



Hood River Valley Christian Church Newsletter

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

and on Facebook

February 12, 2025

Sunday Worship Time

10:30am Worship

Minister

Rev. Alicia Speidel 541 601-1949

aliciaspeidel@gmail.com

Church Administrative Assistant

Sable Duback & Kathy Holmson

office hours 10am-1pm or as needed

hrvcchurch@gmail.com

Website: www.hoodrivervalleychristianchurch.com

Holly Greenidge Guest Minister!

Pastor Alicia will be on vacation February 14-18

Sunday February 16 we will welcome guest speaker Rev. Holly Greenidge. She has a background in church planting and a passion for developing leaders, creating community, training pastors, and youth ministry. She is married to worship leader, Jelani Greenidge.

Sunday Worship

9:30am Adult Lectionary Preview

10:30am Worship

Link to Worship on February 9, 2025

<https://www.facebook.com/100064940580441/videos/1425095658459205>

Week of Compassion Special Offering February 16-23

This week, we join together in a spirit of generosity and service for Week of Compassion, a time to reflect on how we can be the hands and feet of Christ in a world in need.

Week of Compassion is a time dedicated to giving, serving, and praying for those affected by poverty, disaster, and injustice. It's an opportunity to extend God's love beyond our church walls and into the world. For nearly 80 years, Week of Compassion has pursued its mission, working with partners to alleviate suffering throughout the world, toward the vision of a world where God's people transform suffering into hope.

How Can We Participate?

- **Give Generously** – Consider making a special offering to support relief efforts and community development programs.
- **Serve Locally** – Volunteer with a local food pantry or outreach ministry.
- **Pray Together** – Lift up those in need, asking God to use us as instruments of His compassion.

This week, let's commit to being 'bearers of hope and love'. Whether through financial gifts, acts of service, or simply sharing words of encouragement, every effort makes a difference. Together, we can reflect Christ's compassion in powerful ways!

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Glenn & Donnamae Grannemann
Vicki White Stacey Jubitz
Ken Hansen

Margaret Marshall
Doris Lewis
Margaret Marshall

Sharon & Gordon Cook
Tedra Turner
Linda Meyers

****Please pray for Glenn and Donnamae Grannemann following Glenn's lower left leg amputation last week. Pray for Glenn's recovery from surgery and the rehabilitation process and for Donnamae as she supports Glenn through this.**

****Linda Meyers is home now and doing well after a few days in the hospital being treated for a stroke. Please pray for her continuing recovery.**



**The Pastor's
COLUMN**

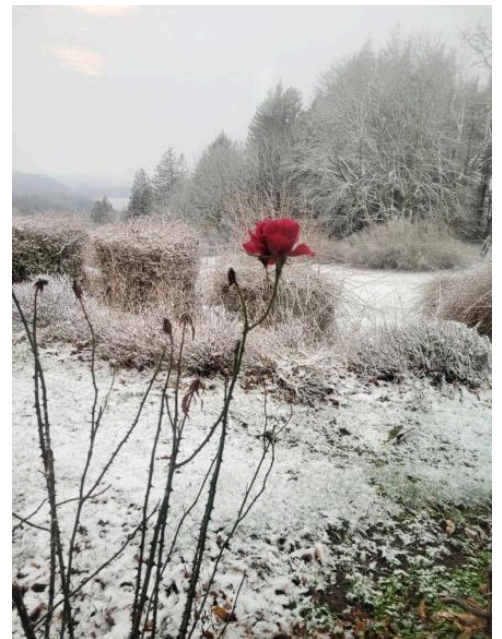
Last week I attended my annual retreat Northwest Association for Theological Discussion at Menucha in Corbett. It was a time to gather with colleagues to share, learn, laugh, cry and simply be present with one another. It is a time I have come to cherish in the over twenty years I have attended. Just realizing that is shocking. I have made dear friends because of this retreat and received amazing support from them in so many different ways. I have been blessed because I said yes to joining this group and making it a commitment to go.

This past week as we were gathered in the dining hall for breakfast on the last morning I noticed an unusual sight right outside the window in the flowerbed. It was a pink rose. A pink rose still in bloom. One single pink rose surrounded by all of the roses that had died long ago. A pink rose with snow covering the ground in the bitter cold. I was shocked to say the least. How could a rose still be in bloom? How was it holding on?

I'm not entirely sure and the answer to that isn't important anyway. It's that the rose was continuing to bring light and color to its surroundings and all who saw it. It was signifying hope and possibility. It was shining in the midst of the winter darkness. What an important message to remember, hold onto and live. What a way for nature to show up.

This single pink rose is how we are to be. We are to signify hope and possibility. We are to shine in the midst of the darkness. We are to show up. We are to bring light and color to our surroundings and to all who see us. We are to do all of this and we are able to. We just have to hold on and be the witnesses we are called to be, even if what surrounds us is not living in the same way.

Alicia



From Hood River County Christmas Project: Thank you Hood River Valley Christian Church for supporting the Christmas Project. Your gift of \$500 makes a difference in the lives of people in the county who need extra assistance. In 2024 you helped support 980 households, including over 1,800 children. Your generosity helped provide food boxes, grocery cards, and gifts for the kids.

Thank you also for allowing us to use the Vista Room at the church for our planning meetings.

Sincerely,

Tracey Tomashpol

HRCCP Board Treasurer



As we reflect on this last year, we are deeply grateful for your support of FISH Food Bank. Your generous contributions played a vital role in ensuring that our neighbors facing food insecurity had access to nutritious food throughout 2024. On behalf of everyone whose lives you have touched, thank you.

Your congregation donated 611 pounds of shelf stable food and \$4,568!

-FISH



Happy New Year! We are so grateful for your contribution of \$103.39 which goes toward the Annual Fund at Disciples Seminary Foundation. Your investment is vital to our mission of supporting seminary students pursuing theological education in preparation for a variety of life-giving as well as life-changing ministries.

-Disciples Seminary Foundation

Women's Ministries News

Women's Ministries will hold its annual business meeting on **Sunday, February 23**, after worship in the Vista Room. All are welcome, especially to help decide where extra income will be contributed!



Got Quarters? (25 cents) needed for Laundry Love

Laundry Love helps folks in need wash their clothes at Eco Laundry. We need quarters for the washers and dryers. A jar for collecting quarters is outside Alicia's office. Thank you

FISH Food Bank
February 2025
FISH Newsletter

It looks like winter is going to return to the Hood River Valley. This time of year, I always worry about the unhoused individuals in our community. Last week Hood River County participated in the annual "Point In Time" count for unhoused individuals. This is an annual effort led by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development to estimate the number of Americans, including veterans, without safe and stable housing. FISH Food Bank participated in the count.

Talking with the clients about their houseless situation is always interesting, enlightening and it helped me better understand their situation. I spoke with individuals who were working full time but were not able to find housing, another one was a veteran living in his van and just traveling to find a safe place to stay. In talking with this individual, it reinforced how you cannot make assumptions about people. He was a sizable man, well over 6'5" and a large girth. I almost skipped the question about "are you fleeing domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking." His answer was yes, and he also said yes to "has it affected his housing situation" and "was he fleeing because of it." You just cannot assume anything.

Another client who is living in a remodeled bus said he was a carpenter for 40 years before developing severe back problems. He commented that he just spent his money instead of planning for the future. I guess hindsight can be better than foresight. I had to smile when he answered the question about mental illness. He said no to the question on mental illness, but then added "a lot of people think he does have mental issues". I had to agree with him.

Earlier in the week I helped a young man who stopped by in the middle of the day at FISH because he was just very hungry. He had never been to our site, and I believe he might have just been traveling through. He was so polite, and it broke my heart when he asked for food and then said he had 91 cents and was willing to give to us for the food. He just needed something to eat. We stocked him up with food, didn't take his money and assured him he could come back.

This last week I have had several interactions with other individuals who are experiencing houselessness. One individual showed up at our door before 7:30 in the morning. They needed to use the restroom, then continued to move all their belongings into the building, which was a lot. In asking what was going on, they said "they could no longer be where they were staying and was dropped of the night before at FISH." We were able to provide this person with food but had no resources for housing. After making several calls they were not able to find a spot to go, and is still hanging around the FISH site. It was very frustrating not having any place to be able to send this person for help, as this person had already connected with all the recommended resources.

Not all experiences with the homeless are negative. One gentleman who lived on the streets for years and I am sure was in the drug scene plus at times he was not the most pleasant person to be around, came into the food bank. When he came to get food last week, he smiled and waved. When I said how good he looked he just beamed. What is the difference? About a year ago he was able to get stable housing, and it appears he is not into the drugs currently.

It will be interesting to learn what they have found from the "Point In Time" surveys and see what it says about the unhoused population in our county. Hopefully all our unhoused individuals can find a warm place to sleep during this next phase of cold weather.

Stay warm and safe.

Billie Stevens
FISH Food Bank
541-490-5109

Church Calendar

Wednesday February 12

9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop open

Thursday February 13

7:00am Men's Study Vista Room

Alicia is on vacation February 14-18

Saturday January February 15

9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop open

Sunday February 16 Week of Compassion begins. Guest Rev. Holly Greenidge

9:30 Adult Lectionary preview

10:30am Worship

4:00pm Hope and Life church worship

Church office closed Monday February 17 for President's Day

Tuesday February 18

10:00am Women's Bible Study

Wednesday February 19

9:00am-12:00 Quilters meet

9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop open

Thursday February 20

7:00am Men's Study Vista Room

1:30pm Chime choir rehearsal

Saturday February 22

9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop open

Sunday February 23 Week of Compassion ends.

9:30 Adult lectionary preview

10:30am Worship,

11:30 Women's ministries meeting.

All are welcome, especially in help deciding where extra income will be contributed!

4:00pm Hope and Life church worship

Tuesday February 25

10:00am Women's Bible Study

Wednesday February 26

9:00-12:00 Quilters meet

9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop open

Thursday February 27

7:00am Men's Study Vista Room

1:30pm Chime choir rehearsal

Saturday March 01

9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop open

Sunday March 02

9:30 Adult Lectionary preview

10:30am Worship

4:00pm Hope and Life church worship

Scriptures for Sunday February 16, 2025

Jeremiah 17:5-10

Psalm 1

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Luke 6:17-26

SERVING Sunday February 16, 2025

Elder this Week Suze Nigl

Communion prep Leslie Hidle

Coffee Hour Judy Hiatt and friends

Deacons Servers

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

Scriptures for Sunday February 23, 2025

Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Psalm 37:1-11, 39-49

1 Corinthians 15:35-38

Luke 6:27-38

SERVING Sunday February 23, 2025

Elder this Week Chrystal Akin

Communion prep Barb Ritoch

Coffee Hour Carol Sabins and friends

Deacons Servers

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