



Hood River Valley Christian Church Newsletter

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

and on Face book

January 8, 2025

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

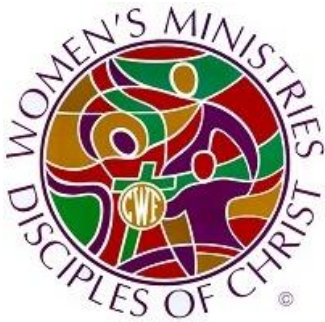
hrcchurch@gmail.com

Website: www.hoodrivervalleychristianchurch.com

Women's Ministries News

A calendar of activities is available on the table outside Alicia's office door. To be found there also are the first two activities:

- **Word search puzzles** on the topic of Disciples' global missions.
- **Greeting Cards** The upcoming event is Monday, January 13: making greeting cards for shut-ins with Laurie Crosswhite's ideas and guidance—10:00 am in the Vista Room. Afterward, these will be available with Forever stamps for anyone to pick up and send. There will be a sign up sheet at the entryway table if you want a list of shut-ins with their addresses.



Sunday Worship

9:30am Adult Sunday School

10:30am Worship

LINKS:

Sunday Worship Dec 22 <https://www.facebook.com/100064940580441/videos/1329686081356020>

Christmas Eve Dec 24 <https://www.facebook.com/100064940580441/videos/926542172586830>

Sunday Worship Dec 29 <https://www.facebook.com/100064940580441/videos/573085045489430>

Sunday Worship Jan 5 <https://www.facebook.com/100064940580441/videos/152291411705225>



WEATHER RELATED CANCELLATIONS

A reminder: Church meetings or Thriftshop days may be cancelled if winter weather causes hazardous driving conditions. In general, if local schools have cancellations, church activities may also cancel. Cancellations may also be shared on KIHG Gorge Radio. Call your group leader before you venture out.

Good News, Recyclers!

HRVCC now has a source for sending a type of plastic that is not accepted by either community recycling or the Gorge Sustainability Project. The material is what seems like plastic film but is not. In general, you can poke plastic film and make an observable dent, but what is more like cellophane is different.

Beginning immediately at Second Sunday Recycling, we can accept this latter type and send it to a different recycling company, Ridwell. A display will be in the fellowship hall for the next couple of weeks with examples of the plastic film we have been collecting and the new, stiffer type for Ridwell. If you have questions, ask Mary Anne.

Second Sunday Recycling is January 12

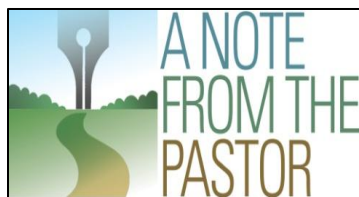


What to bring: #2, #4, #6
Plastic caps with a number
Plastic caps without a number (separated)
Plastic straws & liquid pumps
Foam trays containers, blocks, coolers
Misc small electronics, laptops, cell phones, wires, Christmas lights.
And a small donation to help cover the cost. Thank you

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Layla, JJ & Rider	Sharon & Gordon Cook	Vicki White	Martha Hathaway
Stacey Jubitz	Doris Lewis	Tedra Turner	Alicia Speidel
Glenn & Donnamae Grannemann		Margaret Marshall	
David Nash and family, grieving the death of his daughter Joni Capps			

Thank you so much for the lovely poinsettia. It is a perfect size for us to display. We still have the 2023 one as well, but the leaves are green! Blessings on all of you as you continue your ministry of reaching out to the church and community. Donnamae & Glenn Grannemann



Happy 2025! A new year, new ways of being, new insights, new possibilities. I'm very thankful for this new year as my body is mostly healed, my energy is back and I've returned to my normal schedule. It's great to be back at it.

Thank you to all of you for the amazing support, understanding, patience and prayers during this journey. Thank you for the grace to focus on me and do what was needed to make it through the Advent season. Thank you for your encouraging words and asking how I was doing. It all meant so much to me and continues to mean so much.

I look forward to this year and to our journey together. I look forward to what will grow and change. I look forward to challenging one another and deepening our faith. I look forward to continuing to support and love one another. Happy 2025!

Pastor Alicia's CaringBridge link:

https://www.caringbridge.org/site/8ab75554-48b5-11ef-8f3d-f317ddd1b8ef?utm_source=share&utm_medium=web&utm_content=copylink_leftmenu_php

A few more photos from Advent



Children & Youth Christmas Play



**4th Sunday in Advent lighting the candle of Love
Mary Finley, Stefanie, Nathan & Hailey Olson**



Pastor Alicia leads Christmas Eve Service



How We Support Our Local Food Bank

Hood River Valley Christian Church has been a dedicated partner to FISH Food Bank for decades and as we move into a new year, we continue that support:

- Collecting non-perishable food and monetary gifts for FISH to fight hunger in our community.
- Volunteering at FISH one week every three months--Hood River Valley Christian Church's volunteers next serve at FISH Food Bank distribution days **January 6, 8, 10**.
- HRVCC member **Leslie Hidle** has served on the FISH Executive Board for many years, following a long line of HRVCC members who have served at FISH over the last 50 years.

FISH Food Bank January 2025 FISH Newsletter

It is time to close the books for the year 2024. The trends we observed at FISH in 2023 continued through 2024. The price of food continued to rise along with the high price of housing, which resulted in a continued increase in the number of individuals and families who have come to the FISH Food Bank for food assistance. If you have worked during the FISH distribution, you know that it is not unusual to have 40 or more families coming to the one distribution at the food banks in Hood River or Cascade Locks.

To help accommodate the increase in numbers in 2024 FISH returned to the policy of families coming only once a month for the full allotment of food. It is important to remember that no family should go without food, so families can receive a Supplemental Bag during month if they need food.

Even with the "Once a Month Policy", FISH Food Bank served a record number of clients. In 2024, FISH served about 6230 different individuals from 2365 different families. According to the Link2Feed reports, 25% of the individuals FISH served were children 0 to 17 years old, 57% of the individuals were from 18 to 64 years old, and 13% were 65 years or older. Also, about 50% of the clients served were white, 41% Hispanic and 3% Native American.

While the number of clients increased during the year, the number of FISH volunteers also remained strong. During the year 2024, about 480 different volunteers helped at the FISH Food Banks. About 435 helped at the Hood River site, plus an additional 33 in Cascade Locks and 12 at the Parkdale site. In total the FISH volunteers gave over 14, 200 hours to help Mid-Columbia families that need food assistance.

It would not be possible to help families and individuals who are food insecure without all the wonderful help and support of the volunteers and our community. A good example of how it all works together happened the third week in December. Several large food drives came in; one from Mt. Hood Meadows "Provide to Ride", several from Hood River County Schools, and the Dance Academy. Then there was the leftover food from the Hood River Christmas project and the last of the food from Rosauers Hunger Bags. Just from these food drives, we received over 19,500 pounds of canned food that needed to be dated and sorted into categories. FISH volunteers plus volunteers from the two businesses "Thread Creative" and "TCC Verizon" jumped in and was able to process all 19,500 in no time. When we closed the doors on December 23 everything was organized and put away. It was amazing watching everyone work as a team to make this happen. A big thank you to our Mid-Columbia area and all the FISH volunteers.

May all your dreams and hopes come true in 2025.

Billie Stevens
FISH Food Bank, 541-490-5109

Looking Forward to 2025

Civil Rights/ Confidentiality Training Required for Volunteers

Each year FISH Volunteers are required to review the Civil Rights/Confidentiality Training statements. Once this information is reviewed, volunteers are to sign a sheet that they have reviewed the information.

This review can be done in two different ways.

1. Volunteers can simply read the Civil Rights brochure found at the food banks. It is a simple 2-page sheet.
2. If a volunteer would rather look at a Civil Rights video, go to the Hood River FISH website at <https://www.fish-food-bank.com>, once at the website, go to **Current Volunteers**, then click on **Civil Rights Training**. This is a good video which takes about 20 minutes to watch. Once you have watched the video you can sign the form at FISH

It is important that our volunteers who work with the clients treat everyone with respect and dignity. We cannot discriminate on the Protected Classes.

The goal is to have all volunteers complete this training by the end of March. This is an important requirement as it is part of the Oregon Food Bank review each year. OFB does ask to see our forms that the volunteers sign. So please help make this happen.

Help Needed at FISH

Friday Car Greeter needed Would you like to find a new way to help at FISH? Hood River FISH is looking for a Car Greeter:

When: Friday afternoons from 2:45 to 5:00 PM

Duties: Work outside and greet the cars as they come in and give each car and client a car number. Then working with the registration desk, bring the clients into the food bank to shop.

Requirements: Enjoy people, don't mind walking, and like to keep things organized.

If this sounds like something you might like to try just give Billie a call at FISH.

Keep a Eye on the Weather

Now we are into winter, be sure to keep an eye on weather and road conditions. If you have any questions about whether the food bank is open or not, be sure to check before you venture out. If in doubt, either call the Hood River Food bank at 541-386-3474 or give me a call at 541-490-5109.

Reminder of January/February Volunteers for Hood River FISH Sie:

As you put together teams for working at the Hood River FISH distribution, please remember we need at least 3 to 4 volunteers that will help with shopping and or take food to the cars. If there is someone to work at the registration desk, please let me know. Most days there is a regular volunteer who works weekly, and I will need to know if adjustments need to be made.

Dec 30 and January	Shepard of the Valley
January 6-8-10	Hood River Valley Christian
January 13-15-17	Immanuel Lutheran Church
January 20-22-24	Mid-Columbia Unitarian Fellowship
January 27-29-31	Rotary
February 3-5-7	Riverside Community Church
February 10-12-14	Hood River Alliance Church
February 17-19-21	St. Mark's Episcopal Church
February 24-26-28	Rotary

“This institution is an equal opportunity provider.”

“Food is a human right, and everyone deserves to have nutritious, culturally desirable food. We affirm the worth and dignity of all people and serve our communities with respect and strive to move closer toward food security.”

Church Calendar

Wednesday January 8

9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop open

Thursday January 9

7:00am Men's Study Vista Room

1:30pm Chime choir rehearsal

5:30pm Board meeting

Saturday January 11

9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop open

Sunday January 12 Recycling Sunday

10:30am Worship

3:30pm Hope and Life church worship

Monday January 13

10:00am make greeting cards
with Laurie Crosswhite, Vista Room

Tuesday January 14

10:00am Women's Bible Study

Wednesday January 15

9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop open

Thursday January 16

7:00am Men's Study Vista Room

Saturday January 18

9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop open

Sunday January 19

10:30am Worship

3:30pm Hope and Life church worship

Monday January 20

MLK, Jr Day, church office closed

Tuesday January 21

10:00am Women's Bible Study

Wednesday January 22

9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop open

Thursday January 23

7:00am Men's Study Vista Room

1:30pm Chime choir rehearsal

Friday January 17

10:00am make greeting cards
with Laurie Crosswhite, Vista Room

Saturday January 25

9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop open

Sunday January 26

10:30am Worship

2:00pm CGOA concert here

4:00pm Hope and Life church worship

Tuesday January 28

10:00am Women's Bible Study

Wednesday January 29

9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop open

Scriptures for Sunday January 12, 2025

Isaiah 43:1-7

Psalm 29

Acts 8:14-17

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

SERVING Sunday January 12, 2025

Elder this Week Chrystal Akin

Communion prep Leslie Hidle

Coffee Hour Barbara Ritoch & friends

Deacons **Servers**

*Thank you to our deacons for serving
communion as needed each week*

Scriptures for Sunday January 19, 2025

Isaiah 62:1-5

Psalm 36:5-10

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

John 2:1-11

SERVING Sunday January 19, 2025

Elder this Week Rod Parrott/ Thelma Warnock

Communion prep Joanie Logan

Coffee Hour Judy Hiatt & friends

Deacons **Servers**

*Thank you to our deacons for serving
communion as needed each week*



Gorge Ecumenical Ministries presents

Strength in Community: Fed & Nourished By One Another, For One Another

A Community Day of learning, reflection, music, and food as we ground ourselves in the work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., reminding ourselves that we are all a part of the "inescapable network of mutuality" of which Dr. King taught.

Monday, January 20th
Riverside Community Church
317 State Street Hood River, OR

3:00 pm - Workshop
*"Grounding and Preparing for Troubled Times:
A Workshop for Seekers of Justice"*

3:15 pm - Community Gospel Choir Rehearsal

5:00 pm - Dr. MLK Jr. Celebration Service
with consecutive Spanish interpretation

6:30 pm - Community Meal
with information tables from local justice groups