



Hood River Valley Christian Church Newsletter

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www.hoodrivervalleychristianchurch.com

and on Face book

September 27, 2023

Sunday Worship Time

10:30am Worship

Interim Minister

Rev. Holly Greenidge 503 381-8027

hollygreenidge@gmail.com

Church Administrative Assistant

Kathy Holmson office hours as needed

hrcchurch@gmail.com

Website: www.hoodrivervalleychristianchurch.com



Sunday, October 1 is WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY.

Hood River Valley Christian Church will be observing this special Sunday. As a part of this observance we will have chalices and patens (plates): Pottery from Israel, Carved wood from Brazil, Pewter from Germany, Carved wood from

South Africa, Copper from Montana (United States), Pottery from El Salvador, Marble (as used in the building of the Taj Mahal) from India for you to view - on the Communion Table.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

9:30am Adult Sunday school classes, nursery available

10:30am Sunday Worship

LINK:

Sunday Worship Sept 24 <https://www.facebook.com/100064940580441/videos/640136737946181>



October is Stewardship Month

Your HRVCC stewardship letter and pledge card for 2024

will be available Sunday in the lobby. Please pick up your letter Sunday and plan to return the pledge card before October 29.

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

In the Sanctuary For offerings and tithes, there is a deposit box at the entrance of the sanctuary, inside the double doors. Offerings may be dropped off at any time.



RECONCILIATION MINISTRY

The Reconciliation Ministry Special Offering is used to fund our Church's mission imperative to become a pro-reconciling and anti-racist church utilizing experiential education, inclusive worship, and intentional dialogue. Our efforts to promote healing,

relationship, and restoration in the whole family of God are enlivened by funds from this offering. Through it we are able to provide programs for leadership development, curriculum for dialogue and learning, and partnerships within the Church and our communities.

Half of the funds received will remain in our Region for Reconciliation Ministry work and the other half will go to the General Church.

Reconciliation Ministry Special Offering September 24 & October 1
www.reconciliationministry.org

Reconciliation Ministry "sermon", HRVCC, September 24, 2023

There was one man in the 19th century who was more photographed than his friend, Abraham Lincoln: Frederick Douglass, who was once told by President Lincoln that there was no man whose opinion he valued more than Douglass's. Frederick Douglass sought out opportunities to be photographed in order to put an accurate African American image in front of the public which mostly just knew of minstrel shows featuring whites in blackface playing the happy-go-lucky freed slave, when in truth, many were now poorly paid and often abused servants.

Douglass, who escaped slavery in Maryland in the 1830s, became a respected orator, a famous writer, and civil rights leader. He calculated that fame might mean he would be sought for recapture before the Civil War, so he lived in Europe for two years; there, admirers raised money to buy his freedom, and he returned to become a national abolitionist.

Douglass once wrote: "the spiritual was a testimony against slavery and a prayer to God for deliverance from chains." The spirituals he referred to include some that are in our hymnal today. The spirituals combined the unique musical culture of roots in Africa with the impact of bondage and the Christian religion. Music was a dominant feature of African life because there was no written language, and there was no separation between music, dancing, song, art and worship.

The slaves masked much discontent with and defiance of brutal treatment. Since their lives had little privacy, their songs needed words that would get past their captors' approval, and so they did, but many had hidden communication that only fellow slaves could understand and appreciate. For example, "Wade in the Water" was about Jesus's healings, but it also referred to a route of escape—wading in the water as the best way to throw off the bloodhounds seeking them.

Or "Joshua Fit the Battle of Jerico" with its agitation and call for mighty change: oh, that those walls of slavery might come tumbling down!

Let's sing three of the spirituals which carried such coded language. First, "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot," number 643 if you wish to use the hymnal. These words have biblical roots in the story of a chariot sweeping down to pick up Elijah and carry him to heaven. Very biblical, but in its original setting among the slaves, the singers might be focusing on God's eventual vindication of the

oppressed and at the same time secretly singing of the glory of the Underground Railroad—the Ohio River was indeed the Jordan River they longed to cross!

Let's sing "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot."

Another spiritual that we sing around the communion table is "I'm Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table", number 424. This song grew in the slave community not as a communion hymn so much as a song of protest and a cry for justice and human dignity. Being welcomed, wanted and invited by a loving, yet righteous God protested the inhumane treatment of slaves who had hope that one day they would eat decent food and be welcomed to a good table.

Let us sing, "I'm Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table."

In no other spiritual is there a more direct metaphor for slavery than "Go, Down, Moses," which many of us learned in children's Sunday school. While white masters might have heard this as teaching an Old Testament lesson of the Exodus, they might not have understood the fifth verse which clearly refers to such New Testament scriptures as Galatians 5:1: "For freedom Christ has set us free."

You may remember that Harriet Tubman was called "Moses" for her work with the Underground Railroad. She knew that God is always opposed to the enslavement and oppression of people. She knew that God enlists willing—or sometimes unwilling—human beings to go into situations of human suffering to lead people out.

Let's sing, "Go Down, Moses", number 663.

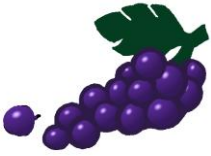
After the Civil War, there were obvious disconnects between legal freedoms and those of social equality and standing. State legislatures quickly passed laws to limit Black labor, movements and civil rights. Think of our own Oregon shameful history in that regard. African Americans began looking at the spirituals as a badge of remembered suffering, and some preferred not to even think about it. Many of the most important messages of the Bible and longing for freedom inherent in the repertoire of spirituals were largely lost, forgotten by African Americans. Black music shifted to gospel songs for religious use and blues or jazz for secular use.

The Reconciliation Ministry which we observe today was born in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) out of the civil unrest following the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr., in 1968. This brutal act brought to the fore of our consciousness two quite separate societies—one which benefits part of society, and one in which the poor and powerless are marginalized. At that time Reconciliation Ministry was formed to address the sins of racism.

Some of the efforts and actions—funded by the Reconciliation offering we take—have included nominating people of color to office and membership on church boards; another avenue was to call and prepare persons of color for ordained ministry. Key general church offices to support African American, Hispanic and later, Asian American ministries and church growth were established.

In recent years, study of racism and particular help for us in the white majority to understand how that works in our own lives and congregations as well as systems in society has been an important focus.

The ultimate goal of the Reconciliation emphasis and the offering we give to support it is to make us an increasingly visible part of God's beloved community.



Women, Wine, and The Word

Wednesday October 11, 4pm at Stave and Stone at the vineyard Women are invited to join for a time of fellowship to talk about a scripture passage centered around women. Gather at Stave and Stone Winery at the Vineyard (3827 Fletcher Dr, HR). Come grab a beverage (non-alcoholic or alcoholic beverages are available) and a snack while we share how the passage intersects with our lives. Invite friends from outside the church, too.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Layla, JJ & Rider Gaffney	Sharon & Gordon Cook	Lauree Winfield	Vicki White
Bev Thomas	Katy White	Stacey Jubitz	Bonnie McCollister
David Nash	Nancy Krieg	Suze Nigl's niece Trisha	Jared

++Lindsay Holmson is doing well after surgery to repair her Achilles tendon last week. Healing and therapy are ahead for her. Thank you for your prayers.



A big thank you from Women's Ministries to those who planned and carried out the dessert party last Saturday: Thelma Warnock, Barb Ritoch, Joanie Logan, Margaret Strasser, Carol Sabins, and Judy Hiatt; Thelma's daughters Kristen and Karen were in the midst of organizational things, too.

It was a delightful getting-to-know you party through hobby-sharing and fellowship, and a dozen persons were thanked for their leadership in the church.

Workshop on Prayer – October 15 Ruth Fletcher will again lead a workshop on October 15 when she is our preacher. It will be about Contemplative Prayer, for about an hour beginning after the coffee hour. Those attending will have the option of a light lunch.

Coffee Hour Change Beginning October 1, the coffee hour will be simplified with less food and fewer choices. There will be one of two choices of something sweet and a non-sweet platter. This change eases the load on those able to prepare, serve, and clean up each week. There will be several occasions throughout the year to highlight special events or recognitions, such as our traditional Pies for Pops.



The Pastor's COLUMN

Savoring Each week, we've been taking a moment during our Sunday service to write down what we're savoring during the worship service. As I was on my way to Hood River from Portland, I found myself wanting to savor these drives. I love that every time the road curves, I find myself with a new incredible view. I look at the water and feel the peace of it. I look at the rocks above and marvel at the height and magnitude of them. The artistry of our Creator God amazes me.

In addition to the view, I find myself wanting to savor the in-between time - when I'm no longer in Portland, but not yet in Hood River. My heart and mind are no longer tied to the chores and assignments I left behind at home, and not yet fully present with all of you here in Hood River.

I'm trying out a couple of prayer and meditation apps on my phone, using bluetooth to connect to the car speakers. So far, the apps "Lectio 365" and "PrayAsYouGo" have helped me to truly savor the in-between time - just me and God.

What about you? Are there in-between times that you savor? Maybe it's the time after your spouse goes to bed and you're still awake. Maybe it's the time standing in line at the grocery store. Maybe it's when dinner is made and you're waiting for it to finish cooking in the oven. What do *you* savor in the in-between times?
Pastor Holly

SABBATICAL NEWS



INTERIM MINISTER While Pastor Alicia is on sabbatical, Pastor Holly Greenidge will serve as interim minister. Holly will lead worship on September 10, September 24, October 8, October 22 and November 5. Every Sunday Holly is in worship, she will also be present for pastoral visits, meetings, questions and discussions on that Monday or Tuesday. Make sure to reach out if you have a need or simply want to get to know her better.

Pastor Holly's contact information is phone 503 381-8027 email hollygreenidge@gmail.com

If you have a need or concern while Pastor Alicia is away, please reach out to our Interim Minister Holly Greenidge, one of our elders, Kathy in the church office, or a member of the sabbatical committee (Mary Anne Parrott, Betty Osborne, Suze Nigl, Sharon Smiley and Wes Bailey).



Rev. Monica Myers Greenberg, preaching October 1

Monica Myers Greenberg is vice president of the Christian Church Foundation's Mountain West Zone, which includes the area from Colorado to Northern California and north to Alaska.

Monica is a graduate of Bethany College in Bethany, West Virginia, and Brite Divinity School in Fort Worth, Texas. Originally from Ohio, she served congregations in the Northern Lights Region for 21 years before joining the Foundation staff in 2021. She shares, "I look forward to partnering with people who love the church and have a passion for insuring, through their own generosity, that the church's faith and witness will continue for many years to come."

Monica resides in Seattle, Washington with her son and their dog. Monica can be reached at mgreenberg@ccf.disciples.org.



Rev. Ruth Fletcher, preaching October 15

Ruth Fletcher nurtures positive transformation in individuals and systems through teaching and spiritual leadership. Throughout her life, she has trained leaders, facilitated personal growth retreats, accompanied congregations through change, encouraged imagination, keynoted conferences, preached and led worship, coached pastors, and designed processes for systemic revitalization.

Ruth is an ordained minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). She received her Doctor of Ministry degree from the School of Theology at Claremont and has authored resources regarding peace education, congregational discernment, and the role of the eldership in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Her most recent book is entitled *Thrive: Spiritual Habits of Transforming Congregations*.

Workshop on Prayer

Ruth Fletcher will again lead a workshop on October 15 when she is our preacher. It will be about Contemplative Prayer, for about an hour beginning after the coffee hour. Those attending will have the option of a light lunch.



prayer

Be in prayer During sabbatical you are invited to be in prayer. Pray for the congregation. Pray for the ministries of the church. Pray for Pastor Alicia. Pray for Geoff, Kailey, and Jackson. Pray for yourself. Pray that all will "savor" this time as we learn, grow and deepen our faith. This is a time to be intentional in our prayer lives.

What are we savoring? Every Sunday during the sabbatical there will be a time at the end of worship to write down the answers to the questions "What did you savor today? What did you savor in worship, in the life of the church, in this faith community?"

Halloween Trunk or Treat!



Tuesday, October 31 @ 4-6pm

Join the fun in the church parking lot

Volunteers are needed to decorate their trunk/car or near their car and then hand out candy to trick or treaters. This event is for the entire community; so many decorated cars would be fantastic. Make sure to invite your friends, neighbors and family.

Got extra candy? If you have extra candy you'd like to share but won't be decorating your own "trunk", drop it off in the kitchen and the "trunk hosts" will pass it out.

Our thanks to Betty Osborne and Jodi Wyatt for organizing trunk or treat this year while Pastor Alicia is on sabbatical.

News from the Book Discussion Group **A Fun Read Coming!**



The Book Discussion group has scheduled its next meeting for Wednesday, November 15, at 7:00 [p.m.at](#) the home of Jan and Otto Behrmann. The chosen book is *TheBandit Queens* by Parini Shroff. Here's a blurb:

"Five years ago, Getta's no-good husband simply walked away and she never heard from him again. However, in her small Indian village, the rumor persists that Geeta killed him. Geeta doesn't mind since no one wants to mess with a black widow. Until women start asking Geeta for advice on how to off their own husbands and they won't take no for an answer. Heartwarming and hilarious all at once, *The Bandit Queens* has a well-rounded story and witty characters that make for a hilarious, yet thought-provoking read." —[booklistqueen.com](#)

The book is 354 pp. long, and is available for \$16.79 from Amazon. New participants are welcome to the reading group. If you would like to join in reading this book, and would like a copy of the book ordered, please let Rod Parrott know.



**Protecting
God's World**

Second Sunday Recycling October 8

Bring clear clamshells #1, #3, #4, #5, #7
Medicine bottles & caps Unused medications for safe disposal
Plastic film such as bags, bubble wrap, mailers
All items must be clean and dry. Please bring a cash contribution to cover costs of recycling



Collecting for FISH Food Bank October 1

Our local food bank needs our donations—non perishable food, hygiene supplies, pet food, and monetary donations. HRVCC collects for FISH the first Sunday of each month.

Currently, FISH needs the following items:

Cooking oil	Jelly or jam	Sugar	Salt	Condiments
Oatmeal (quick, old fashioned or instant)		Cereal	Rice	Hominy
Chili (canned)	Ramen noodles	Skillet dinners		El Pato sauce
Gluten free items	Shelf stable juices—apple, orange, etc.			

Clients also really appreciate any personal care items (soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant etc.) and pet food.

Hood River String Quartet performs at HRVCC September 29, 7:00pm



Prepare yourself for a wonderful musical journey with the Hood River String Quartet, who will be joined by pianist Mitchell Jett Spencer in concert on Friday, September 29.

The event will be held in the Hood River Valley Christian Church sanctuary (975 Indian Creek Road) at 7 PM. While there is no charge for the concert, donations in support of Columbia Gorge Orchestra Association and our local FISH Food Bank may be given at the door.

In photo (L-R): Mitchell Jett Spencer, Chari Harrington, Melissa Arndt, Nick Eby, Michelle Edwards

Church Calendar

Wednesday September 27

9:00am-Noon Quilters meet

9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop

Thursday September 28

7:00am Men's Study

1:30pm Chime Choir practice

6:30pm Chari Harrington rehearsal, sanctuary

Friday September 29

7:00pm String Quartet concert, sanctuary

Saturday September 30

9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop

Sunday October 1 World Communion Sunday

9:30am Adult Sunday School

10:30am Worship

3:30pm Hope and Life church worship

Tuesday October 3

10:00am Women's Bible Study

3:00pm TOPS group meets

Wednesday October 4

9:00am-Noon Quilters meet

9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop

Thursday October 5

7:00am Men's Study

1:30pm Chime Choir practice

Saturday October 7

9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop

Sunday October 8

9:30am Adult Sunday School

10:30am Worship

3:30pm Hope and Life church worship

Monday, Wednesday, Friday October 9, 11, 13

2:30-5:00pm HRVCC volunteers at FISH food bank

Tuesday October 10

10:00am Women's Bible Study

3:00pm TOPS group

Wednesday October 11

9:00am-Noon Quilters meet

9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop

SERVING Sunday October 1, 2023

Elder this Week

Sharon Smiley

Communion prep

Joanie Logan

AV Tech

Chance & JJ

Coffee Hour

Jennifer & friends

Deacons

Serving Team # 2

Jennifer Stager, Rylee Akin

Scriptures for Sunday October 1, 2023

Exodus 17:1-7

Psalms 78:1-4, 12-16

Philippians 2:1-13

Matthew 21:23-32

SERVING Sunday October 8, 2023

Elder this Week

Rod Parrott

Communion prep

Leslie Hidle

AV Tech

Laurie

Coffee Hour

Barb & Friends

Deacons

Serving Team #3

Betty Osborne, Tatum Wyatt

Scriptures for Sunday October 8, 2023

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Psalms 19

Philippians 3:4b-14

Matthew 21:33-46