

# November 26, 2025



## Hood River Valley Christian Church Newsletter

541-386-2608 [hrvcchurch@gmail.com](mailto:hrvcchurch@gmail.com)

<https://www.hoodrivervalleychristianchurch.org/> and on [Facebook](#)

### Sunday Worship Time

10:30am

### Minister

Rev. Alicia Speidel 541-601-1949

[aliciaspeidel@gmail.com](mailto: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 November 23- [Facebook](#)**



Sharon & Gordon Cook

Carol Sabins

Lee Repp

Vestena Emerson

Vicki White

Ken Hansen

Anse Hopkins

Bev Carpenter

Sheppard Family

Springer Family

Sharon Smiley

James Gaffney

\*Prayers for healing for James Gaffney as he recently had emergency hip surgery to put medical pins in following a SCFE.

\*prayers for Sharon Smiley for healing following a kidney stone removal.

\*Please hold Jan Behrmann's friend, Pat Byrne's new great grandson Weston in your thoughts and prayers, as well as his parents and family. He is only one week old and needs surgery as he weighs only six pounds and is unable to eat due to a condition referred to as being "tongue tied." Prayers for the procedure and for his healing and recovery.

Please email any prayer requests to [hrvcchurch@gmail.com](mailto:hrvcchurch@gmail.com) or call our office at 541-386-2608.



Kathie McCaw-06

Jennifer Stager-09

Suzanne Maurer-10

Brandon Smiley-13

Mary Jane Laurreau-13

Judy Kenyon-17

Linda Meyers-26

Sue Eskildsen-29



# Thriving Congregations

This past Sunday during time for children and youth, Pastor Alicia asked what they were thankful for, in light of Thanksgiving being this week. They shared family, friends, shelter and food. Then they were given the responsibility of writing on the new whiteboard in the fellowship hall "We are thankful for . . ." and then answering that prompt. This invitation was also given to the entire congregation, to write what they are thankful for following worship when everyone gathered for the Thanksgiving treats.

Everyone took this invitation to heart as people took turns writing on the whiteboard and acknowledging what they give thanks for. It was a great use of this new whiteboard that was purchased with grant money from the Thriving Congregations project. Thank you for this journey our church is on.

This is just one way the whiteboard will be used. Keep watch for other ways you may be invited to write on it or read what is already there. It will change as the seasons change and as the events in the life of this church change. All while continuing to focus on the aspect of thriving.



And just like that Advent is practically here. The planning, the decorating, the ideas from the worship committee, it's all time for us to begin the new church year with the coming of the Advent season. It's time for the candles to be lit. It's time for the carols to be sung. It's time for the journey to greet the Christ child. It's time whether we are ready or not.

## Pastor's message

Which doesn't it always feel that way? Oh my goodness, Advent is here and Christmas is right around the corner! Oh my goodness, I'm not ready and have so much to do! Oh my goodness, what if it's not all done? Oh my goodness! And then it all happens whether every last detail is complete or not. The birth, the celebration, the joy to the world. It happens.

Thank goodness that is the case because if it were up to us, we might keep delaying it until the perfect moment. Thankfully there isn't a perfect moment. The birth of Jesus Christ did not wait for everything to be perfect. It happened. It happened in a unique way to shake things up and make a difference. It happened to challenge the norms. It happened this way because it needed to. So here we go Advent and Christmas. It's happening and we are going to experience it.

~Pastor Alicia



### How can we Help our Neighbors?

**Hood River has an outstanding, mostly volunteer staffed food bank offering food assistance to people who are hungry. FISH food bank is on the frontline fighting hunger in our community. FISH accepts non perishable food, garden and orchard produce, and cash and checks which is used to purchase needed food—especially fresh foods such as eggs and dairy.**

***Our continued support of FISH is important in these troubling times. We will be donating funds from our church's Help a Neighbor fund to help FISH purchase needed food. Please give as you are able to support the food bank's work of keeping families fed in Hood River County.***

**Thank you.**

#### ***More information:***

***—checks may be mailed. FISH mailing address is 1767 12th Street, #147, Hood River, OR 97031  
—food items can be dropped off at FISH 1130 Tucker Road HR***

***FISH also accepts toiletries, baby items such as diapers, and pet food.***



# FISH FOOD BANK

1130 TUCKER RD, HOOD RIVER, OR 97031

541.386.3474

[www.fish-food-bank.com](http://www.fish-food-bank.com)

## MOST NEEDED FOOD ITEMS

- Cereal/Oatmeal (low sugar)
- Jelly (low sugar)
- 1-2 lb bag of brown rice
- Canned jalapenos/chilies
- Canned Soup/Stew/Chili
- Healthy snacks: nuts/dried fruit/granola
- Juice/Apple cider
- Canned fruit
- Canned corn
- Hominy
- Crackers
- Condiments
- Coffee
- Personal care items



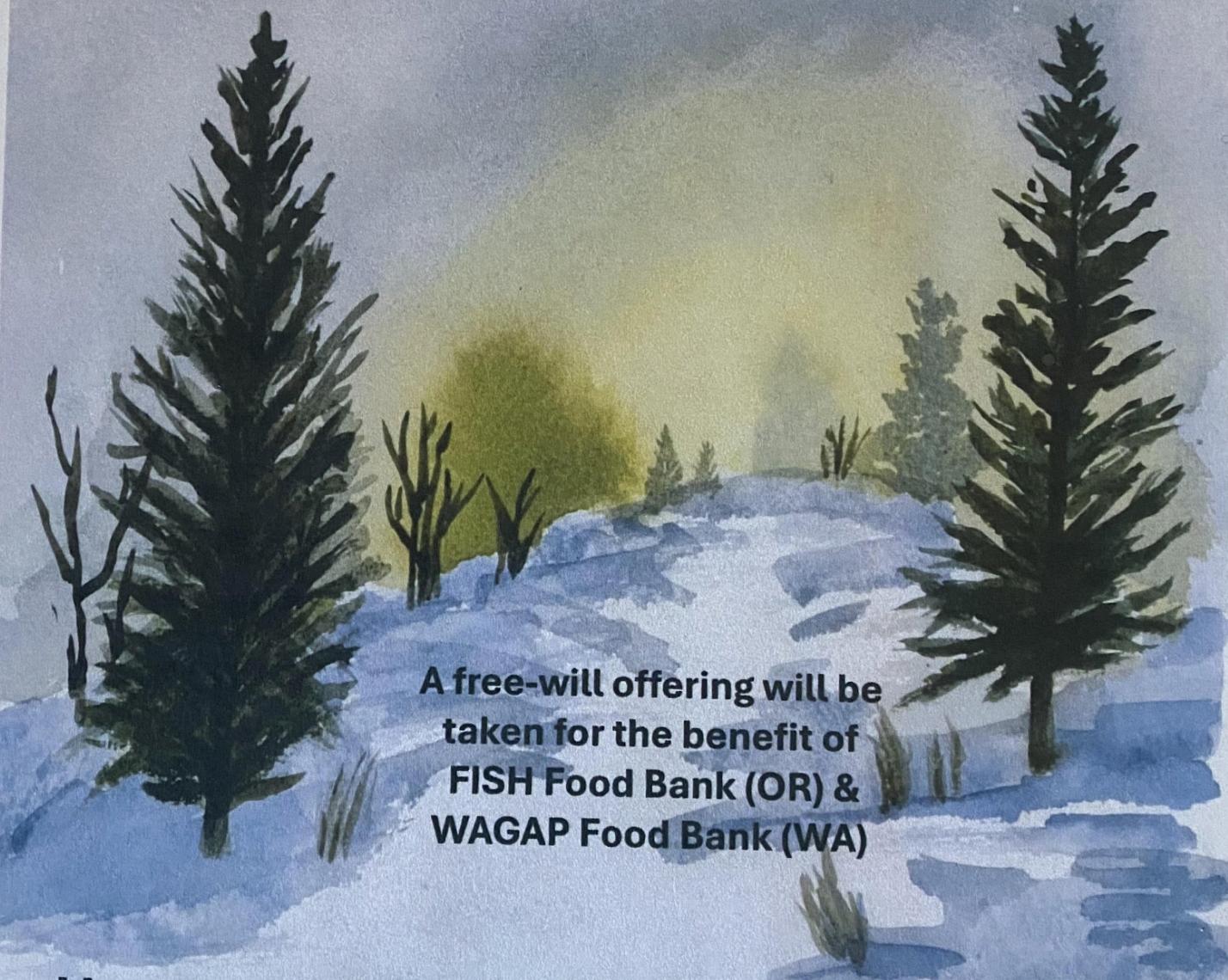
*Donate  
Online*



Shelf stable foods may be dropped off anytime in our donation box to the right of FISH's front door.

Thank you!

*Mid-Columbia Community Choir*  
presents  
*Let There Be Christmas*



A free-will offering will be  
taken for the benefit of  
**FISH Food Bank (OR) &**  
**WAGAP Food Bank (WA)**

**Hood River Valley Christian**  
**December 6, 2025 at 7:00pm**  
**975 Indian Creek Road**  
**Hood River, Oregon**

**Grace Baptist Church**  
**December 7, 2025 at 4:00pm**  
**1280 West Jewett Blvd**  
**White Salmon, Washington**

# Prepare the Way! Advent Decorating & Hanging of the Greens

The season of Advent is almost upon us, and it's time to transform our worship space into a sanctuary of hope, peace, joy, and love! We need your hands and hearts to help us prepare the church for this beautiful season of anticipation.

## Volunteer Decorating Day

Join us for our community decorating session to get the greenery and symbols of Advent in place. This is a wonderful, intergenerational opportunity for fellowship and service.

- When: Saturday, November 29
- Time: 10am
- What: We'll be hanging garlands, setting up the Advent wreath, and preparing the sanctuary for the symbolic service the following day. All ages and abilities are welcome—there's a job for everyone!

## Hanging of the Greens Worship Service

The preparation where the decorations are formally integrated into our worship and we focus on the rich meaning behind each symbol.

- When: Sunday, November 30
- Service Name: Hanging of the Greens
- Time: 10:30am
- Significance: The First Sunday of Advent marks the beginning of the church year. This service explains how the evergreens (everlasting life), holly (the crown of thorns), and Advent wreath candles (hope, peace, joy, and love) all point toward the coming of Christ. Join us as we light the first candle and set our hearts on the true meaning of the season.

## ADVENT SCHEDULE:



Sunday Nov. 30- First Sunday in Advent. 10:30am Worship & Hanging of the Greens.

Saturday Dec. 06- 7pm Mid Columbia Community Choir Concert here at HRVCC.

Sunday Dec 07- Second Sunday in Advent. 10:30am Worship.

Friday Dec. 12- 7pm CGOA Concert here at HRVCC.

Saturday Dec. 13- 7pm CGOA Concert here at HRVCC.

Sunday Dec. 14- Third Sunday in Advent. HRVCC Youth Christmas play followed by a special visit from Santa and treats.

Sunday Dec. 21- Fourth Sunday in Advent. 10:30am Worship. Longest Night service at Down Manor at 6:15pm.

Wednesday Dec. 24- 7pm Christmas Eve service at HRVCC.

Thursday Dec. 25- MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Sunday Dec. 28- Carols Sunday. 10:30am Worship.

Sunday Jan. 04- Epiphany Sunday. 10:30am Worship.



A thank you note was received by Thelma's granddaughter in Kentucky after we sent a quilt for her new baby.

"Hello! Words cannot fully express my gratitude for the stunning and thoughtful quilt that was created for my son, Killian! It truly took my breath away. Including the photo of my grandma was so special. Your kindness and efforts are so touching. Please pass my gratitude along to all the sweet souls involved in this tremendous gift! Brenna."

A Christmas luncheon party sponsored by Women's Ministries will be held at the Columbia Gorge Hotel on Saturday, December 13, at 11:30am. Cost will be \$20; reservations will be taken beginning November 16 and conclude December 7.

Contact Mary Anne or Thelma for more information.



"Let There Be Christmas" is the theme of the annual concert of the Mid-Columbia Community Choir. It will be held at HRVCC on Saturday December 06 at 7:00pm. Mary Anne Parrott is accompanying the cantata from which the theme was chosen; there will be additional music numbers as well. A free-will offering will be taken to benefit FISH Food Bank. The concert will be repeated the following afternoon in White Salmon.

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!



Our former member, Anse Hopkins, is on Hospice.  
She would love to receive cards.

Anse Hopkins  
2428 San Marcos Pass  
Santa Barbara California  
93105



### Chrismons: The ornaments we put on the tree in preparation for Advent

Chrismon, C-H-R-I-S-M-O-N, is a combination of two words: Christ and MONogram. A Chrismon is a symbol of Christ. Chrismons are composed of white and gold materials. White is symbolic of our Lord's purity and perfection. Gold, of his majesty, glory and triumph.

#### Chi Rho

The Greek letters chi and rho look like X and P in our Latin alphabet. Chi and rho are the first two letters in the holy title given to Jesus, Christ. It is the most common monogram for Christ.



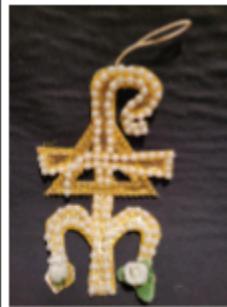
#### Alpha & Omega

The Greek letters alpha (first) and omega (last) from Revelation 1:8 and 22:13, symbolize Jesus as the Christ who has come and will come again; it also symbolizes the continuity of God's presence throughout human history.



#### Cross & Chi

Chi is the first letter in the Greek word, Christos, and is the shortest monogram for Christ. Christ is the holy title given Jesus as the chosen one, the anointed one from God, the messiah. People of faith assumed this would mean power and royalty until it was found to be fulfilled in Jesus who was born in a stable and died on a cross. This symbol reminds us of how Jesus transformed our idea of what power and authority are.



#### Overlaid Latin Cross

We are reminded that Christ was faithful unto "death, even death on the cross." This cross has roses on it (Flower of Mary). The top of the cross is a shepherd's crook. The triangle is a symbol of the trinity. The triangle is also an Alpha. What looks like a "M" at the bottom of the cross is an Omega.

#### Fish

Ichthus is the Greek word for fish. It is an acrostic for Jesus Christ, God's Son, Savior. This compact acknowledgment of who Jesus is was used by early Christians as a secret sign to identify each other. Christians identified themselves as fish since Jesus promised to teach the disciples, Simon and Andrew, to fish for people.



#### Fish & Loaves

From two fish and a few loaves Jesus was able to feed thousands. This symbol reminds us that even something small given into Jesus' hands can be greatly useful. Many Christians see this as a sign for how the meager loaf and cup of the Lord's Supper become a great spiritual meal for all God's people.



### Dove

The dove is an ancient symbol of salvation. It was a dove that Noah sent forth from the ark after the flood. When it returned with a green branch there was much hope. When it flew off and did not return, the remnant saved in the ark knew that the land was now fit as the bird's home and theirs. At Jesus' baptism a dove was what was seen when the Holy Spirit embraced him.



### Crown

While Jesus is King, the only earthly crown he received was a crown of thorns. The greatest irony is that Pilate put "King of the Jews" on a plaque over Jesus' cross.



### Shell

The shell is a natural holder for water, the substance used in Christian baptism.



**Anchor**  
Like the stone foundation of a house which will stand against the storm, an anchor is a symbol of God's steadfastness which we can fully trust.



### The Star of David

Sometimes called the Star of Creation, is a symbol that Jesus was a Jew and a descendant of King David. The six points may also be said to represent six aspects of God: love, mercy, wisdom, majesty, power, and justice. In this form, the two triangles represent the Trinity.

### Trinity Symbols

From ancient times our ancestors have proclaimed that "The Lord is our God is One God." Yet we experience God as Creator, Christ as Savior, and the Holy Spirit as Sustainer. Struggling with diversity in unity, early Christians began to speak of "One God in Three Persons," traditionally Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Triquetra with a Circle is a most complicated Trinity symbol. The three loops making a triangle represent the three parts of the trinity. This is surrounded by a circle, which represents eternity.



### Star, Five Pointed, with Rose

A five pointed star represents the Star of Bethlehem or Epiphany, when the Wisemen visited Jesus. The rose is the symbol for Jesus' mother, Mary. Together these symbols represent the coming together of heaven and earth, God becomes flesh.



### 2026 HRVCC BUDGET

Total income:	\$209,100.00
Expense:	
Total administration	\$14,050.00
Total Christian Education:	\$400.00
Total Membership:	\$1,400.00
Total Personnel:	\$154,192.00
Total Property & Grounds:	\$23,200.00
Total Worship:	\$1,100.00
 Total Expenses:	 \$194,342.09
 Total Net Profit:	 \$14,757.91
 Outreach 10% of Income:	 \$19,500.00
 Net Profit:	 \$ (4,742.09)



## 2025 Nominating Committee Worksheet

(For 2026) Church Officers, Elders, Deacons, Trustees

Nominating Committee: **Barb Ritoch, Betty Osborne, Chrystal Akin,**

**Jerry Sawyer, Scott Crosswhite**

*Terms are for 2 years*

Term ends 2027

Chair of the Board	Jennifer Stager
Vice Chair	Chrystal Akin
Secretary	Suze Nigl
Treasurer	Carla Bailey

### ELDERS

*Terms are for 2 years*

Term ends 2026	Term ends 2027
Gerald Sawyer	Jennifer Stager
Thelma Warnock	Carol Sabins
Rod Parrott	Betty Osborne
	Suze Nigl

### ELDER EMERITUS

Dot Swyers   Judy Hiatt   Fred Duckwall

### DIACONATE SERVERS

*Terms are for 2 years*

Term ends 2026	Term ends 2027
Betty Osborne	Chance Cheuvront
Scott Crosswhite	Sable Duback
Laurie Crosswhite	Woody Eskildsen
Wes Bailey	Sue Eskildsen
	Layla Gaffney

## COMMUNION PREPARERS

**Terms are for 2 years**

Term ends 2026	Term ends 2027
Judy Hiatt	Barb Ritoch
	Margaret Strasser
	Joanie Logan
	Kathy Holmson

## TRUSTEES

**Terms are for 3 years**

Term 2026	Term ends 2027	Term ends 2028
Wes Bailey	Betty Osborne	Laurie Crosswhite
		Chrystal Akin
		Judy Hiatt

### **Important Congregational Vote**

**A Congregational vote will be held Sunday, December 14th, immediately following the worship service.**

**All voting members are urged to attend as we will cast votes on two critical matters: the proposed annual budget for the coming year and the nominating slate for church leadership.**

**Your participation is vital to ensure the continued direction and financial health of our church.**

# Church Calendar

## **Wednesday November 26**

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

## **Thursday November 27 Happy Thanksgiving!**

## **Saturday November 29**

Thrift shop CLOSED  
10:00 Decorating the church for Advent

## **Sunday November 30- First Sunday of Advent. Hanging of the Greens Worship Service**

9:30am Lectionary Preview  
10:30am Worship  
**Elders meeting following Worship**

4:00pm Hope and Life Church worship.

## **Tuesday December 02**

10:00am Women's Bible Study  
1:30pm Chimes practice

## **Wednesday December 03**

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

## **Thursday December 04**

7:00am Men's study Vista Room  
1:30pm Chimes practice

## **Saturday December 06**

9:00am-12:00pm Thrift shop open  
7:00pm Mid-Columbia Community Choir concert

## **Sunday December 07- Second Sunday of Advent. Gathering for FISH**

9:30am Lectionary Preview  
10:30am Worship  
4:00pm Hope and Life Church worship

## **Tuesday December 09**

10:00am Women's bible study  
1:30pm Chimes practice

## **Wednesday December 10**

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

## **Thursday December 11**

7:00am Men's study Vista Room  
1:30pm Chimes Practice

## **Friday December 12**

7:00pm CGOA Concert

## **Saturday December 13**

9:00am-12:00pm Thrift shop open  
7:00pm CGOA concert

### Scriptures for Sunday November 30, 2025

Isaiah 2:1-5  
Psalm 122  
Romans 13:11-14  
Matthew 24:36-44

### Serving Sunday November 30, 2025

<b>Elder this week</b>	Rod Parrott
<b>Communion prep</b>	Leslie Hidle
<b>Coffee hour</b>	Betty and friends
<b>Deacon</b>	Sable and Chance

### Scriptures for Sunday December 07, 2025

Isaiah 11:1-10  
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19  
Romans 15:4-13  
Matthew 3:1-12

### Serving Sunday December 07, 2025

<b>Elder this week</b>	Suze Nigl
<b>Communion prep</b>	Barb Ritoch
<b>Coffee hour</b>	Jennifer and friends
<b>Deacon</b>	Woody and Sue

### **Sunday December 14- Third Sunday of Advent. Recycling day**

9:30 Adult lectionary study  
10:30am Worship  
4:00pm Hope And Life Church Worship

