



# 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

**June 14, 2023**

## Sunday Worship Time

10:30am Worship

## Church Administrative Assistant

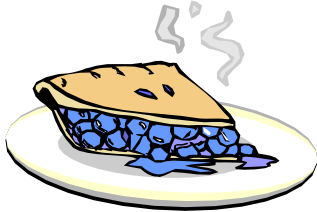
Kathy Holmson office hours as needed  
[hrcchurch@gmail.com](mailto:hrcchurch@gmail.com)

## Minister

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

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

## FATHER'S DAY



### PIES FOR POPS JUNE 18

*In honor of all the men in our congregation.*

## SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

*Pastor Alicia is away. Rev. Gary Young is preaching. Sermon Title: Laughter and Other Good Stuff*

9:30am Adult Sunday school classes, nursery available  
10:30am Sunday Worship with Children Worship & Wonder

## EVENING PRAYER ON FACEBOOK

5:00pm Monday – Thursday (schedule permitting)

### Links:

Wednesday June 7 <https://www.facebook.com/100064940580441/videos/1177051179643650>

Sunday June 11 <https://www.facebook.com/100064940580441/videos/273106798457299>

Tuesday June 13 <https://www.facebook.com/100064940580441/videos/1051539075811107>

### Special Event June 18, Father's Day

An invitation...The Nifty Nineties are sponsoring another armchair travel by newest member Jerry Sawyer. Gladys and Jerry enjoyed a two-week cruise last March. This will be a "South Seas Adventure" (China) following the coffee hour (**Pies for Pops for Father's Day**)

Everyone is invited to bring a special/favorite pie and share this fun experience together. Please come! Thelma Warnock

### Guest Speaker on Sunday is Rev. Gary Young

On Sunday June 18, our guest speaker will be **Rev. Gary Young**. He is retired Providence Hood River Hospital Director of Spiritual Care is, first and foremost, a collector and teller of stories. He served as Rector of St Mark's Episcopal Church. He founded HOPE, HOusing for PEople, which for twenty years built affordable housing in Hood River Valley. After congregational ministry he became a national speaker on Clergy Wellness and Spirituality in the Workplace and founded *Wellness Fax*, a blog. In retirement he has been very active in community theater.

Gary has been our guest preacher several times over the past few years and we are glad to welcome him to the pulpit again.

## **Congratulations to our 2023 graduates!**

On June 11, family, friends, and the congregation celebrated Briana Cantrell and Ayden Phelps' graduation from Hood River Valley High School with cake and the presentation of beautiful prayer shawls made by Laurie Crosswhite.

**To HRVCC--**

**Thank you** for your generous donation to our **Meals on Wheels Program**. Because of community members like Hood River Valley Christian Church, we are able to continue serving nutritious meals to our local seniors.

Sincerely,  
The HRV Adult Center & Staff



**Briana and Ayden**

## **PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

Layla & Ryder Gaffney  
Bev Thomas  
Bonnie McCollister

Sharon & Gordon Cook  
David Nash

Lauree Winfield  
Katy White

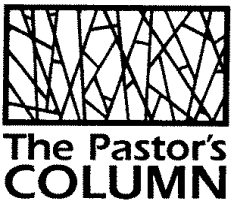
Vicki White  
Stacey Jubitz

\***Gordon Cook** is now at the HR Care Center. Short visits would be appreciated.

\***Suze Nigl's niece Trisha** who has been battling a flesh eating infection since late in May.

\*Please pray for the family of **Mary Smith** who died June 3. The service for Mary has been held.

**Help Wanted!** Bev Thomas needs help with yard work (paid). Please contact Bev Thomas if you know someone who needs a job.



**Oh my goodness**, my sabbatical begins two months from Wednesday, possibly the day you are receiving this newsletter. In two months the hard work of my sabbatical committee will get underway. It is still very shocking and hard to believe. And it'll be here and gone before I know it. The months and months and months of planning, budgeting, researching, meeting and asking questions is almost within reach. I'm excited, nervous and ready. I'm ready to dedicate my

time in a different way. I'm ready to see what unfolds. I'm ready to savor, to truly savor all that comes. And I'm ready for you to savor too, to discover new things, hear new voices and explore new things. As Suze has frequently said throughout this process, "It's a win-win for everybody."

As we near that date, know that plans are continuing to be put in place for those three months. Those plans will be communicated with you all next month in a special newsletter focused solely on the sabbatical. It will include who will be leading worship, who will be preaching, who to contact if certain things arise, what activities are planned and how to be in prayer throughout that time. And then a few weeks after that the adventures will begin.

Thank you for supporting me in this time to savor, as my theme states. Thank you for being excited with me. Thank you for being the leaders you are, knowing you will be present for and with one another during that time when I am away. Thank you for this amazing opportunity.

**Alicia**

## **Notes:**

The next **Women, Wine and the Word** is Thursday, June 22 @ 4pm @ Stave and Stone.

**Kiddie City** (new daycare located at HRVCC) is opening its doors June 19.

**Alicia's vacation** is June 25-30.

## Book Group News

After an interesting and informative discussion of *The Lost Pianos of Siberia* by Sophy Roberts, the reading group chose Abraham Verghese's new novel, *The Covenant of Water* for summer reading and a discussion on Wednesday, September 20, at the home of Rod and Mary Anne Parrott.

Verghese is the author of the bestselling *Cutting for Stone*, and his new novel promises an immersion in the culture of 20th century India. A 2023 Oprah's Book Club pick, it is described as "a hymn to progress in medicine and to human understanding, and a humbling testament to the difficulties undergone by past generations for the sake of those alive today."

New participants in the book group are always welcome. See Rod Parrott if you'd like for him to order you a copy of the book.



**Recycling News.** Thanks for bringing recycling last Sunday. We delivered 2 large leaf bags full plus smaller quantities of liquid pumps and plant containers.

### Upcoming Second Sunday recycling will be collected July 9:

Plastic straws

#5 such as cottage cheese containers

Prescription bottles and caps

Caps/lids without a recycling number

Unused medications (for safe disposal site)

Plastic film such as bags for produce, bread, ziplock, mailing envelopes, bubble wrap

*This last item has returned to the list because there's so much of it; a more complete list is on the display table in fellowship hall. If you have questions, see Mary Anne Parrott.*

## Pastor Alicia's sermon from June 11, 2023

### Scripture Matthew 28:16-20

Tax collectors, sinners, a young deceased girl, a hemorrhaging woman. All on the margins. All pushed aside by society. All forgotten, abandoned, despised, considered unclean, not included in any of the daily life.

Tax collectors, sinners, a young deceased girl, a hemorrhaging woman. All included by Jesus. All welcomed in by Jesus. All considered clean by Jesus, a part of Jesus' inner circle. All remembered, adored and cherished by Jesus.

This past Tuesday morning in the Vista room Vy Nguyen, Executive Director of Week of Compassion, and Monica Myers Greenberg, Vice President of the Mountain West Zone for Christian Church Foundation shared stories about the impact of Week of Compassion around the world. They shared about the impact of money given through general offering and more specifically because of churches who are in the Circle of Compassion. Which as I have shared a few times, our church is in the Circle of Compassion, the first Disciples church in Oregon as a matter of fact. And with the initial \$10,000 sent to establish the fund from a board vote, an additional \$3,400 has come in from church individuals. And there is always the opportunity to give more. Because as Vy shared on Tuesday, he has seen firsthand the positive, life giving changes that have occurred because of money given to Week of Compassion.

In South Sudan, the newest territory to become a country, just twelve years ago, the situation for women and girls is especially dire. As Vy wrote about his experience in South Sudan. "One of the

side effects of the ongoing conflict here is the impact on the health systems. Particularly vulnerable in this are women and girls who bear much greater impact of limited health care in the country. There is basically no infrastructure to support women and their health, and 80% of services are provided by NGOs (non-governmental organizations), who deliver key services like prenatal and postnatal care, along with family planning counseling and HIV screening and treatment.”

Recently traveling there, Vy witnessed the dedication of a doctor working with Lutheran Disaster Response. This doctor commits his time and energy to helping women who are pushed aside and ostracized by their own families and friends.

These particular women suffer from fistula, an abnormal connection between two organs in a female, often as a result of childbirth. This can cause serious complications and infections in a woman. It also causes them to be shunned by their family and community. Husbands turn away from their wives if she has a fistula. They are forced to sleep in tents outside of their own homes. They are not allowed to interact with their families at all. They are considered tainted, ruined, unclean. Nobody wants them, having all of their financial resources taken with absolutely no support. They are also internally physically injured, sometimes resulting in incontinence, unable to give birth again and at risk for severe infections.

It is an unbearable situation for women facing fistula. The hope comes with the surgery the doctor provides. A surgery lasting on average 20-30 minutes with a one hour anesthesia injection in her back cures the fistula. The woman receives healing on so many different levels following this simple procedure, assuming there are no complications, which the majority of the time there are not.

Healing. Being seen. Being welcomed. Being included. Being a part of society yet again. Money given to Week of Compassion makes this possible. It's pretty amazing and so life-giving.

Tax collectors, sinners, a young deceased girl, a hemorrhaging woman.

Last month Mid Columbia Community Action Council, law enforcement and a bunch of other organizations committed to partnering with the unhoused in the Gorge had a community hall meeting in The Dalles to discuss some of the newest efforts.

One of Mid Columbia Community Action Council's projects is The Annex. With various funding, MCCAC was able to purchase the Oregon Motel in downtown The Dalles and completely remodel and refurbish it to house individuals and families in need of housing. The Annex will provide approximately 40 different rooms for people to live in as they establish connections with service providers, social service agencies and secure permanent housing.

It is an effort that some praise and some demonize. At the community hall meeting a month or so ago, which was in person and on zoom, strong voices and opinions were shared. I remember towards the end of the over two hour meeting or maybe it was three hours, a woman intensely speaking to Kenny LaPoint, executive director of MCCAC. She angrily asked if the homeless were going to be allowed to come and go as they wanted at the hotel. Kenny didn't blink an eye, saying, "They are people."

It was fantastic. And it just goes to show that the unhoused are considered on the edges of society, easily overlooked and purposely not joined together with others. They are the unclean in many people's eyes, pushed to the outskirts of everything and immediately labeled as criminals, addicts, those choosing to be homeless. And this often becomes the judgment for anyone who is homeless or receiving services from an organization like MCCAC. Conclusions are instantly jumped to, by all of us.

Tax collectors, sinners, a young deceased girl, a hemorrhaging woman.

Jesus ate dinner with the tax collectors and sinners. This was not practiced nor seen as the thing to do in that society because those individuals didn't not abide by the law of the land. They were not welcomed in. They were not living "holy" lives. So to be with them and then eating with them meant the respected ones were no longer respected. They were now also unholy.

As for the young deceased girl. Jesus knew the girl was not dead, but sleeping, however those around did not know that. So to touch a dead person, as Jesus did by taking her hand, meant Jesus would be "contaminated," as Professor Luke A. Powery explains. Contaminated, so then needing to take certain steps to become clean again, stepping away from society and not interacting with anyone. This was the path when you touched a dead person. It was instant judgment and a push of someone to the margins. They were no longer included in everyday life.

And then the hemorrhaging woman. A woman who had been bleeding for twelve years. Twelve years of fending for herself, being outcast from her family, friends and all of society. A woman who if anyone else even came near her would also be outcast by society. So to touch a hemorrhaging woman or have her touch you would taint you on so many different levels. This woman "touched the fringe of [Jesus'] cloak." And then he spoke to her. Jesus would have sealed the deal on him becoming unclean and ending up on the margins, not able to interact with the disciples, with his followers, with anyone.

Tax collectors, sinners, a young deceased girl, a hemorrhaging woman.

I think we forget how much Jesus lived on the margins. That was where he regularly operated and who he regularly ministered to. He didn't care what society thought or if there would be expectations for him to separate himself from everyone. It didn't matter what people said or the judgment people laid upon him. It didn't even matter if people turned the other way or considered him unclean. No, Jesus continued to live, serve and minister on the margins, to the outcast, to those at the bottom of society, with limited to no rights, who were seen as "those" people not to associate with.

I think we forget this or we don't look at society today and identify who Jesus would live, serve and minister to today. The names of those individuals or those groups of people look different than those in scripture. And they are still those on the margins, with limited to no rights or with rights being taken away, the outcast, those instantly judged and pushed to the side.

We forget this or choose to look the other way because we get stuck in our safe places, our places of judgment, our moments of labeling and determining who deserves to be included or excluded. We do this consciously and unconsciously because it's easy to do. Society does it all the time. Christians do it all the time.

That's hard to reconcile when we look at this very passage where Jesus again was on the margins, where he spent most of his time and where he professed all of those who follow him are to spend their time. That means us, on the margins, welcoming the outcast, being present for and with those turned away, ignored, labeled, judged, you name it.

That is our responsibility. With the words we speak, with the actions we take, with the way we spend our money, with those we associate with, with how we are on a daily basis in society. And with how we get others to support and join that same focus.

Because there's no time to waste, as always. And the message will never change. We have to change. Society has to change. The margins have to be expanded or really eliminated, however let's work on expanding them first because that is possible. Jesus made that clear with every step he took, just as we are to make it clear with every step we take.

Hello church family~

Please check out the following opportunity to help out in The Dalles with Mid Columbia Community Action Council from Sarah Kellems.

Blessings~

Alicia

## Mid-Columbia Community Action Council

**Opening The Annex 200 W Second Street, The Dalles (formerly Oregon Motor Motel)**

**We have a volunteer opportunity coming up later this month as we prepare to open The Annex transitional housing.** This project will be our Assembly Day Volunteer Project and will involve putting furniture together and getting rooms ready for final touch-ups and the first wave of clients moving in.

The Assembly Day Volunteer Project is open to supporters from the community and we are wondering if you might be able to participate and/or share this opportunity with others. We have volunteer shifts available each day **Tuesday, June 20 through Friday, June 23**. Shifts are from noon to 3 pm each day, and volunteers can sign up for one or multiple shifts.

**If you are able to volunteer and/or share this opportunity, we would appreciate it!** We had an incredible response to our Cleaning Rooms Volunteer Project last week and are hopeful that we will also have a strong response to this second project. Anyone interested can reach out to me, Sarah Kellems, at [skellems@mccac.com](mailto:skellems@mccac.com), for more information and to sign up.

The first round of clients to move into The Annex will be from The Dalles Pallet Shelter, in mid-July. After those clients have settled in, over the coming months we will open up additional rooms to clients from across the region of Hood River, Wasco, and Sherman counties, in collaboration with our community partner agencies.

Below is an overview of the project, and a file with this same information is also attached. Please feel free to contact me with any questions!

With much gratitude for your support,

Sarah Kellems

Development and Engagement Coordinator Mid-Columbia Community Action Council

[skellems@mccac.com](mailto:skellems@mccac.com)

### MCCAC's The Annex Assembly Day Volunteer Project

**What:** Getting furniture put together  
Getting rooms ready for final touch-ups and move-in  
All project supplies provided  
Cold drinks and snacks provided

**When:** Tuesday, June 20, 12-3 pm  
Wednesday, June 21, 12-3 pm  
Thursday, June 22, 12-3 pm  
Friday, June 23, 12-3 pm

You can volunteer one day, or multiple days!

**Where:** The Annex Transitional Housing (former Oregon Motor Motel)  
200 W. 2nd Street, The Dalles

**Why:** To support community members experiencing housing instability  
To support the opening of The Annex transitional housing

**Help is Needed!**  
Volunteer Shifts Available at  
MCCAC Transitional Housing  
June 20 – 23  
*Preparing rooms for clients*

***MCCAC's mission is to build a better future for our community through partnership and equity-centered programs that prevent and eliminate poverty and homelessness.***

[www.mccac.com](http://www.mccac.com)

# Church Calendar

## Wednesday June 14

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

## Thursday June 15

7:00am Men's Study

## Saturday June 17

9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop

## Sunday June 18, FATHER'S DAY

9:30am Gospel of Matthew Study, vista room  
10:30am Worship, Rev Gary Young speaker  
**11:30am PIES for POPS!**  
Travel Talk with Jerry Sawyer  
3:30pm Hope and Life church worship

## Monday-Sunday June 19-25

Laurie Crosswhite on vacation

## Monday, Wednesday, Friday June 19, 21, 23

2:45-5:00pm HRVCC volunteers at FISH

## Tuesday June 20

10:00am Women's Bible Study  
3:00pm TOPS Group

## Wednesday June 21

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

## Thursday June 22

7:00am Men's Study  
4:00pm Women, Wine & the Word, Stave & Stone

## Saturday June 24

9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop

## Sunday June 25

9:30am Gospel of Matthew Study, vista room  
10:30am Worship  
3:30pm Hope and Life church worship

## Sunday-Friday June 25-June 30

Pastor Alicia on vacation

## Tuesday June 27

10:00am Women's Bible Study, coffee & sharing  
3:00pm TOPS Group

## Wednesday June 28

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

## Scriptures for Sunday June 18, 2023

Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7)  
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19  
Romans 5:1-8  
Matthew 9:35-10:8 (9-23)

## SERVING Sunday June 18, 2022

Elder this Week	Chrystal Akin
Communion Preparer	Joanie Logan
Coffee Hour	Frances & friends
Deacons	<b>Serving Team #2</b> Jennifer Stager, Kailey Speidel & Rylee Akin

## Coming Up! Mark your calendar

June 18 Father's Day  
Guest Speaker Rev. Gary Young  
\*Pies for Pops  
\*Travel talk by Jerry Sawyer  
June 22 4pm Women, Wine & the Word  
June 25-30 Pastor Alicia is on vacation