



# Hood River Valley Christian Church Newsletter

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

and on Face book

**April 26, 2023**

## 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)

## Women, Wine, and The Word

**Wednesday, April 26 4pm at Stave and Stone at the vineyard**

Women are invited to join for a time of fellowship to talk about a scripture passage centered around women. We will gather at Stave and Stone Winery at the Vineyard (3827 Fletcher Dr, HR). Come grab a beverage (non-alcoholic or alcoholic beverages are available) and a snack while we share how the passage intersects with our lives. Invite friends from outside the church, too.

This is a fun, relaxing time being with friends. You are invited to join them.

## SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

9:30am Adult Sunday school classes, nursery available

10:30am Sunday Worship with Children Worship & Wonder

***Special music Jo Herring with Margaret Marshall***

## EVENING PRAYER ON FACEBOOK

5:00pm Monday – Thursday (schedule permitting)

### Links:

**Wednesday April 19**

**Thursday April 20**

**Sunday April 22**

**Where may I leave my offering at the church?** For offerings and tithes, there is a secure deposit box at the entrance of the sanctuary, inside the double doors. Offerings may be dropped off at any time.

## Other Ways to Give

**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 975 Indian Creek Road, Hood River, OR 97031

**HRVCC Higher Education Scholarships** Educational Scholarship applications are now available in the church office for high school seniors and college students. Deadline for high school seniors to apply is April 15; deadline for continuing college students is May 15<sup>th</sup>. Pick up an application in the church office.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

Layla & Ryder Gaffney  
Bev Thomas  
Bonnie McCollister

Sharon & Gordon Cook  
David Nash

Lauree Winfield  
Katy White

Vicki White  
Stacey Jubitz



**The Pastor's  
COLUMN**

**THANK YOU!** There are many thank yous in order this week. Thank you to you, the congregation, for singing Happy Birthday to me and gifting me with Amazon gift cards. I will enjoy spending them. (Maybe I'll get some new shoes for Italy. Because I hear from a few who have traveled there that you need a pair of fancy shoes for evenings out in Italy. And I do love shoes!) Thank you for your generosity.

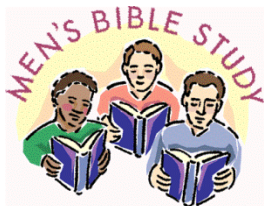
Thank you to all who made the Simplicity Sale happen. Thank you to Suze for your endless hours! You are amazing and so dedicated to making this happen every single year. Thank you to Kathy and Laurie for setting up and cleaning up. Thank you to the youth group families for working over the course of the week, to Jami, Ayden, Owen, Jodi, Tatum, Araya, Chrystal, Rylee, Emmi, Melissa, Aubri, Austin, Sable, JJ, Geoff, Kailey and Jackson. Thank you to everyone who donated items, purchased items and donated money. Thank you for making church camp a reality for the children and youth of this congregation. It is such an important time in their faith life. So thank you to everyone!!!

Thank you to Mary Anne for sharing about eco-friendly options right here in Hood River during fellowship hour. Thank you for your passion for being environmentally minded. Thank you to Betty for arranging to have Hank and Rocky, the two miniature horses, here on Sunday. Thank you to Kurt for setting up the handprint painting of the horses. Thank you to Jodi for helping with the children and youth activities. The bubbles were perfect with the wind. Thank you to all of the families who enjoyed this time together. It was a fun-filled time. *Alicia*

**Meal Schedule for Dave Nash – Fridays only – 5:00 p.m.**

David Nash says it would help to have a meal delivered on Fridays. Suze Nigl is coordinating a meal schedule. A sign up list is on the bulletin board in the lobby or please contact Suze by phone or email [mamafan11@aol.com](mailto:mamafan11@aol.com) to sign up.

**April 28 Margaret Strasser**



**MEN'S GROUP-NEW STUDY!**

The Thursday morning men's group started a new study April 13, looking at Burton Mack's book, *The Lost Gospel*. The study, which will take a chapter a week, examines the material in Matthew and Luke that is believed to have come from one of the earliest church writings (apart from Paul). Mack asks what this material tells us about the some of the earliest followers of Jesus.

All men are invited. Coffee is ready by 7:00 a.m. in the Vista Room. This is a good way to get acquainted and get involved in our Men's Ministry group.

**Something New—Would You Like to Participate?** We are starting a “Member Checking on Member” plan for our shut-Ins.. All you have to do is call, send a note, or even visit once a month. The sign up will be on the table in the lobby on Sunday. Thanks for your help making their day a little brighter. Barb Ritoch and Carol Sabins.

**Looking for fun ideas for activities** Want to have fun and get better acquainted with people in our church community through church activities? Some suggestions are coffee klatch, game activities (card games, board games, etc), progressive dinner, and secret sister. Please use the sign-up sheet in the lobby to let me know what interests you or what you think others might be interested in. Thanks for your help! Shar Wilkins



***HRVCC quilters meet Wednesday morning. They invite new friends who would like to learn more about quilting to join them. The quilting room is downstairs, left into the long hallway, first room on the left.***

**Pastor Alicia’s sermon April 23, 2023**  
**Scripture: Luke 24:13-35**

After reading a few commentaries on this passage from the Gospel of Luke this past week, one sentence immediately jumped out at me. It is in response to the two on the road not realizing it was Jesus, not seeing what was right in front of them. It is poignant and speaks to so many things from this passage and so much more about our own lives and world. It gets to the heart of it all.

Listen to this simple, yet so immensely complex sentence from Reverend Shannon Michael Pater. “Stones are rolled away, but sometimes we stay in the tomb.” I’ll read it one more time. “Stones are rolled away, but sometimes we stay in the tomb.”

It’s easier that way, to not have sight, to live in denial, to not venture out, to remain in fear, to be in the comfort of what is known. The tomb is known. The death, the pain, the darkness. It is safe. It is protective. It is away from reality. Reality that is scary. Reality that means we have to face reality, that we have to take action, that we have to be proactive as opposed to reactive. That we have to engage and make a difference, that we have to effect change.

So stay in the tomb, stay hidden, stay away from it all. Yes, the stone has been removed, but who says we have to go out there? Who says that is the step to take? Who says we have to address what is really going on, what is beyond the supposed safety of the tomb? Where does it say that is the path to take?

The stone has been rolled away. The tomb is empty. The tomb is empty. We are not to be in the tomb any longer. We are to venture out, to see the world around us, to see what needs our impact, our voice, our hands and feet, our heart.

Because our world needs it. Boy does our world need it. We know this by looking at the news, by seeing the interactions in our world, by pointing out the lack of sight that is happening. I know this does not sound like a very uplifting way to continue, however in order to get to the change that needs

to happen, what we are to do in our lives and communities, we have to discuss the hard parts. We have to point out what is challenging and disheartening. We have to identify where sight is not happening. Then we will be able to bring light to those situations, to areas where maybe there isn't light. To areas where ripple effects will be created and lives will be changed. Then sight will be present and we will no longer stay in the tomb. Or that is the hope.

What has grabbed at my heart over the past ten days, caused me to sit in utter disbelief and desire for something entirely different for our country are the senseless acts of gun violence. I would imagine that most of us have heard about the three recent situations where action was taken for no reason at all. Action that I am floored was taken. Maybe you have talked about it with others. Maybe you have read about it and watched it with mouths wide open and hearts breaking. Maybe you have wondered what this world has come to. I know I have.

On Thursday, April 13 Ralph Yurl, a sixteen year old African American young man, a sophomore band leader, went to pick up his younger siblings. When he arrived at the house where he thought they were, he rang the doorbell and knocked on the door. Instead of answering the door or asking what the young man wanted, the homeowner, an eighty-four year old white man opened fire, shooting Ralph in the head and then in the arm as he lay on the ground. Ralph had gone to the correct house number and name of the road. He was just on the street of that address not the terrace as was the full correct address.

On Saturday, April 15 Kaylin Gillis, a twenty year old young woman, was riding with her boyfriend and two other friends in rural upstate New York. They were looking for a friend's house to attend a party that was happening. Turning down a driveway in an area without cell service along with two other vehicles that were with them, they realized they were on the wrong driveway. As they were turning around to find the correct driveway, the homeowner, a sixty-five year old man, opened fire from his front porch shooting and killing Kaylin who was sitting in the passenger seat. The young adults stepped on the gas to get out of there to find cell service, only having one of their friends die as a result of turning down the wrong driveway.

On Tuesday, April 18, Heather Roth, a college student, and Payton Washington, a high school student, both cheerleaders, were parting ways in a grocery store parking lot in a Houston, Texas suburb. Heather got out of Payton's vehicle to get into her vehicle. Mistakenly opening the door of a similar looking vehicle, Heather began to get in. Realizing it wasn't her vehicle after all, she apologized to the twenty-five year old young man in the passenger seat. That was when the young man pulled out a gun and began firing. Rapidly getting away the young cheerleaders soon discovered that their friend Payton had been shot twice, calling 911 to get her help.

These stories are horrific. They are incredibly hard to hear. They make you wish they weren't real stories, real lives that have been tragically and traumatically impacted, real accounts that are being discussed in so many different realms. You want to turn away from them, to deny they happened, to say that would never happen in my home, my community, my city or my state. It happens elsewhere.

Well, I don't think we want it to happen elsewhere either. We don't want these stories to occur. We don't want this to be the reality ever again. For fear to lead in such a shocking way. For fear to control and divide. For fear to cause such immense pain and tragedy.

Fear needs to be addressed. Fear of the other. Fear of what is different or unknown. Fear of a situation or occurrence that results in gun violence being the response that is taken.

Now there are lots of different directions this could be taken in at this point, ones that could be divisive or lean one way or another. That is not the path we are going to travel because this is about

how to find ourselves actually leaving the tomb, opening our eyes to a reality where light is the outcome and fear does not dominate. And where we are able to influence others to break down those fears and instill the light that comes from God, to bring movement from the tomb for more than just us.

Because fear of the other is real in so many different ways. We all have fear and live it out unfortunately. We allow fear to dictate what we think about someone else or a particular situation. It could be based on the clothing someone is wearing, the tattoos or piercings someone has, the name someone chooses to be called, the way someone identifies themselves, the job they hold, the group of people they are standing with. The list could go on and on. It is fear that causes us to react a certain way, to think the worst, to label, to judge, to cross the street, to avoid eye contact, to smirk, to treat someone differently, to respond accordingly.

Fear does that. There is no seeing the other person. There is no valuing the other person. There is no knowing who they are or even attempting to know who they are.

As Jordan Klepper, a comedian and host of The Daily Show, a show that looks at the biggest news stories across all spectrums, said last week in response to the tragedies I highlighted, "How about we return to the question that needed to be asked, can I help you?"

Because it is about how we see each other. Honestly, how do we see each other? And I really mean "the other" whom we do not know, do not have a relationship with and do not sometimes understand. How do we see those individuals? What do we say about them? How do we treat them? Where do our minds go when we see them?

It's hard to be honest in response to these questions because we don't want to admit that we hold fear and judgment. We don't want to acknowledge that our sight is lacking at times. We don't want to lift up our faults.

And yet we need to. We need to rise above them and do something about them. We need to open our eyes, to check our vision and to walk out of the tomb. We need to see what having sight can do and will do for the way we are in the world and the way we are able to influence others. We need to allow our sight to bring about the light that comes from God and is God. And we need to be faithful about doing this on a daily basis because fear will continue to creep in, judgment and labels will continue to attempt to take hold, being blind to what is there will always be a possibility.

Because look at what happened when the two on the road to Emmaus finally had their eyes opened with the breaking of the bread by the resurrected Christ. Look at their honest response, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?"

How do our hearts burn with the responses we are to have? How does the resurrected Christ speak to us? How does the act of breaking the bread demonstrate an invitation of welcoming and affirming all?

"Stones are rolled away, but sometimes we stay in the tomb." How do we make that not the reality? How do we change the narrative? How is sight, true sight the way to go? How are we to treat "the other?"

# Church Calendar

## Wednesday April 26

9:00am-Noon Quilters meet  
9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop  
4:00pm Women, Wine, & the Word, at Stave & Stone

## Thursday April 27

7:00am Men's Study  
1:30pm Chime Choir

## Saturday April 29

9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop

## Sunday April 30

9:30am Gospel of Matthew Study, vista room  
9:45am Worship  
11:30am Coffee Hour  
3:30pm Hope and Life church worship

## Monday-Friday May 1-5

8:00am-4:00pm CG Music Teachers in  
Sanctuary

## Tuesday May 2

10:00am Women's Bible Study  
3:00pm TOPS Group

## Wednesday May 3

9:00am-Noon Quilters meet  
9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop

## Thursday May 4

7:00am Men's Study  
1:30pm Chime Choir

## Saturday May 6

9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop

## Sunday May 7 FISH FOOD BANK SUNDAY

9:30am Gospel of Matthew Study, vista room  
9:45am Worship  
3:30pm Hope and Life church worship

## Monday-Wednesday May 8-10

Kathy Holmson out of town

No Newsletter May 10

## Tuesday May 9

10:00am Women's Bible Study  
3:00pm TOPS Group

## Wednesday May 10

9:00am-Noon Quilters meet  
9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop

## Scriptures for Sunday April 30, 2023

Acts 2:42-47  
Psalm 23  
1 Peter 2:19-25  
Luke 24:13-35

## SERVING Sunday April 30, 2023

Elder this Week	Suze Nigl
Communion Preparer	Kailey Speidel
Coffee Hour	Betty & friends
Deacons	<u>Serving Team 1</u>
	Woody & Sue Eskildsen
	Owen, Ayden

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