



Hood River Valley Christian Church Newsletter

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www.hoodrivervalleychristianchurch.com

and on Face book

May 3, 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
hrcchurch@gmail.com

Website: www.hoodrivervalleychristianchurch.com



Protecting God's World

Recycling Reminder: Second Sunday Recycling

What to bring May 14:

Clear clamshells, #1 in the recycle triangle,

Plastic film such as grocery bags, bubble wrap, closable storage bags

See the fellowship hall display for more information

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

9:30am Adult Sunday school classes, nursery available
10:30am Sunday Worship with Children Worship & Wonder

Special Music May 7

Piano Duet
"Soon and Very Soon"
Margaret Marshall
& Mary Anne Parrott

EVENING PRAYER ON FACEBOOK

5:00pm Monday – Thursday (schedule permitting)

Links:

Sunday April 30 <https://www.facebook.com/100064940580441/videos/747462893768882>

Monday May 1 <https://www.facebook.com/100064940580441/videos/1388699778578880>

NO NEWSLETTER MAY 10 – Kathy Holmson will be out of town

Where may I leave my offering at the church? For offerings and tithes, there is a secure deposit box at the entrance of the sanctuary, inside the double doors. Offerings may be dropped off at any time.

Other Ways to Give

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

HRVCC Higher Education Scholarships Educational Scholarship applications are now available in the church office for high school seniors and college students. Deadline for high school seniors to apply is April 15; deadline for continuing college students is May 15th. Pick up an application in the church office.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Layla & Ryder Gaffney
Bev Thomas
Bonnie McCollister

Sharon & Gordon Cook
David Nash

Lauree Winfield
Katy White

Vicki White
Stacey Jubitz

Friday Meals for David Nash – *Dave appreciates the meals that have been delivered to him on Fridays over the last month. If you would like to be on the schedule in May, please sign up on the list on the bulletin board. Suze Nigl can tell you more about this. Thank you.*

Thanks to everybody who contributed to the Help a Neighbor Fund that helped me replace my broken dentures after a bad fall in March. I really appreciate it. Linda Meyers



The Pastor's COLUMN

Last year I bought two bleeding heart plants from the FFA high school plant sale. I love bleeding hearts. They remind me of my grandparent's yard. They are very unique and add beautiful color to a yard. After getting them last year we planted them in a flower bed near the garage. Soon after that they shriveled up and died. I thought we watered them enough. I thought we planted them in a good spot. Clearly I thought wrong because they were no more. We didn't get to enjoy them at all.

Fast forward to last Friday when I was laying weed cloth and spreading bark out front. I was doing the prep needed to prevent the abundance of weeds that love our front corner. When I was done I came around the house near the garage to discover one of the bleeding hearts was back and in full bloom. I was shocked and super happy. We didn't kill it after all. It is now bringing its bright color to our flower bed. I guess I did something right after all.

Life is like that sometimes. You never know what is going to return and bloom and what isn't going to. What matters is the effort we put in. We still need to try, to attempt to make the best of the situation and give it what we've got. Because sometimes growth does happen, beauty does appear and happiness is the outcome. You just never know when a bleeding heart might beat the odds.

Alicia

MEN'S GROUP-NEW STUDY! The Thursday morning men's group started a new study April 13, looking at Burton Mack's book, *The Lost Gospel*. The study, which will take a chapter a week, examines the material in Matthew and Luke that is believed to have come from one of the earliest church writings (apart from Paul). Mack asks what this material tells us about the some of the earliest followers of Jesus.

All men are invited. Coffee is ready by 7:00 a.m. in the Vista Room. This is a good way to get acquainted and get involved in our Men's Ministry group.

Looking for fun ideas for activities Want to have fun and get better acquainted with people in our church community through church activities? Some suggestions are coffee klatch, game activities (card games, board games, etc), progressive dinner, and secret sister. Please use the sign-up sheet in the lobby to let me know what interests you or what you think others might be interested in.

Thanks for your help! Shar Wilkins

Pastor Alicia's sermon April 30, 2023
Scripture: Psalm 23

Today's passage is one of those passages that sometimes you just need. You need it for reassurance. You need it to breathe. You need it to settle your mind, body and spirit and just be. To be calm. To be surrounded in love. To be provided the knowledge that God is present. God is there and God will always be there no matter what. No matter the circumstances. No matter what lies ahead. No matter what has happened in the past. No matter our own understanding and view of God, God is sticking around through it all.

We don't receive this mindset with all of scripture. Some passages are really challenging, forcing us to look at areas of our lives and world that need to be looked at and yet are difficult to look at. Some passages are downright confusing, not easily understood or even ever understood. There are too many questions and crossed paths to come to a clear explanation. Some passages are heartbreaking, leaving you questioning in an entirely different way. And then yes, there are those upbeat passages that simply bring joy and celebration. The message is clear, one of complete positivity and elation.

This is all to say that sometimes as we journey through scripture with the ups and downs of life and the ups and downs of the stories and messages, we need to allow a passage to wash over us and bring us the rest we need.

Psalm 23 is just that. It sets a tone. It creates that space. It moves us. It breathes life into us. Which is quite interesting because it is often read at memorial services or celebrations of life or by the bed of someone who is near death. It isn't generally the focus on a normal Sunday morning. It isn't offered at the high, joyful moments in a church's life or in an individual's life. It may not be read at a birth, a wedding or an anniversary. It is not the go to scripture for those celebrations.

Why is that when this passage truly has it all? Why wouldn't it be offered as what is sustaining and nurturing for someone's life throughout all of the moments? Why not turn here?

Now granted some do. Maybe you even have turned here, to Psalm 23, over the course of your lifetime. Maybe it has provided the comfort and peace you have needed and continue to need. That's great. Keep on turning to it. And I'm thinking that is not the norm. It isn't necessarily our go to. So to have it be one of the four assigned passages for today is interesting. And that's why I selected it instead of the Gospel passage which is generally the direction I turn. I chose the psalm because we need a break. We need the reassurance. We need to pause. We need to center upon God and God's presence, God's gifts of presence, in our lives. We need to create this space.

I say that because sometimes we are good at creating that space and sometimes we are not. As a whole I believe our world is not good at it. Life is to be fast paced, always accomplishing something, always being successful. Movement is always to be happening, movement towards something with a recognizable end result. Those are the expectations placed on all of us throughout all of our lives. It is just understood that that is the way it is.

Psalm 23 teaches us otherwise. It paints a different picture, a serene picture, a calming picture where hurry and busy are not what lead the way. This reminder is so important throughout every season of our lives. It allows for and encourages us to move at a different pace, connecting in different ways and deepening our relationship with God.

To help us embrace that reminder and what Psalm 23 has to offer, we are going to approach this passage a little differently than we normally do. We are going to sit with it, allowing it to wash over us, to feed us, to learn from it and give these verses the opportunity to internally impact us. That requires slowing down, listening and being present in ways we sometimes are not with scripture. Or sometimes how we don't permit scripture to be with us.

So today let's walk with Psalm 23 and see what bubbles to the surface. Let's be touched by it in a way that maybe we haven't before. Let's be open to the journey it will take us on. Because part of the process is about us coming with a willingness ready to receive from scripture. It is saying, "Okay, Psalm 23, what do you have for me today? What's going to happen inside of me when I hear these words today? What's in store?"

To discover this, we are going to go through Psalm 23 line by line. I will read a line and invite you to sit with it, to see what grabs your attention, what touches your heart. Then maybe we'll do a little sharing, a little calling out what rose to the surface for you.

Because while we are individually able to be moved by a passage, hearing how it moves others makes a difference. That is why it is important to study scripture in group settings, to learn and grow from one another. And to not be isolated where we could skew a passage in an unhealthy direction, reading it solely by ourselves, causing it to say exactly what we want it to say. That doesn't benefit anyone.

So as one body we come to Psalm 23 to listen, to receive and to be moved. Let's see what happens. Again, I will read one verse or section at a time, pause for reflection where you may offer aloud a word or short phrase of what comes to mind when you hear that piece and then continue on until we have completed the entire psalm.

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long.

When we slow down, listen and allow the passage to impact us on all levels we discover new ways of approaching the verses. We notice new things. We experience new emotions. We see the connections. We learn. All by moving in a different way with a scripture passage, especially with a very well known passage.

Psalm 23 will always be one we are able to return to when life is going at a blur. It will always provide the comfort, reassurance and peace we need. It will always be evidence of God's love for us throughout all of our lifetimes because it is about God's love for us. Always and forever no matter what. Thank goodness for that.

Church Calendar

Monday-Friday May 1-5

8:00am-4:00pm CG Music Teachers in Sanctuary

Wednesday May 3

9:00am-Noon Quilters meet

9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop

Thursday May 4

7:00am Men's Study

1:30pm Chime Choir

Saturday May 6

9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop

Sunday May 7 FISH FOOD BANK SUNDAY

9:30am Gospel of Matthew Study,

9:45am Worship

3:30pm Hope and Life church worship

Monday-Wednesday May 8-10

Kathy Holmson is out of town

No Newsletter May 10

Tuesday May 9

10:00am Women's Bible Study

3:00pm TOPS Group

Wednesday May 10

9:00am-Noon Quilters meet

9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop

Thursday May 11

7:00am Men's Study

1:30pm Chime Choir

Saturday May 13

9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop

Sunday May 14 MOTHER'S DAY

9:30am Gospel of Matthew Study, vista room

9:45am Worship

3:30pm Hope and Life church worship

Tuesday May 15

10:00am Women's Bible Study

3:00pm TOPS Group

Wednesday May 16

9:00am-Noon Quilters meet

9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop

Scriptures for Sunday May 7, 2023

Acts 7:55-60

Psalm 31:1-5, 15, 16

1 Peter 2:2-10

John 14:1-14

SERVING Sunday May 7, 2023

Elder this Week

Wes Bailey

Communion Preparer

Leslie Hidle

Coffee Hour

Jennifer & friends

Deacons

Serving Team 2

Jennifer Stager, Kailey Speidel

Rylee Akin

Scriptures for Sunday May 14, 2023

Acts 17:22-31

Psalm 66:8-20

1 Peter 3:13-22

John 14:15-21

SERVING Sunday May 14, 2023

Elder this Week

Rod Parrott

Communion Preparer

Kathy Holmson

Coffee Hour

Barbara & friends

Deacons

Serving Team 3

Betty Osborne, Linda Meyers

Tatum, Jackson