



# Hood River Valley Christian Church Newsletter

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[www.hoodrivervalleychristianchurch.com](http://www.hoodrivervalleychristianchurch.com)

and on Face book

**May 31, 2023**

## Sunday Worship Time

10:30am Worship

## Minister

Rev. Alicia Speidel 541 601-1949  
[aliciaspeidel@gmail.com](mailto:aliciaspeidel@gmail.com)

## Church Administrative Assistant

Kathy Holmson office hours as needed  
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**Collecting for FISH Food Bank on Sunday, June 4  
Non perishable food, cash, checks**

## Women, Wine, and The Word

**Wednesday, May 31 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.

This is a fun, relaxing time being with friends. You are invited to join them.

## SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

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

## EVENING PRAYER ON FACEBOOK

5:00pm Monday – Thursday (schedule permitting)

### Links:

Wednesday May 24 <https://www.facebook.com/100064940580441/videos/1676999902748494>

Sunday May 28 <https://www.facebook.com/100064940580441/videos/640407767558541>

Tuesday May 30 <https://www.facebook.com/100064940580441/videos/239230398807179>

## Special Music

**June 4**

Chime Choir

“In My Life, Lord”/“Make Me a Servant”

“Kumbaya”

**June 11**

“Low Brass Fusion”



## Celebrating 2023 High School and College Graduates on Sunday June 11, 2023

A special day to recognize academic achievements  
for our extended church family.

**Ayden Phelps** is graduating from HRVHS. Ayden plans to attend Western Oregon University.

**Briana Cantrell** is graduating from HRVHS. She will be attending CGCC to study business.

**Stefanie Olson** is receiving her Master's Degree from Western Oregon University.

**There will be a basket for cards for each of these graduates in the lobby at church.**

*Do you have a family member who is reaching an academic goal this year? Let Pastor Alicia know or send a message to the church. We'd like to acknowledge their achievements.*

### PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Layla & Ryder Gaffney

Sharon & Gordon Cook

Lauree Winfield

Vicki White

Bev Thomas

David Nash

Katy White

Stacey Jubitz

Bonnie McCollister

The Pate family

Bruce Holmson will have prostate surgery on June 1. Please pray for a successful surgery and a good recovery.

**Help Wanted!** Bev Thomas needs help with yard work (paid). Please contact Bev Thomas if you know someone who needs a job.

Thank you to Tom Biddle for trimming the butterfly bushes around the parking lot.



The Pastor's  
COLUMN

***Reminder!*** All are invited to come next Tuesday to meet  
***Executive Director of Week of Compassion, Vy Nguyen***  
&

***Vice President of the Christian Church Foundation's  
Mountain West zone, Monica Myers Greenberg!***

On Tuesday, June 6 @ 10am in the Vista Room, we will receive in person thanks from the Executive Director of Week of Compassion, Vy Nguyen and vice president of the Christian Church Foundation's Mountain West zone, Monica Myers Greenberg. They will share the impact of Week of Compassion and how our money will benefit on a larger scale. Please mark your calendar to attend this important gathering. It is truly an honor to have them both here to share with us. (And maybe, if enough of us show up, we'll move to the fellowship hall!) So, see you on Tuesday, June 6 @ 10am @ the church. It will be a powerful time to hear meaningful stories from around the world. **Alicia**

### Book Group News

After an interesting and informative discussion of *The Lost Pianos of Siberia* by Sophy Roberts, the reading group chose Abraham Verghese's new novel, *The Covenant of Water* for summer reading and a discussion on Wednesday, September 20, at the home of Rod and Mary Anne Parrott.

Verghese is the author of the bestselling *Cutting for Stone*, and his new novel promises an immersion in the culture of 20th century India. A 2023 Oprah's Book Club pick, it is described as "a hymn to progress in medicine and to human understanding, and a humbling testament to the difficulties undergone by past generations for the sake of those alive today."

New participants in the book group are always welcome. See Rod Parrott if you'd like for him to order you a copy of the book.

**Pastor Alicia's sermon from  
May 28, 2023  
Scripture: Acts 2:1-21**

It has been a whirlwind for quite some time. Just when you would think things were going to slow down or get a little boring, it would liven up again. It's getting a little exhausting, always having to be prepared for what's around the corner, for the next thing that's going to challenge us or move us in a different direction.

I mean it's exciting and all, but wow, a moment to breathe, grasp what's been happening and do a little processing would be fantastic.

Unrealistic and yet fantastic. Because at this point I don't think that's ever going to happen. There has been way too much to get us to this point. And I have a feeling it isn't even close to over. That's how wild and crazy this whole thing is. It just keeps blowing our minds. From the moment each one of us decided to follow Jesus, said yes to being his disciples we have been shocked and amazed.

Jesus' ministry alone was something else. Healing those who had been sick for years, if not their entire lifetimes. Speaking to women in the middle of the day, bringing the word to them in front of everyone. Challenging the religious leaders and government officials. Displaying their flaws and their unwillingness to abide by the true message of God. Feeding the hungry, welcoming the stranger, inviting the children to come to him, teaching us how to be calm in the midst of a raging storm, demonstrating how to pray. Jesus covered it all and then some. He was opening our eyes with every turn he made. This in itself was something else and would have been enough, but there was more. There was always more.

Jesus' death and resurrection. The intense and immense pain and grief that came. The not understanding. The confusion. Which, if I am honest, still exists. Those feelings and questions didn't simply go away once Jesus was resurrected. Yes, they changed, however there is still a remnant of all of that. And there forever will be because preparing for that moment was impossible. It rocked us to the core. That's just the way it was and is. I can't explain it.

And then you throw in the resurrection. You try explaining that. Not so easy is it? No, not at all. That's why a moment to breathe has been longed for. Time away to sit and be. To notice. To let everything sink in. To be moved by it all where we actually have the space and the ability for that to happen. Because when you're constantly going from one thing to the next that doesn't happen. Yes, we get pieces here and there, but overall there is more that is needed. More to be able to connect, to treasure, to learn, to embrace the entire journey. More that maybe one day will happen.

For now though, we keep holding on and doing our best because that is the only option. I say that's the only option when in fact there are other options, however we're not going to choose them because we are Jesus' disciples, so we are on this road for the long haul, whether there is breathing time or not.

With the miracle of Jesus' resurrection came his resurrection appearances. He spoke with us, walked with us, ate with us, showed us his wounds and challenged us even more to get out there and live

***You're Invited!***



***Hood River Shelter Tour  
Wednesday, May 31  
11:00 am to 1:00 pm  
1733 Oak Street  
Drop-In Event***

***Coffee and Cookies Served  
Hood River Shelter Updates; Info on Regional Services***

God's message. So we did. We kept at it. And as we were doing our best, still a little fearful of our surroundings and unsure of how we were to be, sometimes maybe locked in the safety of a home, Jesus ascended into heaven. He just was taken up into the skies. He was gone. His message and his instructions were not, those were for us to keep going, but he was.

Yet another experience to grasp. Sure, let's just keep piling it on. Why not? Although about the time we would think that, then something else would come along, like on the day of Pentecost. Now there are not even words for that day. Plus, Jesus was not a part of it. Or more like he wasn't there since he had ascended, however he did tell us this day was coming. Multiple different times he told us.

He said, "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. [T]he Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you." And, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you."

So we knew something more was coming, we just had no idea what that something was or how to prepare for it or when to expect it or what to do when it came. Basically we were lost, which was kind of the norm. We knew how to be in that situation. We also knew how to be shocked by each new thing.

That was our reality and it was no different on the day of Pentecost. It was fifty days after the Passover. The time when there was an agricultural festival celebrating the end of the spring harvest. It was termed the Feast of Weeks. This was common in Jewish culture. It explains why so many different people and groups of people were in Jerusalem on that day. They were there to celebrate, to give thanks, to commemorate this important time in the cycle of life and harvest.

As everyone was doing their thing throughout the town, we were gathered in a house yet again when something so incredible happened that I'm amazed I know how to describe it. Although even though I'm going to describe it, it won't do it justice. You really had to have been there. I say that and then I think about how different it was for each person there and for how being there didn't make it any easier to understand. It was one of those moments that none of us will ever fully grasp. It impacted us greatly, don't get me wrong. And it was not explainable. Yet I'm still going to try to explain it.

In that house a violent wind came through. Not like the windows were blown open by a strong gust. No, something otherworldly came intensely through every room and into every person. We felt it deep inside. And then it was like fire was on top of each of us, not burning us or anything painful, fire, a flame, heat, intensity, bringing the opportunity to speak different languages, languages we were not familiar with, languages that were native to all of the different people who were in Jerusalem at that moment.

"Parthians, Medes, Elamites, residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs."

Wind and fire and languages. Oh and the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit made this all possible. The Holy Spirit had arrived. The Advocate that was to be with us from that point forward. The Holy Spirit came.

Do you see what I mean by this being hard to explain and understand? That you had to have been there? That my words don't really make it clear? It was the same for those who were actually there hearing and seeing it for themselves. Some believed. Some questioned. Some were changed. Some were not.

Because of that Peter spoke up. He had to speak the truth, the truth about what was happening, the truth for people to follow, the truth that was to keep Jesus' message alive and well. He proclaimed that the Holy Spirit was the reason for all of the commotion. The Holy Spirit was coming upon all people, for all ages, in all situations, for all time. It was for people to prophesy, see visions and dream dreams. Signs were to be shown on earth. Change was to come. A new way was to be. This moment was the next step.

The bottom line was the Holy Spirit had come. The Holy Spirit was and is here to stay. The Holy Spirit is what will sustain. It will lead. It will inspire. It will challenge. It will provoke. It will move. Through everybody. That's what's amazing. It will just appear, create havoc and do its thing. We have no control over it. We don't determine who gets it and who doesn't. We don't decide if it's going to move in small ways or large ways. It's not even up to us to dictate when it'll arrive, in which situation or circumstance.

The Holy Spirit does its thing all on its own. Because we need it. We need this support and this lasting connection to Jesus and God. We need to prophesy, see visions and dream dreams. We need to.

Do we? Do we embrace the power of the Holy Spirit? Do we embrace the changes it brings? Do we simply embrace the Holy Spirit? Do we live its message? Do we believe it? Do we know its reality in our lives and in the world? Is the Holy Spirit still doing its thing?

I believe it is. I believed it in that moment when it first arrived and I still believe it today. The Holy Spirit is a force that will always be with us. It's whether or not we listen to it, prophesying, seeing visions, dreaming dreams and listening to those who live that out in our world.

# Church Calendar

## Wednesday May 31

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

**4:00pm Women, Wine, & the Word**

## Thursday June 1

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

## Saturday June 3

9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop

## Sunday June 4 Collecting for FISH

9:30am Gospel of Matthew Study  
9:45am Worship  
3:30pm Hope and Life church worship

## Monday June 5

7:00pm Music teacher recital, sanctuary

## Tuesday June 6

**10:00am Conversation with Vy Nguyen & Monica Myers Greenberg, vista room**

3:00pm TOPS Group  
6:00pm CGOA rehearsal, fellowship hall

## Wednesday June 7

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

## Thursday June 8

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

## Saturday June 10

9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop

## Sunday June 11 GRADUATION SUNDAY

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

## Tuesday June 13

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

## Wednesday June 14

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

## Scriptures for Sunday June 4, 2023

Genesis 1:1-2:4a  
Psalm 8  
2 Corinthians 13:11-13  
Matthew 28:16-20

## SERVING Sunday June 4, 2023

Elder this Week	Wes Bailey
Communion Preparer	Barb Ritoch
Coffee Hour	Jennifer & Friends
Deacons	<b>Serving Team 3</b>
	Betty Osborne, Linda Meyers
	Tatum Wyatt, Jackson Speidel

## Coming Up! Mark your calendar

May 31	Women, Wine & the Word
June 11	Graduation Sunday
June 18	Father's Day
	*Pies for Pops
	*Travel talk by Jerry Sawyer

## Special Event June 18, Father's Day

An invitation...The Nifty Nineties are sponsoring another armchair travel by newest member Jerry Sawyer. Gladys and he enjoyed a two-week cruise last March. This will be a "South Seas Adventure" (China) following the coffee hour (**Pies for Pops for Father's Day**)

Everyone is invited to bring a special/favorite pie and share this fun experience together. Please come! Thelma Warnock