



Hood River Valley Christian Church Newsletter

541-386-2608 hrcchurch@gmail.com
www.hoodrivervalleychristianchurch.com

and on Face book

December 11, 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

Coming up at HRVCC



Friday Dec 13

7:00pm CGOA VOCI Concert here

Saturday Dec 14

10:00am Rehearsal Youth/Children's play

Sunday Dec 15

10:30am Third Sunday in Advent

HRVCC Youth/Children's Christmas play

"Christmas Treats" coffee hour follows

Saturday Dec 21

4:00pm Longest Night Service

of remembrance at the Parrotts' home

Sunday Dec 22

10:30am Fourth Sunday in Advent

Tuesday Dec 24

7:00pm Christmas Eve service for all ages



Sunday Worship

9:30am Adult Sunday School

10:30am Worship

LINKS:

Sunday Worship Dec 8 <https://www.facebook.com/100064940580441/videos/942702560699500>

Special Music December 15 Brass Quintet

Anders Foster, Trumpet

Kate Dougherty, Trumpet

Ian Monahan, Horn

Hugh Amick, Trombone

Ed Price, Tuba



WEATHER RELATED CANCELLATIONS

A reminder: Church meetings or Thriftshop days may be cancelled if winter weather causes hazardous driving conditions. In general, if local schools have cancellations, church activities may also cancel. Cancellations may also be shared on KIHG Gorge Radio, if possible. Call your group leader before you venture out.



Women's Christmas Dinner

The annual Women's Christmas dinner was a delightful evening last week. Thanks to our Women's Ministries leadership for planning and hosting over 30 women at Grace Su's China Gorge restaurant.

Instead of a gift exchange, participants were asked to bring some of the following items for the Hood River MCCAC warming shelter pantry: cup of noodles, cereal cup, applesauce/fruit cup, or chewy granola bars. Boy! Did they deliver! The collection at the dinner included: **137 servings of fruit, 40 "cup of soup" packages, and 172 breakfast bars.** Those items will be very much appreciated.

Thank you to Women's Ministries!

(And thank you to Women's Ministries for the beautiful poinsettia plants which were used for table décor and then given to Pastor Alicia, Sable Duback, and Kathy Holmson at the end of the evening.)

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Layla, JJ & Rider
Stacey Jubitz
Glenn Grannemann

Sharon & Gordon Cook
Doris Lewis
The family of Susan Collins Stebner

Vicki White
Tedra Turner

Martha Hathaway
Alicia Speidel



We are halfway through Advent. The hope and peace candles have both been lit. The tree is decorated with Chrismons. The wreaths are hung. The cedar and holly adorn the communion table. The manger is set. We are well on our way to celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. We will soon hear the telling of his birth. We will sing "Joy to the World." We will light the Christ candle. All will be ready. Are you ready?

Are you ready to celebrate Jesus Christ's birth? Are you ready to bask in the light of the candles of hope, peace, joy, love and the Christ candle? Are you ready to hear the story? Are you ready to share the story? We only have two weeks until all of this comes to fruition yet again. Two weeks to finish preparing ourselves. Two weeks to be ready. Two weeks. Let's get ready with all we've got to truly celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

Alicia

Pastor Alicia's CaringBridge link:

https://www.caringbridge.org/site/8ab75554-48b5-11ef-8f3d-f317ddd1b8ef?utm_source=share&utm_medium=web&utm_content=copylink_leftmenu_php

Report: Congregational meeting, December 8, 2024

2025 Slate of Church Officers, Elders, Deacons, Trustees - passed

2025 Church Budget - passed

Thank you to all who voted!

Collecting for FISH Food Bank

December Collection Theme "Keep It Clean!"



Personal care items:

toothpaste, toothbrushes, dental floss, mouthwash, shampoo, soap, body wipes, tampons & pads, diapers, incontinence pads, laundry detergent

Donations for FISH may be left in the shopping cart in the church lobby. Thank you.

God's love
visible



2024 CHRISTMAS OFFERING

The Christmas Special Offering will be received December 15 & 22

All funds received for the Christmas Special Offering go to the budget of the Christian Church in Oregon and SW Idaho Regional Church to support programs of the regional church.

Our gifts support the work of regional ministries this Christmas. Your regional ministry works to:

- Connect congregations to each other
- Foster faith development
- Gather Disciples in camps, conferences, and assemblies
- Nurture the development of a new generation of pastors
- Assist churches in calling new ministers
- Interpret the global mission of the Church
- Represent the Church in ecumenical gatherings
- Counsel and pray with those who are troubled of spirit
- Lead the Church to address racism
- Inspire leaders to experiment and create
- Witness to the power of God to make things new

You can give to the Christmas Special offering by....

- ❖ A designated gift through your congregational offerings
- ❖ A gift online at www.oidisciples.org (link on bottom right of home page)
- ❖ A gift sent by mail to PO Box 19466, Portland, OR 97280

Sign our All Church Christmas Card

Send your Christmas greetings to friends at church in our church newsletter. Forms are on the table in the lobby.

- **Write:** Your name & Christmas greeting and put it in the basket on the table.
- **Donate:** You save money for cards & postage by sending Christmas greetings this way, drop a donation in the gift box with your greeting.
- **Donations go to:** HRVCC Help A Neighbor Fund.

Christmas Cards



Christmas Greetings will be published in the December 18 newsletter. Thank you.



Holiday Harmony

Join director Dan Kenealy and the Voci Community Choir for a beloved annual tradition! From contemporary holiday classics to a festive carol singalong, it's a great way to enjoy the holiday season.

Friday, Dec 13 at 7 PM Valley Christian Church
Sunday, Dec 15 at 2 PM Old St Peter Landmark, The Dalles



60th Anniversary Stories

Sharing more of the wonderful stories and memories we received from some of our current and former HRVCC members. *If you have a story about your time at HRVCC you would like to share, send it to the church and we will add it to this collection.*

Lauree Winfield

Hood River Valley Christian Church has been my home church for many years. When we lived in Portland, we looked for a home church, however, we never felt quite at home.

When we returned to Hood River, we were warmly welcomed back. How nice it is to feel at home—hugs included!

During my school years, I was always involved in the school music program. Attending a church as a child, there was not an opportunity to sing with a choir. I really missed that musical experience! When first attending HRVCC, I was delighted to find that they had an excellent choir, and they welcomed me with open arms. What a delight to find a home with a choir. What a joy this is to sing praises to our Savior! It's lovely to have a church home.

Our congregation always welcomes new people. Every time we have asked friends to attend, they have been well received. We have been told many times that HRVCC is the friendliest church they have ever attended! I love being a member of this congregation.

My Story by Bill Winfield

I was born in Montana and always planned to live there. In 1963, I was working my first job out of college in Missoula, Montana. The job required me to work 7 days a week in addition, take "call" 24 hours a day. Being a young man, I was able to handle the many hours. I always looked forward to Christmas, not only because we celebrated the birth of Jesus, but that was the only day off I had all year!

In January, the weather turned COLD – 40 Below to be exact. When I went to my car – a 1950 Ford – started all right, however, once the door opened it would not close. Being a resourceful man who had been raised on a farm, I tied a piece of rope to the inside of my car to tie the doors closed, and headed to work.

As a teenager my parents and I travelled to Oregon. The state was so beautiful and green, I knew that someday I would return for a vacation. After dealing with the extreme winter and difficulty getting to work, I decided right then that I would not return to Oregon for a vacation, I would return to live there!

I contacted a sales rep who worked in Oregon and asked if he knew of any jobs in this state. I interviewed at Heppner and Hood River. Of course, the job in Hood River was exactly what I wanted. My boss was Ernie Barclay, who just happened to be a member of the Disciples Christian Church in town. I joined the Disciples Church in the country.

The two churches felt that they could be more effective together and voted to become one body. Church members, led by Dick Radliff, helped with the construction. I assisted Ted Perry installing light fixtures, laying tile and staining wood work. They made me feel at home and I was delighted to help. By getting involved, I made new friends. As a result, I began to feel like a valued member of this church.

I raised my family at HRVCC. I was involved in getting the first few youth pastors to minister to our large group of youth. One of the pastors we hired was Larry Russell. He and his wife Kathy, are still friends with our daughter and several other members of that youth group. As adults, several members of that group continue to worship with Kathy Russell in an online Bible study.

Hood River Valley continues to be my church even after 61 years.

Holiday Giving in Our Hood River Community

Some local service organizations that appreciate extra giving during the holidays along with their contact information. You can make donations direct to the organizations or through your church offering (please indicate where you are donating in the memo section of your check.)

FISH Food Bank fighting food insecurity in the Gorge – Donate non-perishable food, hygiene items, pet food, household paper & cleaning items (paper towels, dish detergent, etc.) at the FISH Hood River site—FISH Food Bank 1130 Tucker Road. Or drop off at the church. Donate online: <https://www.fish-food-bank.com/> or mail a check: FISH, 1767 12th Street, #147, Hood River, OR 97031



Hood River Shelter – Mid Columbia Community Action Council supporting unhoused community members. Donate online: <https://www.mccac.com/donate> or mail check: MCCAC, 2505 W. 7th, The Dalles OR 97058 Also accepting specific clothing items for donation. Please check the website for information.

Hood River County Christmas Project – Christmas food and toy assistance for Hood River County residents. Donate online: <https://www.hoodrivercountychristmasproject.com/> or mail check: HRCCP, PO Box 872, Hood River, OR 97031

Helping Hands Against Domestic Violence – domestic violence shelter and assistance. Donate online: <https://www.helpinghandsoregon.org/> or mail check: HHAV PO Box 441 Hood River, OR 97031

Hood River Emergency Voucher Program – provides vouchers for food, fuel, and lodging for travelers and people in need in our community. Donate online: <https://gorgeem.org/emergency-voucher-program> or mail check: Gorge Ecumenical Ministries, 400 11th Street, Hood River, OR 97031 (indicate in memo line Emergency Voucher fund.)

The Next Door, Inc. <https://nextdoorinc.org/> – Offering over two dozen programs supporting and empowering people in our community, including: Parenting support and education; safety net for children at risk of abuse or neglect and for victims of crime; health and wellness education; mentoring, education and treatment for high-risk youth and families. Donate online: <https://nextdoorinc.org/donate/> or mail check: The Next Door, Inc. 965 Tucker Road Hood River, OR 97031

Meals on Wheels – Delivers meals to people who have difficulty cooking or getting out of their home. Donate online: <https://www.hrvac.org/meals-on-wheels> or mail check: Hood River Adult Center, Meals on Wheels, 2010 Sterling Place Hood River, OR 97031

Columbia Gorge Habitat for Humanity - <https://columbiagorgehabitat.org/> Building and improving homes in the Gorge. Mail checks to PO Box 378, The Dalles, OR 97058

Giving within our Disciples Denomination Community

Disciples of Christ, Oregon/SW Idaho Region (Christmas Special Offering)

Supports programs of the Regional Church. Mail a check: Christian Church in Oregon & SW Idaho PO Box 19466 Portland, OR 97280 Or give through your church offering.

Week of Compassion – donate online <https://www.weekofcompassion.org/donate.html> or mail a check: Week of Compassion P.O. Box 1986 Indianapolis, IN 46206 Or give through your church offering.

Church Calendar

Wednesday December 11

- 9:00am-Noon Quilters meet
- 9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop open
- 7:00pm Wednesday prayers for our church

Thursday December 12

- 7:00am Men's Study Vista Room

Friday December 13

- 7:00pm VOICI Holiday concert here

Saturday December 14

- 9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop open
- 10:00am rehearsal Youth & Children Xmas play

Sunday December 15 Third Sunday in Advent

Children & Youth Christmas Play

- 9:30am Adult Sunday School
- 10:30am Worship
- 11:30am Christmas Treats coffee hour
- 3:30pm Hope and Life church worship

Tuesday December 17

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

Wednesday December 18

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

Thursday December 19

- 7:00am Men's Study Vista Room

Saturday December 21 Longest Night

- 9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop open
- 4:00pm Longest Night service, at Parrotts'

Sunday Dec 22 Fourth Sunday in Advent

- 9:30am Adult Sunday School
- 10:30am Worship
- 3:30pm Hope and Life church worship

Tuesday December 24 Christmas Eve

- 10:00am Women's Bible Study
- 7:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight worship

Wednesday December 25



December 25-January 1, 2025

Church office will be closed.
Pastor Alicia will be on vacation.

Scriptures for Sunday Dec 15, 2024

Zephaniah 3:14-20
Isaiah 12:2-6
Phillippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-18

SERVING Sunday December 15, 2024

Elder this Week Jennifer Stager
Communion prep Joanie Logan
Coffee Hour Judy Hiatt & friends
Deacons **Servers**

Thank you to our deacons for serving communion as needed each week

Scriptures for Sunday December 22, 2024

Micah 5:2-5a
Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 80:1-7
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)

SERVING Sunday December 22, 2024

Elder this Week Carol Sabins
Communion prep Mary Finley
Coffee Hour Carol Sabins & friends
Deacons **Servers**

Thank you to our deacons for serving communion as needed each week