



Hood River Valley Christian Church Newsletter

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and on Face book

August 2, 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
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Women, Wine, and The Word

Wednesday August 2, 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. 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

Christmas in July! We are wrapping up Christmas in July collecting gifts for the church and for FISH, our local emergency food pantry. **Thank you for all the donations—including some cash & checks!** We have already taken over 160 pounds of goods to FISH Food Bank. If you have food or other items to drop off, it's never too late! Look for the shopping cart in the lobby at church.



Next recycling collection will be August 13.

Collecting: #6 and rigid plastic marked PS; foam coolers and irregularly shaped styrofoam; foam take-out containers/trays free of food, egg cartons; non-transparent containers such as yogurt cups, colored plastic cups and lids, bread bag clips.

Note: all containers must be clean. See the bulletin board for a reminder and this list.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

9:30am Adult Sunday school classes, nursery available
10:30am Sunday Worship with Children Worship & Wonder

EVENING PRAYER ON FACEBOOK

5:00pm Monday-Thursday as schedules allow.

Links:

Tuesday July 25 <https://www.facebook.com/100064940580441/videos/605926891663369>

Monday July 31 <https://www.facebook.com/100064940580441/videos/593954559600958>

Tuesday August 1 <https://www.facebook.com/100064940580441/videos/830789531574722>

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Layla, JJ & Rider Gaffney
Bev Thomas

Sharon & Gordon Cook
Katy White

Lauree Winfield
Stacey Jubitz

Vicki White
Bonnie McCollister

++Lauree Winfield is recovering from a fall last week. She hit her head and has multiple stitches and a slight fracture in her spine near the base of her head. She has to wear a neck brace for three months as she heals. Prayers of healing for Lauree.

++Rider, JJ and Layla Gaffney were in a car accident a couple of weeks ago. JJ and Layla are physically okay. Rider experienced a traumatic brain injury and will need extra assistance for weeks and months to come. All three children are dealing with PTSD and trauma from the accident. Prayers of healing, strength and perseverance for the children, parents and grandparents during this time.

++ Nancy Krieg is at Columbia Basin in The Dalles for rehab.

++David Nash is at Hood River Care Center for rehab. Dave would like a ride to church on Sundays. If you could transport him from the Care Center to HRVCC on Sunday, please contact Barb Ritoch.

++ For the youth and counselors who are attending middle school and high school camp, August 7-11, please pray for Emmi Logan, Owen Waits, Jackson Speidel, Araya Lopez, Rylee Akin, Kailey Speidel, Tatum Wyatt and Ayden Phelps and counselor Alicia Speidel.

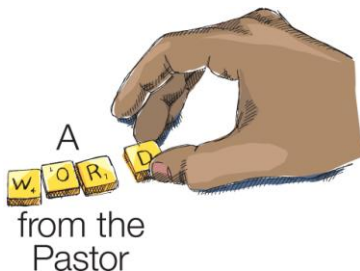


Baked Goodies Needed We can use some extra baked goods to have on hand in the freezer for coffee hours. Cookies, brownies, quickbreads are all good options. Thank you.

Women's Coffee Klatch Gathering

Thursday August 10, 10:00am at Shar Wilkins home.

Call Thelma 541 645-3748 for carpools and other information.



My sabbatical is practically here. This is essentially my last week to get everything done before heading off to church camp, which is back to back with sabbatical. It's wild and so hard to believe. And I think I'm ready for it. Plus, I think you are ready to take on the various forms of leadership you are going to take on. You have great leaders. You are great leaders. You will rely upon each other to make things happen. You will ask questions. You will seek answers. You will support one another as you always do. It will be great.

You will learn from one another. You will learn from the various guest preachers and leaders who will bless you with their gifts for ministry. I strongly encourage you to show up, to physically show up and support those individuals. Welcome them with open hearts and open minds. Engage with them. Help them to feel at home in our faith community because I know you are able to do this and you will.

And above all, savor this time. Savor the changes. Savor the different voices. Savor the connections. Savor the exploration. Savor, savor, savor. I know I will be savoring too. And then when we welcome one another back in November we will begin the process of sharing what we savored. It's going to be great. And it's almost here. Thank you again for supporting me in this journey and this time away. I so greatly appreciate it. This is only possible because of your care, support and love for me. Thank you!

Alicia

Pastor Alicia's sermon from July 30, 2023
Scripture: Psalm 105:1-11

For today's sermon we're going to do a little question and answer with our psalm. Which this means participation. I ask a question and you provide the answer. It's as simple as that or as complicated depending on how you feel about answering questions and if you speak up or if I have to drag it out of you. Basically this is preparing me for high school church camp in a week when we have small group discussions where I ask a question and then sometimes we all sit there in silence until someone answers or until I call on someone. Let's not go that route this morning, please.

Okay, the questions, which we're going to go line by line for a few verses with our psalm to arrive at them. There is a lot to discuss in these eleven verses.

"O give thanks to the Lord." How do you give thanks to the Lord? What do you specifically do?

"Call on his name." How do you call on God's name? Has it changed over the years? Is there a particular place that is your go to for calling on God's name?

"Make known his deeds among the peoples." When have you done this in your life? How and to whom? What was the response?

"Sing to him, sing praises to him." I'm not going to ask what songs you sing to God or where you sing or even ask you to sing. Instead, knowing we are not all professional singers or some of us even decent singers, how else are we able to sing our praises to God?

"Tell of all his wonderful works." How about this part? How have you recently told of God's wonderful works? What are God's wonderful works?

"Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice." Yes, yes indeed. That's just a statement to behold and to claim as truth. Plus, it's also pretty similar to the verses before about praising, singing and giving thanks. It's definitely all connected.

"Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually." Continually? Is that easy or difficult or depends? How do you manage to do this?

"Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he uttered, O offspring of his servant Abraham, children of Jacob, his chosen ones." Does this really apply to us? Are we the offspring of his servant Abraham, children of Jacob, his chosen one? If so, how are we to do this? How are we to remember the wonderful works God has done?

"He is the Lord our God; his judgments are in all the earth. He is mindful of his covenant forever, of the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations, the covenant that he made with Abraham, his sworn promise to Isaac, which he confirmed to Jacob as a statute, to Israel as an everlasting covenant, saying, 'To you I will give the land of Canaan as your portion for an inheritance.'"

And what does all of that mean? It seems like a deviation from where we were headed. Singing praises, rejoice, seek his presence, remember and then suddenly talk of a covenant. Is that the case? Is it a stretch? No, not in the least bit. If we return to the first verse, "O give thanks to the Lord," we realize that. Give thanks for everything we mentioned and give thanks for the covenant God made so long ago. The everlasting covenant of being present, always there, always guiding, loving and providing.

God made a promise to always remain. So God is there. God is active. God is moving. God is committed, to that generation and to every generation since then and to every one going forward.

Because of that, because of God's unending and enduring presence, it is our responsibility to do everything the first part of our psalm highlighted. It's living out all of the answers you gave and then some.

Because I bet you heard some new ideas as you listened to one another. Something sparked within you of a way to give thanks, to tell others, to share your message. Something that hopefully will take hold and be lived out.

Because there are endless things to share with endless people and endless ways to share with God. And we are all worthy of sharing. We are all worthy. We are all enough as I stressed last week. Even when we don't think so, we are.

Which brings us to today's song. No, I'm not going to play "Special" again by Lizzo. Even though the message is always pertinent. Nope, we are going to listen to "Better Believer" by Dierks Bentley.

As we near the end of our journey with songs from different genres that are not in our hymnal, I again invite you to be open to the song you hear. Listen to the music, read the lyrics, let it move you and speak to you. And know even if it isn't your style, there still may be a message within it for you. That's the impact music has on our lives. So be open as we discover what this song has to offer.

Listen to "Better Believer" by Dierks Bentley.

Dierks Bentley is comparing himself. He's comparing himself to the better believer next to him. To the one who appears to be more grateful, more dedicated and more committed to God. He is saying if only he could be like that person. Because all he is able to do is cry to God for help, to need God, to turn to God when life is difficult.

That other person doesn't do that, instead always going to God and always praising God. If only that were the road he traveled. If only he gave thanks more often. If only he looked up to God, to shout his praises. If only he made more of a difference, rather than keeping it all for himself.

That other believer lives their life way better. They are the one who is to be admired, who has that solid relationship with God, who has it going on. The singer, on the other hand, not so much. They don't think they have it going on at all. It's all about those comparisons.

But wait, we aren't to make comparisons anyway. We are to do our best. We aren't to think someone does it better than us or we do it better than them. There is no ranking system. And that road that the better believer is on is possible to be on, for all of us. We are all able to travel on that road. We are able to do what that better believer did.

We are to give thanks. We are to make known God's deeds. We are to do exactly what we did by answering all of the questions I first asked about the verses and topics from the psalm. That is what will help us to not question, doubt and think we aren't that better believer, getting caught up in that negative cycle.

Because we are believers. Believers with an impact to be made. Believers with stories to tell. Believers with hearts bursting with God's goodness and God's light. Really, we are! We are! God's covenant made all of this possible. Our psalm makes that clear and so do the stories of generations.

Now it's our turn. So how do you give thanks to the Lord? And how do you sing praises? We all have countless ways going through our heads and have lived them out in our lives. The goal or more like reality is to keep on doing that. Keep on giving thanks. Keep on calling on God's name. Keep on singing praises. Keep on remembering the wonderful works God has done. Keep on keeping on. That is the path to walk.



CAMP SUNDAY is August 13

August 13 Sabbatical Send-Off Worship

Bon Voyage to Pastor Alicia and introducing Interim Minister Holly Greenidge, followed by a catered lunch by Mt Hood BBQ and music by the Wasco Brothers



Holly Greenidge Interim Minister, preaching August 20

Holly Greenidge is a seminary student pursuing a master of divinity from the Seattle School of Theology & Psychology. She grew up as a Presbyterian pastor's kid in the Midwest, but has lived in the Pacific Northwest for nearly two decades - currently living in southeast Portland with her husband, Jelani.

In addition to spending time and nerding out with church people on all things church-related, she enjoys watching shows, listening to audiobooks, playing board games, exploring local places, going to random tastings, and the occasional nap.



Jelani Greenidge (Holly's husband) guest musician October 22

Jelani is a passionate communicator with a desire to inform, inflame and inspire. Currently, he serves in a full-time role as missional storyteller for the Evangelical Covenant Church, but he's also a writer, speaker, worship musician, hip-hop emcee/producer, and stand-up comic. Jelani loves playing video games and watching NBA basketball. He and his wife Holly dwell in leafy Portland with Rosie, their robot vacuum cleaner.

The Wasco Brothers, performing August 13

The Wasco Brothers are a country/honkytonk band based in the Columbia River Gorge. They focus on the musical stylings of the 'golden era' of country music from roughly 1950-1975. They also write and perform original material that would be welcome in any neon-lit bar room from Bakersfield to Nashville.

The Wasco Brothers are:

Don Campbell- Bass/ Vocals
Jeff Minnick- Drums/ Vocals
Mark Womble- Piano/ Vocals
Larry Wyatt- Guitar/ Vocals



Special Sabbatical Reading

"Peace is Practice" by Morgan Harper Nichols is one of the books on Alicia's sabbatical to-read list. If you would like to read it too, and have opportunity to discuss it with Alicia after her return, sign up for a free copy by the end of August. Sign up on the table by her office door. A copy of the book is on the table for preview.

Vote for "Top Ten Hymns"

Top Ten Hymns will be the theme of worship on September 3. On August Sundays, those present will have the opportunity to vote for their favorite hymns. In addition to singing the Top Ten on Labor Day weekend Sunday, there will be time for some personal comments about the "why" of the favorites.

Church Calendar

Tuesday August 1

10:00am Women's Bible study
3:00pm TOPS group meets

Wednesday August 2

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

Thursday August 3

7:00am Men's Study

Saturday August 5

9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop

Sunday August 6

9:30am Adult Sunday School
10:30am Worship
3:30pm Hope and Life church worship

Monday-Friday August 7 – 11

HS, MS Camp; Youth & Pastor Alicia attending

Tuesday August 8

10:00am Women's Bible study
3:00pm TOPS group

Wednesday August 9

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

Thursday August 10

7:00am Men's Study
10:00am Coffee at Shar Wilkins

Saturday August 12

9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop

Sunday August 13 Camp Sunday & Sabbatical Send-Off

9:30am Adult Sunday School
10:30am Worship
11:30am BBQ lunch, Music by Wasco Brothers
3:30pm Hope and Life church worship

Tuesday August 15

10:00am Women's Bible study
3:00pm TOPS group

Wednesday August 16

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

Scriptures for Sunday August 6, 2023

Genesis 32:22-31
Psalm 17:1-7, 15
Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 14:13-21

SERVING Sunday August 6, 2023

Elder this Week Rod Parrott/Thelma Warnock
Communion Preparer Mary Finley
Coffee Hour Jennifer Stager
Deacons Serving Team #3
Betty Osborne, Linda Meyers
Tatum Wyatt, Jackson Speidel

Scriptures for Sunday August 13, 2023

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28
Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b
Romans 10:5-15
Matthew 14:22-23

SERVING Sunday August 13, 2023

Elder this Week Jerry Sawyer
Communion Preparer Kathy Holmson
BBQ Lunch
Deacons Serving Team #1
Woody, Sue, Owen, Ayden

Special Music Coming Up

August 13 "Imagine"
Kristen Warnock & Mary Anne Parrott

August 20 Michelle Edwards (cello)
& Mary Anne Parrott