

January 28, 2026

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 9am-12pm or as needed



Sunday Worship

9:30 Adult Lectionary Preview

10:30 Worship

Link to Worship on January 18- [Facebook](#)

Link to Worship on January 25- [Facebook](#)



Sharon & Gordon Cook	Carol Sabins	Lee Repp	Vestena Emerson
Vicki White	Ken Hansen	Hopkins Family	Bev Carpenter
James Gaffney	Bud Harris	Tyler Luna	Williford Family
Rich Nichols	Natasha & Penny	Laurie Winfield	

*Please hold Lauree and Bill Winfield in your thoughts and prayers as Lauree had a stroke recently. Prayers for healing and answers for Laurie; and comfort for Bill and their family during this time.

*Prayers for Natasha Decker and her baby Penny who was recently born at 2 lbs 12 oz. Prayers for quick healing and recovery as they navigate this hospital stay.

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



02 Shirley Ihle	04 Dot Swyers	05-Martha Hathaway	
05- Ayden Phelps	08- Tim Cantrell	09- Tom Biddle	
14- Christie Galon	17- Araya Lopez	20- Heidi Chapin	
20- Carol Sabins	21- Jackson Speidel	21- Sharon Rath	27-Owen Waits
23- Beverly Carpenter	24- James Stager	24- Miles Wyatt	31- Laurie Branson

Do you ever just need to turn off the noise? To step away from the sounds around you? To turn off whatever devices you have on? To be in the quiet? Or as quiet as you can get with the lights still humming, the heat still blowing and whatever other items are still plugged in, but not necessarily on? I find this happens to me regularly. The tv and my phone become overwhelming and I just need to sit in the silence. I need to breathe deeply. I need to relax my mind and my body.



This past weekend we had a fire going in our fireplace, which we often do during the winter months. This year we have had more fires than usual and I love it. The crackle of the wood, the sizzle of the sap, the flames shooting up, it is so soothing and calming. As I sat with just the fire going this past Saturday I found peace. I noticed my body relax. I listened to the sounds of the house, to some of the stillness. It was a moment to just be.

What does this do for you? What do you need to turn off to grasp this sense of peace? Do you pay attention to your body and mind when they are needing to breathe in these ways? Whether you have been good about this or not, how about you start now, turn down the noise, breathe deeply and find the calm you need? We always have the opportunity to do this. It is needed.

~ Pastor Alicia



Women's Ministries activities will resume in February. The annual meeting will be after worship on February 22. A week before that will be a Valentine Visitation on Friday February 13. The emphasis on visitation will have three parts—join one, two, or all three!

10:30 - greeting card making with Laurie Crosswhite
12:00 - lunch
1:00 - visiting shut-ins and others in groups of 2 or 3

Sign up for the Valentine Visitation beginning Sunday, January 25. You will also have the opportunity to help with the day by providing food for lunch or clean up, calling shut-ins ahead to schedule a visit, or driving for the afternoon calling.

We need official greeters to welcome people as they arrive for worship on Sunday mornings.

The responsibility of a greeter would be to stand near the front doors beginning at 10:15am with bulletins in hand to warmly greet those who enter. If you are interested in doing this, please let Pastor Alicia or Sable know.

Then a schedule will be created. Thank you!



Volunteer Help needed



Snack section help- for Friday distribution. You can come in and stock the section Thursday anytime or Friday before 2:00. This position will include training and needs to be a detail orientated person.

Rosauers pick up M, W, F.- May include heavy lifting, and will need a person with a covered truck, van, or larger vehicle. My Goal is to have several committed people that are willing to work and communicate together if they need to be gone. Help pick up each others shifts so to speak.

Warehouse extra help - Tuesday and Thursday afternoon to take in donations/date check/restock into warehouse, etc

Shopper backups all shifts

Desk backups all shifts

1-2 At Large people per distribution - to work during distribution, restocking the store, helping with carts, bags, veg, fruit, cooler, warehouse etc. M 2:45-5:is, W 8:45-10

Freezer help during distribution Monday 2:45-5:00 ish, W 8:45-10:00 ish,

**** if you are interested or know of anyone who might be wanting to help send them my way.***

Cascade Locks - need extra set up and distribution volunteers. The 4th Tuesday and Wednesday of each month.

Church and Rotary Groups to help with distributions

(Please arrive before 2:45. We need to conduct an informational walk through the store before every distribution time 3:00.)

January

5,7,9 HR Valley Christian

12,14,16 Immanuel Lutheran

19,21,23 Mid Columbia Unitarian

26,28,30 Rotary Club

February

2,4,6 Riverside

9,11,13 HR Alliance

16,18,20 St Mark's

23,25,27 Rotary

**** All volunteer shoppers Please arrive **before 2:45**. We need to conduct an informational walk through the store before every distribution time.**

**** Please adjust your times to possibly being at FISH until the last client has gone through the store. If for some reason you have to leave at 5 please let me know. We have been very busy with afternoon distributions lately and have had to stay later than normal. Thank you for your help with this.**

**** Also if you stock the store please see me when you arrive or before you leave. There are some changes to stocking the store that need to be gone through with every stocking person. Thank you!**

“This institution is an equal opportunity provider.”

Food is a human right, and everyone deserves to have nutritious, culturally desirable food. We affirm the worth and dignity of all people and serve our communities with respect and strive to move closer toward food security.



Sarah Benson, Volunteer Coordinator

FISH Food Bank

Pantry: 1130 Tucker Road, Hood River, OR 97031

Mail: 1767 12th Street, #147, Hood River, OR 97031

Phone: 541.386.3474

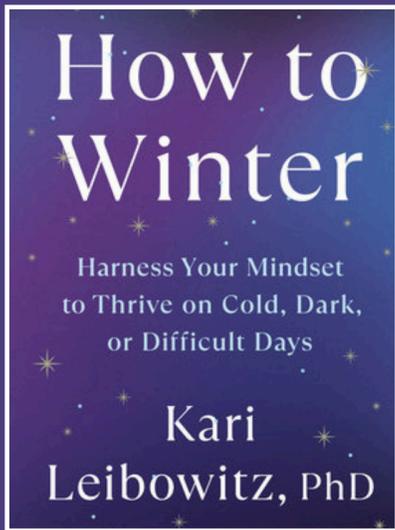
Cell: 541.806.1636

A reminder: Church meetings or Thriftshop days may be cancelled if the weather causes hazardous driving conditions. If local schools have cancellations, church activities are likely cancelled as well. Call your group leader before you venture out.



HOOD RIVER COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT &
GORGE HAPPINESS PRESENT:

Book Club & Community Circle



Every 1st and 3rd
Tuesday
from 11:30-1:00 PM

December 2
December 16
January 6
January 20
February 3
February 17

Attend when you can!

CONNECTION + MEDITATION + DISCUSSION

WITH EMILY MARTIN



HOOD RIVER LIBRARY READING ROOM

502 State Street
541-386-2535

www.hoodriverlibrary.org



WWW.GORGEHAPPINESS.ORG

Please purchase ahead of time or get a copy of the book from the library to read along with the group (library copies will be available to borrow during our first meeting on Dec 2).

No need to read anything from the book before our first meeting. We will read and discuss a few chapters every 2 weeks.

Each circle includes:

- ~ Time for connection and reflection
 - ~ Mindfulness Meditation
 - ~ Time for book chapter discussion
- Come as you are--even if you haven't read the chapter! We want to sit in community circle with you. Attend when you can.

Questions? Contact Emily Martin

503-358-1949

On Friday, February 6 and Saturday, February 7, our church will be hosting the Regional Board. The Regional Board is composed of clergy and laity from all over our region, Oregon and Southwest Idaho. On Friday evening at 6pm we are invited to join them for dinner catered by a local taco truck, fellowship and a tour of the church (no, you don't have to take the tour). This is a time to get to know this leadership group, to learn more about what's happening in our region and to ask questions.

Then on Saturday morning the Regional Board will have their official board meeting in the fellowship hall from 9am-3pm. We will be providing lunch during their meeting thanks to Mary Anne and her team.

Please come to welcome the Regional Board and say thank you for the work they are doing.





As we continue to focus on thriving as a congregation, determining how God is calling us in this time and in this place, here are a few questions to ponder.

What does it mean to thrive?

How are we thriving?

How do you contribute to the thriving?

How are you able to expand what you do?

What are we able to do collectively to strengthen our thriving?

Do you engage in prayer for this congregation?

How often do you pray for the ministry of this church?

How often do you pray for the partners connected to our

church?

How often do you pray for the people who enter the church doors and not just those who enter on Sunday mornings?

What can you do to deepen those prayers?

How are you called to be in prayer?

For the next few weeks (or so) the Men's Group will be meeting on Thursdays at 8:00am, rather than 7:00am.

We will let you know when they return to 7:00am meets!



2025 INCOME AND EXPENSE SUMMARY

TOTAL INCOME	\$247,810
EXPENSES	
ADMIN	\$15,035
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	\$254
MEMBERSHIP	\$1855
PERSONNEL	\$152,731
PROPERTY & GROUNDS	\$26,799
WORSHIP	\$942
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$197,616
NET INCOME BEFORE OUTREACH	\$50,194
OUTREACH EXPENSE	\$19,277
NET INCOME	30,917

**DRIVERS
WANTED**

We need volunteers to help drive the bus to pick up our friends at Down Manor and bring them to church for Sunday worship.

If you can help, or need a ride, please let Pastor Alicia or Sable know! :)

Church Calendar

Wednesday January 28

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

Thursday January 29

8:00am Men's Study

1:30pm Chimes practice

Saturday January 31

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

Sunday February 01-Gathering for FISH

9:30am Lectionary Preview

10:30am Worship

4:00pm Hope and Life Church worship

Tuesday February 03

10:00am Women's Bible Study

Wednesday February 04

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

Thursday February 05

8:00am Men's Study

1:30pm Chimes practice

Friday February 06

6:00pm-9:00pm Regional Board Meeting

Saturday February 07

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

Sunday February 08- Recycling

9:30am Lectionary Preview

10:30am Worship

4:00pm Hope and Life Church worship

Tuesday February 10

10:00am Women's Bible Study

1:30pm Chimes practice

Wednesday February 11

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

9:00am-12:00pm Quilters meet

Thursday February 12

8:00am Men's bible study

1:30pm Chimes practice

Saturday February 14

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

Sunday February 15

9:30am Lectionary Preview

10:30am Worship

4:00pm Hope and Life Church worship

Serving Sunday February 01, 2026

Elder this week	Jerry Sawyer
Communion prep	Judy Hiatt
Coffee hour	Jennifer and friends
Deacon	Wes and Carla

Scriptures for Sunday February 01, 2026

Micah 6:1-8

Psalms 15

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Matthew 5:1-12

Serving Sunday February 08, 2026

Elder this week	Jennifer Stager
Communion prep	Maggie Strasser
Coffee hour	Judy and friends
Deacon	Sable + Layla

Scriptures for Sunday February 08, 2026

Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12)

Psalms 112:1-9 (10)

1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16)

Matthew 5:13-20

