

January 14, 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

Minister

Rev. Alicia Speidel 541-601-1949

aliciaspeidel@gmail.com

Church Administrative Assistant

Sable Duback

Office hours 9am-12pm or as needed

Sunday Worship

9:30 Adult Lectionary Preview

10:30 Worship

Link to Worship on January 11- [Facebook](#)



Sharon & Gordon Cook

Carol Sabins

Lee Repp

Vestena Emerson

Vicki White

Ken Hansen

Hopkins Family

Bev Carpenter

James Gaffney

Bud Harris

Tyler Luna

Williford Family

Rich Nichols

Natasha Decker

* Jim Williford was called home to the Lord recently; prayers of peace and comfort for his wife Mimi and all of their family.

*Prayers for health and healing for Natasha Decker as she is being induced this week, about two months early, because of health concerns.

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



02 Shirley Ihle

04 Dot Swyers

05-Martha Hathaway

05- Ayden Phelps

08- Tim Cantrell

09- Tom Biddle

14- Christie Galon

17- Araya Lopez

20- Heidi Chapin

20- Carol Sabins

21- Jackson Speidel

21- Sharon Rath

23- Beverly Carpenter

24- James Stager

24- Miles Wyatt

31- Laurie Branson

I love signs and sayings. I know I have mentioned this before, like the sign above my church office door that says "Smile it confuses people." Yes, yes it does. Especially when the other person is being rude or difficult in that moment, smiling could change the focus and ease the tension. You just never know. Then there are sayings on the corner of my desk in my collection of various odds and ends that have meaning to me. There is "Rise up." Always an important one and even more so right now as we need to rise up with the message of Jesus Christ, as we need to rise up with God's love and welcome, as we need to rise up with the movement of the Holy Spirit. Yes, rise up.



Then there is an ornament with pink boxing gloves and the words "Like a girl," meaning fight like a girl. This was given to me by Rylee in reference to my breast cancer journey, to keep on fighting, to keep on tackling it head on, to keep on winning. They are important words whether it is for a medical reason or for whatever you are facing in your life. Muster up the strength to overcome the hardship, to find your inner power and to persevere.

The third saying on the corner of my desk is "Be light" on a pink origami star from camp around 2019. Be light. That's pretty straightforward and needed. Be light. Wherever you are, whomever you are with, in whatever situation you face. Be God's light. Shine brightly in the midst of the darkness. Be radiant, glowing and effecting change. A message we all need to hear and be because it impacts in ways like none other. So be light, fight like a girl and rise up. Our communities depend on it.

~ Pastor Alicia



Women's Ministries activities will resume in February. The annual meeting will be after worship on February 22. A week before that will be a Valentine Visitation on Friday February 13. The emphasis on visitation will have three parts—join one, two, or all three!

10:30 - greeting card making with Laurie Crosswhite
12:00 - lunch
1:00 - visiting shut-ins and others in groups of 2 or 3

Sign up for the Valentine Visitation beginning Sunday, January 25. You will also have the opportunity to help with the day by providing food for lunch or clean up, calling shut-ins ahead to schedule a visit, or driving for the afternoon calling.



How can we Help our Neighbors?

Hood River has an outstanding, mostly volunteer staffed food bank offering food assistance to people who are hungry. FISH food bank is on the frontline fighting hunger in our community. FISH accepts non perishable food, garden and orchard produce, and cash and checks which is used to purchase needed food—especially fresh foods such as eggs and dairy.

Our continued support of FISH is important in these troubling times. We will be donating funds from our church's Help a Neighbor fund to help FISH purchase needed food. Please give as you are able to support the food bank's work of keeping families fed in Hood River County.

Thank you.

More information:

—checks may be mailed. FISH mailing address is 1767 12th Street, #147, Hood River, OR 97031

—food items can be dropped off at FISH 1130 Tucker Road HR

FISH also accepts toiletries, baby items such as diapers, and pet food.



If you are able to donate to help those in the Pacific Northwest who are affected by the current floods please address your payment to Week of Compassion designated for the Northern Lights Region.



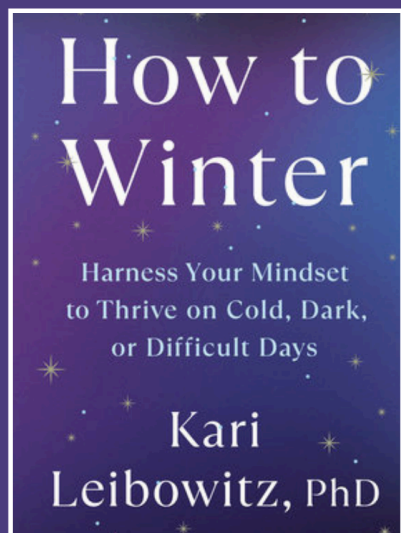
We need official greeters to welcome people as they arrive for worship on Sunday mornings.

The responsibility of a greeter would be to stand near the front doors beginning at 10:15am with bulletins in hand to warmly greet those who enter. If you are interested in doing this, please let Pastor Alicia or Sable know. Then a schedule will be created. Thank you!



HOOD RIVER COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT &
GORGE HAPPINESS PRESENT:

Book Club & Community Circle



Every 1st and 3rd
Tuesday
from 11:30-1:00 PM

December 2
December 16
January 6
January 20
February 3
February 17

Attend when you can!

CONNECTION + MEDITATION + DISCUSSION

WITH EMILY MARTIN



HOOD RIVER LIBRARY READING ROOM

502 State Street

541-386-2535

www.hoodriverlibrary.org



WWW.GORGEHAPPINESS.ORG

Please purchase ahead of time or get a copy of the book from the library to read along with the group (library copies will be available to borrow during our first meeting on Dec 2).

No need to read anything from the book before our first meeting. We will read and discuss a few chapters every 2 weeks.

Each circle includes:

- ~ Time for connection and reflection
- ~ Mindfulness Meditation
- ~ Time for book chapter discussion

Come as you are--even if you haven't read the chapter! We want to sit in community circle with you. Attend when you can.

Questions? Contact Emily Martin

503-358-1949

A reminder: Church meetings or Thriftshop days may be cancelled if the weather causes hazardous driving conditions. If local schools have cancellations, church activities are likely cancelled as well. Call your group leader before you venture out.

Weather-Related Cancellations





We are "back to thriving" as we focus again on the Thriving Congregations Project that we are engaged in as a faith community. We are revisiting what was identified as the church's positive aspects and core values last fall. We are moving forward with exploring what these discoveries mean. We are determining how God is calling us in this time and in this place.

One way we are doing that is with the creation of a mission and vision statement. Our thriving team is meeting this Thursday at 5:30pm to begin that creative brainstorming. You are invited to lift up that meeting and those team members (Chrystal, Jennifer, Betty, Geoff and Alicia) in prayer at that time. Ask for the Holy Spirit to move in their hearts and minds as ideas are shared and the calling of this church rises to the surface. Offer up clarity and direction. Simply engage in prayer. It makes a difference and it is needed.



Thank you church family for giving me a college scholarship that allows me to continue my education at Western Oregon University.

It helps a lot.

Kailey Speidel

*Thank you to everyone who made
Dot's birthday celebration so
special!*



Church Calendar

Wednesday January 14

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

5:30pm Church Board Meeting

Suze out of town 15-19

Sable out of office 15 & 16

Thursday January 15

7:00am Men's Study

1:30pm Chimes practice

5:30pm Thriving Team Meeting

Saturday January 17

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

Sunday January 18

9:30am Lectionary Preview

10:30am Worship

4:00pm Hope and Life Church worship

Tuesday January 20

10:00am Women's Bible Study

Wednesday January 21

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

Thursday January 22

7:00am Men's Study

1:30pm Chimes practice

Saturday January 24

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

Sunday January 25

9:30am Lectionary Preview

10:30am Worship

2:00pm CGOA Concert

4:00pm Hope and Life Church worship

Tuesday January 27

10:00am Women's Bible Study

1:30pm Chimes practice

5:30pm Trustees meeting

Wednesday January 28

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

9:00am-12:00pm Quilters meet

Thursday January 29

7:00am Men's bible study

1:30pm Chimes practice

Saturday January 31

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

Sunday February 01

9:30am Lectionary Preview

10:30am Worship

4:00pm Hope and Life Church worship

Serving Sunday January 18, 2026

Elder this week	Rod Parrott
Communion prep	Kathy Holmson
Coffee hour	Judy and friends
Deacon	

Scriptures for Sunday January 18, 2026

Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 40:1-11
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
John 1:29-42

Serving Sunday January 25, 2026

Elder this week	Betty Osborne
Communion prep	Kathy Holmson
Coffee hour	Judy and friends
Deacon	Betty Osborne

Scriptures for Sunday January 25, 2026

Isaiah 9:1-4
Psalm 24:1, 4-9
1 Corinthians 1:1-19
John 1:29-42

