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# Hood River Valley Christian Church Newsletter

541-386-2608 [hrcchurch@gmail.com](mailto:hrcchurch@gmail.com)  
[www.hoodrivervalleychristianchurch.com](http://www.hoodrivervalleychristianchurch.com)

and on Face book

## December 7, 2022

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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

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

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

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**Church Website Update** The church's website has been undergoing a major revamp. Thank you to Justin Crosswhite for making it happen! Please check it out at [hoodrivervalleychristianchurch.org](http://hoodrivervalleychristianchurch.org). You'll notice at the moment it is .org instead of .com. Please pass that information on until it gets updated.

**WEATHER RELATED CANCELLATIONS** A reminder: If weather conditions are stormy, some meetings and Thriftshop may cancel. In general, if local schools have cancellations, church activities may also cancel. Call your group leader before you venture out.

*Advent Devotionals are available in the lobby at church*



### **CHRISTMAS DINNER at the church! Invite your friends!**

Sunday December 18 after the children's program and worship.  
The main course will be provided.

***Please sign up to bring a side dish or dessert.***

### **Advent Study What Are You Waiting For?**

A special four-session Advent study will replace the Sunday morning lectionary study beginning Sunday, November 27. Rod Parrott will lead participants in an wide-ranging investigation of the developing expectations of Israel between the Babylonian captivity and the time of Jesus. Sessions will meet in the Vista Room from 9:30 to 10:15. Bring your questions and curiosity.

### **SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE**

**9:30am What Are You Waiting For? Advent Study** Meets in Vista Room

**9:45am New Book Study group** This class meets in the Fireside room downstairs.

**Nursery Room** is available for young children 0-4 years.

**10:30am Sunday Worship with Children Worship & Wonder Sunday school class**

### **Links**

**Wednesday Nov 30** <https://www.facebook.com/100064940580441/videos/834201007909241>

**Thursday Dec 1** <https://www.facebook.com/100064940580441/videos/556525596287767>

**Sunday Dec 4** <https://www.facebook.com/100064940580441/videos/810444780055639>

**Monday Dec 5** <https://www.facebook.com/100064940580441/videos/952038859516196>

# REPEAT the sounding JOY

2022 Christmas  
OFFERING

A SPECIAL DAY OFFERING OF DISCIPLES MISSION  
FUND SUPPORTING THE MINISTRIES OF OUR REGION

**Christmas Special Offering will be received December 11 & 18**

All funds received in the Christmas Offering go to the budget of the Christian Church in Oregon and SW Idaho Regional Church to **support** programs of the regional church.

*You can give to the Christmas Special offering by....*

- ❖ A designated gift through your congregational offerings
- ❖ A gift online at [www.oidisciples.org](http://www.oidisciples.org) (link on bottom right of home page)
- ❖ A gift sent by mail to PO Box 19466, Portland, OR 97280

*Weather got you stuck at home? You can send your Christmas greeting via email and make a donation to the HRVCC Help A Neighbor Fund by mail or next time you're at the church.*

## Christmas Cards



## **Sign our All Church Christmas Card**

Send your Christmas greetings to friends at church in our church newsletter. Forms are on the table in the lobby.

- **Write:** Your name & Christmas greeting and put it in the basket on the table.
- **Sent greetings by email, too** [hrcchurch@gmail.com](mailto:hrcchurch@gmail.com)
- **Donate:** You save money for cards & postage by sending your Christmas greetings this way, so drop a donation in the basket with your greeting.
- **Donations go to:** HRVCC Help A Neighbor Fund.

***Christmas Greetings will be published in the December 21 newsletter***

## About Church Giving

**Online Giving** To donate online to Hood River Valley Christian Church, go to <http://www.hoodrivervalleychristianchurch.com/donate/> and make a donation

### **Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement App**

on your Smartphone or tablet. A onetime gift can be made or you can set up online giving on a regular basis.

**USPS Mail** You can also give to Hood River Valley Christian Church by mailing a check to: HRVCC

## PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Katy White

Jennifer Burbank Roch

Kathy Meredith

Bonnie McCollister

Layla Gaffney

Sharon Cook

Nola Hardman

Lauree Winfield

Vicki White

Courtney Erickson

Jinx Woods

Stacey Jubitz

Sue Mitchell

Jerry Sawyer is home now after being hospitalized with sepsis. Please pray for healing.

Beverly Thomas is dealing with some pain after a fall last week. Pray for healing.

Judy Kenyon was transferred to Centennial Rehab Center last Friday. They will work with her to build up muscle strength and proper nutrition. Hopefully this is a short term process. Prayers for Judy are appreciated.



### **The Pastor's COLUMN**

**At Christmas time** giving and receiving gifts is quite common. Many of us engage in this activity. For the unhoused staying at the warming shelter, this isn't always the case. To help this year, gift bags of pillows, pillowcases, gloves and socks are being created for all of the guests staying at the Hood River warming shelter and The Dalles shelter. To complete these gifts, 12 more pillows are needed. The rest

is covered. If you would like to donate a new pillow or \$30 to purchase one, as Pastor Alicia will be ordering some through a local company, please contact Pastor Alicia. This is a great way to say we care about the unhoused in our community.

**Oh the weather outside is** . . . beautiful. I love the snow. I love sitting inside watching the snow fall. I love the quiet in the air. I love the sun glistening off the snow. I love it. This past Sunday morning it began snowing around 7:30am and didn't stop until part way through worship. Then it began again shortly after that and snowed all day. It was lovely. It also made many wonder, text and call on Sunday morning asking the question, will there be church? It was completely understandable since the snow was not letting up.

With that, the answer was yes. Yes, we did have church. Yes, those who felt safe ventured out and made it to church. Yes, the hymns were sung, the candle was lit and fellowship hour happened. And yes, whether you were there or not, it was still possible to engage in worship. Worship at the church. Worship in your home. Worship in your car. Worship wherever you are, whomever you are with, in whatever way possible. This is important to remember now during the winter season since we never know what the weather will bring and all throughout the year when you never know what each week may bring.

Plus, worship is also possible every day of the week, not just on Sundays. Isn't that amazing? We are all able to worship every single day of the week. Every day! How often do we though? How often do we say, "Today I am going to engage in some form of worship?" Maybe you do. Maybe you don't. Either way, the opportunity is there and needs to be grasped. Whether snow is on the ground or the sun is shining down, worship is to be a part of our daily lives. The wonderful thing is worship happens in so many different ways. So this Advent season explore those ways and worship. It will make an impact.

**Alicia**

**Did you get a chance to vote on 2023 church officers and church budget? Due to weather on Sunday, many people missed voting in person and voting is open for another week.**

**2023 Slate of  
Church Officers, Elders, Deacons, Trustees**

<b>Terms are for 2 years</b>		<b>Term ends 2023</b>
Chair of the Board		Woody Eskildsen
Vice Chair		Jennifer Stager
Secretary		Suze Nigl
Treasurer		Carla Bailey

<b>Terms are for 2 years</b>	<b><u>ELDERS</u></b>	
	<b>Term ends 2023</b>	<b>Term ends 2024</b>
	Wes Bailey	Suze Nigl
	Chrystal Akin	Thelma Warnock
	Sharon Smiley	Gerald Sawyer
		Rod Parrott

<b>Terms are for 2 years</b>	<b><u>DIACONATE SERVERS</u></b>	
	<b>Term ends 2023</b>	<b>Term ends 2024</b>
	Owen Waits	Betty Osborne
	Ayden Phelps	Linda Meyers
	Tatum Wyatt	Rylee Akin
	Kailey Speidel	
	Jackson Speidel	
	Woody Eskildsen	
	Sue Eskildsen	
	David Nash	

<b>Terms are for 2 years</b>	<b><u>COMMUNION PREPARERS</u></b>	
	<b>Term ends 2023</b>	<b>Term ends 2024</b>
	Barb Ritoch	Kailey Speidel
	Leslie Hidle	Mary Finley
	Kathy Holmson	
	Joanie Logan	

<b>Terms are for 3 years</b>	<b><u>TRUSTEES</u></b>		
	<b>Term ends 2023</b>	<b>Term ends 2024</b>	<b>Term ends 2025</b>
	Wes Bailey	<b>Chair</b> Gary Hidle	Woody Eskildsen
		Judy Hiatt	Betty Osborne

**HRVCC 2023 BUDGET**

<b><u>Projected Income</u></b>	<b><u>2022 Budget</u></b>	<b><u>2023 Budget</u></b>
	205,200	205,200
<b><u>Expense</u></b>		
Administration	7,250	9,200
Christian Education	1,100	400
Membership	750	750
Personnel	139,058	145,961.05
Property & Grounds	27,821	22,507.20
Stewardship & Finance	200	200
Worship	1,100	1,350
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b><u>177,279</u></b>	<b><u>180,368.25</u></b>
Projected Outreach 10% of Giving	21,000	21,000

**Pastor Alicia's sermon from December 4, 2022**  
**Scripture: Isaiah 11:1-10 & Matthew 3:1-12**

What is peace? I know what it is not. It is not going to Costco in the afternoon on a Friday in December. That is not peace. Masses of people. Shopping carts everywhere. People slowly meandering through, weaving from one side to the other side. No straight lines happening. Carts on one side of the aisle while the operator of the cart is on the other side of the same aisle, blocking the entire thing. And then really, really long checkout lines. You can imagine the noise. The overstimulation. And this doesn't even account for the noise of any items that were for sale or on display. It was not peaceful, peace invoking, peace like, peace anything. It was far from all of that. Even the parking lot was a little chaotic.

So what is peace? It's also not the running from store to store trying to find the perfect gift. Or stressing about all of the baking that needs to be done. Or ordering Christmas cards and getting them all addressed and mailed before Christmas. Or getting the lights hung just right. And this is all obviously related to the holidays. How about throughout the rest of the year? And around the world? What is peace?

It's not war. It's not people or countries fighting. It's not devastation and destruction. It's not constant noise and upheaval and disarray. It's not all of this and so much more. Which, it always seems easy to say what peace is not. We know those scenarios. We have experienced them. We have seen them in our communities and in the world. We are able to identify them pretty darn quickly. And that's great because then we are able to move away from those situations when peace is the desired end result. We know what to expect.

Still, this doesn't answer the question what is peace? It doesn't paint the picture of the positive aspects of it, what it is we are to seek out when peace is needed. Is it the quiet of the air when snow is falling? Is it an empty house? Is it people getting along? Is it no more weapons? Is it everyone holding hands, standing in a circle, singing Kumbaya together? What is peace?

According to the online dictionary, peace is defined as "freedom from disturbance; tranquility; a state or period in which there is no war or a war has ended." And in regards to peace as an exclamation, it is "used as a friendly greeting; used as an order to remain silent; [and informally it means] leave, 'I woke up at seven, thanked my host, and peaced out.'" Peace, therefore, has many different layers and many different understandings.

For today, as the Advent candle of peace has been lit, as our litany was focused on peace and as peace is the premise throughout the hymns we are singing, what is peace? How are we to define it? And how are we to pay it forward as our Advent theme declares?

Our scripture passage from the prophet Isaiah depicts peace in a pretty profound way. And this is all without even mentioning the word peace. It's simply the concept peace. "The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea."

This is an incredible way to describe peace. Complete opposites, prey and predator, together as one without challenges, without issue, without threat. These images are beyond fathomable. They have never been seen. They have never even been slightly seen. Who would think to try something like this? Who would think this was a good idea?

And still, this was the imagery prophesied by Isaiah. This was what would bring about a new world, a positive change, God's reality here on earth. This was how it would all be because of a shoot coming out from the stump of Jesse and a branch growing out of his roots. This was to be the end result.

Again though, this is all great and dandy, however the reality of this is something we will never see in our lifetime, let alone our children's lifetimes or their children's lifetimes or beyond that. Which begs the question, what are we to do with it? How are we to imagine this peace and work towards this peace when this peace is outside of our reach?

I mean it's a great reality and one that would bring about God's realm here on earth and let's be real. Although, if we are real and if we do desire for this to become what is, then maybe, just maybe we need to do our part to make it so. Maybe we need to strive for peace, embody peace, live peace and speak about peace. Maybe this needs to be our reality and our focus in our hearts, our homes, our church, our communities, our country, our world. Pay it forward with peace. Because isn't that the ultimate goal? Isn't that to guide what we do and who we are? Isn't that to be a piece of our mission?

At middle school and high school church camp this past summer the theme was peacemakers, living peace in our daily lives and recognizing the many ways it is present. As was shared, peacemaking is the "active reconciliation of people to God, one another and creation." Hmm, sound familiar? Like the words from Isaiah?

One activity we did to demonstrate just how much peace adds up occurred on the beach with sand. Small groups were invited to sit in a circle as a counselor placed a few grains of sand in their cupped hands. With each pinch of sand, the counselor would ask, "Is this a handful of sand?" Then more sand was added as each of these questions were also asked. Could you bury a treasure in this much sand? Could you trip on this much sand? Would this much sand bother you in your shoe? Could you build a sand castle with this much sand? Would you want this much sand in your sleeping bag?

As they considered these questions, the conversation was turned to the sand representing the good that a single life can hold. The youth were asked to imagine that each grain of sand is a small moment in time – a second, a minute – representing a moment in which someone acted to bring peace, wholeness or unity in the world.

On its own, one small act of peace doesn't appear to make much of an impact. But as was explained, if that same person seeks peace just one time each day for a year, that is 365 grains of sand – about one pinch of sand. In five years, that is almost 2,000 choices to create peace – about one teaspoon of sand grains. In 25 years, that is more than 9,000 opportunities to create peace. One person, just one act of peace a day – about 4 teaspoons of sand.

And then as the counselor stated, imagine that person does one act of kindness 12 times a day – just one choice each hour of the day. That is more than 100,000 actions towards peace in just 25 years – about ½ cup of sand. If that same person chose peace just 20 moments each hour for 25 years, that would add up to 2 million grains of sand – one cup of sand – 2 million moments of kindness, love or peace. Does this much sand make a difference? Would you want this much sand in your sleeping bag? Could you make something beautiful with this much sand?

And then with that one cup of sand representing one person, what happens if a cup of sand is added for each adult at camp? What happens if we add a cup of sand for each youth? What happens if we add a cup of sand for each person who has helped you, supported you, given you another chance, treated you kindly, sacrificed their comfort for your good? Does that much sand make a difference? Could you trip over this much sand? Could you bury a treasure in it?

Our lives are like the beach, built one grain of sand at a time. When we look at our lives, we can't necessarily see each tiny piece of good we have done, but over time those small moments can fill our hands with goodness. Each moment, each choice, has the power to add to the goodness of our life. In just the same way, peace is built by a great number of small, ordinary actions. If we want to make peace happen, we have to practice peace a little bit at a time. And all of those little bits, at the end of our lives, will fill our lives with peace. And the lives of those around us.

And maybe, just maybe "The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den."

### **Another way to help Hood River Shelter Services and Mid-Columbia Community Action**

Dear Partners of Hood River Shelter Services & Mid-Columbia Community Action,

In our mission to build a better future for our community, we are always looking to join forces with partners and organizations who help expand our impact.

We are excited to introduce our new partner, Purposity! The mission of Purposity is to connect community needs with those that can meet the need. Purposity's app-based platform allows us to share specific needs of our clients, get those needs met, and focus on the long-term goals of those we serve.

Meeting the needs of our clients can happen with just a few clicks. To join us in this partnership, download the Purposity app (if you have an Apple product) or visit <https://www.purposity.com/organization/mccac> and follow Mid-Columbia Community Action Council, where you will see current needs of our clients listed. Client needs are shared to Purposity by our staff and, once needs are met, Purposity will send items directly to our office to be distributed to our clients by our staff.

You can help build our base of supporters by sharing this email with people you think would be interested in joining us on Purposity. You can also keep an eye out for our posts on social media, and share those to your personal and/or agency page to help us increase community engagement and meet the needs of our clients.

Sincerely,  
Alicia Speidel  
Chair of the HRSS Board

Link to MCCAC page on Purposity: <https://www.purposity.com/organization/mccac>



## AT HOOD RIVER VALLEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

### **Sunday December 11**      **THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT - Joy**

9:30am Sunday School  
10:30am Worship

### **Wednesday December 14**

5:00pm Women's Christmas gathering & dinner at Stonehedge

### **Sunday December 18**      **FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT - Love**

9:30am Sunday School  
10:30am Children and Youth Christmas Play  
11:45am Christmas Fellowship Dinner

### **Wednesday December 21**      **LONGEST NIGHT at Down Manor**

6:00pm Worship with silence, prayers and candle lighting

### **Saturday December 24**      **CHRISTMAS EVE For all ages**

7:30pm Worship with candlelight, carols, communion, & choir

### **Sunday December 25**      **CHRISTMAS DAY wear pajamas or comfortable clothes**

10:30am Worship

### **Sunday January 1, 2023**      **NEW YEARS DAY**

10:30am Worship

### **Sunday January 8**      **Epiphany Sunday**

10:30am Worship & undecorating the church



## Holiday Giving in Our Hood River Community

Here are some local service organizations in our community that appreciate extra giving during the holidays—along with their contact information. You can make donations direct to the organizations or through your church offering (please indicate where you are donating in the memo of your check.)

**FISH Food Bank** fighting food insecurity in the Gorge – Donate non-perishable food, hygiene items, pet food, household paper & cleaning items (paper towels, dish detergent, etc.) at the FISH Hood River site—FISH Food Bank 1130 Tucker Road. Or drop off at the church.

Donate online: <https://www.fish-food-bank.com/> or mail a check: FISH, 1767 12th Street, #147, Hood River, OR 97031



**Hood River Shelter Services** <https://hoodrivercares.org/> – supporting unhoused community members. Donate online: hoodrivercares.org or mail check: HRSS Warming Shelter, P.O. Box 1714, Hood River, OR 97031 Also accepting specific clothing items for donation. Please check the website for information.

**Hood River County Christmas Project** – Christmas food and toy assistance for Hood River County residents. Donate online: <https://www.hoodrivercountychristmasproject.com/> or mail check: HRCCP, PO Box 872, Hood River, OR 97031

**Helping Hands Against Domestic Violence** – domestic violence shelter and assistance. Donate online: <https://www.helpinghandsoregon.org/> or mail check: HHAV PO Box 441 Hood River, OR 97031

**Hood River Emergency Voucher Program** – provides vouchers for food, fuel, and lodging for travelers and people in need in our community. Donate online: <https://gorgeem.org/emergency-voucher-program> or mail check: Gorge Ecumenical Ministries, 400 11th Street, Hood River, OR 97031 (indicate in memo line Emergency Voucher fund.)

**The Next Door, Inc.** <https://nextdoorinc.org/> – Offering over two dozen programs supporting and empowering people in our community, including: Parenting support and education; safety net for children at risk of abuse or neglect and for victims of crime; health and wellness education; mentoring, education and treatment for high-risk youth and families. Donate online: <https://nextdoorinc.org/donate/> or mail check: The Next Door, Inc. 965 Tucker Road Hood River, OR 97031

**Meals on Wheels** – Delivers meals to people who have difficulty cooking or getting out of their home. Donate online: <https://www.hrvac.org/meals-on-wheels> or mail check: Hood River Adult Center, Meals on Wheels, 2010 Sterling Place Hood River, OR 97031

**Columbia Gorge Habitat for Humanity** - <https://columbiagorgehabitat.org/> Building and improving homes in the Gorge. Mail checks to PO Box 378, The Dalles, OR 97058

## Giving within our Disciples Denomination Community

### **Disciples of Christ, Oregon/SW Idaho Region (Christmas Special Offering)**

Supports programs of the Regional Church.

Mail a check: Christian Church in Oregon & SW Idaho PO Box 19466 Portland, OR 97280

Or give through your church offering.

**Week of Compassion** – donate online <https://www.weekofcompassion.org/donate.html> or mail a check: Week of Compassion P.O. Box 1986 Indianapolis, IN 46206  
Or give through your church offering.

# Church Calendar

## Wednesday December 7

9:00am-Noon Quilters meet

9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop

Christmas Project, FH

## Thursday December 8

7:00am Men's Study

1:30pm Chime Choir, fellowship hall

2:30-4:30pm Christmas Project, FH

## Friday December 9

Kathy Holmson out of the office

## Saturday December 10

9:00am-noon Thriftshop open

10:00am Chari Harrington Strings recital sanctuary, fellowship hall

## Sunday December 11 Third Sunday in Advent

9:30am Advent Study, vista room

9:45am Sunday Adult book study

10:30am Worship, with CWW

3:30pm Hope and Life church worship

## Tuesday December 13

10:00am Women's Bible Study

3:00pm TOPS Group

## Wednesday December 14

9:00am-Noon Quilters meet

9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop

5:00pm Women's Christmas dinner at Stonehedge

## Thursday December 15

7:00am Men's Study

1:30pm Chime Choir, fellowship hall

9:00am-noon Thriftshop open

## Sunday December 18 Fourth Sunday in Advent

9:30am Advent Study, vista room

9:45am Sunday Adult book study

10:30am Worship, with Children's Christmas program

11:45am Church Christmas dinner

3:30pm Hope and Life church worship

## Tuesday December 20

10:00am Women's Bible Study

3:00pm TOPS Group

## Wednesday December 21

9:00am-Noon Quilters meet

9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop

6:00pm Longest Night Service at Down Manor

## Scriptures for Sunday December 11, 2022

Isaiah 35:1-10

Psalm 146:5-10 or Luke 1:46b-55

James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-22

## SERVING Sunday December 11, 2022

Elder this Week

Sharon Smiley

Communion Preparer

Barb Ritoch

Coffee Hour

Frances & friends

Deacons

Serving Team #3

Otto & Jan Behrmann

Ayden Phelps, Owen Waits