



Hood River Valley Christian Church Newsletter

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www.hoodrivervalleychristianchurch.com

and on Face book

June 28, 2023

Sunday Worship Time

10:30am Worship

Minister

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

Church Administrative Assistant

Kathy Holmson office hours as needed
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Website: www.hoodrivervalleychristianchurch.com

Pastor Alicia is on vacation June 25-30

Coming up...



Christmas in July! We will be collecting gifts for the church and for FISH, our local emergency food pantry. Begins July 1-- more information with a list of items that are needed is inside this newsletter.

The donations for the church make a difference in our budget. The donations to FISH help our neighbors who struggle with food security.

NOTE: *The Christmas in July special collection for FISH will be in addition to our usual first-Sunday-of-the-month food/cash/check collection.*

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

9:30am Adult Sunday school classes, nursery available

10:30am Sunday Worship with Children Worship & Wonder

EVENING PRAYER ON FACEBOOK

No Evening Prayer this week as Pastor Alicia is on vacation.

Links:

Wednesday June 21 <https://www.facebook.com/100064940580441/videos/1245549309470222>

Sunday June 25 <https://www.facebook.com/100064940580441/videos/2068347466839402>

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.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Layla & Ryder Gaffney
Bev Thomas
Bonnie McCollister

Sharon & Gordon Cook
David Nash

Lauree Winfield
Katy White

Vicki White
Stacey Jubitz

Suze Nigl's niece Trisha is home now and continuing IV antibiotic treatment for a flesh eating infection she's been battling since late in May. Tricia has more treatment and reconstructive surgery ahead of her. Continued prayers are appreciated.

Women's Ministries has received a \$500 grant for Helping Hands Against Violence. It is from the regional church's women's ministries following an educational event and fundraising about domestic violence in January. After consulting Helping Hands about what they could use the funds for, the grant requested funds for gas cards and gift cards for their women in need. We celebrate this opportunity to increase our support for this vital community service organization.

Women's Bible Study Schedule Women's Bible study will meet for coffee, sharing and prayers on June 27 and July 11 with no formal study. They will not meet on July 4.

The Women's trip to Trout Lake Abbey is Wednesday July 26.

Got too many grocery bags? A reminder that FISH Food Bank can use them--both paper and plastic. Drop off bags in the shopping cart at the church or you can drop them in the donation bin at FISH, 1130 Tucker Road.

Note:

Kiddie City (new daycare located at HRVCC) has opened its doors! You will notice the sound of young voices around the building during the week, 8:00am-6:00pm



Report: Serving at FISH Food Bank last week

Our awesome team of HRVCC volunteers had a very busy week at FISH, helping with food distribution June 19, 21, 23. We start our work helping clients shop for the food they need at 2:45pm (the parking lot is already full of vehicles as people arrive early to get food); and work until 5:00, 5:30, or even 6:00pm until the last shoppers have what they need. A couple of our regular volunteers were unable to help due to scheduling and we missed them but we gained a new volunteer (who has excellent Spanish language skills!) Thankfully, every day we worked, there were additional volunteers (8-10) from the community helping move people through the shopping area, loading food into cars, restocking food shelves, and whatever else is needed.

On Monday, Barb Ritoch, Leslie Hidle, Roxanne McClure, Mary Anne and Rod Parrott served 42 families and individuals, some of them staying late to help the ones who have trouble getting to the food bank after work hours before closing time at 5:00pm.

Wednesday: Jennifer Stager, Elaine Betts, Leslie, Roxanne, and Kathy Holmson served 63 clients. Friday was another busy day: Suze Nigl, Judy Hiatt, Elaine, and Kathy helped over 60 clients get the food they needed.

Who did we meet at FISH? Many people need food assistance in our community due to the continued high price of food and the recent reduction in SNAP benefits. Older people on fixed incomes; working families whose income doesn't go far enough to cover the cost of food; single parents with kids; migrant workers who are here to harvest fruit and other crops; families whose students are at home for the summer. The food bank helps all these people—no questions asked.

Thanks to all of our HRVCC volunteers whose service at the food bank was a blessing to all of these people. Thank you also to everyone at HRVCC who supports FISH with food and monetary donations that keep the pantry doors open and good, nutritious food available.

Doug Wirt and Cathy Myers Wirt
Closing of their Oregon/SW Idaho Regional Ministry

A service of worship to mark the closure of our 22 year chapter of the regional church ministry in partnership with Doug Wirt and Cathy Myers Wirt as our Regional Ministers is planned for July 15, 2023 hosted by Portland First Christian at 1:00 p.m.

Our Regional Global Mission Partners Blanca Puma and Luis Jara will be with us from FEDICE Ecuador for this event.
Rev. Susan Gonzales Dewey to bring the message

This event is an in person opportunity and will also have an online link.
Watch for details closer to the time of the event.

Pastor Alicia's sermon from June 25, 2023
Scripture: Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17

Including today, there are eight Sundays until my sabbatical begins. I mean it's not like I'm counting or anything. On the last Sunday, August 13, the youth will be leading worship as it is camp Sunday, two days after we will have just returned from camp at Suttle Lake. It's so great to be back there this summer. I can't wait. The lake, archery, amazing food, singing around a campfire, deepening our faith, there is so much to look forward to. Camp is going to be amazing. The theme this year is becoming brave. Brave thinking, brave feeling and brave doing, in our lives and in the world. You'll learn all about it in August from the youth.

Between now and then I wanted to do something different and creative before we all focus on my sabbatical theme of "savor" while I'm gone. Because while I focus on savor in a variety of different ways over the course of my sabbatical, you, too will focus on savor when it comes to your faith, worship and the life of this church. This is an opportunity for all of us to savor.

So before that savoring begins, I have been wanting to focus on songs, playing a different song each week to discover its message and then seeing how it connects to scripture and our lives. I have thought about this for a while. If you remember from a number of years ago, we did something similar during Lent with songs played while the words were on the screen. That time we thought about the meaning on our own, not necessarily connecting it to other aspects. This time there will be a little more exploration.

So for today and the following six Sundays we will listen to a song to discover what it has to say and how that relates to our lives, if it relates to our lives. Some of these songs you might like. Some you might not. Some you've probably never heard of. Or maybe you'll know every single one.

I invite you to be open to the songs you hear and the words that are sung. I invite you to not let barriers develop when it's far from what you normally listen to. I invite you to move along and shake your hips if that's your thing, cause I might be. I invite you to notice how the Spirit moves in and through you every Sunday with each new song.

It will be a journey that we are each able to take if we so choose. A journey where maybe you'll learn something new, where maybe you'll walk away going, huh, I never knew I liked that music or I never realized the message that is contained in those artists' music. They really do have something to say. Because music does speak in ways that greatly and deeply impacts all of us, even if we only hear it this one time. That's the power of music and lyrics.

So let us begin our journey with our first song. (Listen to “Over the Rainbow by Israel Kamakawiwo’ole.)

I love this song. “Over the Rainbow” by Israel Kamakawiwo’ole. I love the original song “Somewhere Over the Rainbow” by Judy Garland in Wizard of Oz, one of my all time favorite movies. And I love “What a Wonderful World” by Louis Armstrong. So to combine the two songs into this creative piece is fantastic. Plus Israel’s voice just sucks you in, taking you to a different place. It’s exactly what is needed sometimes.

That’s why I had to start with this song. The hope and possibility are so present in this song, providing a reassurance and a calm that we all desire. The outlook is positive. The connections are real. The aspirations are palpable.

Dreams coming true. Clouds far behind us. Troubles melting like lemon drops. Blue skies. White clouds. The colors of the rainbow. Friends saying “I love you” as they pass by each other. Wishing upon a star. Being high above the chimney tops. Daring to dream.

It really does sound perfect, somewhere we would want and need to be. The reality around us would be entirely different. It would be what we do dream of. It would all come to fruition. That is something else to imagine and to behold. To really let that fill our minds, souls and beings. To let it take over, leading the way, guiding our thoughts and actions. What a world to live in.

Which, if we turn to our psalm for today, is the world the psalmist was hoping and desiring to live in too. “Preserve my life. Save your servant. Be gracious to me. Gladden the soul of your servant. Listen to my cry of supplication. There is none like you among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like yours. You are great and do wondrous things. You, Lord, have helped me and comforted me.”

The psalmist was crying out for a different way to be, for his reality to change, for God to be even more present, to hear the pain and torment within and around him and move so as to effect transformation. It was acknowledging the awesomeness of God, while at the same time the power and presence of God. It was giving the glory to God and seeking that glory too.

Dreams coming true. Clouds far behind us. Somewhere over the rainbow, way up high. Yes, yes, yes. All of it. The song. The psalm. The ideas. The concepts. The hoped for reality.

Or sometimes the actual reality. Because while all of these words are what we imagine way off in the future, there are glimpses of them occurring in the here and now.

One example, and I know I have mentioned this multiple times and I’m going to mention it again because we, as Hood River Valley Christian Church, recently received an important packet in the mail. It was from Week of Compassion. Listen to the letter they sent. And the sign of recognition. And the invitation. (All of these are available at the church.)

Dreams do really come true. Where there are vibrant colors, bluebirds singing, answers from God, steadfast love and all as it is to be. And more dreams are able to come true when we act with the presence of God leading the way, with the hope that comes from God and is God, and when we rely upon the strength that is given. Over the rainbow or right wherever we are?

JULY 2 Collecting for FISH Food Bank (regular monthly collection)

Most needed items at FISH:

Ramen noodles, Jiffy baking mixes,
gluten-free items, skillet dinner/hamburger helper mixes.
Snacks for kids (granola bars, breakfast bars)
Peanut butter, jelly/jam
Oatmeal (old fashioned, quick, instant) Cereal
Self-stable juice: orange, cranberry, apple - any flavor!
Also need: El Pato sauce, molé sauce, and condiments
Shampoo/conditioner, bar soap, deodorant, toothpaste/brushes



Recycling News

Thank you to everyone who has been bringing recycling on the Second Sundays!

Upcoming Second Sunday recycling will be collected July 9:

Plastic straws, all #5, medicine bottles and caps, caps with no triangle, unused medications, and plastic film (such as grocery and produce bags, bread bags, bubble wrap, Ziplock-type bags, plastic wrap/stretch film).

See the display on the table in fellowship hall.

Questions? Talk to Mary Anne Parrott

In addition to your recyclable items, please bring a small donation to pay for the recycling cost.



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For the church:

Kleenex (lots)
Reams of 8.5 X 11" white copy paper
Envelopes self sealing #10 legal size

Dawn dish detergent
Windex refills

Coffee grounds
Powdered creamer
Paper dessert plates (small 6")
Napkins

For FISH Food Bank:

Cooking oil
Jelly or jam
Sugar
Salt
Oatmeal (quick, old fashioned or instant)
Cereal
Rice
Chili (canned)
Gluten free items

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

Church Calendar

Sunday-Friday June 25-30
Pastor Alicia is on vacation

Wednesday June 28
9:00am-Noon Quilters meet
9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop

Thursday June 29
7:00am Men's Study

Saturday July 1
9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop

Sunday July 2 Collecting for FISH Food Bank
9:30am Gospel of Matthew Study, vista room
10:30am Worship
3:30pm Hope and Life church worship

Tuesday July 4 church office closed

No newsletter July 5

Wednesday July 5
9:00am-Noon Quilters meet
9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop

Thursday July 6
7:00am Men's Study

Saturday July 8
9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop

Sunday July 9 Second Sunday Recycling
9:30am Gospel of Matthew Study, vista room
10:30am Worship
3:30pm Hope and Life church worship

Tuesday July 11
10:00am Women's Bible study gathering

Wednesday July 12
9:00am-Noon Quilters meet
9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop

Scriptures for Sunday July 2, 2023

Genesis 22:1-14
Psalm 13
Romans 6:12-23
Matthew 10:40-42

SERVING Sunday July 2, 2023

Elder this Week	Jerry Sawyer
Communion Preparer	Kathy Holmson
Coffee Hour	Barb & friends
Deacons	Serving Team #1
	Woody & Sue Eskildsen
	Owen Waits, Ayden Phelps

Scriptures for Sunday July 9, 2023

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67
Psalm 45:10-17 or Song of Solomon 2:8-13
Romans 7:15-25a
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

SERVING Sunday July 9, 2023

Elder this Week	Sharon Smiley
Communion Preparer	Leslie Hidle
Coffee Hour	Jennifer & friends
Deacons	Serving Team #2
	Jennifer Stager
	Kailey Speidel, Rylee Akin

Coming Up!
Mark your calendar

July 26 Women's Trip to Troutlake Abbey