

# August 13, 2025



## Hood River Valley Christian Church Newsletter

541-386-2608 [hrcchurch@gmail.com](mailto:hrcchurch@gmail.com)

<https://www.hoodrivervalleychristianchurch.org/> and on Facebook

### Sunday Worship Time

10:30am

### Church Administrative Assistant

Sable Duback

### Minister

Rev. Alicia Speidel 541-601-1949

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

Office hours 10am-1pm or as needed

## Sunday Worship

9:30 Adult Lectionary Preview

10:30 Worship

Link to Worship on July 27, 2025: [Facebook](#)

Link to Worship on August 03, 2025: [Facebook](#)

Link to Worship on August 10, 2025: [Facebook](#)

*Prayer  
Requests*



Sharon & Gordon Cook

Lee Repp

Vestena Emerson

Vicki White

Ken Hansen

Jason Galon

Anse Hopkins

Thelma Warnock

\*Prayers for the family of Doris Lewis as she has recently passed away.

Please email any prayer requests to [hrcchurch@gmail.com](mailto:hrcchurch@gmail.com) or call our office at 541-386-2608.



Aubrianna Crosswhite- 06th

Gordon Cook- 08th

Stefanie Olson- 09th

Donnamae Grannemann-11th

Kurt Osborne- 13th

Cindy Wilfield-15th

Brian Crosswhite- 16th

Trudy Tallman- 16th

Jim Logan- 18th

James Gaffney- 19th

Virginia Sheppard- 23rd

Wes Bailey- 28th

### ***News from Women's Ministries!***

In the month of August everyone has the opportunity to provide some disaster relief. Our goal is to provide funds for one or more clean up buckets for flood victims through Church World Service. The funds we collect will be split between CWS and the Red Cross for fire victims of the recent Gorge fires.



Save these dates:

Friday morning, September 12 for a Fruit Loop tour; more details and sign ups soon.

Saturday, September 27, 2:00 pm for the fall tea. The tea's theme will be "Sweet and Savory" with a program of favorite music through the years (or recently!) To prepare for this, all women are invited to suggest a favorite song (religious or not) for which they are willing to say a few words at the tea about its savoring. *Deadline for suggesting a song is August 31—see the form on the narthex table.* Signing up to attend will begin the following Sunday.



*Our community's own Layla Gaffney experienced a truly heartwarming moment at the Hood River County Fair this year! After a courageous battle against cancer, she had the opportunity to meet country music star Drew Baldridge!*

*For those who may not know, Layla was diagnosed With T-Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia at the age of 4. What followed was a challenging journey of treatments, long hospital visits, and unwavering strength from Layla and our entire community. After nearly 3 years of fighting, in 2023 Layla was declared cancer-free and in remission!*

*Like many, Layla found comfort and joy in music throughout her treatment- her main anthem being "fight Song" by Rachel Platten; and towards the end "Tough People" by Drew Baldridge. (Give them a listen, it's worth it! Consider having tissues on hand.) The positive lyrics and uplifting melodies provided a much-needed escape and source of hope.*

***Imagine the excitement when we learned that Drew Baldrige's team reached out to us hoping for a chance to connect and hear Layla's story. Not only did they arrange for Layla and our family to attend the concert, but they also organized a special meet-and-greet backstage before the show!***

***His warm smile and genuine kindness put her at ease. They talked about his music, her journey, and the joy of being at the fair. Drew even signed an autograph for Layla and posed for a picture, a cherished memento of this unforgettable day.***

***This experience is a beautiful reminder of the strength of our community and the power of music to inspire and uplift. Layla's resilience in the face of adversity is truly an inspiration to us all, and this special encounter with Drew Baldrige was the perfect way to celebrate her victory. We are so grateful to Drew and his team for making this happen. It's a county fair memory our family will treasure forever.***







## **Mid Columbia choir needs you!**

***Do you like to sing?***

***Do you miss singing with a committed group of people?***

***Mid Columbia community choir is a choir that has been in existence in the Gorge for nearly 40 years.***

***It is a volunteer seasonal choir that begins rehearsals this year on the Thursday after Labor Day(Sept 11) and performs:***

***November 11*** at the Columbia Gorge museum in Stevenson ( for those who can be there. For some it is a work day),

***December 6*** at Hood River Valley Christian Church (7 pm)

***December 7*** at Grace Baptist Church in White Salmon (4 pm).

***A mini performance is done at the Seventh Day Adventist church in White Salmon likely on Sat Dec 13.***

***Free will offerings are taken and the monies are given to FISH food bank and WAGAP.***

***We would love to have you join us!***

***FOR MORE INFORMATION***

***CONTACT***

***Cheryl Haun***

***(760)371-2057***

***[Casahaun@outlook.com](mailto:Casahaun@outlook.com)***

***Plus our very own Mary Anne Parrott will be their pianist this year!***





It is hard to believe that summer is 2/3 over, guess it is true “time flies when you are having fun.” At the food bank no two days are ever the same, this summer it has certainly come true. We were prepared for the increase of farm workers who are picking cherries and while there was a definite increase in our numbers it was not as dramatic as in the past couple years. One reason it felt less rushed was last year we did a good job of registering the farm workers into our Link2Feed system, so we just had to update the information, which is much faster. Then we had several great new Spanish speaking volunteers who helped with the registration, plus we hired a college student to assist too. Finally, we have gotten smarter and created a system that helps speed up the registration process when a large group of workers come at one time. It is nice to know we are getting smarter as we get older.

One of the great parts of working at FISH is hearing all the things happening in people's lives. Sometimes the stories are hard to hear but then there are the ones that make your heart feel good. For example, I was talking with one of our clients who is from Rowena and of course the conversation went to the fire. He reported he was very lucky because the house he was renting did not burn. Not only that, but his landlord also put them up in a motel for 3 nights until they could get back into their home.

Another one of our clients had worked at Rite Aid before it closed, so I asked how he was doing. He replied great; that day he was just offered a job at Walgreens in The Dalles. He was especially excited because his starting salary was the same as what he ended with at the other store. When I asked about having to travel to The Dalles, he said he was just happy to have a job!

One very nice family with three little children usually come to Wednesday morning food distribution. This family always picks out books to read and to add to their family library. During their visits the little kids have gotten to know the volunteer who prepares the bread section of the store. One time Jewel shared with the kids that she didn't have any little ones that could draw her pictures to put on her refrigerator. When the family came in this month the children brought very special pictures that they had drawn for Jewel. They were so excited to give her their pictures. It filled Jewel's heart; this is why we do what we do!

The other day when I was giving out numbers to the clients one older gentleman also reminded me of why we do the work we do. He was saying how he just couldn't make his food budget stretch all the way to the end of the month. That last week he just always tended to be short on food and funds. Then he went on to say how much he appreciated our help in getting him through the month. He said he had been in other parts of the world where people are starving, he was so thankful for FISH and for being born in the USA.

It is always fun to hear how volunteers can help clients connect with resources. For example, one of our clients has recently fallen into hard times and has found himself homeless. As we all know, finding a place to live that has a reasonable rent is very difficult. While talking as they shopped, they worked out a potential deal where he could live in her camper for a short time. Nice to see how we can help in many ways.

Of course, not everything is a bed of roses. I was helping a shopper who is living in a tent. As we traveled through the store he said, “I have no food. Someone stole my nice big locking cooler, where he kept all his food.” Someone came into their campsite, where he and another camper lived and stole their food. I am not sure if they wanted food or just his cooler, but the results were the same. Another one of our clients who lives in his car told us someone broke windows in his car and trashed the car. He

was very discouraged. It is hard enough to be homeless, then to have things like this happen to you, makes it even worse. It must be a hard life.

I want to end with a positive. It is fun to see how the Cascade Locks FISH food bank has developed over the last 6 months. FISH changed the distribution to be a “shopping style” site, which has turned out to be very successful. The volunteers are working together as a great team to make the distribution go very smoothly. This month as they were setting up the site, one of the volunteers started the day by sharing some yummy chocolates. Then as they were cleaning up one of the volunteers, who bakes special desserts for a local restaurant, brought in samples of her work. That is just what everyone ended after working about a 5-hour shift. There was not a crumb left of these very special treats.

I read on a reader board the saying: “Have you made someone smile today?” I thought WOW what a good thought. I hope you have some fun plans for this last month of summer.

Billie Stevens  
FISH Food Bank  
541-490-5109

### Cherry Season Completed—Farm Workers Return Home

Most of the cherries have been picked and the migrant workers who came to pick cherries have or soon will be moving on to their next job or returning home. Because the Oregon Food Bank now requires only zip code information instead of addresses, FISH is no longer able to accurately track how many clients we are serving that are in the area for just the cherry season. We can only speculate that our numbers were less this year, or maybe we were just better prepared? In 2024, FISH served 330 different families that were in the area just to pick cherries. It was not unusual for FISH to have 50 families a night at distribution. This year, in July we often had around 40 families. One other difference between this year and last year is the workers were not in the area as long as last year.

Thanks to all volunteers who worked during the cherry season. It is always a little more challenging if you are not a Spanish speaker. Because of everyone making an extra effort everything went very smoothly this year.

### Community Resource Guide

Occasionally, clients will ask a question about where or how to access a service in Hood River County. It is always good to ask around as volunteers are often aware of resources, we are not familiar with, but here are two places they can go to find help:

211: You may want to direct the clients to utilize the 211 service, in which they call, and they are to have knowledge of all the resources in our county. Each site should have business cards to give to the clients.

Community Resource Guide: There is a very complete Resource Guide for the Columbia River Gorge, that is updated yearly. It has a directory that includes almost anything you might need to know. They are available at each of the sites.

### Garden Produce

It is the time of year that the home gardens start to produce and people find out they really don't know what to do with hundreds of pounds of zucchini or what to do when your family has grown tired of those beautiful tomatoes. Please feel free to remind your neighbors, friends or family that the FISH Food Bank always welcomes fresh produce.



**FISH is open to receiving produce donations at the Hood River site, every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from about 8:00 AM to at least 11:00 AM and in the afternoons from 2:30 PM to about 5:00 PM. Parkdale and Cascade Locks can receive produce donations on the days they are open for distribution.**

**FISH accepts pretty much any fresh fruit or vegetable you are willing to share. We do ask that they are in good eating conditions. A good rule of thumb is if you would not want to eat it, our clients probably would not want it either. Thanks for spreading the word.**

**Also, if you are still looking for a way to get outside and work in the garden, you can always use help in the FISH Garden. Just contact the coordinator, Tracy Willett at 541-805-3958 if you would like to help.**

### **Sunshine Club building...coming soon**

**The Sunshine Club has served as a lifeline for families by providing adult day care services for individuals and families affected by dementia. Over the last 30 years the Sunshine Club has been based at several locations around Hood River. Unfortunately, the need continues to grow, and they have outgrown their current site at the Hood River Alliance Church. We are all excited that they are able to have a new building constructed and it will be located directly behind the FISH Food Bank.**

**The new Sunshine Club building is being built off site and will be brought to Hood River and placed on its foundation. Everyone, individuals involved with the Sunshine club and the individuals connected to FISH are all anxiously looking forward to the delivery of their new building. The building is targeted to be delivered at the end of August. I have been told it will be around August 26. It will be fun to have new neighbors!**

### **Hood River Site-Volunteer Schedule:**

**This is the schedule for the Hood River Site volunteers in August and September. Please remember we need at least 3 volunteers in the shopping area. Also, volunteers should try to get to the food bank by about 2:45 PM, so we can review any changes you need to know about.**

<b>August 11-13-15</b>	<b>Hood River Alliance Church</b>
<b>August 18-20-22</b>	<b>St. Mark's Episcopal Church</b>
<b>August 25-27-29</b>	<b>Rotary</b>
<b>September 3-5</b>	<b>Wy'East Community Church</b>
<b>September 8-10-12</b>	<b>St. Mary's Catholic Church</b>
<b>September 15-17-19</b>	<b>Spirit of Grace Church</b>
<b>September 22-24-26</b>	<b>Rotary</b>
<b>Sept 29-Oct 1-3</b>	<b>Shepard of the Valley</b>

**"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 towards food security.**

# Church Calendar

**Pastor Alicia out of town August 10-16**

## **Wednesday August 13**

9:00am-12:00pm Thrift shop open

9:00am-12:00pm Quilters meet

## **Thursday August 14**

7:00am Men's study Vista Room

## **Saturday August 16**

9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop open

## **Sunday August 17**

9:30am Lectionary Preview

10:30am Worship

4:00pm Hope and Life Church worship.

**Sable out of office August 19-22**

## **Tuesday August 19**

10:00am Women's Bible Study

## **Wednesday August 20**

9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop open

9:00am-12:00pm Quilters meet

## **Thursday August 21**

7:00am Men's study Vista Room

**Pastor Alicia out of office August 22-25**

## **Saturday August 23**

9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop open

## **Sunday August 24**

9:30am Lectionary Preview

10:30am Worship

4:00pm Hope and Life Church worship

## **Tuesday August 26**

10:00am Women's bible study

## **Wednesday August 27**

9:00am-12:00pm Thrift shop open

9:00am-12:00pm Quilters meet

## **Thursday August 28**

7:00am Men's study Vista Room

## **Saturday August 30**

9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop open

## **Sunday August 31**

9:30 Adult lectionary study

10:30am Worship

4:00pm Hope And Life Church Worship

### Serving Sunday August 17, 2025

**Elder this week**

Jerry Sawyer

**Communion prep**

Barb Ritoch

**Coffee hour**

Judy and friends

**Deacons**

Betty Osborne

### Scriptures for Sunday August 17, 2025

Isaiah 5:2-7

Psalms 80:1-2, 8-19

Hebrews 11:29-12:2

Luke 12:49-56

### Serving Sunday August 24, 2025

**Elder this week**

Jennifer Stager

**Communion prep**

Maggie Strasser

**Coffee hour**

Carol and friends

**Deacon**

Otto and Jan

### Scriptures for Sunday August 24, 2025

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Psalms 71:1-6

Hebrews 12:18-29

Luke 13:10-17

### Serving Sunday August 31, 2025

**Elder this week**

Carol Sabins

**Communion prep**

Judy Hiatt

**Coffee hour**

Betty and Friends

**Deacon**

Woody and Sue

### Scriptures for Sunday August 31, 2025

Jeremiah 2:4-13

Psalms 81:1, 10-16

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Luke 14:1, 7-14