



Hood River Valley Christian Church Newsletter

541-386-2608 hrcchurch@gmail.com
www.hoodrivervalleychristianchurch.com

and on Face book

January 4, 2023

Sunday Worship Time

10:30am Worship

Minister

Rev. Alicia Speidel 541 601-1949
aliciaspeidel@gmail.com

Church Administrative Assistant

Kathy Holmson office hours as needed
hrcchurch@gmail.com

Website: www.hoodrivervalleychristianchurch.com



Sunday January 8 Epiphany Sunday

10:30am Worship & undecorating the church

Special Music January 8 HRVCC Chimes Choir
January 15 Donna Reuter & Diane Allen

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

9:30am Adult Sunday school classes, nursery available

10:30am Sunday Worship with Children Worship and Wonder

Links

Saturday Dec 24 Christmas Eve worship <https://fb.watch/hDv6S24Pvk/>

WEATHER RELATED CANCELLATIONS

A reminder: If weather conditions are bad, worship services and meetings may cancel and Thriftshop may close. Call your group leader before you venture out. Stay safe.



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 975 Indian Creek Road, Hood River, OR 97031

New Ways to Give Financially

Did you know you are able to financially give to the church via the app Vanco mobile and through the church's website? Yes, that is correct. This is a super easy way to give to the church. Plus, you can choose to give to general operating, laundry love, special day offering, help a neighbor, youth fund, week of compassion or memorials all through the app or website. There are many ways to support these important needs.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Katy White

Jennifer Burbank Roch

Kathy Meredith

Bonnie McCollister

Layla Gaffney

Sharon Cook

Nola Hardman

Lauree Winfield

Vicki White

Courtney Erickson

Stacey Jubitz

Bev Thomas

Judy Kenyon

Barry & Carolyn Ternahan

Jim Logan will be having surgery for abdominal aortic aneurysm on January 9. Please keep Jim and Joanie in your prayers for successful surgery and recovery.

A Note from Margaret Strasser Thank you for prayers—they worked! Her recent surgery was successful and she's feeling great.

Gertrude Circle Women's Bible Study New Study: "Experiencing God's Peace" begins January 3. The group meets Tuesdays 10:00am in the Vista Room (weather and road conditions permitting). They invite you to join them.



The Pastor's COLUMN

Happy New Year! We made it through the snow, ice, wind and power outages for some. What a winter so far. It made the end of the year quite interesting as worship services changed. The wonderful thing is no matter where we were or what we were doing (or what the weather was doing), we were still able to celebrate the Christ child. In fact, we are always able to celebrate the Christ child. That's the true gift of the season.

In grocery stores, we are able to celebrate Christ. Driving in a car, we are able to celebrate Christ. Making dinner, we are able to celebrate Christ. Hanging out with family and friends, we are able to celebrate Christ. You name it, we are able to celebrate Christ. It's putting forth the effort and taking the initiative to allow Christ to move throughout all of our lives, to truly move. That is sometimes easy and sometimes difficult. Either way, it's sticking with it and continuing to celebrate Christ.

So as we begin this new year, let's open our minds and our hearts to how we are able to learn from Christ and teach Christ. Let's apply what we have heard and read. Let's welcome the difference that can be made and will be made. Let's see what happens when we celebrate the Christ child, no matter the weather, no matter the changes, no matter what. Happy New Year! **Alicia**



January 2023 FISH Food Bank Coordinators Newsletter

2022 ended in a whirlwind for the FISH Food Bank. December started with several wonderful food drives that brought in tons of food then it was sprinkled with early winter snow, followed by ice storms that closed the food bank and now on the last day of the year the sun is shining and there is a rainbow in the sky.

During this crazy month, there were two consistent factors: clients continued to need food and the volunteers continued to step up and help wherever there was a need!

A great example of how wonderful FISH volunteers are, was when we received about 4,500 pounds of food from the Mt. Hood Meadows food drive. Since it was a new event, we didn't expect that amount of food and I had not arranged for extra people to work the food. So, I sent out an SOS for help and we were overwhelmed with all the great help that showed up. One young man I had never met, shared that a person at his tech company was a volunteer when she was in high school. She received the SOS and sent it out to her fellow employees. Since they don't go to work until noon on Wednesday, this young man answered the call. Now he wants to be on the list for when we need additional help. Amazingly, all the food was worked by noon that day.

With increasing priced in the grocery store and other shops, FISH is seeing more and more families who are looking to FISH for help. One clients shared when she was at the grocery store, she had to walk past the meat counter because she couldn't afford to buy meat. We discussed how hamburger is no longer an inexpensive choice. She ended the conversation by saying how much FISH has helped her family.

When I was shopping at local store where one of our clients works, he said to me, "It is a privilege to serve you." He went on to say; "you don't know how many times FISH has saved him and his family by the food they received." It is always heartwarming to know FISH does make a difference.

This cold weather has been especially hard on our homeless clients. I was able to talk with a couple of the homeless to see how they are doing. In talking with one young lady, who is totally estranged from her family, I said I had not seen her in a while and she replied she had been snowed in in her car in Dee. She felt it was warmer in her car than a tent, it is heart wrenching to see someone have to make those choices. Another young man, who is currently living in his car, has a job at Mt. Hood Meadows but did not have gas money to get to work. When I mentioned riding the bus up, his said his problem is he has a dog and he can't leave the dog in the car all day by itself. Of course, one of our wonderful volunteers slipped him a little gas money and they gave him a couple extra bags of dog food. These young people are struggling, but at least FISH is able to provide a little relief.

FISH is looking forward to 2023. We know that many of our clients will continue to struggle to make ends meet and FISH is excited to able to provide some relief for families and individuals. I am confident that in 2023 the same two consistent factors will prevail; there will be a growing need for FISH assistance and the wonderful FISH volunteers will continue to step up to help.

Wishing you and your family a Happy 2023!

Billie Stevens
FISH Food Bank
541-490-5109

Just for a laugh!

The other night at the food bank I was teasing a young man that he owed me and I can't even remember why. But he said how about I take you out to a fancy dinner—on Saturday. He wanted a date to his work Christmas part. I assured him I was a little old for him, but that didn't seem to bother him. Long story short, he still owes me.

The other day I received an email from a middle school student who wanted to know if his school group could come back and help at the food bank. I didn't recognize the school and looked it up and guess what--it is in Southern Oregon. Once again it was a case of mistaken identity. I let him know I didn't think he really wanted to help at our FISH Food Bank.

Thank You to Our Community

Once again Hood River County and the Mid-Columbia community have given wonderful support to the FISH Food Bank. Many, many organizations and business and well as individual have support FISH with donations of food and money. There are too many groups to name and then there is always a chance we will miss some. But if you know of an organization or business who has stepped up during this holiday season, please say thank you on behalf of FISH.

One surprise donation was the last night we were open before Christmas, Dani from Dani's Kitchen Shop gave FISH fancy decorated Christmas cookies. There were three very cute little cookies in a package, so we were able to share them when the clients registered. It was a fun cheerful way to wish our clients a happy holiday. The response was wonderful and many asked to take extra for all their kids.

Just a Few Highlights from 2022

- Thanks to Seth Milan and his Eagle Scout project, FISH now has new and very visible sign on Tucker Road.
- In April, FISH transitioned from car delivery to clients able to come back into the food bank to shop. It took a little while to work out the system and for clients to become comfortable coming back into the food bank to shop. Now we are back to the new shopping norm.
- FISH ended the program of providing a grocery store gift card to all clients once we were able to shop inside the food bank. This is after giving our clients thousands of dollars for food assistance.
- After assisting FISH for 27 months, the Hood River Rotary club transitioned from helping everyday to a new role of assisting at FISH distribution once a month. FISH is very appreciative of Rotary's help in the past and have developed a wonderful new working relationship.
- This year FISH has had an increased number of the migrant families requesting food. This has stretched FISH's resources, not only food but also volunteer help. During June many nights in Hood River they would help over 40 families. For example, on July 1st, 49 families request food.
- Because of the increase in Spanish speaking families, FISH formed a new partnership with Next Door, Inc. and they have been providing Spanish speaking volunteer to assist during distribution. This has been an important step in helping us serve our Spanish speaking clients, which make up almost 50% of our client base.
- FISH once again is using the Oregon Food Bank registration system called Link2Feed. Starting in April it was a steep curve in getting our clients enrolled. Now in December almost 90% of our clients are enrolled, to date we have 1250 families enrolled in Link2Feed.
- The Hood River Tucker Road FISH site turned 7 years old in the spring of 2022.
- During 2022, in addition to financial support several business experienced FISH Food Bank first hand by helping. In 2022, Dutch Bro's, Pacific Source, and Verizon all sent volunteers.
- FISH ended the year with two new fun fundraisers; "The Great Community Dine Out" For FISH Food Bank" and the Mt. Hood Meadows "Provide to Ride" food drive. The Mt. Hood Meadows event collected over 2 tons of food and \$33,000 to support families in need.
- Hector Hernandez-Sataray worked as a volunteer at FISH from the time he was a freshman in high school, then became an employee while in college. Now Hector is about to graduate from Nursing School but he came back to work one last time during his Christmas break. We will be saying good bye to Hector as an employee of FISH when he leaves in January. This is an end of a very successful story.

Church Calendar

Wednesday January 4

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

Kathy Holmson will be out of the office

Thursday January 5

7:00am Men's Study

Saturday January 7

9:00am-Noon Thriftshop open

Sunday January 8

9:30am Advent Study, vista room
9:45am Sunday Adult book study

10:30am Worship

3:30pm Hope and Life church worship

Tuesday January 10

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

Wednesday January 11

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

Thursday January 12

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

Saturday January 14

9:00am-Noon Thriftshop open

Sunday January 15

9:30am Advent Study, vista room
9:45am Sunday Adult book study

10:30am Worship

3:30pm Hope and Life church worship

Tuesday January 17

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

Wednesday January 18

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

Scriptures for Sunday January 8, 2023

Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 29
Acts 10:34-43
Matthew 3:13-17

SERVING Sunday January 8, 2023

Elder this Week	Jennifer Stager
Communion Preparer	Kathy Holmson
Coffee Hour	Barb Ritoch & Friends
Deacons	<u>Serving Team #1</u>
	Shar Wilkins Betty Osborne
	Tatum Wyatt David Nash