss out on really knowing ourselves.

God, help us to know how deeply you love us. Search us. Know us. Show us our hurtful ways. Lead us and guide us. Help us to receive that guidance with grace, knowing that You love us unconditionally. Amen.

LIFE LINE SCREENING

August 29, 9:00am-4:00pm at Hood River Valley Christian Church

Life Line Screening, the nation's leading provider of preventive health screenings, will offer affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings at Hood River Valley Christian Church on Tuesday, August 29, 2023.

A package of four screenings to identify risk for stroke, heart disease and other chronic conditions will be offered:

Carotid Artery Screening (Plaque)

An ultrasound is performed to screen the carotid arteries (a pair of blood vessels in the neck that deliver blood to your brain) for buildup of fatty plaque. This buildup, called atherosclerosis, is one of the leading causes of stroke.

Peripheral Arterial Disease Screening

An Ankle-Brachial Index (ABI) test is performed using blood pressure cuffs on the arms and legs. It is important to screen for PAD because it increases the risk of coronary artery disease, heart attack, or stroke.¹

Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA)

An ultrasound is performed to screen the abdominal aorta for the presence of an enlargement or aneurysm. AAA can lead to a ruptured aortic artery, which is a serious medical emergency.

Atrial Fibrillation

A 6-lead electrocardiogram (EKG) is performed by placing sensors on the arms and legs to screen for Atrial Fibrillation. AFib can lead to blood clots, stroke, and heart failure, and other heart-related complications.²

These 4 vital screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete.

Register by calling toll free 1-844-591-7160, text the word "circle" to 216-279-1607 or online at <https://lisa.social/HC>



Collecting for FISH Food Bank September 3

Our local food bank needs our donations—non perishable food, hygiene supplies and monetary donations. HRVCC collects for FISH the first Sunday of each month.

Currently, FISH needs the following items:

Cooking oil	Jelly or jam	Sugar	Salt	Condiments
Oatmeal (quick, old fashioned or instant)		Cereal	Rice	
Chili (canned)				
Gluten free items				

Clients also really appreciate any personal care items (soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant etc.) and pet food.

Church Calendar

Wednesday August 23

9:00am-Noon Quilters meet

9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop

Thursday August 24

7:00am Men's Study

1:30pm Chime Choir practice

Saturday August 26

9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop

Sunday August 27

9:30am Adult Sunday School

10:30am Worship

3:30pm Hope and Life church worship

Tuesday August 29

8:30am-4:00pm Life Line Screening

10:00am Women's gathering and coffee time

3:00pm TOPS group meets

Wednesday August 30

9:00am-Noon Quilters meet

9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop

Thursday August 31

7:00am Men's Study

1:30pm Chime Choir practice

Saturday September 2

9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop

Sunday September 3 Hymn Sunday

Collecting for FISH Food Bank

9:30am Adult Sunday School

10:30am Worship

3:30pm Hope and Life church worship

Monday September 4 Labor Day

Church office closed

Tuesday September 5

10:00am Women's Bible Study

3:00pm TOPS group

Wednesday September 6

9:00am-Noon Quilters meet

9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop

Scriptures for Sunday August 27, 2023

Genesis 45:1-15

Psalms 133

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28

SERVING Sunday August 27, 2023

Elder this Week

Jennifer Stager

Communion prep

Joanie Logan

Coffee Hour

Carol & Friends

Deacons

Serving Team #3

Betty Osborne, Linda Meyers

Tatum Wyatt

Scriptures for Sunday September 3, 2023

Exodus 3:1-15

Psalms 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b

Romans 12:9-21

Matthew 16:21-28

SERVING Sunday September 3, 2023

Elder this Week

Suze Nigl

Communion prep

Barbara Ritoch

Coffee Hour

Jennifer Stager & friends

Deacons

Serving Team #1

Woody & Sue Eskildsen