



Hood River Valley Christian Church Newsletter

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www.hoodrivervalleychristianchurch.com

and on Face book

February 14, 2024

Sunday Worship Time

10:30am Worship

Minister

Rev. Alicia Speidel 541 601-1949

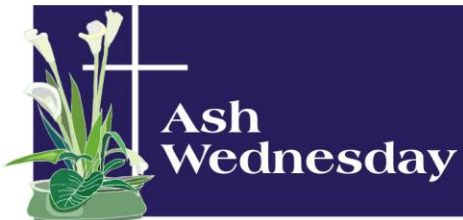
aliciaspeidel@gmail.com

Church Administrative Assistant

Kathy Holmson office hours 10am-1pm or as needed

hrcchurch@gmail.com

Website: www.hoodrivervalleychristianchurch.com



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

February 14

10:00am Down Manor banquet room

5:30pm at the church



Sharing Our Paths for Lent

Lent is the solemn 40-day period from Ash Wednesday (Feb. 14 this year) to Easter when we prepare spiritually for the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It can be a time of fasting or self-discipline, such as giving up something of importance. Let's take a different approach! Besides what we may opt to give up, let's also think about what we savor about Lent or what we may choose to add during Lent.

You'll find a flipchart and markers in the narthex (no names necessary) to share your thoughts. Thanks, everyone!

Sunday Worship

9:30am Adult Sunday School

10:30am Worship, with Children Worship & Wonder

LINKS:

Sunday Worship February 11 <https://www.facebook.com/100064940580441/videos/267257796403295>

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Layla, JJ & Rider Gaffney
Katy White
Suze Nigl's niece Trisha
The Wirt Family

Sharon & Gordon Cook
Stacey Jubitz
Glenna McCargar
Skip Swyers

Lauree Winfield
Bonnie McCollister
Barbara Frazier's friend Julie
David Nash

Vicki White
David Nash

The family and friends of Tristin Baker.

The service for David Warnock will be Saturday, February 17, @ 2pm @ Riverside Community Church.

Women's Ministries: The Women's Ministries general meeting will be after worship on February 18. The Secret Sisters lunch will follow that meeting.

Lenten Project Supports Summer Needs of the Houseless *collecting small items at the church*

During the Sundays of Lent—February 18 through March 24—we will be collecting small items helpful to houseless residents in the summer. Four specific things are requested: refillable water bottles, small containers of sunscreen, lip balm, and non-perishable, individually wrapped snacks. You will find a large decorative sack in the narthex in which these items may be placed. Thanks for helping neighbors out in a small, but meaningful way.



The Pastor's COLUMN

How can it already be time for Lent to begin when it seems as if we just put away the Advent and Christmas decorations? How is it time to change the banners in the sanctuary again? Haven't the green banners barely been up after taking down the Advent banners? Yes, the banners have barely been up. Yes, it is time for Lent. Yes, Advent and Christmas just ended. Lent just happened to come early this year.

So whether we are ready or not, Lent is upon us. That means it is time to journey with Jesus through his ministry to the end result of the cross and resurrection. It is time to pay attention to his messages, discovering what they mean for us. It is time to identify the ways in which we are separated from God, how our relationship with God is broken and how there are ways to mend and repair it. Lent is that time to walk this road and savor all that it entails.

Let us journey together. Let us breathe into the season of Lent. Let us move in such a way that our relationship with God deepens and heals. Let us truly explore what Lent means and how it impacts our faith. Because it is a 40 day journey that we need to walk as the colors in the sanctuary have changed and as the focus will shift to Jesus' journey and Jesus' ministry. So, Lent, here we go.

Alicia

Thanks for supporting Souper Bowl of Caring!



Last Sunday, HRVCC Youth helped Tackle Hunger and collected **\$400 and 30 pounds of groceries** for FISH Food Bank.

Thank you all for participating and supporting our youth and FISH Food Bank. Great job to our Youth—Tatum, Rylee and Jackson (the walking cast was a nice touch, Jackson!)



~ GIFTS TO LIVE ON ~

[Jesus] looked up and saw rich people putting their gifts into the treasury; he also saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. He said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them, for all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in all she had to live on."
Luke 21: 1 - 4, NRSVue

Week of Compassion Special Offering February 18-25

Week of Compassion is the relief, refugee, and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. 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.

Each year in February, congregations across the United States and Canada collect a **Special Offering for Week of Compassion**. While many congregations choose to collect their offering during this designated week, the offering truly fuels Week of Compassion's work and witness throughout the whole year!

Funds received through the offering enable Disciples to respond to disaster when it occurs, because Week of Compassion works with partners to immediately provide grants for urgent needs like emergency supplies, water, shelter, and food. The February Special Offering is set aside for congregations to lift up and celebrate this important work that we do together - not just in domestic and international disaster response, but in refugee and immigrant response, and sustainable development funding around the world.

ELDERS' SHEPHERDING GROUPS – February 2024

CHRYSTAL AKIN 541 490-8386

Clymer, Keith & Marlene 541 386-5234
 Duckwall, Fred 541 386-1720
 Holmson, Bruce & Kathy 541 386-4001
 Lage, Joan 541 386-2396
 Lupoli, Jimmy & Bobbie Sue 541 430-0798
 Jace, Oliver, Sebastian, Vincent
 McCargar, Ed & Glenna 541 478-3495
 Melby, Leslie & Reed 541 490-5617
 Parrott, Rod & Mary Anne 541 386-8766
 Repp, Lee 541 386-8841
 Smiley, Sharon 541 490-0462
 Swyers, Dot 541 490-0806

CAROL SABINS 541 436-0632

Crosswhite, Brian 541 490-9192
 & Melissa 541760-7974
 Aubrianna, Austin
 Finley, Mary 541490-7488
 Stefanie, Nathan, Hailey Olson
 Grannemann, Glenn & Donnamae
 Donnamae 541 980-9666
 Glenn 541 980-9675
 Hopkins, Anse 541 386-3372
 Kenyon, Nick & Judy 541386-2864
 Logan, Joanie & Jim 541 490-3317
 Muenzer, Chad & Sarah 541 806-0970
 Natasha, Chad, Sierra
 Ritoch, Barbara 541 400-9640
 Sheppard, Bill & Virginia 541 399-6222
 Stager, Jim 541 386-3414
 Williford, Jim & Mimi 541 386-1415
 Wilkins, Ron & Sharlene 541 386-1489

SUZE NIGL

Cantrell, Chuck & Karrie 541 806-5896
 Chloe, Brianna
 Carpenter, Beverly 541 436-2886
 Hardman, Nola 541 386-4020
 Hayes, Dianne 541 490-5435
 Kummer, Bob & Mary 509 493-3603
 Lopez, Jessykah 541 806-0661
 Araya
 Marshall, Margaret 541 386-1109
 Osborne, Kurt & Betty 541 386-2673
 Smiley, Karl, Katie,
 Kyle, Brandon 541 490-7709
 Speidel, Geoff & Alicia 541354-1385
 Kailey, Jackson
 Welch, Len & Carol 541 352-5586

GERALD SAWYER 515 771-2383

Akin, Rylee 541 490-8386
 Cook, Gordon & Sharon 541 386-2264
 Duback, Sable & Chance 541 399-3226
 J J (James John), Layla, Rider
 Eskildsen, Woody & Sue 541 387-4901
 Lexy
 Henne, Frances 541 386-2959
 Krager, Bernie & Emily 509 493-4981
 Lewis, Doris 541 386-6430
 Lien, Carolyn & Noe 541 308-0756
 McCaw, Kathie 541 308-0022
 Nash, David 541 386-2391
 Wyatt, Larry & Jodi 541 386- 7051
 Carly, Miles, Tatum

541 354-1919

JENNIFER STAGER

541 386-3414

Bailey, Wes & Carla 541 806-1307
 Behrmann, Otto 541 399-1424
 Jan 541 399-1425
 Frasier, Lloyd & Barbara 541 490-1567
 Hathaway, Martha 541 386-3470
 Hiatt, Judy 541 386-3312
 Hiatt, Jon & Heidi Chapin 503 351-4422
 Cecilia
 Larreau, Mary Jane
 Meyers, Linda 503 901-3625
 Tallman, Trudy 541 386-2763
 Wacker, Jerri 541 490-8559
 Waits, Kyle & Jami 541 352-2304
 Isaac, Eli, Ayden, Owen
 White, Vicki 541 806-4011

THELMA WARNOCK 541 645-3748

Biddle, Tom & Cindy Winfield 541 296-4191
 Crosswhite, Laurie & Scott 541 386-5677
 Justin
 Hansen, Robert 541 386-2775
 Hidle, Gary & Leslie 541 386-3205
 Hopkins, Ellen 541 386-3801
 Logan, John 541 399-2206
 Katelyn 541 399-3904
 Emmi, John Henry
 Maurer, Suzanne 541 386-1444
 Osborne, Kirsten 503 889-6511
 Sawyer, Gladys 551 771-4665
 Strasser, Margaret 541 490-2331
 Thomas, Fred, Linda 509 493-3663
 Winfield, Bill & Lauree 541 386-8385
 Woosley, Lindamay 541 490-4360



FISH Food Bank February 2024 Coordinators Newsletter

January was a flurry of activity, some of it great and some of it not so great. On the plus side we were finally able to hold the “Provide to Ride” food drive sponsored by Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Resort. On the not so positive side was the feet of snow and inches of ice that hit the gorge, causing the food bank in Hood River to close for one day. Again, on the negative side was the heat at the Hood River Food Bank site went out so, we had a lot of space heaters and coats to keep everyone warm.

Despite the ups and downs of January, it never deterred our FISH clients. However, many came into the building and exclaimed “Gee it is cold in here!” When you compare January 2023 to January 2024, the total number of clients served in January 2024 was up 37% over a year ago and the number of requests was up 52%. In January 2023 we served 401 families; in 2024 it was 610.

In the fall, FISH Board members had wondered “if the number of clients would drop once the fruit had been picked and with the reinstatement of the punch cards for the once-a-month policy.” However, we are not seeing a drop in clients. So, it makes one ask, who are all the new people? There are several possible explanations for the increase in clients. For one, many of the local orchard workers are not able to prune and are needing food assistance. One of the FISH Boards goals, from the time I became involved with FISH was to reach the Latino, or Spanish speaking families in our area. After many years of work and trying to spread the

word, we are finally seeing that work pay off. The Spanish speaking families have learned they can trust coming to FISH and we continue to have Spanish speaking volunteers to help families feel more welcome.

Another reason may be the increase in unhoused clients coming to FISH. Approximately 8 to 10 percent of our clients are unhoused. FISH has become an important resource for these families. During the cold spell in January one of the unhoused clients told a volunteer that we saved his life. And not in a way I would have expected. First off, we gave him a pup tent to cover the holes in the tent he was living in, then all his food froze. But because we gave him hand warmers he was able to wrap them around some of the canned food so it would not freeze. The food section designated for unhoused clients is continually being used.

Twenty one percent of FISH clients are 65 years old or older. Most of our senior clients had their food stamps cut last year, leaving this group to choose between food, rent and medicine. One senior couple I spoke with who had lived and worked in Hood River all their lives replied to the question of "where do you live", by saying in their son's home. I know there must be a story behind their living situation. At least FISH is able to help with the food aspect of their budget.

Many of our clients are simply families that are trying to make ends meet in a time of increasing food and rent costs. One client that stands out is a father that is raising his infant daughter by himself. His young daughter must be about 9 months old; she has rosy cheeks and a quick smile. He obviously is doing a great job, but life cannot be easy. When he comes to the food bank, there are plenty of "grandma's" who are willing to hold his daughter when he shops. Another single dad has four children and is unhoused. He let me know when he has visitation with his children, his father allows them to stay at his house.

These are just a few examples of why our client numbers continue to increase at FISH. Unfortunately, some of the same increasing cost issues that families are facing the FISH organization is also experiencing. Our food costs have skyrocketed over the year, and we are using savings to balance the budget. We have had to make some hard choices as to what foods we offer and have to decide to stick closer to the basic needs of families. Since FISH receives no support from government; local, state, or federal, we rely solely on donations and a few small grants. We want to thank our generous community for supporting FISH, this allows use to continue to serve our families who need assistance.

Happy Valentine's Day! Volunteers are the heart of FISH! We love and appreciate all FISH volunteers.

Billie Stevens
FISH Food Bank

Volunteers at Hood River Distribution

At the Hood River FISH site, the number of clients each night averages 40 clients. Some nights it goes as high as 60. With this number of clients, we are asking each church/organizations group that organizes the volunteers to try and have at least 4 volunteers to help in the shopping area. While there are volunteers who come each week above the church/organization volunteers, they are not always able to come, and they are also working in other positions. If your church is unable to provide 4 volunteers, please let Billie Stevens know.

Friday night is always a difficult night to get extra volunteers. Unfortunately, that is a night we tend to get higher numbers of clients. So please try not to be short that night.

Thanks for all your help! We would not be able to serve our clients without your assistance.

Thanks for all the Community Support

Provide to Ride Food Drive at Mt Hood Meadows

"Third time was a charm" with the Mt. Hood Meadows "Provide to Ride" food drive. After two unsuccessful attempts the weather finally cooperated for the 2nd Annual Provide to Ride food drive. Special thanks to Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Resort for sponsoring this event, which was very successful. From this event FISH received 5482 pounds of food and \$20,000. This will go a long way in helping provide food for our families.

Special thanks to not only Mt. Hood Meadows but the FISH volunteers to helped collect food on the mountain, and the strong arms who helped unload the food from the trucks and the individual who helped date and sort the food at the food bank.

Share the Love Food Drive

There is a month-long food drive from February 1 to 29 to benefit FISH Food Bank. Donations of non-perishable food in cans, boxes and sealed packets will be accepted at the following businesses: 301 Gallery, TreeBird Market, Sustain Homes, and the Hood River Chamber of Commerce.

Thanks to these sponsors of this event. Share with your friends and family about this event. Food can be dropped off and placed in the bins at the above businesses.

Question on Road Construction on Tucker Road February 12-29

It should not cause any major problems for our volunteers or clients. There will be detours in place on Brookside Drive and Indian Creek Road for those coming and going to the upper valley or the west side. Anyone coming from Hood River will not have any problems as the Food Bank is located North of the closure. Hopefully there will not be much impact on our clients and volunteers.

Kudos to All FISH Volunteers

A special thank you to all FISH Volunteers for your help 2023. In 2023, 450 volunteers gave over 12,029 hours of service to the FISH Food Bank. Please join me in thanking the following top 5 Hood River Site volunteers for giving the highest number of hours of service to FISH Food Bank:

Becky Bugge	681 hours
Vicki Kelsey	607 hours
Nick Kirby	538 hours
Jewel McKenzie	448 hours
Marianne Durkan	386 hours (but this is probably only half of the hours given)

Special thanks to the top Cascade Locks site volunteers:

Samantha Verschuren	152 hours
Hazel Hartley	151 hours

Winter Weather

Thank you to everyone who was able to help at FISH during the cold snap we had in January. I am so proud that FISH was able to stay open all but one day during the week of very cold weather.

“This institution is an equal opportunity provider.”

Presented by Columbia Gorge Toyota and Honda
and the Columbia Gorge Orchestra Association

Chamber Music

On a Winter's Day

Join us for the re-scheduled
afternoon of beautiful
chamber music

Sunday | **FEBRUARY 25** | 2 pm



No ticket required
Donations accepted at the door

Hood River Valley Christian Church
975 Indian Creek Road | Hood River

Church Calendar

Wednesday February 14

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

Thursday February 15

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

Saturday February 17

9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop open

Sunday February 18

Begin Week of Compassion

9:30am Adult Sunday School
10:30am Worship
11:30am Women's Ministries meeting
Secret Sisters luncheon
3:30pm Hope and Life church worship

Tuesday February 20

10:00am Women's bible study
4:00pm TOPS group

Wednesday February 21

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

Thursday February 22

7:00am Men's Bible Study
1:30pm Chime Choir practice
6:30pm CGOA practice

Saturday February 24

9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop open
9:00am-12:00pm Master Gardeners

Sunday February 25

End Week of Compassion

9:30am Adult Sunday School
10:30am Worship
2:00pm CGOA Concert here
3:30pm Hope and Life church worship

Tuesday February 27

10:00am Women's Bible Study
4:00pm TOPS group

Wednesday February 28

9:00am-Noon Quilters meet
9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop open
5:00-9:00pm Master Gardeners

Scriptures for Sunday February 18, 2024

Genesis 9:8-17
Psalm 25:1-10
1st Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:9-15

SERVING Sunday February 18, 2024

Elder this Week	Suze Nigl
Communion prep	Joanie Logan
Coffee Hour	Frances' friends
Deacons	Serving Team #3 Betty Osborne & Tatum Wyatt

Scriptures for Sunday February 25, 2024

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
Psalm 22:23-31
Romans 4:13-25
Mark 8:31-38 or Mark 9:2-9

SERVING Sunday February 25, 2024

Elder this Week	Jennifer Stager
Communion prep	Joanie Logan
Coffee Hour	Carol and friends
Deacons	Serving Team #1 Woody & Sue Eskildsen

Staff Schedule

Feb 26-29 Pastor Alicia out of town