



Hood River Valley Christian Church Newsletter

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

and on Face book

December 4, 2024

Sunday Worship Time

10:30am Worship

Minister

Rev. Alicia Speidel 541 601-1949

aliciaspeidel@gmail.com

Church Administrative Assistant

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

hrcchurch@gmail.com

Website: www.hoodrivervalleychristianchurch.com

Coming up at HRVCC



Thursday Dec 5

5:00pm Women's Christmas Dinner at China Gorge

Saturday Dec 7

7:00pm Community Choir Christmas Concert here

Sunday Dec 8

10:30am Second Sunday in Advent

Congregational meeting to vote on 2025 Officers & Budget

Friday Dec 13

7:00pm CGOA VOCI Concert here

Sunday Dec 15

10:30am Third Sunday in Advent

HRVCC Youth/Children's Christmas play

followed by "Christmas Treats" coffee hour

Saturday Dec 21

6:00pm Longest Night Service of remembrance at Down Manor

Sunday Dec 22

10:30am Fourth Sunday in Advent

Tuesday Dec 24

7:00pm Christmas Eve service for all ages

Sunday Worship

9:30am Adult Sunday School

10:30am Worship

Thank you to Our Advent Decorators

Jodi Wyatt, Sharon Smiley, Rod & Mary Anne Parrott, Kathy & Lauren Holmson, Alicia, Geoff & Jackson Speidel.

LINKS:

Sunday Worship Dec 1 <https://www.facebook.com/100064940580441/videos/606304741752721>

WEATHER RELATED CANCELLATIONS

A reminder: Church meetings or Thriftshop days may be cancelled if winter weather causes hazardous driving conditions. In general, if local schools have cancellations, church activities may also cancel. Cancellations may also be shared on KHR Gorge Radio, if possible. Call your group leader before you venture out.



Winter

The Christmas Special Offering will be received December 15 & 22

All funds received for the Christmas Special Offering go to the budget of the Christian Church in Oregon and SW Idaho Regional Church to support programs of the regional church.

You can give to the Christmas Special offering by....

- ❖ A designated gift through your congregational offerings
- ❖ A gift online at www.oidisciples.org (link on bottom right of home page)
- ❖ A gift sent by mail to PO Box 19466, Portland, OR 97280

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Layla, JJ & Rider	Sharon & Gordon Cook	Vicki White	Martha Hathaway
Stacey Jubitz	Doris Lewis	Tedra Turner	Alicia Speidel
Glenn Grannemann	The family of Susan Collins Stebner		

The Secret Place a daily devotional for December, January, February is available in the narthex. Suggested donation, \$2.

Retirement Coming

After 26 years of faithfully serving as the church's business administrator, Kathy Holmson is ready to retire. Her dedication and commitment has been amazing and will be recognized in the near future.

We are in the search process for someone to fill this role. **If you know someone who might be interested in applying, please reach out to Pastor Alicia.** It is a part time position of approximately 20 hours per week. Qualifications include experience with computer use, accounting, Windows, PowerPoint and Quickbooks. Thank you!



The Pastor's COLUMN

Messages of the candles Over the course of this Advent season we are focusing on the messages of the candles, the messages of hope, peace, joy and love. We are returning to the simplicity of the candles because sometimes that's what we need to do. We need simplicity. We need to get back to the roots. We need to see how these candles that we light every Sunday hold intense meaning for our lives and our world. And how that meaning stems from Jesus Christ, from what he brought into our world, into the lives of the disciples and continues to bring into our lives. Hope, peace, joy and love. The message of the candles are what will guide and hold us.

So, rather than me defining hope, peace, joy and love and providing examples of them from my life and experiences, I'm going to invite you to define them. I'm going to encourage you to maybe even write down their definitions, how you personally would explain them. And then I'm going to invite you to think of examples of them, examples from your own life, maybe even a way you have experienced them this past week. And you could even write those examples down too.

Begin with hope. What is hope? What does hope mean to you? How has hope been evident in your life? How have you recently seen hope? Now peace. What is peace? What does peace mean to you? How has peace been evident in your life? How have you recently seen peace? Now joy. What is joy? What does joy mean to you? How has joy been evident in your life? How have you recently seen joy? Finally love. What is love? What does love mean to you? How has love been evident in your life? How have you recently seen love? Hope, peace, joy and love, the messages of the candles that need our attention.

Alicia

Pastor 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

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

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

ELDERS

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

Elder Emeritus

Dot Swyers Judy Hiatt Fred Duckwall

DIACONATE SERVERS

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

COMMUNION PREPARERS

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

TRUSTEES

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

HRVCC 2025 BUDGET

<u>Projected Income</u>	<u>2024 Budget</u>	<u>2025 Budget</u>
	209,800	217,800
<u>Expense</u>		
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
Total Expenses	<u>182,596.38</u>	<u>189,525</u>
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!

A note of congratulations—

Sending you our belated congratulations and blessings on your anniversary of 60 years! We send our love and we are grateful for your Christian witness in our community.

With Congratulations and Gratitude, Pastor Vicky Stifter and Doug Roof, Moderator.

More photos from the 60th anniversary of Hood River Valley Christian Church on November 17th.



HRVCC Ministers in attendance:

Rev. Jim and Mrs. Vicky Edwards, 1960's

Rev. John Ihle 1989-1999

Rev. Linda Presley, 2005-2014

Rev. Alicia Speidel, 2014-present

Rev. David Debow, Interim Regional Minister,
Christian Church in Oregon/SW Idaho

HRVCC Youth Group, 1970's
under the leadership of Larry Russell.

Laurie Harris Crosswhite, Joanie Lingren Logan, Kathy Patterson Buendgen, Becky Moore Gilkerson and husband, Cindy Winfield Biddle, Christy Henne, Laurie Radliff Branson,





Jodi Wyatt



John Ihle



Our chefs Mt Hood BBQ, Chris & Mike Bosse



The Ihles and the Debows



Gladys & Jerry Sawyer



Glenn & Donnamae Grannemann



Duback- Eskildsen - Chevront family



60th Anniversary Stories

Sharing more of the wonderful stories and memories we received from some of our current and former HRVCC members.

Laurie Crosswhite

One of the most impactful things I have learned as a member of HRVCC is that it is okay to be the person God created me to be and that God loves me and loves every other person with His whole being! I am accepted by God!

As a sophomore in high school, I was invited to attend youth group activities by one of my best friends, Becky Moore Gilkerson. I enjoyed the church and the people. I was soon baptized by the youth pastor at the time, Larry Russell.

My family moved from Hood River the following summer. One of the significant lessons learned was how important it was to find a church and to get involved. I learned that we are all Christians regardless of denomination and to find a church family that would help me continue growing in my faith.

Several years later, Scott and I made our way back to Hood River and back to Hood River Valley Christian Church. We have been involved in one way or another ever since. All three of our children have thrived because of the loving people here. Their lives, and ours, would not be the same without this church family. Over the past 40+ years I have been involved with youth groups, Snow Rally, church camps, Sunday School leader, deacon/preparer, young adult groups, CWF activities, tech booth, church custodian and prayer shawl ministry.

HRVCC is a church filled with people who are amazingly generous, who love God, love others, love community and love the people of the world. They show it every day. My prayer is that I can be that same example of love, warmth, and acceptance as I have found at Hood River Valley Christian Church.

Lindamay Woosley

My first memory was going to Sunday school at Valley Christian Church when I was in grade school. My parents, Albert and Cletamay Maurer, were involved in choir, teaching Sunday school classes, serving, and playing the piano. I also have great memories of youth group when I was in junior high and high school. I was baptized as a sophomore and married in 1960. Leo Horner was the pastor at that time.

My parents were instrumental in paving the parking lot of Hood River Valley Christian Church. A memorial was set up in the nursery for our baby, Cindy Marie Woosley in 1964.

If you have a story about your time at HRVCC you would like to share, send it to the church and we will add it to this collection.

Holiday Giving in Our Hood River Community

Some local service organizations that appreciate extra giving during the holidays along with their contact information. You can make donations direct to the organizations or through your church offering (please indicate where you are donating in the memo section of your check.)

FISH Food Bank fighting food insecurity in the Gorge – Donate non-perishable food, hygiene items, pet food, household paper & cleaning items (paper towels, dish detergent, etc.) at the FISH Hood River site—FISH Food Bank 1130 Tucker Road. Or drop off at the church. Donate online: <https://www.fish-food-bank.com/> or mail a check: FISH, 1767 12th Street, #147, Hood River, OR 97031



Hood River Shelter – Mid Columbia Community Action Council supporting unhoused community members. Donate online: <https://www.mccac.com/donate> or mail check: MCCAC, 2505 W. 7th, The Dalles OR 97058 Also accepting specific clothing items for donation. Please check the website for information.

Hood River County Christmas Project – Christmas food and toy assistance for Hood River County residents. Donate online: <https://www.hoodrivercountychristmasproject.com/> or mail check: HRCCP, PO Box 872, Hood River, OR 97031

Helping Hands Against Domestic Violence – domestic violence shelter and assistance. Donate online: <https://www.helpinghandsoregon.org/> or mail check: HHAV PO Box 441 Hood River, OR 97031

Hood River Emergency Voucher Program – provides vouchers for food, fuel, and lodging for travelers and people in need in our community. Donate online: <https://gorgeem.org/emergency-voucher-program> or mail check: Gorge Ecumenical Ministries, 400 11th Street, Hood River, OR 97031 (indicate in memo line Emergency Voucher fund.)

The Next Door, Inc. <https://nextdoorinc.org/> – Offering over two dozen programs supporting and empowering people in our community, including: Parenting support and education; safety net for children at risk of abuse or neglect and for victims of crime; health and wellness education; mentoring, education and treatment for high-risk youth and families. Donate online: <https://nextdoorinc.org/donate/> or mail check: The Next Door, Inc. 965 Tucker Road Hood River, OR 97031

Meals on Wheels – Delivers meals to people who have difficulty cooking or getting out of their home. Donate online: <https://www.hrvac.org/meals-on-wheels> or mail check: Hood River Adult Center, Meals on Wheels, 2010 Sterling Place Hood River, OR 97031

Columbia Gorge Habitat for Humanity - <https://columbiagorgehabitat.org/> Building and improving homes in the Gorge. Mail checks to PO Box 378, The Dalles, OR 97058

Giving within our Disciples Denomination Community

Disciples of Christ, Oregon/SW Idaho Region (Christmas Special Offering)

Supports programs of the Regional Church. Mail a check: Christian Church in Oregon & SW Idaho PO Box 19466 Portland, OR 97280 Or give through your church offering.

Week of Compassion – donate online <https://www.weekofcompassion.org/donate.html> or mail a check: Week of Compassion P.O. Box 1986 Indianapolis, IN 46206 Or give through your church offering.

Church Calendar

Wednesday December 4

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

Thursday December 5

7:00am Men's Study Vista Room
5:00pm Women's dinner at China Gorge

Saturday December 7

9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop open
7:00pm Christmas Concert,
Mid Columbia Community Choir

Sunday December 8 Second Sunday in Advent

**Second Sunday Recycling
Congregational Meeting, voting on
2025 Church officers and Budget**

9:30am Adult Sunday School
10:30am Worship
11:30am Congregational meeting
11:30 rehearsal Youth & Children Christmas play
3:30pm Hope and Life church worship

Tuesday December 10

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

Wednesday December 11

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

Thursday December 12

7:00am Men's Study Vista Room

Friday December 13

7:00pm VOICI Holiday concert here

Saturday December 14

9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop open
10:00am rehearsal Youth & Children Xmas play

Sunday December 15 Sunday in Advent

Children & Youth Christmas Play

9:30am Adult Sunday School
10:30am Worship
11:30am Christmas Treats coffee hour
3:30pm Hope and Life church worship

Tuesday December 17

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

Wednesday December 18

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

Scriptures for Sunday December 8, 2024

Malachi 3:1-4
Luke 1:68-79
Philippians 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6

SERVING Sunday December 8, 2024

Elder this Week Jerry Sawyer
Communion prep Barbara Ritoch
Coffee Hour Barbara Ritoch & friends
Deacons Servers

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

Scriptures for Sunday Dec 15, 2024

Zephaniah 3:14-20
Isaiah 12:2-6
Phillippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-18

SERVING Sunday December 15, 2024

Elder this Week Jennifer Stager
Communion prep Joanie Logan
Coffee Hour Judy Hiatt & friends
Deacons Servers

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

December 8 - Second Sunday Recycling

What to bring:

Clear clamshells
Plastics with recycling triangles marked #1, #5
Medicine bottles
Unused medications for safe disposal
Plastic film -- bags, bubble wrap, mailers