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## Hood River Valley Christian Church Newsletter

541-386-2608 [hrcchurch@gmail.com](mailto:hrcchurch@gmail.com)  
[www.hoodrivervalleychristianchurch.com](http://www.hoodrivervalleychristianchurch.com)

and on Face book

### November 20, 2024

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#### Sunday Worship Time

10:30am Worship

#### Minister

Rev. Alicia Speidel 541 601-1949

[aliciaspeidel@gmail.com](mailto:aliciaspeidel@gmail.com)

#### Church Administrative Assistant

Kathy Holmson office hours 10am-1pm or as needed

[hrcchurch@gmail.com](mailto:hrcchurch@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.hoodrivervalleychristianchurch.com](http://www.hoodrivervalleychristianchurch.com)

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#### **Order by Sunday!**

**It's time to order poinsettias** to decorate the sanctuary during Advent. Poinsettia order forms are available in the lobby. \$25 per poinsettia. Thank you!

### Sunday Worship

9:30am Adult Sunday School

10:30am Worship

#### LINKS:

Sunday Worship Nov 17 <https://www.facebook.com/100064940580441/videos/1375778287162694>



#### **Ladies Christmas Dinner!**

**Reservations** for the women's Christmas dinner will be taken for three Sundays beginning November 10 at the narthex table.

**The dinner is** Thursday, December 5 at Grace Su's; cost is \$25.

Festivities begin at 5:00 p.m. and the buffet dinner at 5:30.

Because parking is a problem, Alicia will drive the church bus for the first 15 who sign up for it (board between 4:30 and 4:45).

**What to bring:** instead of any kind of gift exchange, please bring one or more of the following items for the warming shelter pantry: cup of noodles, cereal cup, applesauce/fruit cup, or chewy granola bars.

## The Thanksgiving Special Offering

supports Disciples colleges, universities and theological institutions. Disciples have a long history of post-secondary and theological education. This offering provides a direct connection to 15 colleges and universities, 7 seminaries and theological programs. Gifts from this offering continue the Disciples tradition of developing leaders for our communities and the Church.

Thanksgiving Special Offering is received November 17 & 24, 2024



## PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Layla, JJ & Rider  
Stacey Jubitz  
Glenn Grannemann

Sharon & Gordon Cook  
Doris Lewis

Vicki White  
Tedra Turner

Martha Hathaway  
Alicia Speidel

## Alicia's CaringBridge link:

[https://www.caringbridge.org/site/8ab75554-48b5-11ef-8f3d-f317ddd1b8ef?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=web&utm\\_content=copylink\\_leftmenu\\_php](https://www.caringbridge.org/site/8ab75554-48b5-11ef-8f3d-f317ddd1b8ef?utm_source=share&utm_medium=web&utm_content=copylink_leftmenu_php)



## The Pastor's COLUMN

**WOW!!!** What an incredible 60 Years of Sowing & Growing in Faith Anniversary Celebration. It was a wonderful day filled with so many memories, stories and participants. The hope for the ministry of this faith community was clearly evident all throughout the day.

There are so many people to thank for making this day possible.

- Thank you to the anniversary committee Betty Osborne, Joanie Logan, Sharon Smiley, Leslie Melby and Margaret Strasser.
- Thank you to Laurie Crosswhite for creating the picture slideshow. We will have the slideshow running the next few Sundays before and after worship.
- Thank you to Kathy Holmson and Sable Duback for all of your extra preparations.
- Thank you to those who contributed stories for the
- Thank you to Mary Anne Parrott, Betty Osborne, Emily Krager and the Hood River String Quartet for your beautiful music.
- Thank you to the youth for serving as deacons.
- Thank you to Jodi Wyatt, Melissa Crosswhite and the youth for creating the anniversary banner.
- Thank you to Betty Osborne, Judy Hiatt, Jodi Wyatt, Sharon Smiley, Barb Ritoch, Rod & Mary Anne Parrott, Emily Krager, Melissa Crosswhite, Joanie Logan, Suze Nigl, for cleaning up after the lunch.
- Thank you to everyone who showed up to celebrate, including those who served here as ministers, Jim Edwards, John Ihle and Linda Presley. Thank you to David and Karen DeBow, Co-Transitional Regional Minister, for celebrating with us. It was a wonderful day! So, thank you, thank you, thank you to each and every one of you for your faithful commitment to this church body. Now to keep on sowing & growing in faith!

*Alicia*

**2025 Slate of  
Church Officers, Elders, Deacons, Trustees  
To be voted at Congregational Meeting on December 8, 2024**

<b>Terms are for 2 years</b>	<b>Term ends 2025</b>
Chair of the Board	Woody Eskildsen
Vice Chair	Jennifer Stager
Secretary	Suze Nigl
Treasurer	Carla Bailey

**ELDERS**

<b>Terms are for 2 years</b>	<b>Term ends 2025</b>	<b>Term ends 2026</b>
	Jennifer Stager	Gerald Sawyer
	Chrystal Akin	Thelma Warnock
	Carol Sabins	Rod Parrott
		Suze Nigl

**Elder Emeritus**

Dot Swyers    Judy Hiatt    Fred Duckwall

**DIACONATE SERVERS**

<b>Terms are for 2 years</b>	<b>Term ends 2025</b>	<b>Term ends 2026</b>
	Jan Behrmann	Betty Osborne
	Otto Behrmann	Scott Crosswhite
	Chance Cheuvront	Laurie Crosswhite
	Sable Duback	Wes Bailey
	Jennifer Stager	
	Woody Eskildsen	
	Sue Eskildsen	

**COMMUNION PREPARERS**

<b>Terms are for 2 years</b>	<b>Term ends 2025</b>	<b>Term ends 2026</b>
	Barb Ritoch	Judy Hiatt
	Leslie Hidle	
	Joanie Logan	
	Margaret Strasser	

**TRUSTEES**

<b>Terms are for 3 years</b>	<b>Term ends 2025</b>	<b>Term 2026</b>	<b>Term ends 2027</b>
	Woody Eskildsen	Wes Bailey	Betty Osborne
			Chrystal Akin
			Judy Hiatt

**HRVCC 2025 BUDGET**

<b><u>Projected Income</u></b>	<b><u>2024 Budget</u></b>	<b><u>2025 Budget</u></b>
	209,800	217,800
<b><u>Expense</u></b>		
Administration	10,000	10,950
Christian Education	400	400
Membership	650	1,400
Personnel	147,489.18	153,925
Property & Grounds	21,507.20	21,250
Worship	2,550	1,600
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b><u>182,596.38</u></b>	<b><u>189,525</u></b>
Projected Outreach 10% of Giving	20,980	19,420
Net Profit		8,855

***A detailed copy of the proposed 2025 budget is available.***



## Celebrating 60 Years of Faith and Friendship!

We had a wonderful celebration for the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Hood River Valley Christian Church last Sunday and received the following note of thanks:

*On behalf of the entire congregation, a huge thank you to the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary committee for an outstanding day of celebration: worship, meal, memorabilia, and folks returning.*

*Signed: "Anonymous Everymember"*

**A few pictures from the worship service: Time for Children and Youth; Song Leader Betty Osborne, Bass player Emily Krager and the Hood River String Quartet; Pastor Alicia's Sermon; Children and Youth preparing to pass offering trays. More photos to follow...**





## 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Stories

***We want to share some of the wonderful stories and memories we received from some of our HRVCC members.***

### **Dot Swyers**

I was born on January 4th, 1924 and I am 100 years old. I joined Valley Christian Church in 1962 when Leo Horner was the minister. I was one of the first women elders and I was also a trustee. When I was working, I didn't do much with the church.

I loved singing in the choir, working in the thrift shop and sending birthday cards to members of the church.

John and Shirley Ihle are very special to me. Shirley and I have birthdays close to each other, so we keep in touch.

I had three children and they were all baptized in the church. My daughter Vicky was married in Valley Christian Church in 1964. I lost my son in a logging accident.

Bruce Clark married Fritz, my second husband, and I in the new church. I added 5 step children to my 3. I have lots of grandchildren, great grandchildren and even great-great grandchildren.

I Love ❤️ being able to attend church and bible study.

### **An additional memory from Dot:**

One of Dot's favorite memories is when she was in the choir. At Christmas time they would have a Christmas party and exchange white elephant gifts. Fred Duckwall, Loren Magnusen, and Dick Radliff always chose gag gifts to exchange with the others getting a big laugh from everyone.

### **Frances Henne**

I grew up in Valley Christian Church. At that time everything revolved around the church. It was our whole social life. In fact the two Moore families went to Valley Christian. We took up a whole pew – maybe 2 or 3!

I was baptized at 10 or 12 years of age. I was married to Paul Henne by Lawrence Porter in 1950. I had wanted a small wedding. Originally we only invited the friends that were standing up with us. The morning of the wedding my mom asked if she, dad and Mary could come. I said yes so they came. When we arrived at the church, twenty of Paul's friends were there too. My sister, Mary, was also married at Valley Christian. Paul and I had 4 children: Doug, David, Christie and Todd.

When I was young, there was a large youth group – about 100 kids in Sunday school. There were about 10 or 12 kids in each age group. We were always active in youth group. We went to camp at Cove and lots of other activities. One time when we went to camp, the boys stood up in the back of a truck all the way to Cove, which is outside of LaGrande.

When we decided to merge with the town church, they had the money and we had the people, so it was a good deal for both churches.

## **Darren Anderson**

Thank you for the invitation to share a story to celebrate the life and ministry of Hood River Valley Christian Church. Our time there was filled with so many good people and stories that it has been hard to choose a story to share. I could share stories of the youth and their families with stories from Snow Rallies, outings, mission trips, camps, basketball and soccer games, school events, and so many other experiences. There are so many stories, it is easier to share around a table together. From the first day in Hood River to the last, these are friendships and memories we will always cherish. I also have some videos of some of these events! I could share about John Ihle, who took a young, new pastor under his wings and showed me the practical tasks in a wider ministry. I am so grateful for all these and so many more.

I would like to share with you about a couple in the church who was asked to be a guide to me as I began my ministry with the church, Leonard and Gertrude Porterfield. I'm not sure if they knew what they were getting into, but I'm glad they did. Beyond the youth and their families, Leonard and Gertrude became a part of our family, or better still, we became part of theirs. I can remember many different conversations as we were getting our feet wet in the community. They shared their lives with us and guided us in many different ways. They were excited to be part of my ordination in Boise but unfortunately, there was a communication misunderstanding with the time of the service. They shared with us the ups and downs of their lives and how God had been present in all those situations. They advocated for us during a hard time of my ministry and along with others, walked with us each step of the way.

The specific story I would like to share involves how Leonard helped me, not directly with ministry, but in getting some property ready to live on. We purchased a piece of property on Tucker, an empty field at the time, and wanted to put a manufactured home on it. Being undeveloped, the property needed a lot of work to make it ready. One of those tasks involved laying the water line from the other side of Tucker Road. While the water company made the connection to the water main, we had to run the pipe under Tucker and across the front of the property to the house connection. We worked for a couple of days in the middle of the summer, to not just dig holes to feed the pipe under the road and the trench to lead to the house. Leonard's willingness to get his hands dirty and help a young family who was a bit over their heads, get their house ready to live in and more settled in the community.

Leonard and Gertrude were wonderful examples of Christians, guides, servants and unconditional love and grace. They showed us and I know many others in the church and community how we are called to follow Jesus in our everyday lives and what it looked like to forgive, love, and encourage others in different areas of life.

I am forever grateful for my time as Associate Minister at Hood River Valley Christian Church. Your love and care have continued to be a part of my life and ministry. I remember you all with gratitude for your investment in my life and my family. I pray for many more years of HRVCC being a light in the community and part of the larger Body of Christ.



## Special Events Coming up at HRVCC

Friday Nov 22	7:00pm Mitchell Spencer piano recital here
Sat Nov 30	10:00am Decorate the church for Advent
Thurs Nov 5	5:00pm Women's Xmas Dinner at China Gorge
Sat Dec 7	7:00pm Community Choir Christmas Concert here
Sun Dec 15	10:30am HRVCC Youth/Children's Christmas play followed by a "Christmas Treats" coffee hour
Sat Dec 21	6:00pm Longest Night service of remembrance
Tues Dec 24	7:00pm Christmas Eve service for all ages

### November Donation Theme for FISH Food Bank

Donations for FISH may be dropped off in the lobby at church any time.

## NOVEMBER DONATION THEME

### BAKER'S BASKET

Baking mix-all types  
Brown sugar  
Sugar  
Salt  
Vanilla extract  
Nuts-all varieties  
Cinnamon/nutmeg/allspice...  
Honey  
Cocoa powder  
Chocolate chips  
Shredded coconut  
Condensed milk



**FISH Food Bank**



# Church Calendar

## Wednesday November 20

9:00am-Noon Quilters meet  
9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop open  
7:00pm Wednesday prayers for our church

## Thursday November 21

7:00am Men's Bible Study  
1:30pm Chime choir practice

## Friday November 22

7:00pm Mitchell Spencer Piano Recital

## Saturday November 23

9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop

## Sunday November 24

### Thanksgiving Special Offering for Higher Education & Leadership Ministries

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

## Monday November 25

7:00pm Community Thanksgiving service  
Bethel United Church of Christ, White Salmon

## Tuesday November 26

10:00am Women's Bible Study  
4:00pm TOPS group

## Wednesday November 27

9:00am-Noon Quilters meet  
9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop open  
7:00pm Wednesday prayers for our church

## Thursday-Friday November 28-29

Thanksgiving Holiday  
Church office closed

## Saturday November 30 Helpers Needed!

9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop open

**10:00am Decorate the church for advent**

## Sunday December 1 First Sunday in Advent

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

## Tuesday December 3

10:00am Women's Bible Study  
4:00pm TOPS group

## Wednesday December 4

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

### **Scriptures for Sunday Nov 24, 2024**

2 Samuel 23:1-7  
Psalm 132:1-12, (13-18)  
Revelation 1:4b-8  
John 18:33-37

### **SERVING Sunday November 24, 2024**

**Elder this Week** Suze Nigl  
**Communion prep** Maggie Strasser  
**Coffee Hour** Carol and friends  
**Deacons** **Servers**

*Thank you to our deacons for serving communion as they are needed each week*

### **Scriptures for Sunday Dec 1, 2024**

Jeremiah 33:14-16  
Psalm 25:1-10  
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13  
Luke 21:25-36

### **SERVING Sunday December 1, 2024**

**Elder this Week** Chrystal Akin  
**Communion prep** Leslie Hidle  
**Coffee Hour** Jennifer and friends  
**Deacons** **Servers**

*Thank you to our deacons for serving communion as they are needed each week*



*You are invited to a special piano recital here at the church.  
Friday, November 22 at 7:00pm*

# SOUND OF MOVEMENT

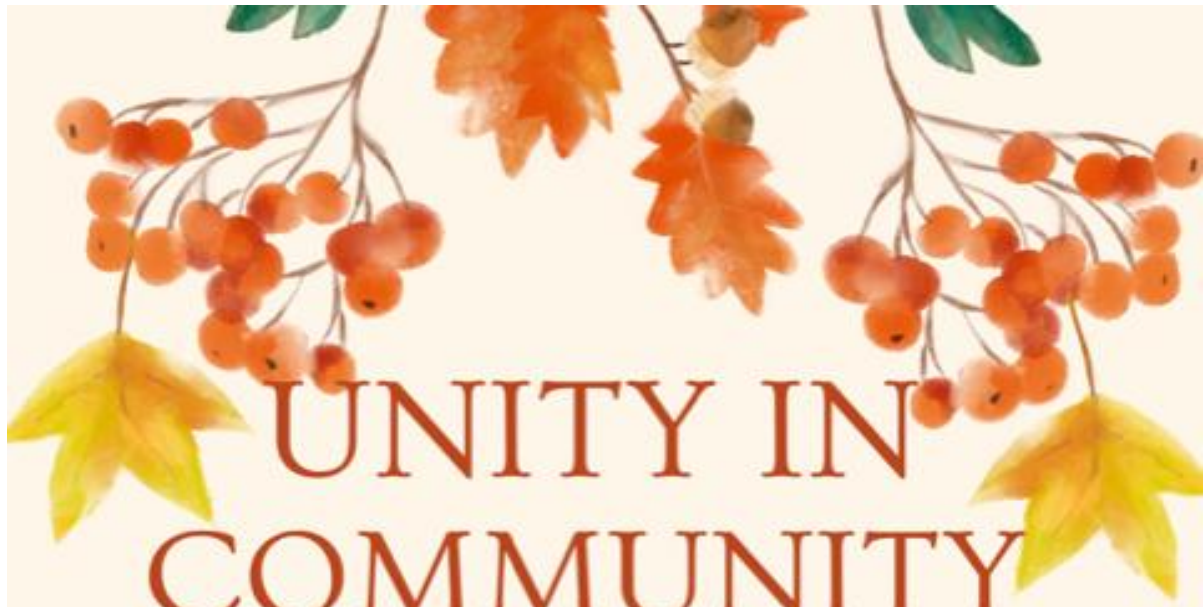
— MITCHELL JETT SPENCER —

Fri, 11/22 – 7pm  
Hood River Valley Christian Church

Sat, 11/30 – 7pm  
Riverside Community Church

\$20  
suggested  
donation

[mitchelljettspencer.com](http://mitchelljettspencer.com)



# UNITY IN COMMUNITY

MONDAY NOV 25TH 7PM

Gather with our interfaith spirital community  
For connection & Dessert potluck

Please donate  
to our  
Emergency  
Fund



 SCAN ME

MAMA /Bethel United Church of Christ  
480 E JEWETT BLVD. WHITE SALMON