



Hood River Valley Christian Church Newsletter

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

and on Face book

February 8, 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



Chocolate Coffee Hour!

We are having a chocolate-themed fellowship hour **February 12**. People are invited to bring their favorite chocolate item to share.

Yum!



Special music February 12 Pam Riedl & Betty Osborne "Just a Closer Walk with Thee"

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

9:30am Adult Sunday school classes, nursery available

10:30am Sunday Worship with Children Worship & Wonder **Collecting for Souper Bowl of Caring**

Links:

Thursday Feb 2 <https://www.facebook.com/100064940580441/videos/949095229796523>

Sunday Feb 5 <https://www.facebook.com/100064940580441/videos/560752779406665>

Women, Wine & The Word

On Friday, February 17 @ 5pm, 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) and a snack while we share how the passage intersects with our lives. Invite friends from outside the church, too.

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



Kailey, Araya, Sebastian & Vincent



Children's Time February 5, 2023

Have you met Sebastian and Vincent? It's nice to get to know these two little ones. The boys were born late last fall. Their parents are Bobbi and Jimmy Lupoli and big brothers are Jaden and Oliver. Plus, they have lots of cousins and friends who are happy to lend a hand at church.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Bonnie McCollister Layla Gaffney
Lauree Winfield Vicki White
David Nash Katy White
Earthquake victims in Turkey & Syria

Sharon & Gordon Cook Nola Hardman
Bev Thomas Virginia Sheppard
Jennifer Burbank Roch Stacey Jubitz
People of Ukraine & Russia

Please pray for the family and friends of Alison Brown, a local educator, who died last week. The funeral for Alison will be held at our church on Monday February 13 at 2:00pm.

We have received word that Courtney Erickson has died. Courtney, a young woman who grew up in Hood River but lived in Arizona most recently, was awaiting a double lung transplant. Please pray for her family and friends.

Devotionals for Lenten Season 2023

Lent begins officially, on Ash Wednesday, February 22. If Mother Nature lets go of her winter mood, we should have clear sailing straight through to Easter Sunday with NO closures or cancellations!

Our Lenten theme for 2023 is "The Journey's Choices". God gives each of us free will to make choices that direct, shape and impact our lives. As we consider our own personal life journey, certain choices may have significantly moved us in positive directions; others, perhaps not so much.

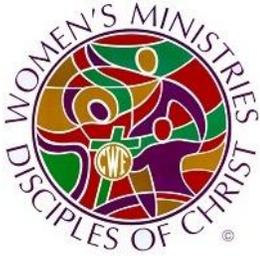
We are all invited to share a particular choice we have made, why we made that choice and the influence it has had on our life. Here is all you need to do:

1. Write a few short paragraphs about a particular choice and how it impacted or influenced your life. You may choose to write a brief prayer as well. These will be included in a Lent devotional booklet
2. Submit to Kathy by Sunday, February 12 either by email (hrcchurch@gmail.com) or in writing.
3. Indicate if you'd like your name included or remain anonymous.

Sunday Morning Door Greeters

Would you be willing to be a greeter on Sunday mornings before worship near the front doors? We would love to have a rotation of a few people to fill this ministry role. Thanks to Margaret Marshall for greeting at the front door last Sunday. This is one way to create a warm and inviting environment for those who enter the church building for worship. Please tell Kathy or Alicia if you are interested.

Women's Ministries News



Thank you As HRVCC's Women's Ministries experiments with a new organizational pattern, I would like to thank those most recently "in the trenches." A leadership team of six was elected in January 2020, you guessed it—the month that the pandemic came into view. So the normal rhythm of activities changed drastically to continue the same purposes in new ways. Sharon Smiley, Jennifer Stager, Margaret Strasser, Judy Hiatt, Carol Sabins and I began to work together; Frances Henne joined at the beginning of 2021. This

leadership team is now disbanded as we welcome a Women's Ministries program council to distribute responsibilities more broadly.

Watch for further announcements. But now, on behalf of the women in the church, I want to thank Sharon, Jennifer, Margaret, Judy, Carol and Frances for the many ways they gave their gifts of time, energy and expertise; and Alicia in her role as pastoral companion. I thank also the many others who serve in the thrift shop, especially Suze Nigl; Bible study leader, Jan Behrmann; and coffee hour teams who delight us each Sunday.

Mary Anne Parrott

Want to help? The reorganization of Women's Ministries is nearly complete. We rejoice that Leslie Hidle has volunteered as treasurer. There are a couple of roles yet to fill, and if you can help, contact Mary Anne Parrott, now coordinator. In addition, other women who do not wish to serve in leadership positions but would like to help in one or more areas of service, please sign up on the sheet outside Alicia's office. These areas are: special events, outreach to shut-ins, excursions, relationship development, receptions/potluck dinners, and short-term outreach projects.

Women's Dinner Rescheduled

The Women's Christmas dinner, cancelled last month, has been rescheduled for Tuesday, February 21, 5:30, at Stonehedge. Those who signed up in December will be asked early in February to reconfirm their plan to attend. At that time new participants are welcome to sign up and refunds are available for those who paid and cannot attend in February.

Earth Day Task Force forming

Help is needed as we look forward to celebrating Earth Day in April. We will be planning activities for Earth Day and want to invite interested people to join in the brainstorming process. Please talk to Mary Anne Parrott or Kathy Holmson if you'd like to help.

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Souper Bowl of Caring 2023 is February 12 Super Bowl Sunday!

We are collecting donations for Hood River Warming Shelter and FISH Food Bank. Souper Bowl of Caring is an annual national event held on SuperBowl Sunday to collect donations for food banks and other helping organizations. HRVCC youth have participated in Souper Bowl since 1998.

- **For the Warming Shelter**, donate boxes of individually packaged breakfast, granola bars, and chocolate bars; cup of noodle soup, bottled water, individual Kleenex packets.
- **For FISH Food Bank** donate non-perishable food, baby foods and diapers, personal hygiene items, pet food.

Cash or checks are always welcome to help fight hunger/ or assist those who are houseless in Hood River—even \$1 helps (please indicate Shelter or FISH on your check.) Thank you for your support.

Pastor Alicia's sermon from February 5, 2023 **Scripture: 1 Corinthians 2:1-16**

We made it to chapter two of Paul's letter to the Corinthians, to the church in Corinth. We made it to the point in a letter where the stage has been set and now the details or how to become evident. The people were ready to hear about how to move back into relationship with Jesus Christ, how to stop their quarreling and divisions, how to return to what led them to become a church in the first place. It was time for Paul to share these wise words with them, to offer this important insight, to help them in their journeys.

So he begins chapter two with these words, "When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words and wisdom."

No lofty words or wisdom. That is a really good thing because lofty words and wisdom can get rather confusing and hard to understand. It's like taking a philosophy class where everything is explained in these grandiose concepts with your head up in the clouds, imagining and being and contemplating, when you have absolutely no idea what any of it means. You walk away going, what in the world was that about? How do I explain what was just taught? What even was just taught? I am completely lost. Now what?

Or even when in conversation with someone who may use big fancy words and carry on and on never landing on the ground with the topic, making it practically impossible to fully grasp what is being discussed. This is never enjoyable. You want to be able to understand what is being communicated. You want it to make sense so you can engage with the other person and learn or grow.

So loftiness isn't the way to go. Thankfully Paul said that wasn't the way he was going to go either. He was going to be straightforward, impactful and down to earth. Why then is this second chapter so difficult to understand? Why do you walk away feeling pretty clueless, wondering what it would be like if Paul had actually used lofty words?

Because these are his "not" lofty words. "My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God." And "For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the

Spirit of God.” “Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are piritual.”

Anyone want to explain what Paul was talking about? Anyone want to take over and make these concepts applicable and accessible? Anyone? Because I would gladly turn this over to you and allow you to take control. I would have no problem with that at all.

Paul may claim he wasn't proclaiming the mystery of God by using lofty words and wisdom, however it's hard to believe that when this passage seems to go round and round, not making sense and being a little heady or circular. Or so it's easy to get caught up in. What if we take a step back and down? And what if we rely on the premise in chapter one where Paul was setting the stage to begin with? What if we use all of those tools to decipher this seemingly confusing chapter and keep us moving in the right direction as to what Paul was instructing the Corinthians and ultimately what we are able to learn and apply to our own lives? What if we just take a moment to breathe and know it's all going to work out? We will mostly understand this passage. We will mostly get it.

The bottom line for Paul was getting the Corinthians to return to Christ, to live according to Christ's teachings, to go against the teachings of the world and flip everything upside down. Why? Because Christ did that. Christ encouraged that. Christ taught that. Christ lived that. And Christ desired for others to live in this same way.

God's wisdom not the world's wisdom. God's Spirit not the human spirit. Spiritual discernment not human discernment. Rest on the power of God. Come in weakness, fear and trembling. Be taught by the Spirit. Have the mind of Christ. Understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. This is the direction to travel. This is the guidance needed. This is what will bring about all that Christ was, getting all to be as it is meant to be.

That's all great and dandy, however it still seems like we are going down the lofty words path. How do we make this a bit more concrete? Because not only do we need to be able to understand it, we need to be able to explain it. To say here were the instructions given to the Corinthians, here is what that means and here is how it pertains to us.

If we are unable to do this, then scripture becomes lost, unusable and irrelevant. What good does that do? Absolutely none. So making sense of Paul, which is not always the easiest thing to do, with examples of living it in the world.

Jemar Tisby, a New York Times bestselling author, national speaker, and public historian on a mission to deliver truths from the Black experience with depth and clarity, quotes, “If Christians claim to be concerned for their neighbors, then they must also be concerned about the structures and systems that inhibit their neighbors' flourishing.”

This quote is on the cover page of one of my colleague's Facebook page. She is lead pastor and church planter in Missouri. Her ministry is deeply connected with serving the unhoused in her community with warming shelters, food, clothing and housing, both in hands-on ways and through governmental policy work.

This past Tuesday one of her Facebook posts stood out to me. The need was for additional volunteers willing to open an overnight overflow shelter in the deadly cold for people who were desperate for a safe space to sleep. Above her request were these two simple sentences with hearts surrounding them. “All shifts covered (multiple exclamation marks)! Thank you all for loving out loud!”

“Loving out loud.” That right there is Paul explained in simple terms. No lofty words. No human wisdom. No wondering what is meant. Concrete, down to earth, straight to the point. “Loving out loud.” How else is this evident in our world, where God’s wisdom is the factor at play? How else are we loving out loud?

A wall clock, a blanket, calendar, notebook, pens, pencils, tea kettle, map of Salem. These are just a few of the items in the welcome refugee kits that our church assembled for Salem for Refugees Center. These kits, which were recently completed with the help of the youth group who spent their time and some of their youth fund to purchase the remaining items, will be delivered to this important organization in Salem very soon. Then they will be ready to be given to families looking to begin their lives in the Salem area. Families who have endured more than we can imagine to find hope and peace. Families needing this wrap around love from complete strangers. An example of “loving out loud,” what Paul was desiring for the Corinthians to get back in the habit of.

Christ was the ultimate of “loving out loud.” He loved those on the margins. He loved what went against the norm of society. He loved in ways that those in power despised and forbade. Christ was pushing every reality there was. And he hopes that we do the same thing. Will we? Are we? How has this been the way to be up till now in our lives and how will it be going forward?

Because there is always, always more change that needs to happen. There are always more ways to challenge what is around us, the systems at play, the treatment that occurs, the margins that need to be pushed. There are always more ways to “love out loud.”

It’s like an exciting challenge we have within our reach. Something to strive for that will knock people’s socks off, getting them to sit up and wonder what’s going on. Why are they doing what they’re doing? What good will that do? Do I need to be doing that? How am I able to get involved? What would that look like?

These are the questions we need others to ask when we draw closer to Christ, living in the ways Christ taught and what Paul was moving the Corinthians back to. And really, we need to be asking them too. We cannot remain stagnant. We cannot wait for others to step up and do their part. We cannot think we have done all we can do.

It doesn’t work that way and it never will. We always have the opportunity and the challenge to exhibit Christ in our lives. It doesn’t matter our age, our situation, our limitations, our anything, God’s wisdom is it. The way of the Spirit is it. The mind of Christ is it. Let’s live in this way, “loving out loud” and accepting the challenge before us.

Church Calendar

Wednesday Monday-Wednesday February 6-8
Pastor Alicia attending NWATD conference

Wednesday February 8

9:00am-4:00pm Lifeline Screening, fellowship hall
9:00am-Noon Quilters meet
9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop
5:30-8:30pm Master Gardeners, fellowship hall

Thursday February 9

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

Saturday February 11

9:00am-Noon Thriftshop open

Scriptures for Sunday February 12, 2023

Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Psalm 119:1-8
1 Corinthians 3:1-9
Matthew 5:21-37

Sunday February 12 Souper Bowl of Caring

9:30am Gospel of Matthew Study, vista room
9:45am Sunday Adult book study
10:30am Worship
11:30am Chocolate Coffee Hour
3:30pm Hope and Life church worship

Monday February 13

2:00pm Service for Alison Brown

Tuesday February 14 Valentine's Day

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

Wednesday February 15

9:00am-Noon Quilters meet
9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop
5:30-8:30pm Master Gardeners, fellowship hall
6:30pm Christmas Project, vista room

Thursday February 16

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

Friday February 17

5:00pm Women, Wine & the Word at Stave & Stone winery

Saturday February 18

9:00am-Noon Thriftshop open

Sunday February 19

9:30am Gospel of Matthew Study, vista room
9:45am Sunday Adult book study
10:30am Worship
3:30pm Hope and Life church worship

Tuesday February 21

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

Wednesday February 22

9:00am-Noon Quilters meet
9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop
5:30-8:30pm Master Gardeners, fellowship hall

SERVING Sunday February 12, 2023

Elder this Week	Chrystal Akin
Communion Preparer	Barb Ritoch
Coffee Hour	Barb & friends
Deacons	<u>Serving Team #3</u>
	Behrmanns
	Ayden Phelps, Owen Waits

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.

Though mountains shake and seas roll, Creator God,
you are with us. **You are with us.** You are with us.

We call on that steadiness, we call on your mercy,
we call on your goodness. Lord, we call to you.

For your beloveds in Turkey and in Syria, for those at the center
of an earthquake and for those in range of the aftershocks.

For those mourning their dead,
and searching their missing,
for those in the backbreaking, heartrending work
of rescue and recovery.

For those they find, and for those they cannot.



We call to you, steady and sure God.

Though the mountains shake, though we are gripped by fear,
we call to you.

Confident that you hear us, from wherever we are,
with whatever voice we can manage, we call out.

Hear us, Lord. Comfort us. Be near to us. Be near to us.

Be near.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.



~ on a 7.8 earthquake in Turkey & Syria ~ 2.5.23

<https://www.weekofcompassion.org/stories>