

January 07, 2026



Hood River Valley Christian Church Newsletter

541-386-2608 hrcchurch@gmail.com

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

Sunday Worship Time

10:30am

Minister

Rev. Alicia Speidel 541-601-1949

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 January 04- [Facebook](#)



Sharon & Gordon Cook

Carol Sabins

Lee Repp

Vestena Emerson

Vicki White

Ken Hansen

Hopkins Family

Bev Carpenter

James Gaffney

Bud Harris

Tyler Luna

Jim Williford

Rich Nichols

*Prayers for healing and recovery for Laurie and Linda's dad Bud Harris as he has recently gotten out of the ICU.

* Prayers for Tyler Luna as he fights stage 4 lung cancer. For his family, his wife Sel and their two children.

* Jim was called home to the Lord yesterday; prayers of peace and comfort for his wife Mimi and all of their family.

Please email any prayer requests to hrcchurch@gmail.com or call our office at 541-386-2608.



02 Shirley Ihle

04 Dot Swyers

05-Martha Hathaway

05- Ayden Phelps

08- Tim Cantrell

09- Tom Biddle

14- Christie Galon

17- Araya Lopez

20- Heidi Chapin

20- Carol Sabins

21- Jackson Speidel

21- Sharon Rath

23- Beverly Carpenter

24- James Stager

24- Miles Wyatt

31- Laurie Branson

What a meaningful and wonderful Advent, Christmas and Epiphany season. The church was filled with amazing music on Sunday mornings and throughout the week. The children and youth shared a message about seeking the Christ child. Those who read during worship brought needed words of hope, peace, joy and love. Many giving hands made fellowship hour goodies possible. And then those who decorated, un-decorated and cared for the space held important roles. It all made for a memorable season.



Thank you to everyone for sharing in the life of this faith community. Thank you for supporting one another, for loving one another and for praying for one another. You continue to amaze me with your faithfulness and commitment to one another and to your faith. May we continue to live in these important ways this year.

~ 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.



If you are able to donate to help those in the Pacific Northwest who are affected by the current floods please address your payment to Week of Compassion designated for the Northern Lights Region.



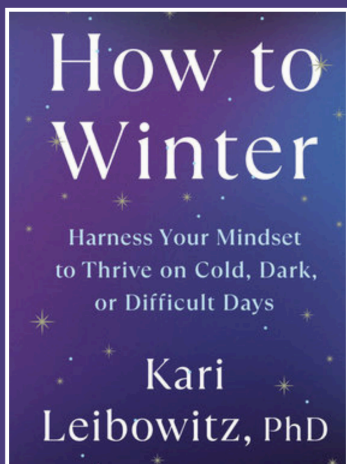
We need official greeters to welcome people as they arrive for worship on Sunday mornings.

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!



HOOD RIVER COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT & GORGE HAPPINESS PRESENT:

Book Club & Community Circle



Every 1st and 3rd
Tuesday
from 11:30-1:00 PM

December 2
December 16
January 6
January 20
February 3
February 17

Attend when you can!

CONNECTION + MEDITATION + DISCUSSION
WITH EMILY MARTIN



HOOD RIVER LIBRARY READING ROOM

502 State Street
541-386-2535

www.hoodriverlibrary.org



WWW.GORGEHAPPINESS.ORG

Please purchase ahead of time or get a copy of the book from the library to read along with the group (library copies will be available to borrow during our first meeting on Dec 2).

No need to read anything from the book before our first meeting. We will read and discuss a few chapters every 2 weeks.

Each circle includes:

- ~ Time for connection and reflection
- ~ Mindfulness Meditation
- ~ Time for book chapter discussion

Come as you are--even if you haven't read the chapter! We want to sit in community circle with you. Attend when you can.

Questions? Contact Emily Martin

503-358-1949

A reminder: Church meetings or Thriftshop days may be cancelled if the weather causes hazardous driving conditions. If local schools have cancellations, church activities are likely cancelled as well. Call your group leader before you venture out.

Weather-Related Cancellations



As we begin the new year, we continue to engage in the Thriving Congregations Cohort. Our thriving team continues to meet and be in prayer about this faith community. Our members and participants are continued to be encouraged to pray for this faith community. We all have a role to play as we delve deeper into what it means to thrive.

This month our thriving team of Betty, Jennifer, Chrystal, Geoff and Alicia will meet to take all of the insight and conversations from the church's meetings last fall to create a mission statement. Then that statement will be shared with the church board for further discussion and eventually approval. Then it will be shared with the entire congregation. As this process moves forward, continue to focus on the word thrive, to lift up how this congregation is thriving and to pray for the journey ahead. It is an exciting time as we go where God leads us.

***All Elders are asked to attend the Elder's meeting on January 10th at 10am here at HRVCC.**



DEACON TRAINING



***All Deacons are asked to attend the diaconate training following Worship on January 11th.**



Below is a list of materials we are currently accepting. There are 22 items.

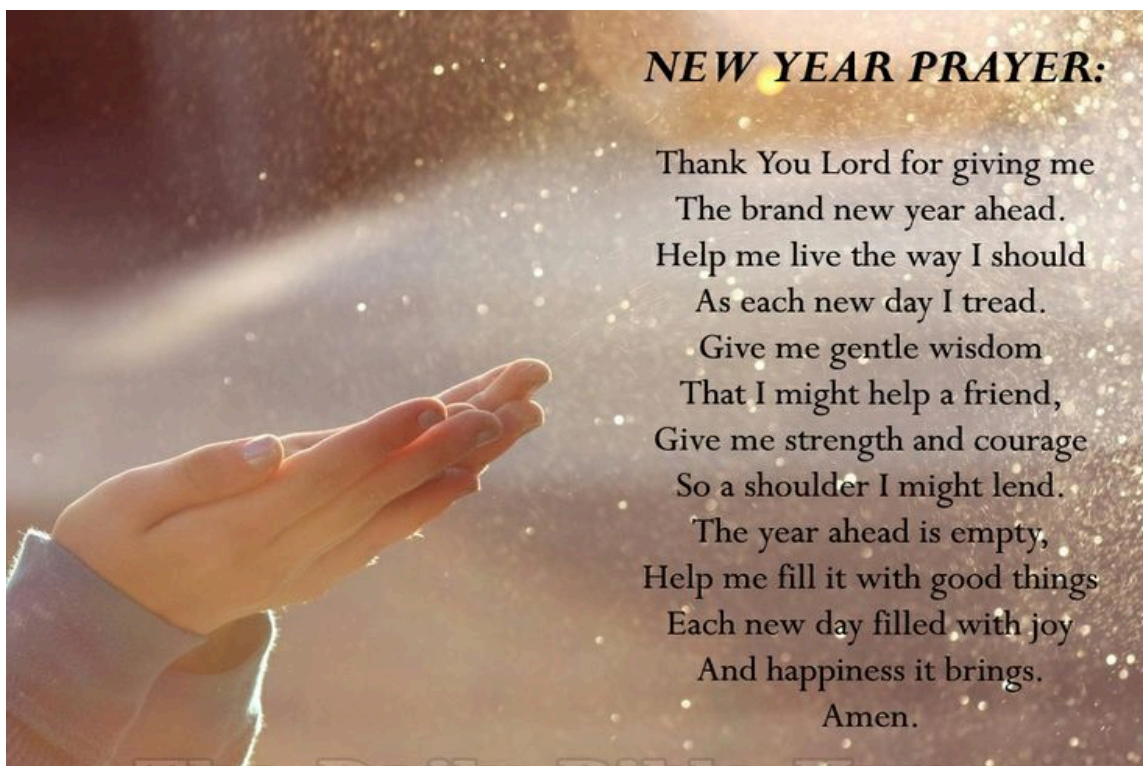
ALL MATERIAL MUST BE CLEAN, DRY AND FREE OF ANY FOOD CONTAMINATION.

#1 Clear Clam Shells	#1 Clear	#1 Colored
#2 Clear Bottles and Jugs	#2 Colored Bottles and Jugs	
#2 All Other	#3	#4 (no plastic film)
#5 straws and lids (If lids or caps do not have a # they go in #5)		
#5 all other	#6	

Complete list with pictures in the link here: [gsp](https://www.gsp-project.org/)

Please join us after Worship on January 11th in the Fellowship Hall to celebrate Dot Swyer's 102nd birthday!

There are cards on the table in the Narthex to sign; or feel free to bring your own!



NEW YEAR PRAYER:

Thank You Lord for giving me
 The brand new year ahead.
 Help me live the way I should
 As each new day I tread.
 Give me gentle wisdom
 That I might help a friend,
 Give me strength and courage
 So a shoulder I might lend.
 The year ahead is empty,
 Help me fill it with good things
 Each new day filled with joy
 And happiness it brings.
 Amen.

Church Calendar

Wednesday January 07

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

Thursday January 08

7:00am Men's Study

1:30pm Chimes practice

Saturday January 10

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

10:00am Elder's meeting

Sunday January 11-Second Sun. Recycling

9:30am Lectionary Preview

10:30am Worship

Commissioning of Church Leaders and Diaconate training after worship

4:00pm Hope and Life Church worship

Tuesday January 13

10:00am Women's Bible Study

Wednesday January 14

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

Thursday January 15

7:00am Men's Study

1:30pm Chimes practice

Saturday January 17

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

Sunday January 18

9:30am Lectionary Preview

10:30am Worship

4:00pm Hope and Life Church worship

Tuesday January 20

10:00am Women's Bible Study

1:30pm Chimes practice

Wednesday January 21

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

9:00am-12:00pm Quilters meet

Thursday January 22

7:00am Men's bible study

1:30pm Chimes practice

Saturday January 24

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

Sunday January 25

9:30am Lectionary Preview

10:30am Worship

2:00pm CGOA Concert

4:00pm Hope and Life Church worship

Serving Sunday January 11, 2026

Elder this week	Suze Nigl
Communion prep	Kathy Holmson
Coffee hour	Barb and friends
Deacon	Wes and Carla

Scriptures for Sunday January 11, 2026

Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 29
Acts 10:34-43
Matthew 3:13-17

Serving Sunday January 18, 2026

Elder this week	Rod Parrott
Communion prep	Kathy Holmson
Coffee hour	Judy and friends
Deacon	

Scriptures for Sunday January 18, 2026

Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 40:1-11
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
John 1:29-42

