

February 18, 2026



Hood River Valley Christian Church Newsletter

541-386-2608 hrcchurch@gmail.com

<https://www.hoodrivervalleychristianchurch.org/> and on [Facebook](#)

Sunday Worship Time

10:30am

Church Administrative Assistant

Sable Duback

Minister

Rev. Alicia Speidel

aliciaspeidel@gmail.com

Office hours 9am-12pm or as needed

Sunday Worship

9:30 Adult Lectionary Preview

10:30 Worship

Link to Worship on February 15- [Facebook](#)



Sharon & Gordon Cook

Bev Carpenter

Natasha & Penny

Lee Repp

Bud Harris

Lauree Winfield

Emerson family

Tyler Luna

Gladys Sawyer

Hansen Family

Rich Nichols

Williford Family

*Prayers for healing for Gladys Sawyer as she had surgery to have a pacemaker put in this week.

*Prayers for the Family of Vestena Emmerson, as she recently went to be with the Lord.

*Prayers for the family of Ken Hansen, as he recently went to be with the Lord.

Please email any prayer requests to hrcchurch@gmail.com or call our office at 541-386-2608.



Frances Henne- 05

Jessykah Lopez- 06

Eli Phelps- 13

Lauree Winfield- 26

Jan Behrmann- 06

Mary Finley- 10

Bob Tallman- 23

Mary Kummer- 27

This week we are highlighting the Week of Compassion special offering. This ministry of our denomination is important and vital to being present with communities around the world. Since I am on the board of Week of Compassion, this past week I had the opportunity to write thank you notes to some of the top 100 Week of Compassion giving congregations in our denomination. It was an honor to acknowledge them in this ministry that needs all of us.



My hope and prayer is that you see the importance of Week of Compassion too. In Oregon alone they have helped Hood River Warming Shelter, fire relief in southern Oregon, individual house fires and food programs. Plus I know I am missing many other ways they have contributed to our local churches and regional church. Week of Compassion is there in the midst of so many situations. This week we have the opportunity to grow that assistance by donating financially. I invite you to give as you are able and to realize the ministry you are creating by giving.

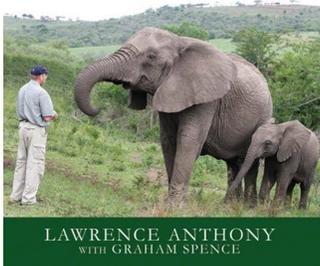
~Pastor Alicia

Thanks to a generous donation and women's ministries, the church has new front doors that are ADA accessible. So with a push of a button they will open. Now this is only after that feature has first been engaged inside by someone. This means if the doors have not been engaged and the button is pushed, they will not automatically open. Please be mindful of this, making sure it has been engaged before pushing the button. In addition, the interior doors are also new. Be careful when opening these ones, as they tend to swing a bit fast. These changes were needed and are wonderful. Come check them out and see how they will aid us as we continue in our ministry.



THE ELEPHANT WHISPERER

My Life with the Herd in the African Wild



The church's book study group is reading the fascinating *The Elephant Whisperer* by Lawrence Anthony. Discussion will be Wednesday, March 4, at 2:00 at the Parrott home.

See Rod if you are interested in a copy of the book.



Thriving
Congregations

This past week the board approved a mission statement and values statements for the church. This is very exciting as we continue our thriving journey. The new mission statement and values statements will be presented to you over the next few weeks. During fellowship time after worship, a thriving team member will be at one of the tables in the fellowship hall to share the proposal and answer any questions. Then on Sunday, March 22 immediately following worship all who are present will be invited to stay in the sanctuary for a

community meeting to reach a consensus about this proposal. Please plan to be there. Please also continue to hold our faith community in prayer as we take this important step of claiming who God is calling us to be in this time and in this place.

Lenten theme: Signposts to Easter

Lent is a significant 40-day season of spiritual preparation, prayer, fasting, and repentance leading up to Easter, focusing on Jesus's sacrifice and resurrection by commemorating His 40 days of trial in the wilderness. It starts on Ash Wednesday, marked by ashes symbolizing mortality, and traditionally involves the three pillars of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving (charity) to foster self-discipline and draw closer to God, ending before Easter Sunday.



Join us at 6:15 pm at Down Manor for our Ash Wednesday Service.



The women's annual meeting will be after worship on February 22. One of the happy duties will be to distribute \$10,000 in surplus funds! Come help us decide which organizations to distribute money to!

If you have questions, see Mary Anne.

Sunrise Service

April 5th at 6:30 am

Join us at the Beacon Rock State Park upper picnic area as we celebrate our risen Lord with praise, worship, and scripture.

To join us with your guitars and voices, please call 360-772-0863.

Hosted by Skamania Community Church.

COME JOIN US!!

FREE

COMMUNITY GATHERINGS



hosted by G.E.M.

Tri-County
Hazardous Waste & Recycling Program



FEB.
19th
12:00-1:00pm
featured speakers

All of the events will start with a **11:30-12:00pm SOCIAL HOUR**

MAR.
19th
12:00-1:00pm
featured speakers



COLUMBIA GORGE HEALTH COUNCIL

All of the events will be held at **Spirit of Grace**
1140 N. Tucker Rd. Hood River, OR

For more info www.gorge-em.org/gem-events

MISSION MOMENT

BUILDING HOPE THAT LASTS

HOW LAHAINA IS REWRITING THE RULES OF DISASTER RECOVERY

Even before the ashes cooled from the 2023 wildfires on the island of Maui, the people of Lahaina began charting a path to keep their people home – and fight the displacement that has become almost inevitable after disasters around the globe. We have all heard the stories from post-disaster communities across the continent – where despite billions of dollars that often pour into communities through federal assistance programs, numerous studies from across the continental U.S. have shown that natural disasters widen wealth inequality and drive displacement years into their aftermath. Take New Orleans, for example, where research found that neighborhoods damaged by Hurricane Katrina were more likely to gentrify, an estimated 100,000 Black community members were displaced and never returned, and vacation rentals exploded in newly rebuilt neighborhoods — in part subsidized by billions in government and philanthropic dollars.

For too long, there have been little to no long-term protections tied with the funding meant to make communities whole. But in Lahaina, something different is taking root.

In partnership with local and national disaster recovery organizations, the Lahaina Community Land Trust is creating a new model for disaster recovery – where the investments made in communities today will continue to benefit generations of 'ohana into the future. In the spring of 2025, LCLT partnered with Ho'ōla iā Mauiakama Long Term Recovery Group (Maui's LTRG), local nonprofit mortgage lender Hawai'i Community Lending, and Habitat for Humanity to create a powerful partnership to rebuild Lahaina 'ohana's homes by filling the financial gaps left between insurance payouts and actual rising construction costs.

Homes built through this partnership with disaster recovery dollars will be permanently shielded from investor purchase, ensuring that today's relief becomes tomorrow's security.



In practice, this means that any homeowner receiving over \$100,000 in assistance will agree that the home must only ever be resold to local families, at prices within financial reach – a promise that will be stewarded by LCLT in perpetuity.

Week of Compassion grant funds supported essential program operations to manage this complex, multi-partner collaboration. The operational support enabled LCLT's small but dedicated team to maintain consistent program delivery during a critical period when families were making time-sensitive decisions about their futures, and to develop ongoing land stewardship systems. Through LCLT's innovative use of the Community Land Trust model, participating homeowners maintain full ownership while committing to affordable resale terms — creating a permanent legacy of housing security in Lahaina.

This collaboration represents more than rebuilding homes—it's rewriting the rules of disaster recovery itself. By embedding permanent affordability protections into disaster recovery programs, Lahaina is creating a replicable model for communities across the world, proving that disaster relief and long-term housing security aren't separate goals but must be intertwined to ensure community healing. Your generosity to Week of Compassion makes **A NEW WAY** possible.

"This partnership is truly a testament to the strength of the Lahaina community and to our collective dedication to keep families home," said Autumn Ness, Executive Director of LCLT. "There are far too many cautionary tales of displacement that have unfolded in so many other communities after disasters, but by embracing creative solutions and working together, we can keep our people home in Lahaina today and build housing security for generations to come."

Our thanks to the Lahaina Community Land Trust for contributing to this story and sharing photos as part of their Week of Compassion long-term recovery grant report.



SPECIAL OFFERING 2026
FEBRUARY 15 - 22

As the relief, refugee, and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Week of Compassion works with partners to alleviate suffering throughout the world, with a vision of a world where God's people transform suffering into hope.

Church Calendar

Wednesday February 18

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

6:15pm Ash Wednesday Service at Down Manor

Thursday February 19

8:00am Men's Study

1:30pm Chimes practice

Saturday February 21

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

Sunday February 22

9:30am Lectionary Preview

10:30am Worship

4:00pm Hope and Life Church worship

Tuesday February 24

10:00am Women's Bible Study

Wednesday February 25

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

Thursday February 26

8:00am Men's Study

1:30pm Chimes practice

Saturday February 28

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

Sunday March 01 Gathering for FISH

9:30am Lectionary Preview

10:30am Worship

4:00pm Hope and Life Church worship

Tuesday March 03

10:00am Women's Bible Study

1:30pm Chimes practice

Wednesday March 04

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

9:00am-12:00pm Quilters meet

Thursday March 05

8:00am Men's bible study

1:30pm Chimes practice

Saturday March 07

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

Sunday March 08-Second Sun. Recycling

9:30am Lectionary Preview

10:30am Worship

4:00pm Hope and Life Church worship

Serving Sunday February 22, 2026

Elder this week	Suze Nigl
Communion prep	Maggie Strasser
Coffee hour	Carol and friends
Deacon	Sue and Woody

Scriptures for Sunday February 22, 2026

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7
 Psalm 32
 Romans 5:12-19
 Matthew 4:1-11

Serving Sunday March 01, 2026

Elder this week	Rod Parrott
Communion prep	Joanie Logan
Coffee hour	Jennifer and friends
Deacon	

Scriptures for Sunday March 01, 2026

Genesis 12:1-4a
 Psalm 121
 Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
 John 3:1-17 or Matthew 17:1-9

