



Hood River Valley Christian Church Newsletter

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

and on Face book

December 18, 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



Saturday Dec 21

4:00pm Longest Night Service
of remembrance at the Parrotts' home

Sunday Dec 22

10:30am Fourth Sunday in Advent

Tuesday Dec 24

7:00pm Christmas Eve service for all ages

Wednesday Dec. 25 Merry Christmas!

Wednesday-Wednesday Dec. 25-Jan. 1 Staff vacations, church office will be closed

Sunday Worship

9:30am Adult Sunday School

10:30am Worship

LINKS:

Sunday Worship Dec 15 <https://www.facebook.com/100064940580441/videos/625873463447676>



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 KIHR Gorge Radio, if possible. Call your group leader before you venture out.

Last Sunday we enjoyed a wonderful Christmas play under the direction of Pastor Alicia, and the accompaniment of Mary Anne Parrott and Betty Osborne.



Thank you to everyone who made this past Sunday a wonderful success. Thank you to the 20 children and youth and their families for rehearsing, dressing up and acting out the fun play during worship. Thank you to Judy and her fellowship hour crew for the yummy Christmas treats and to all who provided those treats. Thank you to Santa and Mrs. Claus for their visit. Thank you to Mary Kummer, Santa's workshop helper. Thank you to everyone who engaged with the children and youth, making them feel welcomed and appreciated. It truly was a wonderful Sunday. Pastor Alicia



A few photos of the Christmas play. Thank you to Sable Duback.



The children & youth did a great job! Thank you!

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. Gifts support the work of regional ministries this Christmas. Our regional ministry works to:

- Connect congregations to each other
- Foster faith development
- Gather Disciples in camps, conferences, and assemblies
- Nurture the development of a new generation of pastors
- Assist churches in calling new ministers
- Interpret the global mission of the Church
- Represent the Church in ecumenical gatherings
- Counsel and pray with those who are troubled of spirit
- Lead the Church to address racism
- Inspire leaders to experiment and create
- Witness to the power of God to make things new

God's love
visible



2024 CHRISTMAS OFFERING

You can give to the Christmas Special offering

- ❖ 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	Linda Thomas		

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



POINSETTIAS GIVEN

People have purchased poinsettias in memory or in honor of loved ones. Poinsettias are used for decorating the sanctuary through Christmas Eve and may be taken home after the service.

Name

Margaret Marshall	in memory of Ned Marshall
Judy Hiatt	in memory of Chuck Hiatt, Lee & Minnie Hiatt and Gladney & Berenice Hamilton
Jim and Jennifer Stager	in memory of Edward & Freda Arthur
Rod & Mary Anne Parrott	in memory of our parents
Mary Kummer	in memory of Bob Kummer
Margaret Strasser	in memory of Elizabeth Wright
Gladys Sawyer	in memory of Leland Scheid
The Holmsons	in honor of our friends at HRVCC

Christmas Cards



May Peace, Joy and Love be with you in the coming year. Judy Hiatt

Merry Christmas! Best wishes and good health to you in 2025. The Holmsons

May the joy of the birth of Jesus Christ be with you all of 2025. Jerry & Gladys Sawyer

Merry Christmas! Hope and Peace to All! Margaret Strasser

Shalom! Rod & Mary Anne Parrott

My wish is for peace and joy for each of you, both now and in the year to come.

God bless and keep you. Dot Swyers

Wishing you a season that's merry and bright with the light of God's love!
Carol Sabins

**Christmas blessings of hope, peace, joy and love
from Geoff, Alicia, Kailey and Jackson**

Thank you for everyone's thoughts and prayers during this season in our lives.



60th Anniversary Stories

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

John Ihle

My memories of 26 years in HR are very good. One continuing good thing is the weekly Men's Bible Study. Matt Ihle got it going more than 25 years ago. I think we handled well the upset when an anti-gay measure was coming up on the state ballot. We provided a safe occasion for people to look at the Scriptures broadly about the issue and how to treat people.

On a lighter level, I remember being Tarzan in the Talent Show as I swung from behind the curtain on a rope hanging from the ceiling. More important, I felt supported by strong lay leadership then and I see it in the congregation now. I have fond memories of the Easter flower cross and cold, clear sunrise services on the lawn with Mt. Hood bright in the back ground. When I retired I took the Master Gardener course that continues to bless me. That program has a long history of being available in the community partly because HRVCC is generously available to beneficial community organizations. And, of course there is the marvelous ministry of the Thrift Shop.

As far as I am concerned, I am very glad the two congregations got together, built the beautiful and very useful building, and truly became ONE in Christian Ministry!

Shirley Ihle

My strongest memories from our years in Hood River, are the friendships and life experiences shared. The church was certainly our closest contacts in the community at large. I remember the challenges and joys of working with the choir. Such dedicated participation and commitment to working together to contribute to worship. Also, the children and youth in Sunday School and youth groups. It's fun to still have some contacts with some of those kids, now as adults. The Thrift Shop was a small, serious commitment by a few women that has grown and matured so much in the intervening years. Women's Bible study was a small group that has grown in size and faithfulness.

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.

Another opportunity to give...helping Teens in our community.
There is a collection box in the lobby at church. Drop off at church by Dec. 22.

Holiday Drive Dec. 1st- 23rd

HELP OUR LOCAL TEENS IN NEED

The Next Door, the largest public service organization serving seven counties in the Gorge, has identified a critical need for personal hygiene items for teens ages 14–23. In lieu of Christmas gifts, they have requested essential items such as soap, shampoo, conditioner, chapstick, hair brushes, deodorant, feminine hygiene products, undergarments, and socks. Please join us in purchasing these items to support our local teens this holiday season.

Drop-Off Locations:

Sotheby's Realty
118 3rd Street
Hood River, OR
(541) 716-0701

The Next Door
965 Tucker Road
Hood River, OR

The Next Door
11113 Kelly Ave.
The Dalles, OR

Donations will be delivered on the 23rd of December for circulation to our teens in need.

SPONSORS

Cascade
Hasson

Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY



Church Calendar

Wednesday December 18

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

Thursday December 19

7:00am Men's Study Vista Room

Saturday December 21

9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop open
4:00pm Longest Night service, at Parrotts'

Sunday December 22 Fourth Sunday in Advent

10:30am Worship
3:30pm Hope and Life church worship
in sanctuary

Tuesday December 24 Christmas Eve

7:00pm Christmas Eve service

Wednesday December 25



December 25-January 1, 2025

Church office will be closed.
Pastor Alicia will be on vacation.

Sunday December 29 Carols Sunday

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

Wednesday January 1, 2025



Thursday January 2

7:00am Men's Study Vista Room

Saturday January 4

9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop open

Sunday January 5 FISH Food Bank Sunday

10:30am Worship
3:30pm Hope and Life church worship

Scriptures for Sunday December 22, 2024

Micah 5:2-5a
Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 80:1-7
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)

SERVING Sunday December 22, 2024

Elder this Week	Carol Sabins
Communion prep	Mary Finley
Coffee Hour	Carol Sabins & friends
Deacons	<u>Servers</u>

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

Scriptures for Sunday December 29, 2024

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26
Psalm 148
Colossians 3:12-17
Luke 2:41-52

SERVING Sunday December 29, 2024

Elder this Week	Rod Parrott/Thelma Warnock
Communion prep	Maggie Strasser
Coffee Hour	Betty Osborne & friends
Deacons	<u>Servers</u>

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