

October 22, 2025



Hood River Valley Christian Church Newsletter

541-386-2608 hrcchurch@gmail.com

<https://www.hoodrivervalleychristianchurch.org/> and on Facebook

Sunday Worship Time
10:30am

Minister
Rev. Alicia Speidel 541-601-1949
aliciaspeidel@gmail.com

Church Administrative Assistant
Sable Duback

Office hours 10am-1pm or as needed

Sunday Worship

9:30 Adult Lectionary Preview

10:30 Worship

Link to Worship on October 19, 2025- [Facebook](#)



Sharon & Gordon Cook	Carol Sabins	Lee Repp	Vestena Emerson
Vicki White	Ken Hansen	Anse Hopkins	Bev Carpenter
Sheppard family	Don Springer	Sharon Smiley	

*Please hold Don Springer and his wife Chris in your thoughts and prayers as Don nears the end of his life. Don is Katie Smiley's dad, Karl Smiley's father-in-law and Brandon and Kyle's grandpa. Prayers of peace and comfort for all of the family during this difficult time.

*prayers for Sharon Smiley as she recovers from a kidney infection and remains in the hospital in Portland. She is hoping to go home in the next day or two. Prayers of healing and then for the future kidney stone removal at the end of November.

Please email any prayer requests to hrcchurch@gmail.com or call our office at 541-386-2608.



Mimi Williford-02	Vicki White-05	Ron Wilkins-07
Noel Lien-07	Thelma Warnock-10	Austin Crosswhite-12
Judy Hiatt-15	Hailey Olson-18	Tatum Wyatt-24
Jodi Wyatt-26	Jami Waits-26	Velma Budworth-30



One aspect of the Thriving Congregations Cohort, which we are in the midst of, is a separate cohort for clergy. The clergy from the fifteen congregations have been broken into three small groups. Each month those small groups gather via zoom with Rev. Derrick Perkins, Sr., Director for Congregational Vitality & Innovation at Disciples Home Missions. Derrick leads the group in reflection about the process, asking questions pertinent to each congregation.

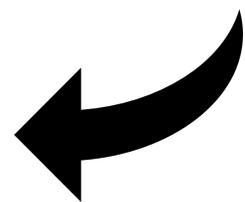
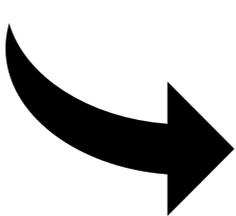
There has been conversation around the joy and challenges of ministry. There has been personal sharing and connections created. There has been talk about what each of the congregations are doing. The leaders of this program are developing a mindset around the notion of thriving, encouraging the clergy to look at how their congregations are thriving in a variety of different ways. These clergy groups are important as our church continues to embark on the Thriving Congregations journey.



The service for Bill Sheppard will be *Saturday, November 1 at 1pm* at the Hood River Valley Christian Church. There will be a reception following the service.



You may have noticed these little white boxes on the floor in the bathrooms or under the kitchen sink. They are water sensors from our church's insurance company to detect if a leak occurs. Please leave them on the ground where they are so they are able to do their job. Thanks!



Please Join us for a Retirement Party



In Honor of:

Billie Stevens

16 years of service

**Friday, October 31
11:30am-1:30pm**

**FISH Food Bank Meeting room
1130 Tucker rd, Hood River**

RSVP: Jacqueline: Director@fishfoodbank.org

Please join us for a potluck honoring Billie's 16 years of service at FISH. Soups, salads, breads (please let Jacqueline know if you are interested in making a soup or salad). We are trying to gather as many personal, handwritten cards for Billie as possible; as we will present them to her at the luncheon. Please drop these off to Jacqueline at any time before the end of the month. Please be discreet if Billie is around.

FISH Donation November Theme -Baker's Basket

**Baking mix-all types
Sugar
Nuts-all varieties
Chocolate chips
Evaporated milk**

**Cake/Muffin/Cookie mix
Salt
Honey
Shredded coconut
Cinnamon/nutmeg/allspice...**

**Brown sugar
Vanilla extract
Cocoa powder
Condensed milk**

December Theme-Keep It Clean

**Shampoo
Dental floss
Incontinence pads
Body wipes**

**Soap
Mouthwash
Diapers
Laundry soap**

**Toothpaste/toothbrush
Tampons
Menstrual pads
Dish Soap**

October is stewardship month.

This is the time of year when the church plans for next year's budget based on your financial commitment to this faith community. The stewardship letter and pledge cards have been handed out and mailed.

We need everyone's commitment to continue to be the church we are called to be. This coming Sunday, October 26, during worship we will be blessing our financial commitments to this faith community. Please bring your pledge card with you as we give thanks for the faithfulness of this church body.



On Sunday, November 2 we will recognize All Saint's Day in worship. We will be celebrating and remembering the saints in the life of this church from the past year. Come remember these individuals and the commitment they made to our lives and our world as we light candles in their memory.



ALL SAINTS' DAY

I love, love, love the fall. The vibrant yellows, the striking reds, the intense greens. The leaves are amazing. And then with the vivid blue sky, it's all so beautiful. I love driving around town and noticing the trees. There are definitely favorites that draw me in every time, ones I look forward to seeing.

Pastor's message

The fall brings changes in the weather, changes in the daylight hours and changes with the vegetation. It's simply a lot of change, as with every season. Change, as we all know, is the one constant in our lives. As we notice these changes happening around us, notice how it impacts you. Pay attention to what changes are happening in your life or what changes need to happen. And do your best to embrace those changes. Or to at least move through them to see what's on the other side. It could have a powerful impact that you never expected.

~Pastor Alicia



Trunk-or-Treat: We Need YOU!



Get ready for a spooktacular and safe Halloween! We're inviting all families to join our annual Trunk-or-Treat event. This is a fun and safe way for kids to show off their costumes and collect candy.

How You Can Help Make It Amazing:

1. **Decorate a Trunk:** We need creatively decorated vehicles to create our candy alley! Park your vehicle, decorate your trunk with a spooky or fun theme, and be ready to hand out treats.
2. **Bring the Kids:** Dress up the little ghosts and goblins and bring them to walk the trunks and collect candy.

Candy Donations Needed! To make sure every kid gets a fantastic haul, we are asking our generous community to donate bags of individually wrapped candy. *Please drop off donations in the box under the table in the Narthex, in the church office, or with Pastor Alicia by October 30, 2025.*

When: 4pm-6pm

Where: Hood River Valley Christian Church



HAPPINESS MONTH STARTS OCT 1ST

GORGE HAPPINESS PRESENTS:

JOYSPAN

THE ART
AND SCIENCE
OF THRIVING IN
LIFE'S SECOND HALF

COMMUNITY MEDITATION & BOOK CLUB
HOOD RIVER ADULT CENTER
11 AM-NOON. 1ST AND 3RD FRIDAYS. FREE.

BEGINS FRIDAY, SEPT 19.

QUESTIONS? EMAIL
EMILYGODWINMARTIN@GMAIL.COM

Ongoing JoySpan book club meets the 1st and 3rd Fridays at the Hood River Adult Center from 11 am-noon through the fall and winter. The circle is free. No need to RSVP.

Next date is October 17th

Questions? Contact Emily Martin 503-358-1949
Dates are:

- October 3rd and 17th
- November 7th and 21st
- December 5th and 19th
- January 16th
- February 6th and 20th
- March 6th and 20th

Gorge Insights Meditation is participating in Happiness Month with themes this month for practices that have scientific evidence to increase happiness and joy.

Thursdays from 6:16 - 7:45pm at 1225 Wasco Street, Hood River Participation is free, donations welcome

A wide and growing body of research has shown that happier people are healthier, have lower stress levels and live longer lives. And while genetics and environment are responsible for 60% of our happiness level, **40% is in our direct control.**

So the goal of Gorge Happiness Month is to inspire as many people as possible to take up the 3 daily habits scientifically shown to make us happier & healthier: **gratitudes, acts of kindness & moments of silence.** These habits truly work.



OCTOBER

2025

The Daily 3: Gratitudes
Acts of Kindness
& Moments of Silence

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
www.GorgeHappiness.org			1 Smile at someone new	2 Tell someone your top 3 moments of the day	3 Reconnect with an old friend	4 Go for a short silent walk
5 Thank a teacher or coach	6 Look at the sky	7 Fake laugh for 60 seconds	8 Tell someone what you like about them	9 Clean out a drawer	10 Leave a kind note in an unlikely place	11 Visit a farmers market
12 Make plans for something to look forward to	13 Stop and count the number of things you can hear right now	14 Pick up 3 pieces of trash	15 Post a gratitude on social media #gorgehappiness or tell a random person	16 Use your other hand	17 Sing and/or Dance	18 Take a nap
19 Sit outside & watch wildlife	20 Have a conversation where you listen more than you talk	21 Do art of any kind	22 Walk or drive a different route	23 Compliment a stranger	24 Pick a good moment from the week and draw it	25 Make someone tea or coffee
26 Give yourself a hug	27 Do someone a favor	28 Pet a cat or dog	29 Take a bath (with bubbles!)	30 Tell a new joke	31 Stop and listen to a song	The 10th Happiness Month #gorgehappiness

Church Calendar

Wednesday October 22

9:00am-12:00pm Thrift shop open
9:00am-12:00pm Quilters meet

Thursday October 23

7:00am Men's study Vista Room
1:30pm Chimes Practice

Saturday October 25

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

Sunday October 26

9:30am Lectionary Preview
10:30am Worship
4:00pm Hope and Life Church worship.

Tuesday October 28

10:00am Women's Bible Study
1:30pm Chimes practice

Wednesday October 29

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

Thursday October 30

7:00am Men's study Vista Room
1:30pm Chimes practice

Saturday November 01

9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop open
1:00pm Memorial for Bill Sheppard

Sunday November 02-Collecting for FISH

All Saints' Day

9:30am Lectionary Preview
10:30am Worship
4:00pm Hope and Life Church worship

Tuesday November 04

10:00am Women's bible study
1:30pm Chimes practice

Wednesday November 05

9:00am-12:00pm Thrift shop open
9:00am-12:00pm Quilters meet

Thursday November 06

7:00am Men's study Vista Room
1:30pm Chimes Practice

Saturday November 08

9:00am-3pm Christmas Sale in Fellowship Hall

Sunday November 09-Second Sun. Recycling

9:30 Adult lectionary study
10:30am Worship
4:00pm Hope And Life Church Worship

Serving Sunday October 26, 2025

Elder this week	Suze Nigl
Communion prep	Judy Hiatt
Coffee hour	Carol and friends
Deacon	Otto and Jan

Scriptures for Sunday October 26, 2025

Joel 2:23-32
Psalm 65
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18
Luke 18:9-14

Serving Sunday November 02, 2025

Elder this week	Chrystal Akin
Communion prep	Leslie Hidle
Coffee hour	Jennifer and friends
Deacon	Woody and Sue

Scriptures for Sunday November 02, 2025

Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4
Psalm 119:137-144
2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12
Luke 19:1-10

