



# Hood River Valley Christian Church Newsletter

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

and on Face book

**January 11, 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

[hrvcchurch@gmail.com](mailto:hrvcchurch@gmail.com)

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

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**Special Music January 15** Donna Reuter & Diane Allen

**January 22** Mary Anne Parrott & friends?

## SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

**9:30am Adult Sunday school classes, nursery available**

**10:30am Sunday Worship with Children Worship and Wonder**

*Commissioning of Church Leadership during worship this Sunday*

## Links:

**Sunday Jan 1** <https://www.facebook.com/100064940580441/videos/604906678306508>

**Wednesday Jan 4** <https://www.facebook.com/100064940580441/videos/493403952880019>

**Thursday Jan 5** <https://www.facebook.com/100064940580441/videos/1599015990544708>

**Sunday Jan 8** <https://www.facebook.com/100064940580441/videos/717162193458595>



## Special Event

Columbia Gorge Orchestra Association

Concert at Hood River Valley Christian Church

January 22 1:30-2:30pm

Not ticketed; donation only at the door

## HANDICAPPED PARKING

Please reserve the parking spaces closest to the church door for those who have a harder time getting around. Thank you.

## WEATHER RELATED CANCELLATIONS

A reminder: If weather conditions are bad, worship services and meetings may cancel and Thriftshop may close. Call your group leader before you venture out. Stay safe.



## New Ways to Give Financially

Did you know you are able to financially give to the church via the app Vanco mobile and through the church's website? Yes, that is correct. This is a super easy way to give to the church. Plus, you can choose to give to general operating, laundry love, special day offering, help a neighbor, youth fund, week of compassion or memorials all through the app or website. There are many ways to support these important needs.

### **PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

Katy White	Jennifer Burbank Roch	Courtney Erickson	Stacey Jubitz
Bonnie McCollister	Layla Gaffney	Sharon & Gordon Cook	
Nola Hardman	Lauree Winfield	Vicki White	Bev Thomas

Please pray for Carolyn Ternahan and family. Her husband Barry died January 5.

Please pray for the family and friends of Clarice Knoll who died January 5.

Please lift up the Sheppards in prayer. Virginia spent time in the hospital being treated for pneumonia and Bill is recovering at home recovering from it.

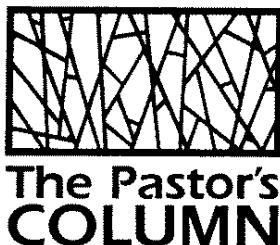
Jim Logan is recovering from surgery for abdominal aortic aneurysm on January 9. Please keep Jim and Joanie in your prayer.

**A Note from Margaret Strasser** Thank you for prayers—they worked! Her recent surgery was successful and she's feeling great.

**A thank you from Dot Swyers:** Thank you to my wonderful congregation at Valley Christian Church --especially the Bible Study ladies--for my birthday celebration last week. Dot

**Gertrude Circle Women's Bible Study** New Study: "Experiencing God's Peace" began January 3. The group meets Tuesdays 10:00am in the Vista Room (weather and road conditions permitting). They invite you to join them.

***Thank you to everyone who helped with un-decorating the church last Sunday. Many hands make light work.***



One thing I love about the fall and winter is lighting candles. As soon as the weather begins to turn, I pull out my various candles, place them strategically around our living room and dining room and then light them as often as possible. The flicker of the wicks. The smell of some of them. The light they bring. I so enjoy the feeling they emit and add to the evening. Candles bring me such joy.

When the windstorm recently came and warnings were given for a potential power outage, I knew exactly where all of our candles were just in case that happened. It didn't happen where we were, however we were ready. We knew that a single candle or multiple candles would light up a room. We knew it would be that powerful to provide what would be needed.

Candles or lights are just like that. They shine. They omit darkness. They make a difference. And they are what we are able to emulate. We are able to be candles or lights. We are able to shine. We are able to omit darkness. We are able to make a difference. Every single one of us. As the news of Co-Regional Ministers Doug and Cathy's retirement on June 30 spreads, we know their lights have shined for many years and will continue to shine. I thank them for their ministry, their guidance and their faithfulness. May their lights continue to shine over the next six months and beyond.

***Alicia***

## **Women's Dinner Rescheduled**

The Women's Christmas dinner, cancelled last month, has been rescheduled for Tuesday, February 21, 5:30, at Stonehedge. Those who signed up in December will be asked early in February to reconfirm their plan to attend. At that time new participants are welcome to sign up and refunds are available for those who paid and cannot attend in February.

Happy  
New Year Oregon  
and  
SW Idaho  
Disciples!



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Friends:

This past Tuesday we spoke with our Moderator, Pam Knight, and our Moderator-Elect/Chair of Personnel, Sandy Berry, and informed them of our intention to retire in 2023. Please find the [attached letter](#) we submitted to our Regional Board. We will complete our work as Regional Ministers June 30, 2023.

This is a difficult decision for us after many years of ministry with people and congregations who mean so much to us. The timing however will allow for a more orderly transition when the board is in the middle of its term of service and not in transition themselves.

We look forward to our next six months of ministry together.

Doug Wirt  
Cathy Myers Wirt

**Pastor Alicia's sermon from January 8, 2023**  
**Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12**

In preparation for a very big moment, we have two important things we need to learn. The first is a hand position. I invite everyone to make a peace sign with both of your hands. Then curl your index fingers and middle fingers down like this. Now you've got it, a very important hand symbol.

Does anybody know what it is? It is the hand symbol for Texas Christian University, a very telling symbol used at sporting events, to demonstrate unity and as a greeting. It is well known in the TCU world. It represents their mascot, the horned frog. This became their mascot back in 1897 when the yearbook staff needed to name their annual. Legend states that their football field, with football having begun just the year before, was covered in "small but mighty horned lizards," hence the horned frogs. It caught on. And it continues to catch on.

Now the next thing we have to learn. This involves a little repeat after me. And don't question what I'm going to say, just repeat after me. Yes, we will sound a little whacky together and then I'll explain.

Riff, ram, bah zoo  
Lickety, lickety, zoo, zoo  
Who, wah, wah, who  
Give 'em Hell, TCU

This is TCU's cheer, the oldest in the Southwest conference. It dates back to the 1920s with a resurgence and reteaching of it to get student and campus spirit back sometime in the 1960s/1970s. Now it can be heard on campus, in the stands, at sporting events and all around the country to cheer on the TCU horned frogs.

Why, might you ask, are we learning these very important things? I'm sure a few of you know. The TCU horned frogs, #3 in the country, are playing in the College Football Playoff National Championship tomorrow in L.A. against the Georgia Bulldogs, #1 in the country. TCU beat #2 ranked Michigan Wolverines, 51-45 on New Year's Eve. It was a wild game with 8 touchdowns in a little over 8 minutes in the 3rd quarter, 4 from each team.

Now TCU is the first Texas team to reach the National Championship game. And when they win they will be the third to win a national championship in their first appearance. It all begins at 4:30 tomorrow afternoon on ESPN. The hype is huge. TCU has made a name for themselves. It is very impressive.

And we need to be supporting them, watching the game, doing the hand symbol and chanting that memorable cheer because TCU is the largest of the 15 undergraduate institutions connected to our denomination, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), dating back to 1873 when this relationship began. When we collect money for the special day offering at Thanksgiving, that money benefits TCU in addition to the other Disciples undergraduate and graduate institutions. When I attend clergy conferences and gatherings, such as Northwest Association for Theological Discussion next month, I am surrounded by colleagues who have attended TCU.

We are connected to TCU. We are horned frogs. This is a big deal for our denomination. It has been quite the journey, a quest so to speak. Because TCU has been counted out for many years. Shoot, just last year their record was 5 wins and 7 losses. With heads held really low when they were losing, not much cohesion, habits of panicking and complaining. It wasn't a unified team. Then you add on to that a new head coach during the off season and everything could look questionable. Still with head coach Sonny Dykes it all changed. A quest was underway. A quest to develop as a team.

A quest to focus on emotional flexibility and mental health. A quest to journey together. A quest to win more than football games.

With an entire campus behind them, a community, alumni, a denomination, fans all across this country. This is huge. The team has followed. They have been focused, determined and dedicated. They haven't been deterred by big names, large campuses, shocking differences in financial backing, the list could go on and on. They have stayed the course.

Staying the course is super important, whether it be in regards to a football team discovering unity and going where they've never gone before or wise men from the East traveling to Jerusalem to greet the Christ child.

Totally relatable and lots of connections there, right? I wouldn't be Disciples if I didn't highlight TCU and wear purple today. And since we are celebrating Epiphany today, that also has to be discussed. So correlations have to rise to the surface somehow. So we sing the appropriate songs from our hymnal, engage in Epiphany litanies, add the wise men to the nativity scene and seek as they did on the Sunday closest to that day.

Epiphany, the arrival of the wise men, occurs on January 6. It was when the wise men or magi journeyed to make this important greeting upon observing the rising of his star. They came asking, "Where is the child who has been born King of the Jews?" Word of this question found its way to King Herod, who let's just say was the jealous type. And I mean the really jealous type, like angry, abusive, should be addressing those challenges jealous type. Herod wasn't about to have anyone else proclaiming they were the king. He was the king and that was it, end of story, no questions asked. Which was why he called the wise men to him, to "pretend" he had the same agenda as them, to pay homage to the child.

With King Herod's request to hear where the child was once they found him, the wise men continued on, following the star until it stopped where the Christ child was. It was time to pay him homage, to kneel at Christ's feet and worship him. To let that be the first thing they did as they were filled with joy. The worship came first. Then the gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Yes, the gifts were a part of the ceremony and the homage or worship was first and foremost. It set the stage. It provided the framework. It was to be what mattered. The gift of worship. The gift of homage. The gift of kneeling before the Christ child.

That was what the wise men brought. They followed. With their focus, determination and dedication. They had a path before them. They stayed the course. And when it was time to return home, they recalled a pivotal dream telling them not to return to Herod. So they didn't. They traveled a different road.

The wise men weren't deterred by anything or anyone. Paying homage to Christ was their mission, which was exactly what they did. They accomplished their mission, leaving an example for years to come of what it means to follow, to trust and to open yourself to the Spirit. They paved the way for all of those who have come after them to follow. It's not about the gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. It's about what we have to offer from in here, from kneeling down, from stilling ourselves and putting the attention on Christ. That is the gift we are to bring.

And that is a gift we are all able to bring. It doesn't cost money. We don't have to find it in some specialty shop. We don't have to wonder if it will ever come to be. We simply search inside for the focus, determination and dedication to make it so. To kneel. To worship. To pay homage. And to stay the course. To not get deterred.

This is to be our mission. This is to be the way we pay it forward as we transition from the Advent and Christmas season to the normal time of the church calendar. Granted Lent and Easter are right around the corner, however we won't completely freak ourselves out about that quite yet. We'll ease into it. Still the mission of paying homage to Christ is relevant and applicable to each of our lives. It's establishing and enacting what works for our individual lives.

How will we kneel? How will we demonstrate that? How will we worship? What will it look like? How will we embody this gift into our daily lives? How will we pay it forward?

By wearing purple, shouting rif, ram, bah, zoo and portraying the horned frog symbol. Okay, maybe not. Maybe that is for a different mission. One that's still important. And one that's slightly different from the gift of worshiping Christ. Both are possible though, in case anyone was wondering.

So paying it forward with the gift of us. That is the journey we are on. That is the unity we are discovering. That is the end goal which the wise men demonstrated so well. And that is just what we are called to do. Let's pay homage and kneel down. And let's cheer on TCU as they play for the national championship tomorrow afternoon.



**Souper Bowl of Caring 2023 is Sunday February 12.** This year in addition to collecting for FISH Food Bank, we will be collecting food donations for Hood River Warming Shelter. (The warming shelter provides breakfast bars and cup of soup for guests.)

- **For the Warming Shelter**, donate boxes of individually packaged breakfast, granola bars and chocolate bars; cup of noodle soup.
- **For FISH Food Bank** donate non-perishable food, baby foods and diapers, personal hygiene items, pet food.

And cash, or checks are always welcome to help fight hunger/ or assist those who are houseless in Hood River on Super Bowl Sunday.

### **Life Line Screening Wednesday February 8, 2023 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.

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

- Carotid artery ultrasound to identify plaque buildup in the carotid arteries, a major risk factor for stroke
- Abdominal aortic aneurysm ultrasound to identify presence of an enlargement in the largest blood vessel in the body
- An EKG to identify the presence of atrial fibrillation, which increases the risk for stroke
- Ultrasound of the lower legs to look for plaque buildup known as peripheral artery disease
- Ultrasound of the shin bone to identify risk for osteoporosis

These 5 vital screenings are offered for only \$149 and take 60-90 minutes to complete. If you register today, you will receive a \$10 discount. Register by calling toll free 1-888-653-6441, text the word "circle" to 216-279-1607 or online at LLSA.SOCIAL/HC

# Church Calendar

## **Wednesday January 11**

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

## **Thursday January 12**

7:00am Men's Study

## **Saturday January 14**

9:00am-Noon Thriftshop open

## **Sunday January 15**

9:30am Advent Study, vista room  
9:45am Sunday Adult book study  
**10:30am Worship**  
3:30pm Hope and Life church worship

## **Tuesday January 17**

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

## **Wednesday January 18**

9:00am-Noon Quilters meet  
9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop  
5:00pm Christmas Project meeting

## **Thursday January 19**

7:00am Men's Study  
5:00pm Music lesson, sanctuary

## **Saturday January 21**

9:00am-Noon Thriftshop open

## **Sunday January 22**

9:30am Advent Study, vista room  
9:45am Sunday Adult book study  
**10:30am Worship**  
11:30am Women's ministries general meeting  
1:30-2:30pm CGOA concert at HRVCC  
3:30pm Hope and Life church worship

## **Tuesday January 24**

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

## **Wednesday January 25**

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

## **Scriptures for Sunday January 15, 2023**

Isaiah 49:1-7  
Psalm 40:1-11  
1 Corinthians 1:1-9  
John 1:29-42

## **SERVING Sunday January 15, 2023**

Elder this Week	Carol Sabins
Communion Preparer	Leslie Hidle
Coffee Hour	Frances & friends
Deacons	<b>Serving Team #2</b>
	Kailey & Jackson Speidel
	Woody & Sue Eskildsen
	Rylee Akin

## **HRVCC Financial Report**

**January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022**

Income	\$288,395
Expenses	\$(183,058)
Outreach	\$ (25,027)
Total	\$ 80,310

Income was up \$32,000 from 2021  
Expenses were up \$22,000 from 2021  
Covid still had an effect in 2021 so I think  
we are back on track in 2022.

Outreach is a % of income.

Carla Bailey  
HRVCC Treasurer