

November 12, 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 10am-1pm or as needed

Sunday Worship

9:30 Adult Lectionary Preview

10:30 Worship

Link to Worship on November 09, 2025- [Facebook](#)

*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

*Pray for healing for James Gaffney as he recently broke his hip and had surgery to put medical pins in.

*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



At the September 28 gathering various questions were asked in relation to people's connections to this church body. Here are a couple of those questions and a few of the responses that were given. Think about how you would answer these questions. (And more of these responses will be shared this coming Sunday, November 16 at our next gathering.)

When was a time when our congregation was "flourishing?"

- *Music – choir, guitars; singing in choir brought me to VCC & gave me a great sense of belonging.
- *Early days of engaging men's group – 30 men held hands around table every AM; many gone.
- *Secret Sister activities.
- *We felt Alicia's sabbatical united every one of us in the goal to savor and, as such, the church also took time to reflect, learn and be renewed.
- *Sunday school classes with John Ihle/videos.
- *Heavy community involvement (thrift shop, Food Bank, Christmas project, etc.); development of warming shelters in partnership with other community members.

When have you felt joy at being part of something bigger than yourself, being Spirit led?

- *Impressed with our handling of funerals; families are well cared for; congregation rallies around bereaved; gift of funeral meals for families greatly appreciated.
- *Church camp and skit; youth Christmas play and adding humor.
- *Cooking for camp Sundays and driving the church van.
- *"When the church was praying for Layla during her cancer journey...when people prayed for Rider after the accident."
- *Small group bible studies.
- *Being involved with CWF; getting better acquainted with the people provides a sense of great joy.

Mark your calendar for Sunday, November 16. On that Sunday we will gather to delve further into our Thriving Congregations journey. A Soup Supper and "Favorite Soup" contest will take place! Bring your best homemade soup, sign up on the new bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall (Betty needs you!), and get ready to vote for your favorites. There will be continental breakfast goodies upon arriving, too!

Please plan to attend as all are needed.



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.



Pastor's message

As you may or may not know, one of the ways this church helps those in need is through the giving of gas vouchers. This has been a form of outreach for well over a decade, longer than I have been here. It is a simple and easy way to help someone when they walk through the church doors. It makes a difference for those making the request, as they have one less thing to worry about in the moment.

The giving of gas vouchers has been possible because of the generosity of Spotty's Fuel Station. Over the past year they have donated at least \$400 in gas vouchers to our church. What a blessing they have been, making it possible for us to continue this important ministry. Thank you to Spotty's Fuel Station for meeting this need and impacting our community. We appreciate you. Make sure to frequent their business at 1380 Tucker Rd as they are one of our community partners.

~Pastor Alicia

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 use the sign-up sheet on the table in the Narthex if you are able to bring something to share!



As Veterans Day approached on Tuesday, November 11th, we paused to honor and express our deepest gratitude for the men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces.

Their dedication, sacrifice, and courage have secured the freedoms and peace we enjoy daily. For those in our congregation and community who have worn the uniform—whether in times of conflict or peace, at home or abroad—we recognize your commitment and service.

The Bible reminds us in John 15:13, "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends." We see a reflection of this profound love and selflessness in the service of our veterans.



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 \$25 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.

WHO Uses SNAP in Oregon:

Out of the approximately 757,000 Oregonians who receive SNAP benefits, 54% are in families with children, 37% are in families with members who are older adults or are disabled, and more than 41% percent are in working families. (KATU news October 26, 2025)

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

Church Calendar

Wednesday November 12

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

9:00am-12:00pm Quilters meet

Thursday November 13

7:00am Men's study Vista Room

1:30pm Chimes Practice

Saturday November 15

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

Sunday November 16- Thriving Congregations Soup Supper

9:30am Lectionary Preview

10:30am Worship

4:00pm Hope and Life Church worship.

Tuesday November 18

10:00am Women's Bible Study

1:30pm Chimes practice

Wednesday November 19

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

9:30 Adult lectionary study

10:30am Worship

4:00pm Hope And Life Church Worship

Scriptures for Sunday November 16, 2025

Isaiah 65:17-25

Isaiah 12

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

Luke 21:5-19

Serving Sunday November 16, 2025

Elder this week

Jennifer Stager

Communion prep

Maggie Strasser

Coffee hour

Judy and friends

Deacon

Betty Osborne

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

