

April 15, 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 April 12- [Facebook](#)



Sharon & Gordon Cook
Bev Carpenter
Natasha & Penny
James Gaffney

Lee Repp
Bud Harris
Williford Family
Nola Hardman

Emerson family
Tyler Luna
Sue Merry

Hansen Family
Rich Nichols
Bill & Lauree Winfield

*Prayers for healing for James Gaffney as he is recovering from major hip surgery.

*Prayers of strength and healing for Lauree Winfield as she recently had another stroke and is in the hospital for therapy and observation.

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



Sharlene Wilkins- 03

Pastor Alicia Speidel- 13

Chrystal Akin- 21

Layla Gaffney- 28

Katelyn Logan- 11

Doug Massingill- 20

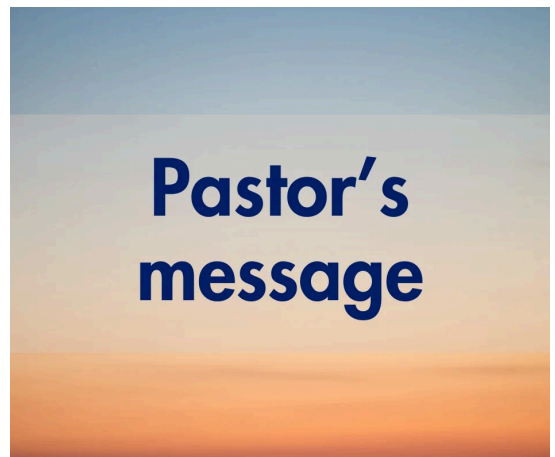
Barb Ritoch- 21

John Nigl- 29

Thank you for celebrating my birthday, singing happy birthday to me and presenting me with the beautiful outdoor metal floral arrangement this past Sunday. The yard art will look perfect in our yard with my flamingos. Thank you for being so thoughtful and for surprising me in this way. Celebrating birthdays, anniversaries, milestones, little steps, big steps and steps of all sizes is important. It's about recognizing someone, saying, "I see you. I see what you accomplished. Let's join together in celebration."

We are able to do this on so many different levels. It doesn't take any huge effort or even any planning. It can simply be a conversation, a phone call or text or card in the mail. It's being present for people in our lives. Present in ways that are needed as the stresses of the world weigh us down. Joy and light need to be acknowledged and spread. So think to yourself of something that needs to be celebrated in someone else's life and reach out to them. Make it simple and sincere, bringing more and more light to our world.

~Pastor Alicia



April Community Baby Shower during Child Abuse Prevention Month. Join in HRVCC's support of young families in need by contributing one or more of the following new items to be distributed by The Next Door:

- | | | |
|----------------------|---------|-----------|
| Baby carriers | bibs | Onesies |
| Pacifiers | wipes | swaddlers |
| front packs or wraps | tethers | diapers |
| white noise machines | | |

Leave items in the Baby Shower tub in the narthex.

Women's Ministries invites ladies in the church to a Salads for Six luncheon later this month:

There are still a few seats left at the women's luncheon tables of Salads for Six. Sign up for Friday, April 24, at the home of Emily Krager in White Salmon(2-3 spots left), or Monday, April 27, at the home of Margaret Strasser. Transportation will be coordinated.





Sharon Smiley has agreed to represent HRVCC to the Gorge Ecumenical Ministries. At the group's March meeting, she picked up interesting information about community resources.

Flyers are in a box on the table by Pastor Alicia's office, currently the following which you may take with you: The Life Raft Pantry, Bridges to Health, native support group Chuushna, the free store at the Gloria Center in The Dalles, community grants for youth, community pick up day (already held March 28), and the Community Baby Shower from The Next Door.

This past Sunday we started our sermon series about our church's new values statements. It was a time to hear about how we are currently living these statements and how we are able to deepen them. Thank you for the ideas that were shared during worship. Those ideas will be given to our Thriving Team for further discussion and then maybe even implementation. You just never know what idea might stick.



Thriving Congregations

Mission statement:

Sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ through service, stewardship & generosity

Values statements:

Welcoming with warmth and respect Community partnerships

Worshipping God with thanksgiving Outreach without borders

Caring relationships

Recycling Evolves

Rulings about Oregon recycling is evolving to include more items at curbside pick up. Gorge Sustainability Project is also taking new items you wouldn't expect, like jeans and sports shoes. We also recycle a type of plastic packaging not accepted by either. If you don't have curbside pick up, our HRVCC program accepts most everything.

A display will be available the next two Sundays in the fellowship hall with lists and samples of recyclable items. Check it out, then sort and collect for your curbside and HRVCC's Second Sunday Recycling. If you miss Second Sunday, contact Parrotts to take items directly to their house.



Report from FISH Food Bank, April 6, 8, 10



Last week Suze Nigl, Mary Anne & Rod Parrott, Melissa Crosswhite, Judy Hiatt, Leslie Hidle, Lauren & Kathy Holmson helped distribute food at FISH. (Because of schedule conflicts we were missing some of our regulars—Jennifer Stager and Margaret Strasser and our friends Elaine Betts and Roxanne McClure this time around)

Every 12 weeks, our team helps as shopping escorts and sometimes we do grocery carry outs. On Monday we served 38 client families; Wednesday 28; and Friday about 24. According to FISH executive director Jacqueline Carey, the food bank serves about 600 clients each month.

A variety of people from the community came to FISH for groceries last week—retirees, single parents, people who are houseless, people who have disabilities, orchard workers, veterans. Both individuals and big families. All people who are struggling with the high cost of groceries. The nutritious food and friendly help at FISH is very appreciated.

Each client gets to choose the foods they can use. FISH has frozen and canned meat options, fresh fruits and vegetables, fresh dairy products, baked goods—including some yummy desserts—shelf stable foods like canned goods and dried beans, and more. Sometimes there are unusual food options available—last week they included frozen catfish, fresh strawberries, bok choy, hot cross buns, shallots, fresh coffee beans from HR Coffee Company, cans of kombucha drinks. People were happy to choose those items.

The shelves at FISH are well stocked thanks to local food drives led by schools and service organizations; food collected at churches; food purchased at lower cost from the Oregon food bank; donated produce from local orchardists, farmers and home gardeners; food grown in the FISH garden; donated food from Rosauers and Safeway; and fresh food purchases using the cash donations given to FISH.

Thank you to our congregation for the many years supporting FISH—now in its 57th year. As a congregation we collect food and cash on the first Sunday of each month (thank you to our church youth and children for receiving the monthly collection).

Our team of faithful church volunteers have been helping at FISH for decades. Being part of the food bank helpers is one way our church takes our mission of service into the community. If you would like to learn more about FISH and volunteering, talk to one of the people listed above. We'd love to have you join us. ❤️

Hello Oregon and Southwest Idaho Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)!

We are getting so excited about welcoming our our colleagues and friends to the 2026 Regional assembly.

The members of Red Rock Christian Church and I are looking forward to hosting you all here in Boise, Idaho May 15-16, 2026.

Registration is now LIVE! You can find all the registration materials online on our Website: [Click on this Link and it will take you there!](#)

A few things I want to highlight for you:

Kids/Youth:

We are planning a children/youth program for assembly. Our Education Minister, Kimberly Roberts and her team are preparing a wonderful time for all of our kids and youth including a field trip to the Boise Zoo. Please make sure to indicate the ages of your kids on the registration form. For the assembly, we will also have a fully staffed nursery for children 5 years and younger. Please be sure to register these littles as well so we make sure we have enough staff. If you are coming to the clergy dinner Friday evening with your children, there is no extra charge for them to eat dinner, however, we do need to know your children will be coming that evening with you. Please make an indication on your registration form so we can count them.

Lodging:

We have secured a specific block of rooms for you, with a discounted rate, at the Hyatt Place in downtown Boise. ***(There are still rooms available, but are going fast, reserve your spot soon.)*** The discount is for Friday/Saturday evening but if you need to stay longer, either before or after assembly, let me know and I will ask about your specific needs and if the discount can be extended for you. We will have a shuttle service from the hotel to the church Friday evening and on Saturday morning/afternoon. It's about a ten-minute drive between the two locations.

I will send out more information about where to catch the shuttle, etc. as the date of assembly is closer. Downtown Boise is full of many interesting shops and restaurants. You can find more information about our beautiful city at [*https://visitboise.com/*](https://visitboise.com/)

Food:

Assembly begins with a clergy/partner dinner. Our kitchen crew has already been meeting and making wonderful plans. Please indicate any and all food allergies as we will attempt to make every accommodation we can to ensure you will have something to eat. There is breakfast available at the hotel and we will also have a continental breakfast Saturday morning at the church. Saturday's lunch is provided in your registration cost.



Virtual Attendance:

For the first time, we are offering a virtual attendance option that includes a \$10 registration fee. You can find this specific registration form By clicking [HERE](#) or on our Website on the link above. This registration fee is helping us cover our additional technology fees and is helping us pay for our dedicated tech team. My hope, as we have been planning, is that no matter where you are in the region geographically, that you will feel included and a part of assembly. We are still working out some technology bugs, but I have confidence in our tech team and their abilities to troubleshoot any challenges.

Translation:

Translation services will be available, in person and also if you are attending virtually.

Keynote Speaker:

Dr. Stephen Sprinkle is our keynote speaker and facilitator for our time together. He is Emeritus Professor of Practical Theology at Brite Divinity School, and Theologian-in Residence of the Episcopal Church of St. Thomas the Apostle, in Dallas, Texas. He has been preparing engaging sermons and an all-assembly workshop for us. He will be extending his time with us and preaching Sunday morning, May 17th at Red Rock Christian Church. The title of his sermon on Sunday is “The Mirror of Love” and the scripture will be Hebrews 12:1-2. You are all invited to join us for worship at 10:45 am. Finally, I would like to extend a THANK YOU to the churches and sponsors who have given donations to help us lower the registration cost for this year's assembly. I am grateful the reduction will allow more people to attend assembly.

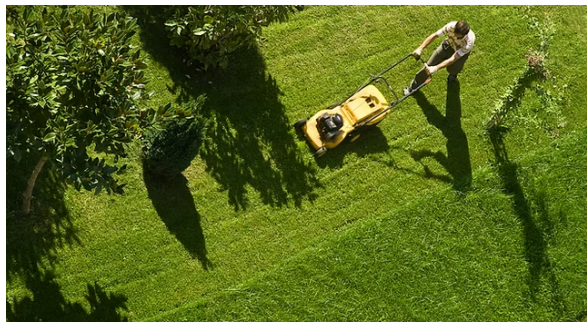
And if you need further assistance to cover registration costs or travel expenses, please reach out to me.

Church, let us gather together, united in covenant!

See you all soon.

Rev. Tracia Deal

pastor@redrockchristianchurch.org



A big thank you you Bruce Holmson for keeping our church grounds clean and presentable.

Church Calendar

Wednesday April 15

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

Thursday April 16

8:00am Men's Study

1:30pm Chimes practice

Saturday April 18

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

Sunday April 19

9:30am Lectionary Preview

Elder's meeting following Worship today!

4:00pm Hope and Life Church worship

Tuesday April 21

10:00am Women's Bible Study

Wednesday April 22

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

Thursday April 23

8:00am Men's Study

1:30pm Chimes practice

Saturday April 25

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

Sunday April 26

9:30am Lectionary Preview

10:30am Worship

Board meeting following Worship today!

4:00pm Hope and Life Church worship

Tuesday April 28

10:00am Women's Bible Study

1:30pm Chimes practice

Wednesday April 29

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

9:00am-12:00pm Quilters meet

Thursday April 30

8:00am Men's bible study

1:30pm Chimes practice

Saturday May 02

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

Sunday May 03- Gathering for FISH

9:30am Lectionary Preview

10:30am Worship

4:00pm Hope and Life Church worship

Serving Sunday April 19, 2026

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Elder this week | Betty Osborne |
| Communion prep | Maggie Strasser |
| Coffee hour | Judy Hiatt |
| Deacon | Wes & Carla |

Scriptures for April 19, 2026

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

1 Peter 1:17-23

Luke 24:13-35

Serving Sunday April 26, 2026

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Elder this week | Jerry Sawyer |
| Communion prep | Maggie Strasser |
| Coffee hour | Carol Sabins |
| Deacon | Sue & Woody |

Scriptures for April 26, 2026

Acts 2:42-47

Psalm 23

1 Peter 2:19-25

John 10:1-10

