



Hood River Valley Christian Church Newsletter

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www.hoodrivervalleychristianchurch.com

and on Face book

April 19, 2023

Sunday Worship Time

10:30am Worship

Minister

Rev. Alicia Speidel 541 601-1949
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Church Administrative Assistant

Kathy Holmson office hours as needed
hrcchurch@gmail.com

Website: www.hoodrivervalleychristianchurch.com

SIMPLICITY SALE is April 22 Donations are needed! This big rummage sale benefits the youth group, helping them go to church camp during the summer. Recycling things we no longer need is a great way to celebrate Earth Day! Drop off donations in the fellowship hall before Friday April 21, then come shopping! The sale is on Saturday, April 22, 8:00am-3:00pm. Thanks for supporting the youth!



Celebrating Earth Day (Kid's Activities, too) Sunday, April 23, after worship

For Adults During coffee hour there will be an "information fair" in the fellowship hall about products available at Safeway, Rosauers and on-line

which employ fewer non-renewable resources thereby being greener alternatives.

There will also be information about the recycling initiative through Gorge Sustainability Project with takes many items that are not accepted by the Tri-County Recycle Program (items such as clear clamshell containers, plastic bags, and styrofoam.)

For the Kids—Hank and Rocky, two small ponies, will be outside. Children and youth are invited to decorate the ponies with painted handprints. Sidewalk chalk and craft activities will also be available.



Hank & Rocky

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

9:30am Adult Sunday school classes, nursery available
10:30am Sunday Worship with Children Worship & Wonder
Special music – Chime choir

EVENING PRAYER ON FACEBOOK

5:00pm Monday – Thursday (schedule permitting)

Links:

Sunday April 16 <https://www.facebook.com/100064940580441/videos/2494702724014161>

Women, Wine, and The Word

Wednesday, April 26 4pm at
Stave and Stone at the vineyard

Women are invited to join for a time of fellowship to talk about a scripture passage centered around women. We will gather at Stave and Stone Winery at the Vineyard (3827 Fletcher Dr, HR). Come grab a beverage (non-alcoholic or alcoholic beverages are available) and a snack while we share how the passage intersects with our lives. Invite friends from outside the church, too.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Layla Gaffney
Bev Thomas
Bonnie McCollister

Sharon & Gordon Cook
David Nash

Lauree Winfield
Katy White

Vicki White
Stacey Jubitz



**The Pastor's
COLUMN**

HRVCC Quilters Carry On

Last Wednesday, Mary Kummer came to my office to ask me if I wanted to see the quilt they had just finished. It had been a project for quite some time. Of course I did. So I grabbed my phone to take a picture and headed downstairs. Wow was all I could say. It was beautiful. The quilters had done an amazing job. The quilt was stunning. We talked about the details and process of doing the quilting. We also talked about how this quilt had come to them and where it was headed. It is going to bless the home of Kathy, Mary Patterson's daughter. Kathy worked endless hours on this quilt as she cared for her mom. It is a fitting home for this quilt.



The quilting ladies have completed many, many quilts over the years. They have spent much of their time, patience and commitment to creating works of art. Make sure to drop in when they're quilting to see what project they are working on. They are a gifted group. *Alicia*

HRVCC quilters meet Wednesday morning. They invite new friends who would like to learn more about quilting to join them. The quilting room is downstairs, left into the long hallway, first room on the left.

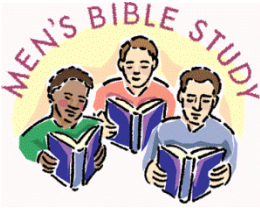
HRVCC Higher Education Scholarships Educational Scholarship applications are now available in the church office for high school seniors and college students. Deadline for high school seniors to apply is April 15; deadline for continuing college students is May 15th. Pick up an application in the church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

Meal Schedule for Dave Nash – Fridays only – 5:00 p.m.

David Nash says it would help to have a meal delivered on Fridays. Suze Nigl is coordinating a meal schedule. A sign up list is on the bulletin board in the lobby or please contact Suze by phone or email mamafan11@aol.com to sign up.

April 21 Frances Henne

April 28 Margaret Strasser



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.

Something New—Would You Like to Participate? We are starting a "Member Checking on Member" plan for our shut-Ins.. All you have to do is call, send a note, or even visit once a month. The sign up will be on the table in the lobby on Sunday. Thanks for your help making their day a little brighter. Barb Ritoch and Carol Sabins.

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 from April 16, 2023

Scripture: John 20:19-31

Ah, post Easter. We made it. We can get back to normal. No extra worship services. No additional planning. No down and depressing Lenten hymns. No super long scripture passages, at least not for three years until the cycle starts over. No difficult stories to understand or wondering what Jesus meant when he kept talking about what was to come.

Post Easter, when we are able to relax, take a load off, sit back and enjoy. It's a good time. And it's supposed to be. The festivities have all concluded. All of the Easter eggs have been found. Or we think they have. You never know if there might still be one under a hymnal somewhere. The lilies have found new homes. The flower cross is no more. It is now the ordinary time of the church year. Except it actually isn't. We are still in the Easter season. Easter continues for six weeks. Six weeks until we reach Pentecost on May 28. Six weeks of Eastertide.

That is why at our house we will be leaving up our Easter decorations until then. Otherwise they are essentially up for one weekend, if you don't put them up early during Lent, and then they come right back down. So why not leave them up? Why not continue to celebrate Easter? Why not keep shouting "Alleluia! Christ is risen!?" Why not?

There is no reason not to. In fact, we are kind of expected to do that. It is pretty much our responsibility. Or more like we are invited to. We are invited to keep drawing our attention to Easter.

We are invited to focus other people's attention on Easter and the celebration. We are invited to lift up the resurrection, making it the centerpiece of our faith and our conversations around our faith. Easter is to be on the tip of our tongues.

Is it? Generally speaking, no. Easter is a one and done Sunday. We make a big deal of it and then we move on. Yes, we will reference the resurrection and the importance of that to our faith. And it's not done with fanfare. So how do we do it with fanfare or are we to do it with fanfare? How is Easter to be continued to be celebrated in our lives and in the life of the church? What does that look like? What is our role?

To guide us in answering these questions let's look to today's scripture passage, the passage that immediately followed last week's passage on Easter Sunday. Last week when Jesus rose from the dead. When Mary Magdalene first discovered the empty tomb. When Mary shared this news with Simon Peter and the other disciple, whom Jesus loved. When Simon Peter and the other disciple raced to the tomb. When they both entered the tomb, seeing the linen wrappings and cloth lying there. When they went back home to be with the rest of Jesus' disciples, together. When Mary returned to the tomb alone. When she was greeted by two angels and then when Jesus arrived on the scene, the resurrected Christ. When they spoke to one another and she believed, sharing this good news with all of the disciples, professing "I have seen the Lord."

This all set the stage for this resurrection appearance in the Gospel of John. Mary's encounter led to what came next, the resurrected Christ greeting the disciples, providing them the opportunity to believe and witness the good news.

Now granted Mary had already visited the disciples and shared the message about Jesus. She shared what Jesus told her to share, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." They were already in the know. While that was true, the disciples were still behind locked doors on the evening of that first day of the week, on the day of the resurrection. They were scared. They were frightened. They were filled with fear. Hence being together in a safe place out of the public's eye.

Jesus, though, knew exactly where they were. So he showed up. Jesus took his resurrected self inside that house to say to them, "Peace be with you" and to show them his hands and his side. Then he breathed on them the Holy Spirit instructing them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." Jesus gave them the opportunity to believe and to keep the message going, to keep the good news alive. Then he left and they remained behind locked doors.

Next Thomas returned to the home where they were all gathered to discover Jesus had visited. Desiring to receive exactly what they had received, he needed to see Jesus for himself, to see just as they had. So Jesus returned, said, "Peace be with you" again, spoke to Thomas, showed him his hands and his side, invited him to believe and then said, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Then presumably Jesus left and many more signs were performed by Jesus that were not written in the Gospel of John or so it says.

The disciples received their marching orders. They were given the message of the good news to pass on. They were to keep being Jesus' disciples. And while there may be questions as to whether or not they ventured out beyond those locked doors, clearly they had to have because Jesus' message continued. His stories got shared. The word got out. The disciples were some of the ones to share, to minister, to preach, to teach, to heal. The disciples listened to Jesus and his urging. The disciples kept the ball rolling. Post Easter became more and more of Easter, over and over again. The celebrations, the alleluias, the Christ is risen.

Yes, there was definitely still sadness and grief as Jesus was no longer with them in the same way he had been. Yes, there were adjustments that had to be made and comfort that had to be extended. Yes, it was a different time following that first Easter. Which all makes perfect sense and at the same time did not prevent more signs from happening and more believing from occurring. It all continued to be so.

Bringing us then to today. To the Easter people we are. To the message we are to proclaim. To the "Alleluia! Christ is risen!" we are to shout. We have to keep the ball rolling. We have to get the word out. We have to share, minister, preach, teach and heal. We have to listen to Jesus and his urging. We have to.

On Easter Sunday and really every single day of the year. Because in reality it has been post Easter since that very first Easter. We have always been in the season of post Easter. Or we have always been in the season of Easter because I'm not sure post Easter is really a thing even though I've termed it that. Post Easter might mean something beyond Easter, which that isn't the case. It is just Easter, the season of the resurrected Christ at all times through everything in every way.

And so we've got to talk about it. Or as Reverend Robert Stuhlmann in his commentary, "Can't figure how to keep Jesus from showing up" writes, "So there are times when we are the church and times we are akin to those frightened disciples behind bolted doors. And it is to that church also, to which the risen Christ comes. The risen Christ comes and says "Peace be with you." And tells them he is sending them out into the world to be his hands and feet, wounded and yet holy instruments of the living God. Then he breathes on them, giving them the Holy Spirit, bestowing on them the power to forgive sins."

"Church is a gift from a God who refuses to leave us be. God comes to us. God's presence makes the church. To the church who has nothing, Christ gives everything: Spirit, Mission, and Forgiveness. Church isn't my hard work, your earnest effort, our long range planning. Church is a gift, a visitation, an intrusion of the living Christ standing among us."

So we have to respond to that gift. We have to give thanks for it by living our lives in ways that demonstrate that thanksgiving and acknowledgment. We have to work to make it clear that Easter matters, on more than just Easter Sunday. We have to see the living Christ standing among us, making a difference, impacting our lives and the lives of others. And then we have to talk about it, to actually share our interactions, our moments of change with others. To share within this body and to share beyond this body.

Because keeping it to ourselves is not going to affect change or move others. It isn't going to be following in the way we are called to follow. It would be remaining behind locked doors, fearful and frightened to take any steps forward. It would be keeping our faith bottled up where we do not grow and no one else does either. None of those roads are the way to travel. That was not what Jesus intended for any of the disciples back then and it is not what Jesus intends for any of his disciples today. For that reason we have to take action, to live Easter, to live the resurrection and to voice this gift that has been given to each and every one of us.

Is it post Easter? I guess so. Is it always Easter? Yes. Are we to do something about it? Definitely! No questions asked! It's time to keep getting to work, no matter what Sunday or day of the week it is.

Church Calendar

Wednesday Wednesday April 19

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

Thursday April 20

7:00am Men's Study

11:30am Gorge Ecumenical Ministries

1:30pm Chime Choir

5:30pm Church Board Meeting

Friday April 21

3-7:00pm music teacher in sanctuary

Saturday April 22

8:00am-3:00pm Simplicity Sale

Sunday April 23 Earth Sunday

9:30am Gospel of Matthew Study, vista room
9:45am Worship

11:30am Coffee Hour, recycling info fair, kids' activities

3:30pm Hope and Life church worship

Monday-Tuesday April 25-26

Kathy Holmson out of town

Tuesday April 25

10:00am Women's Bible Study
3:00pm TOPS Group
3-7:00pm music teacher in sanctuary

Wednesday April 26

9:00am-Noon Quilters meet
9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop
4:00pm Women, Wine, & the Word, at Stave & Stone

Thursday April 27

7:00am Men's Study
1:30pm Chime Choir

Saturday April 29

9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop

Sunday April 30

9:30am Gospel of Matthew Study, vista room
9:45am Worship
11:30am Coffee Hour
3:30pm Hope and Life church worship

Tuesday May 2

10:00am Women's Bible Study
3:00pm TOPS Group

Wednesday May 3

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

Scriptures for Sunday April 23, 2023

Acts 2:14a, 36-41
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
1 Peter 1:17-23
Luke 24:13-35

SERVING Sunday April 23, 2023

Elder this Week	Wes Bailey
Communion Preparer	Joanie Logan
Coffee Hour	Carol & friends
Deacons	Serving Team 3
	Betty Osborne, Linda Meyers
	Tatum Wyatt, Jackson Speidel

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FISH Food Bank
April 2023
Coordinators Newsletter

Often times I am asked what does the typical Food Bank clients look like? The answer is a little like the story of the group of blind men describing what an elephant looks like; it all depends on what end you are at.

Each distribution at the FISH Food Bank is little different because every day we have a whole new set of clients. There is never a pattern as to when and how many clients will come. For example, one day this last month we had 8 different families from our local In Lieu Sites (Which are fishing sites that the federal government created for Native American tribes to make up for the land that was flooded when the Columbia River dams were built.) What was interesting was they were from 5 different In Lieu sites. That night we also had 3 families that were unhoused and 4 farmworker families, plus many other families both older and some with young children. This variety is what makes working at the FISH Food Bank fun and at times challenging.

Everyone has their own story and how they came to be at the place they are today. One young father made an impression on me. He came a little early to an afternoon distribution and when he came to the door he had his young daughter of 5 years with him, as he was pushing her in a wheelchair. Since it was cold out, I let them wait inside the building, so we were able to talk a little bit. I could see his daughter had multitude of physical and mental issues. As we talked, he said he had not been to the food bank in a long time but he had not been able to work because his daughter was having some health issues and he had to take care of her. I asked if he was the primary caregiver and he said yes, the mother is out of the picture. When it was his turn to register at the desk, we had to update his Link2Feed file and he said "no it just my daughter and myself." We removed the adult female and 3 children from the household. You can fill in the rest of the story as well as I can. But what I do know is FISH was able to help this single father care for his handicapped daughter. Which he did with much love. We had some little kid's mittens and I watched him very carefully put them on his daughter's hands.

Unfortunately, we are starting to see some of our clients that have not been into the food bank for a while. I was talking with one lady and she said she had not been here the whole time during the pandemic because of the emergency increase they had in SNAP program (old food stamp program). Now that is no longer in existence, she has had to come to us for help.

One older gentleman came to the food bank, he shared that this was the first time he had been to the food bank but since they cut his SNAP benefits to \$40 a month he need some extra help. I registered him for Link2Feed after he was done shopping and he was so pleased and happy with the food he received from FISH. He said he was thinking he would need to save his SNAP money to buy meat, but because he was able to receive several pieces of protein, he can now replan his budget. I am not sure I have ever helped anyone who was so happy and relieved to receive our food. When he left it felt like he had had a "burden" lifted from his shoulders.

At each Hood River distribution they are registering an average 7 to 10 new families and last Friday we registered 13 new families. Cascade Locks also is seeing an increase in new families. Some of these individuals are farm workers but we are also start to see clients that were living in the warming shelter but now it is closed they are once again living in their car. Many families just need a little

extra help getting through the month. Instead of planning for about 30 clients a night, Hood River site now prepares to serve closer to 40 to 45 a night.

Of course, we could not do all this without the help of our many wonderful volunteers! Thank to everyone who makes this organization run as smooth as clock work.

Billie Stevens
Volunteer Coordinator
FISH Food Bank

On The Lighter Side

Food is the mission of FISH Food Bank, however we sometimes we slip in a few other things that help families in Hood River.

For example, every week Craig Terry takes a pick-up load of boxes to the Sun Shine Club for the participants in this program to break down. Craig shared the other day, that one of the participants was so proud to tell his family at a family gathering that he was breaking down boxes for FISH. This has become a very important activity for the club. Everyone wants to feel like they are doing something important.

Thanks to Bette Lou Yenne, the Hood River Library and Michael Schock, we have a wonderful selection of books for our younger clients to take home. The kids are always going through the books and picking out their favorites. We have books for all ages of youth, plus some are in Spanish. It is not only the kids who select books as I will often see adults also pick out a book. Mary Lou had been getting books for FISH for years, then it stopped during COVID. Michael Schock, with Rotary, got us back into receiving the books and Mary Lou has continued making sure we have a great variety and supply of books.

Last month an individual for the County Emergency program was cleaning out their storage area and brought over several boxes of winter hats and a big box of little kids mittens. The hats went fast and we thought we would never get rid of the mittens. But thanks to the cold weather we have been having, all the little pink, purple, red and gray mitten have found a new home.

Cascade Locks has a room full of clothing items and sometimes other household items that families are able to "shop for" when they are getting food. Clients will regularly go through the items and find things that work good for them.