



Hood River Valley Christian Church Newsletter

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

and on Face book

November 30, 2022

Sunday Worship Time

10:30am Worship

Minister

Rev. Alicia Speidel 541 601-1949
aliciaspeidel@gmail.com

Church Administrative Assistant

Kathy Holmson office hours as needed
hrcchurch@gmail.com

Website: www.hoodrivervalleychristianchurch.com



Advent Devotionals are available in the lobby at church.

Christmas Concert

Mid Columbia Community Choir

Saturday, December 3, at 7:00pm
at Hood River Valley Christian Church

Please bring a donation for the food bank

Advent Study What Are You Waiting For?

A special four-session Advent study will replace the Sunday morning lectionary study beginning Sunday, November 27. Rod Parrott will lead participants in an wide-ranging investigation of the developing expectations of Israel between the Babylonian captivity and the time of Jesus. Sessions will meet in the Vista Room from 9:30 to 10:15. Bring your questions and curiosity.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

9:30am What Are You Waiting For? Advent Study Meets in Vista Room

9:45am New Book Study group This class meets in the Fireside room downstairs.

Nursery Room is available for young children 0-4 years.

10:30am Sunday Worship with Children Worship & Wonder Sunday school class for children age 4-grade 3, downstairs.

Link for Worship

Sunday Nov 27 <https://www.facebook.com/100064940580441/videos/1210021373284488>

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



WEATHER RELATED CANCELLATIONS A reminder: If weather conditions are stormy, some meetings and Thriftshop may cancel. In general, if local schools have cancellations, church activities may also cancel. Call your group leader before you venture out.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Katy White
Layla Gaffney
Vicki White
Stacey Jubitz
Judy Kenyon

Jennifer Burbank Roch
Sharon Cook
Courtney Erickson
Mary Patterson
Brandon Walpole

Kathy Meredith
Nola Hardman
Ron & Shar Wilkins
Lee Repp

Bonnie McCollister
Lauree Winfield
Jinx Woods
Sue Mitchell

Judy Judd asks for prayers for her son, Dale Paulin, who is undergoing DBS (deep brain stimulation) surgery on 12/1/2022.

Thank you to the Advent decorating crew: the Speidel family, Mary Anne Parrott, Kathy Holmson, and Betty Osborne.

Church Website Update The church's website has been undergoing a major revamp. Thank you to Justin Crosswhite for making it happen! Please check it out at hoodrivervalleychristianchurch.org. You'll notice at the moment it is .org instead of .com. Please pass that information on until it gets updated.



The Pastor's COLUMN

With this cold weather, the warming shelter has a few urgent needs. Donations of hand warmer packets, men's large and XL gloves, sleeping bags and blankets are greatly needed. Please bring items to the church to be distributed. In addition, Pastor Alicia is going to Costco on Friday when she will purchase boxes of hand warmers. If you would like to contribute for more to be purchased, please let her know.

And so Advent has begun. The first candle symbolizing hope was lit this past Sunday. Soon to follow will be peace, joy, love and finally the Christ candle. We are off and running. Except we are not to be running through the season of Advent. Yes, it often feels like we do as the days pass by, the evenings draw longer and the calendar fills up. However, that is not the goal or to be the plan. We are to walk through Advent. Walk at a slow pace paying attention to the sights, sounds and smells around us. Walk with intention and focus. Walk calling to mind the journey each individual in the Christmas story took to get to the manger, to greet the Christ child.

It really is a walk through Advent. Now granted society around us makes us think otherwise. There is all of this hustle and bustle as the songs go and as we hear people say. Rushing around to get everything done. Making so many to do lists that the time spent to just be gets overlooked. Trying to be in too many places at once or doing too many things at once. It really is unfortunate and not beneficial to anyone when this is the route taken.

So, this Advent season challenge yourself to rest, to slow down, to look around, to inhale and exhale with a focus that really does slow your heart beat and deepen your breathing. It will make a difference. It will filter into everything you do and everything you are. It will allow the space to cherish what this season brings. Because I think we all need that in our lives and in our world, more of that hope, peace, joy and love. More of what makes it all happen. And so Advent has begun.

Alicia

Women's Annual Christmas Dinner A Christmas dinner for women of the church will be at Stonehedge Restaurant on Wednesday, December 14 at 5:00 p.m. Cost is \$20 (Women's Ministries will pay the Stonehedge cost above this amount). Reservation deadline is Sunday, Dec 4.

Those attending are asked to bring an unwrapped pair of socks or gloves (for either a man or woman) for warming shelter residents. A representative of Women's Ministries will be in the narthex before and after worship to take reservations.

Pastor Alicia's sermon from November 27, 2022
Scripture: Isaiah 2:1-5 & Matthew 24:36-44

How do we pay hope, peace, joy and love forward and then how do we pay Christ forward? How do we currently do these things? How will we do them in the future? How is this the challenge? And how does the past and present impact the future? How does looking back direct us forward? How are they interconnected? Are they?

These various questions arose a couple months ago during the worship committee meeting to brainstorm and plan the season of Advent, the beginning of the church year.

Which this is the beginning of the church year. Advent is when it all starts, when the foretelling of a baby to be born occurs and when it concludes with the celebration of the birth of the Christ child. Advent is setting the stage for all that comes next, for the journey, for the stories, for the lessons, for all of the ins and outs that take us on this road with Jesus and the ministry that continued after him.

Advent is where it all began and where it all begins. That's why we make a big deal about it, why there are so many symbols and explanations and why it happens over a period of four weeks. It's an entire season. There is a lot to cover in those four weeks. It's a time to be intentional, to slow down and really walk the path before us. We have to take in what's happening around us, pay attention to the lives of those involved and see what impacts us in new and different ways. It really is about going from one point to the next, not skipping points or thinking they don't matter. Because all of the pieces of Advent help in what comes next.

It's kind of like those questions that the worship committee asked. The looking back and the looking forward. They are very much connected and they very much pertain to this season. The looking back does impact the looking forward.

As Mary Anne referenced at the worship committee meeting, there is a saying pertinent to this mentality. "What's past is prologue." This is a quotation by William Shakespeare from his play *The Tempest*. As it explains on Wikipedia, "The phrase was originally used in *The Tempest*, Act 2, Scene 1."

"Antonio uses it to suggest that all that has happened before that time, the 'past,' has led Sebastian and himself to this opportunity to do what they are about to do: commit murder. In the context of the preceding and next lines, '(And by that destiny) to perform an act, Whereof what's past is prologue; what to come, In yours and my discharge,' Antonio is in essence rationalising to Sebastian and the audience that he and Sebastian are fated to act by all that has led up to that moment, the past has set the stage for their next act, as a prologue does in a play. It can also be taken to mean that everything up until now has merely set the stage for Antonio and Sebastian to make their own destinies."

And as it also states, "In contemporary use, the phrase [What's past is prologue] stands for the idea that history sets the context for the present. The quotation is engraved on the National Archives Building in Washington, DC, and is commonly used by the military when discussing the similarities between war throughout history."

The looking back does direct the looking forward. Or as our theme for Advent this year expresses, "Pay it forward." Pay it forward with hope. Pay it forward with peace. Pay it forward with joy. Pay it forward with love. Pay it forward with Christ. Pay it forward.

In order to do that we have to go to the past. We have to hone in on what led us to this moment. We have to use all of that history to guide what decisions we make on how to live this out, how to pay these different ways of being forward.

That is the reason for including the Isaiah passage from the Old Testament today and in the next few weeks of Advent. It helps us to see what we need to see. It brings in that piece of history. It is the looking back. To inform the future. To inform what is possible. To learn from and grow from and wrap into all that makes us who we are and who we hope to become. To help us as we pay it forward with hope.

What's interesting about the Isaiah passage is how it speaks to that looking forward, to what is possible. It is a guide for what comes next.

"For out of Zion shall go forth instruction; and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."

Isaiah was prophesying about hope. Hope for something different. Hope for a new way. Hope for the Lord's house to be established and then to lead to all of this change. Positive change that would have lasting impacts.

This hope was seen as the opening verse proclaimed, "The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem." It wasn't the word that was heard or written down or spoken. It was seen. A vision before Isaiah's eyes. A reality as a result of the Lord's house being all that it would be. A sight of what was to come.

This sight, the word that Isaiah saw is pretty powerful. It is beyond imaginable. It is far from anything Isaiah ever saw and experienced and far from anything we have ever seen and experienced. It is a hope that holds within it all that God has ever wanted and desired and truly what humanity has ever wanted and desired. An end to the destruction and devastation. A movement away from the pain and hurt. A transformation from what has seemed to always be known. A hope for something different. Something uplifting. Something welcoming, affirming, loving, caring, unifying. Something that would be far greater than what we know and what Isaiah knew.

"O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!" Yes indeed. Yes, for this to be the way. Yes, to pay it forward with this as the guide. Yes, for this to be the hope we live into. Because this is the hope we need. This is the vision we yearn for. This is the path we want to see opened before us.

All by walking in the light of the Lord. By doing what we are able to to bring about that light, to invoke that hope, to live the messages that have been passed down and taught for centuries and centuries because of the birth of that little baby boy.

We are being invited to engage in this way. To take this invitation seriously and to do something about it. To really do something about it. Not to complain about it or point out how others aren't doing it or to let insignificant things be what fester. No, to actually be light and be hope.

And to be ready as our passage from Matthew highlights. To be ready, meaning to be living as God's people, doing what we are called to do on a regular basis, instilling in the lives of others what has been instilled in us by God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. To be ready. Not to constantly be on edge wondering and panicking or ridiculing others. No, to look back and to look forward and to act, to

pay it forward. To speak of hope. To live hope. To manifest hope. In small and large ways. In known and unknown ways. In ways imagined and not yet imagined.

How? Because often hope seems unattainable or hard to demonstrate in concrete ways. It's this idea that's out there that's hard to formulate and put words around, let alone actions.

And yet, hope is alive and well in our world. It's when someone stands up for someone else who is being harassed, judged, discriminated against, hurt, killed for simply being who they are. It's when a teenager helps a young child feel special by playing with them, helping them with their homework or listening to their story. It's when communities come together to ensure the unhoused are valued and seen as human beings because they are human beings and they are to be valued. It's smiling at a neighbor who lives alone and is fearful to go out in public. It's finding patience when someone in front of you is struggling to make a decision or move in the way society expects them to.

Hope happens in many different ways. Our responsibility is living into those ways, seeing the opportunity to engage in them and knowing that is the invitation we are to accept and embrace. It really is about pay it forward. Pay it forward with hope. Make it part of your focus this Advent season. Make it part of your reality.

And truly beyond the Advent season. Because these passages from Isaiah and Matthew are not for just today, the first Sunday of Advent. They are examples of how to be all throughout our lives. They are lessons to learn and to teach. They are the path we are to walk. To "walk in the light of the Lord," reciting again from Isaiah. To move in this profound way that will move mountains, that will shift all that we know. That is hope. Hope like none other. Hope that comes from God and is God. Hope that we are to make happen. Hope.



PLEASE EMAIL FOR MORE INFO AND FOR DROP OFF INSTRUCTIONS

Hood River Shelter Services Warming Shelter Donation Needs

- Warm sturdy boots/shoes
- Warm blankets
- Sleeping bags
- Warm, waterproof gloves
- Long underwear
- Snow/waterproof pants
- Individually packaged breakfast and granola bars
- Hand-warmer packets (charcoal-activated)
- Individual Kleenex packets
- Toothbrushes/Toothpaste
- Cup of Noodle Soup

Blankets, sleeping bags and clothing items can be new or used, in good condition and delivered clean.



<https://hoodrivercares.org/donate>
hrrssdonations@gmail.com

**2023 Slate of
Church Officers, Elders, Deacons, Trustees
To be voted at Congregational Meeting on December 4, 2022**

Terms are for 2 years

Chair of the Board
Vice Chair
Secretary
Treasurer

Term ends 2023

Woody Eskildsen
Jennifer Stager
Suze Nigl
Carla Bailey

Terms are for 2 years

ELDERS

Term ends 2023

Wes Bailey
Chrystal Akin
Sharon Smiley

Term ends 2024

Suze Nigl
Thelma Warnock
Gerald Sawyer
Rod Parrott

Terms are for 2 years

DIACONATE SERVERS

Term ends 2023

Owen Waits
Ayden Phelps
Tatum Wyatt
Kailey Speidel
Jackson Speidel
Woody Eskildsen
Sue Eskildsen
David Nash

Term ends 2024

Betty Osborne
Linda Meyers
Rylee Akin

Terms are for 2 years

COMMUNION PREPARERS

Term ends 2023

Barb Ritoch
Leslie Hidle
Kathy Holmson
Joanie Logan

Term ends 2024

Kailey Speidel
Mary Finley

Terms are for 3 years

TRUSTEES

Term ends 2023

Wes Bailey

Term ends 2024

Chair Gary Hidle
Judy Hiatt

Term ends 2025

Woody Eskildsen
Betty Osborne

HOW TO VOTE:

**Annual
congregational
meeting is
December 4, 2022**

voting may be done
in 3 ways

- 1) By email
- 2) By mail
- 3) In person
December 4, 2022

HRVCC 2023 BUDGET

<u>Projected Income</u>	<u>2022 Budget</u>	<u>2023 Budget</u>
	205,200	205,200
<u>Expense</u>		
Administration	7,250	9,200
Christian Education	1,100	400
Membership	750	750
Personnel	139,058	145,961.05
Property & Grounds	27,821	22,507.20
Stewardship & Finance	200	200
Worship	1,100	1,350
Total Expenses	177,279	180,368.25
Projected Outreach 10% of Giving	21,000	21,000

A detailed copy of the proposed 2023 budget is available.



AT HOOD RIVER VALLEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Saturday November 26 9-11:00am Deck the Halls decorating the church

HANGING OF THE GREENS



Sunday November 27 FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT - Hope

9:30am Sunday School

10:30am Worship Hanging of the Greens

Saturday December 3 7:00pm Community Choir Concert at HRVCC

Sunday December 4 SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT - Peace

9:30am Sunday School

10:30am Worship

11:30am Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday December 11 THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT - Joy

9:30am Sunday School

10:30am Worship

Wednesday December 14

5:00pm Women's Christmas gathering & dinner at Stonehedge

Sunday December 18 FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT - Love

9:30am Sunday School

10:30am Children and Youth Christmas Play

11:45am Christmas Fellowship Dinner

Wednesday December 21 LONGEST NIGHT at Down Manor

6:00pm Worship with silence, prayers and candle lighting

Saturday December 24 CHRISTMAS EVE For all ages

7:30pm Worship with candlelight, carols, communion, & choir

Sunday December 25 CHRISTMAS DAY wear pajamas or comfortable clothes

10:30am Worship

Sunday January 1, 2023 NEW YEARS DAY

10:30am Worship

Sunday January 8 Epiphany Sunday

10:30am Worship & undecorating the church

Church Calendar

Wednesday November 30

9:00am-Noon Quilters meet

9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop

Thursday December 1

7:00am Men's Study

1:30pm Chime Choir, fellowship hall

2:30-4:30pm Xmas Project, fellowship hall

Saturday December 3

9:00am-noon Thriftshop open

7:00pm Mid Columbia Community Christmas Concert here

Sunday December 4 Second Sunday in Advent

9:30am Advent Study, vista room

9:45am Sunday Adult book study

10:30am Worship, with Children Worship & Wonder

11:30am Congregational Meeting voting on 2023 Church Officers & Budget

3:30pm Hope and Life church worship

Tuesday December 6

10:00am Women's Bible Study

3:00pm TOPS Group

6:30pm HR Christmas Project, vista room

Wednesday December 7

9:00am-Noon Quilters meet

9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop

Thursday December 8

7:00am Men's Study

1:30pm Chime Choir, fellowship hall

2:30-4:30pm Christmas Project, fellowship hall

Saturday December 10

9:00am-noon Thriftshop open

10:00am Chari Harrington Strings recital sanctuary, fellowship hall

Sunday December 11 Third Sunday in Advent

9:30am Advent Study, vista room

9:45am Sunday Adult book study

10:30am Worship, with Children Worship & Wonder

3:30pm Hope and Life church worship

Tuesday December 13

10:00am Women's Bible Study

3:00pm TOPS Group

6:30pm HR Christmas Project, vista room

Wednesday December 14

9:00am-Noon Quilters meet

9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop

5:00pm Women's Christmas dinner at Stonehedge

Scriptures for Sunday December 4, 2022

Isaiah 11:1-10

Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19

Romans 15:4-13

Matthew 3:1-12

SERVING Sunday December 4, 2022

Elder this Week

Carol Sabins

Communion Preparer

Joanie Logan

Coffee Hour

Barbara Ritoch & friends

Deacons

Serving Team #2

Kailey & Jackson Speidel

Sue & Woody Eskildsen

Rylee Akin