

November 19, 2025



Hood River Valley Christian Church Newsletter

541-386-2608 hrvcchurch@gmail.com

<https://www.hoodrivervalleychristianchurch.org/> and on [Facebook](#)

Sunday Worship Time

10:30am

Church Administrative Assistant

Sable Duback

Minister

Rev. Alicia Speidel 541-601-1949

aliciaspeidel@gmail.com

Office hours 9am-12pm or as needed

Sunday Worship

9:30 Adult Lectionary Preview

10:30 Worship

There is no link to Worship on November 16 as we gathered in the Fellowship Hall to talk about our Thriving Congregations journey.

Prayer Requests



Sharon & Gordon Cook

Carol Sabins

Lee Repp

Vestena Emerson

Vicki White

Ken Hansen

Anse Hopkins

Bev Carpenter

Sheppard Family

Springer Family

Sharon Smiley

James Gaffney

*Prayers for healing for James Gaffney as he recently had emergency hip surgery to put medical pins in following a SCFE.

*prayers for Sharon Smiley for healing and then for the future kidney stone removal at the end of November.

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



Kathie McCaw- 06

Jennifer Stager-09

Suzanne Maurer-10

Brandon Smiley-13

Mary Jane Laureau-13

Judy Kenyon-17

Linda Meyers-26

Sue Eskildsen-29



This past Sunday we gathered in the fellowship hall for goodies and conversation around our Thriving Congregations journey. We heard the responses that were shared from the September 28 gathering, learning more about what connects us to this faith community and what keeps us engaged. We identified common themes and words that have been present in those conversations. We celebrated one another as we shared and listened. It was another fruitful time together.

Next comes the sharing of this past Sunday's conversation and the road to creating a mission and vision statement. Our church's thriving team will continue this aspect in December with the hopes of bringing a statement to the church board in January. Then after it has been reviewed and approved, it will go to the congregation. Following that it will be widely shared with the congregation and wider community.

In addition, there will be more activities and study after the season of Advent and Christmas. Keep your eye out for more information and for ways to be involved. This is an exciting time as we keep exploring the topic and idea of thriving.

On Tuesday, November 4 as I walked into the Vista Room to lead women's Bible study my phone dinged with an email notification. I quickly glanced at it to see if it needed my attention at that moment. It did. It was the exciting news that I was affirmed as a new member to the Week of Compassion Board of Stewards. I then also received a text from the Executive Director Vy Nguyen with the news. What great news!



As many know, I am passionate about Week of Compassion, the ministry it does and the ways we are able to partner with it. Our church is a Circle of Compassion member, having established a \$10,000 fund a few years ago with Christian Church Foundation to benefit Week of Compassion. We highlight Week of Compassion anytime there is a need or disaster around the world. This is who I tell friends and family to support whenever possible.

That is why I am excited to be able to serve in this way. You will no doubt be hearing lots more about the ministry of Week of Compassion as I learn more myself. I look forward to being engaged in this important hands-on way of being the church and living out my faith.

~Pastor Alicia

Thank you to Suze Nigl, Barb Ritoch and Leslie Hidle for setting up a lovely pre-Christmas sale. Thank you to Tatum & Jodi Wyatt and Jackson & Geoff Speidel for bringing the items upstairs. The space looked amazing for all who came to shop. Thank you to everyone who donated and made purchases. Women's ministries raised \$2000 with the sale this year! \$2000 that will benefit many throughout our community.



Thanksgiving Fellowship Hour

Join us on Sunday, November 23 for our special Thanksgiving Appetizers and Pie Fellowship Hour!

Come ready to share your favorite seasonal snacks. Bring an appetizer, a delicious dessert, or a classic holiday pie to share with the group. It's a wonderful time to enjoy food and fellowship before the holiday.



Carol is coordinating this delicious event.

Please email the church office or sign up on the table in the Narthex if you are able to bring something to share!



Poinsettias for Decorating the Church

Sunday, November 23, will be the final day to purchase a poinsettia for Advent and Christmas decorating of the church building.



If you wish to honor or remember someone with the poinsettia, names will be published soon.

The cost is \$17.50 for a medium-sized plant from Height's Floral. Sign-up sheets will be on the table outside Pastor Alicia's office.

Your poinsettia may be taken home after the Christmas Eve service.



We are delighted to announce that we will be having the exceptionally talented Chari Harrington share her gifts in worship with us on November 23!

Her music promises to be a moving and inspiring part of our worship experience as we prepare our hearts for the upcoming holiday season. Chari's artistry on the violin is truly a blessing, and we encourage everyone to come and enjoy this wonderful expression of praise.



"More than 40 million low-income food stamp beneficiaries are expected to receive less help with grocery bills — or no help at all — in the coming days". (The Hill.com)



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.

FISH FOOD BANK

1130 TUCKER RD, HOOD RIVER, OR 97031

541.386.3474

www.fish-food-bank.com

MOST NEEDED FOOD ITEMS

- Cereal/Oatmeal (low sugar)
- Jelly (low sugar)
- 1-2 lb bag of brown rice
- Canned jalapenos/chilies
- Canned Soup/Stew/Chili
- Healthy snacks: nuts/dried fruit/granola
- Juice/Apple cider
- Canned fruit
- Canned corn
- Hominy
- Crackers
- Condiments
- Coffee
- Personal care items



**Donate
Online**

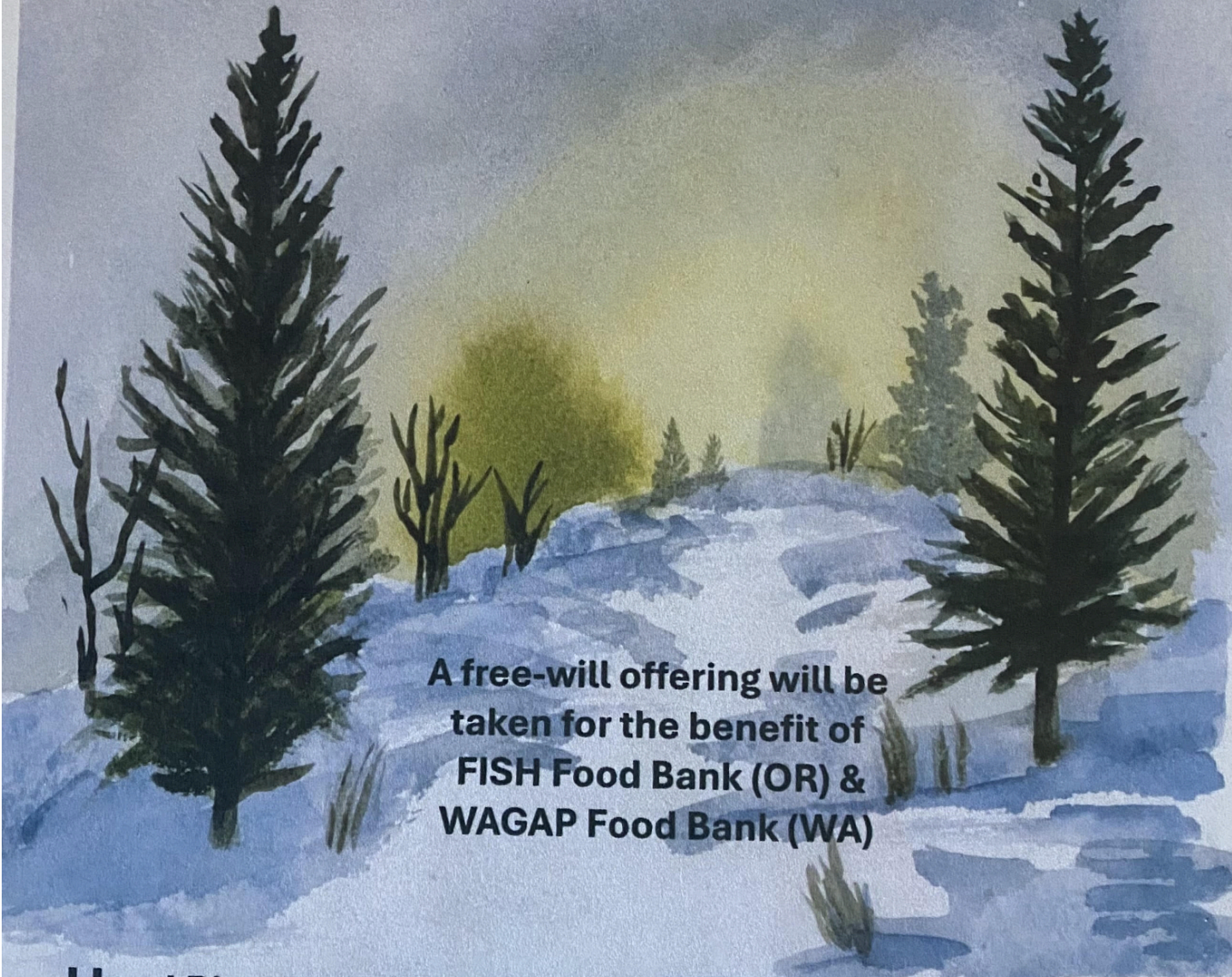


Shelf stable foods may be dropped off anytime in our donation box to the right of FISH's front door.

Thank you!

FISH is an equal opportunity provider

Mid-Columbia Community Choir
presents
Let There Be Christmas



A free-will offering will be
taken for the benefit of
FISH Food Bank (OR) &
WAGAP Food Bank (WA)

Hood River Valley Christian
December 6, 2025 at 7:00pm
975 Indian Creek Road
Hood River, Oregon

Grace Baptist Church
December 7, 2025 at 4:00pm
1280 West Jewett Blvd
White Salmon, Washington

Prepare the Way! Advent Decorating & Hanging of the Greens

The season of Advent is almost upon us, and it's time to transform our worship space into a sanctuary of hope, peace, joy, and love! We need your hands and hearts to help us prepare the church for this beautiful season of anticipation.

Volunteer Decorating Day

Join us for our community decorating session to get the greenery and symbols of Advent in place. This is a wonderful, intergenerational opportunity for fellowship and service.

- When: Saturday, November 29
- Time: 10am
- What: We'll be hanging garlands, setting up the Advent wreath, and preparing the sanctuary for the symbolic service the following day. All ages and abilities are welcome—there's a job for everyone!

Hanging of the Greens Worship Service

The preparation where the decorations are formally integrated into our worship and we focus on the rich meaning behind each symbol.

- When: Sunday, November 30
- Service Name: Hanging of the Greens
- Time: 10:30am
- Significance: The First Sunday of Advent marks the beginning of the church year. This service explains how the evergreens (everlasting life), holly (the crown of thorns), and Advent wreath candles (hope, peace, joy, and love) all point toward the coming of Christ. Join us as we light the first candle and set our hearts on the true meaning of the season.



Church Calendar

Wednesday November 19

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

9:00am-12:00pm Quilters meet

Thursday November 20

7:00am Men's study Vista Room

1:30pm Chimes Practice

Saturday November 22

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

Sunday November 23- Thanksgiving Fellowship Hour

9:30am Lectionary Preview

10:30am Worship

4:00pm Hope and Life Church worship.

Tuesday November 25

10:00am Women's Bible Study

1:30pm Chimes practice

Wednesday November 26

9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop open

9:00am-12:00pm Quilters meet

Thursday November 27

7:00am Men's study Vista Room

1:30pm Chimes practice

Saturday November 29

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

10:00am Decorating the church for Advent

Sunday November 30- First Sunday of Advent. Hanging of the Greens Worship Service

9:30am Lectionary Preview

10:30am Worship

4:00pm Hope and Life Church worship

Tuesday December 02

10:00am Women's bible study

1:30pm Chimes practice

Wednesday December 03

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

9:00am-12:00pm Quilters meet

Thursday December 04

7:00am Men's study Vista Room

1:30pm Chimes Practice

Saturday December 06

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

Sunday December 07- Second Sunday of Advent. Gathering for FISH

9:30 Adult lectionary study

10:30am Worship

4:00pm Hope And Life Church Worship

Scriptures for Sunday November 23, 2025

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Luke 1:68-79

Colossians 1:11-20

Luke 23:33-43

Serving Sunday November 23, 2025

Elder this week

Carol Sabins

Communion prep

Judy Hiatt

Coffee hour

Carol and friends

Deacon

Otto and Jan

Scriptures for Sunday November 30, 2025

Isaiah 2:1-5

Psalms 122

Romans 13:11-14

Matthew 24:36-44

Serving Sunday November 30, 2025

Elder this week

Rod Parrott

Communion prep

Leslie Hidle

Coffee hour

Betty and friends

Deacon

Sable and Chance

