

May 14, 2025



Hood River Valley Christian Church Newsletter

541-386-2608 hrcchurch@gmail.com

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

Sunday Worship Time

10:30am

Minister

Rev. Alicia Speidel 541-601-1949

aliciaspeidel@gmail.com

Church Administrative Assistant

Sable Duback

Office hours 10am-1pm or as needed

Sunday Worship

9:30 Adult Lectionary Preview

10:30 Worship

Link to Worship on May 11:

<https://www.facebook.com/100064940580441/videos/565854449482013>

*Prayer
Requests*



Glenn & Donnamae Grannemann

Sharon & Gordon Cook

Doris Lewis

Vicki White

Tedra Turner

Stacey Jubitz

Ken Hansen

Jason Galon

Vestena Emerson

Thelma Warnock

Anse Hopkins

*Pray for the family of David Nash as they navigate this difficult time.

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

*Christie and Steve Galon share an update about their son, Jason, and his cancer treatment. His white blood cell count had been extremely low, so he received a shot in his spine that they hoped would improve the count. As of last week the count had increased over 30 times what it had been! And that is a huge answer to prayer! Jason will get a new PET scan on the 20th to see if the tumors are shrinking. So now we are asking for prayers for a positive result with the upcoming PET scan. We can see God's hand in this every day, sometimes just in the way Jason, his wife and their children are dealing with this disease & the treatment, and enjoying their time together. So thank you all so much for your continued prayers!

*Glenn is no longer at Columbia Basin Care Facility as of May 07, 2025. He is at Harmony Adult Foster Home, the 13th Street location, 1903 W 13th St. It is considerably less expensive and he has windows, so a much brighter room! He continues on Providence Hospice and welcomes visitors. If he appears to be sleeping, just wake him up.

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



Reed Melby- 05/03

Jimmy Lupoli 05/05

Fred Duckwall- 05/12

Betty Osborne-05/16

Emily Krager- 05/18

Rylee Akin-05/19

Lee Repp-05/20

Joan Lage-05/27

Nate Olson-05/22

Bruce Holmson-05/30



The Oregon and SW Idaho Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) invites you to summer camp 2025!

This summer, our region is offering two exciting opportunities for our children and youth to gather together in community for fellowship, spiritual growth, and FUN!

Elementary Camp!

For children who have completed grades 1-5, we are offering camp the week of July 21-25, 2025. This camp will be held at the beautiful Suttle Lake camp near Sisters, Oregon and is an ecumenical camp with our Methodist and Episcopalian friends. The camp theme will help us recognize that we are

linked by love. Music, art, games, conversations, time in nature and more will help our campers with their exploration. Cost is \$588. A \$50 deposit is due at time of registration. If you register by May 5th, you'll receive a \$25 Early Bird Discount. Camp scholarships are available through many local congregations. If you are needing a scholarship or have other questions about this camp, please contact Rev. Sara Staton at revsarastaton@gmail.com. Please find Poster with Registration Links [HERE!](#)

Middle/High School Camp!

For youth who have completed grades 6-12 we are offering camp the week of August 4-8, 2025. This camp will also be at Suttle Lake camp near Sisters, Oregon. The camp theme will be centered around that there is always room at the table! In fact, the table is crowded! Worship, games, small group discussions, outdoor activities and more will fill the week. Join us at summer camp this year to find your seat! Cost is \$450. If you are needing a scholarship or have other questions about this camp, please contact Alicia Speidel at aliciaspeidel@gmail.com or Kimberly Roberts at edminister@redrockchristianchurch.org. Please find the Registration Form [HERE!](#)

CHURCH YOUTH - PLEASE DO NOT PAY FOR CAMP! THE MONEY TO PAY FOR CAMP WILL COME OUT OF THE HRVCC YOUTH FUND.

Women's Ministries Summer Activities:

Summer Secret Sister.

For June, July and August women of the church are invited to try a new "model" of a secret sister program. If interested, select another woman in the church to whom you would like to be a secret sister. Tell your choice to Women's Ministries coordinator, Mary Anne, who will watch for duplicates; she will also be available all summer to deliver anything you would like handed in person anonymously.

At the end of the summer, each participant is encouraged to write a letter to reveal herself as a secret sister and offer words of appreciation. If you have questions, contact Mary Anne.

On June 21, the annual regional women's retreat will be held at Murray Hills Christian Church. The event has always been held in the fall, but the planning committee decided to try another time of year that is less fraught with scheduling conflicts. If you are interested in going, see Mary Anne.



On Sunday, May 18 it is time to get your hands dirty!

We are going to have an outside weeding and trimming party immediately following church. *Lunch will be provided.* We need all abilities to help beautify the grounds. We have extended the invitation to help to those beyond our church, so hopefully others will pitch in.

So, please plan to help pick some weeds and do some trimming following church on that Sunday.



The Pastor's COLUMN

This past Sunday I preached about an exciting opportunity that our congregation will soon be embarking on. Here is a snippet of what I shared. On Tuesday, March 25 I received a call from David Debow, one of our Region's transitional regional ministers, telling me about an opportunity he thought would be good for our congregation. He was recommending we apply for the "Thriving Congregations: A Guide for Church Leaders" cohort through Lexington Theological Seminary. As the application explained, "The Thriving Church looks different in each context. Some

have big, crowded buildings; others have a small, aging population. Thriving is not always measured by the number of people attending, number of children involved, number of ministries it runs, or the size of the budget. A thriving church is curious and willing to embrace change. Thriving churches are centered on their mission. They can be historic congregations, bustling mega-churches or tiny storefront ministries. Thriving is an attitude, not a metric."

"The Thriving Congregations Project at Lexington Theological Seminary works in partnership with Disciples Home Missions to strengthen congregations who are on the cusp of thriving. By participating in this 18-month cohort, your church will learn skills to help your church thrive. Thriving Congregations teaches you how to improve your skills in four key categories: measuring success in a congregation; evaluating your mission & values; strengthening clergy/laity partnerships; and connecting with partners."

"Set in a model of congregational collaboration, your ministerial leader and a team of 3-8 lay people will participate in workshops via Zoom, an in person retreat for the pastor and one lay leader, and congregational projects." Plus, the skills learned will be practiced within the congregation with grants available to make it so through Lilly Endowment, Inc, who is also providing the funding for the books, supplies, resources and travel for the initial event.

With the blessing of the church board and lay leaders ready to go, we applied for this cohort. On May 7 we received the exciting news that our congregation was one of the twenty-two congregations accepted. This is great news as we continue to explore where God is calling this faith community. The Thriving Congregations cohort begins with an in person retreat June 16-18 for the pastor (that's me) and one of the lay leaders (after 3 of the 4 lay leaders affirmed by our church board were unable to attend, Geoff, who is the 4th one, will be going with me). Next will be zooms for the 4 lay leaders (Jennifer Stager, Betty Osborne, Chrystal Akin and Geoff) and me and then opportunities to try the skills we learn through this program.

I am very excited about what this means for our congregation. I look forward to discovering what is possible as we continue to partner together as the disciples of Jesus Christ we are called to be. In the meantime, keep praying for this congregation and for what God is calling us to do and be. It is an important journey we are on together.

~Pastor Alicia



FISH Food Bank

OPEN HOUSE

Celebrating 10 years at our Tucker Rd location.

Nourishing the Greater Gorge for 56 Years.

**Saturday, May 31, 2025
9-11am**

1130 Tucker Rd, Hood River, Oregon

**Tour the FISH Store, Warehouse
and Community Room**

**See the FISH Garden in Action with
Columbia Gorge Master Gardeners**

**Visit the new site for the Hood
River Sunshine Club**

Open to the Community
Light refreshments will
be served



www.fish-food-bank.com

Thank you to our generous donors, supporters and community

**You are invited to the 10 Year
Celebration of the FISH Food Bank at
the Tucker Road FISH site!**

**FISH Food Bank will be closed on the
following dates:**

Summer is a time for sun and fun, so that means the food bank will be closed on the following summer holidays. We want our volunteers and clients to spend time with their friends and family.

**Hood River FISH Closed: Memorial Day:
Monday May 26**

**Hood River FISH Closed: 4th of July,
which is a Friday**

**Hood River FISH Closed: Labor Day,
September 1**

**Parkdale FISH Closed: Labor Day,
September 1**

If you would like to be part of this work party, on May 31, contact Jacqueline Carey or Billie Stevens at the FISH Food Bank in Hood River, 541-386-3474. We will put you on the work party list and let you know what to expect. If you would like to also organize your own work party day, contact Tracy Willett at willett.tracy@gmail.com.

Share your Cinco De Mayo celebration

**FISH food bank most requested items
for May**

CANNED JALAPEÑOS
MOLE
ENCHILADA SAUCE
CANNED CORN
SALSA
TACO SEASONING
DRIED PEPPERS
TORTILLA CHIPS

Church Calendar

Wednesday May 14

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

9:00am-12:00pm Quilters meet

Thursday May 15

7:00am Men's study Vista Room

1:30 Chimes practice

Saturday May 17

9:00am-noon Thrift Shop

Sunday May 18

10:30am Worship

Weeding and trimming party following worship, lunch provided!

4:00pm Hope and Life Church worship.

Tuesday May 20

10:00am Women's Bible Study

Wednesday May 21

9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop open

9:00am-12:00pm Quilters meet

Thursday May 22

7:00am Men's study Vista Room

1:30pm Chimes practice

Saturday May 24

9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop open

Sunday May 25

9:30am Adult Lectionary Preview

10:30am Worship

4:00pm Hope and Life Church worship

Tuesday May 27

10:00am Women's bible study

Wednesday May 28

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

9:00am-12:00pm Quilters meet

Thursday May 29

7:00am Men's study Vista Room

1:30 Chimes practice

Saturday May 31

9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop open

Sunday June 01- Collecting for FISH

9:30 Adult lectionary study

10:30am Worship

4:00pm Hope And Life Church Worship

Scriptures for Sunday May 18, 2025

Acts 11:1-18

Psalm 148

Revelation 21:1-6

John 13:31-35

Serving Sunday May 18, 2025

Elder this week

Chrystal Akin

Communion prep

Barb Ritoch

Coffee hour

Judy and friends

Deacon

Betty O.

Scriptures for Sunday May 25, 2025

Acts 16:9-15

Psalm 57

Revelation 21:10,22-22.5

John 14:23 or John 5:1-9

Serving Sunday May 25, 2025

Elder this week

Rod Parrott

Communion prep

Maggie Strasser

Coffee hour

Carol and Friends

Deacons

Jan and Otto