

# December 03, 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

### Church Administrative Assistant

Sable Duback

### Minister

Rev. Alicia Speidel 541-601-1949

[aliciaspeidel@gmail.com](mailto:aliciaspeidel@gmail.com)

Office hours 9am-12pm or as needed

## Sunday Worship

9:30 Adult Lectionary Preview

10:30 Worship

Link to Worship on November 30- [Facebook](#)

*Prayer  
Requests*



Sharon & Gordon Cook

Carol Sabins

Lee Repp

Vestena Emerson

Vicki White

Ken Hansen

Anse Hopkins

Bev Carpenter

Sheppard Family

Springer Family

James Gaffney

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

\*Please hold Jan Behrmann's friend, Pat Byrne's new great grandson Weston in your thoughts and prayers for healing and recovery.

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



Kim Cantrell- 04

Diane Hayes- 08

Jason Ritoch- 12

Brenda Ritoch- 13

John Isle-21

Carla Bailey- 22

Gladys Sawyer- 23

Ellen Hopkins- 24

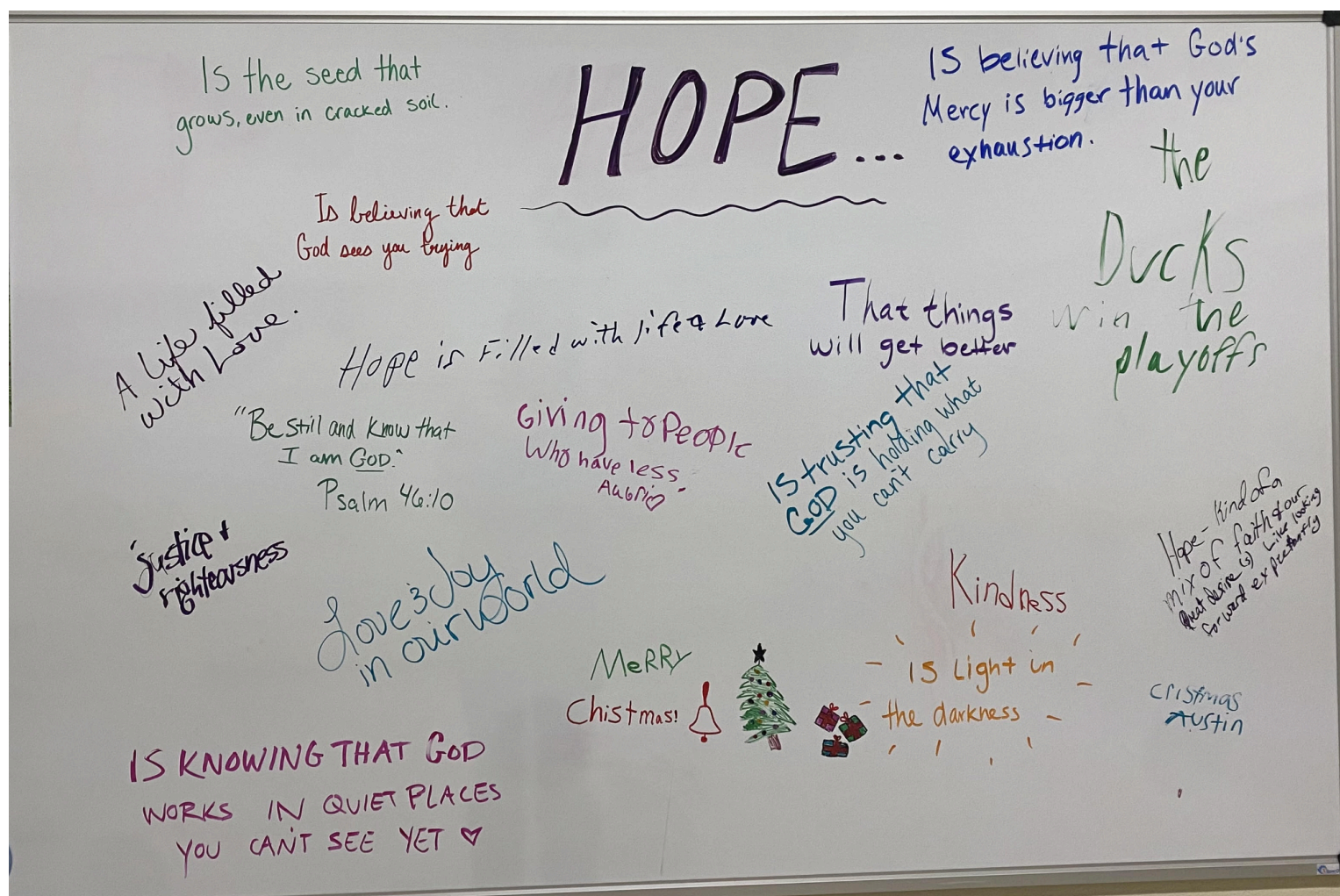
Katie Ramfield-24

Nola Hardman- 25



As our church continues its journey with the Thriving Congregations Project, it's important to celebrate who we are as Hood River Valley Christian Church and how we are currently engaging in ministry. We have lifted up these aspects quite well during our gatherings in September and November. And truly we lift them up on a regular basis when we take the time to think about the ways we are living as Jesus Christ calls us to live.

From our November gathering, the words and themes that rose to the top describing this faith community were: outreach; building use; music; friendly, welcoming, inclusive; and opportunities to share with the wider community. These aspects do describe who we are and how we are engaging in ministry. Now to put these words and concepts into a mission statement. That is the task of our church's Thriving Team. After the new year you will hear more about this aspect and how to continue to be engaged in the life of this church body. In the meantime, continue to pray for this faith community and for the journey it is on.







🎄 To all the wonderful hands that helped transform our church for the holiday season: Tatum, Jackson, Pastor Alicia, Geoff, Mary Anne, Rod, Woody, Sue, Chance, Sable, James, Layla, and Rider- Thank you!

Your dedication and time have made our sanctuary look truly beautiful and welcoming. The garlands, lights, and wreaths you placed are more than just decorations—they are a visual reminder of the joy and hope of this season.

We are truly grateful for your help. Wishing you all a very blessed and Merry Christmas!



## Pastor's message

We are in the season of Advent. We are journeying to greet the Christ child. The candle of hope has been lit. The decorations have been hung. We are on the road. It is the season of anticipation, waiting and expectation. It is the season of traditions, new ones and old ones. The holidays are practically upon us.

As you wander through Advent this year, what traditions will you return to?

What traditions might you begin? What do you look forward to? What is maybe difficult? How will you approach the journey this year? What is different from last year? What is the same?

We are to each walk this road to arrive at Christmas Day. We are to travel it as individuals and together. Pay attention to your journey this year. Really sit with the questions above and see what rises to the top for you. And then approach the season with anticipation, waiting and expectation as best as possible.

~Pastor Alicia





Supplemental  
Nutrition  
Assistance  
Program



**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.**

*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)**

|                                    |                                   |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Hood River Valley Christian</b> | <b>Grace Baptist Church</b>       |
| <b>December 6, 2025 at 7:00pm</b>  | <b>December 7, 2025 at 4:00pm</b> |
| <b>975 Indian Creek Road</b>       | <b>1280 West Jewett Blvd</b>      |
| <b>Hood River, Oregon</b>          | <b>White Salmon, Washington</b>   |



**“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.



### **ADVENT SCHEDULE:**



**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. Congregational vote on budget and nominating after worship.*

**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 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 conclude December 7. Those planning to come are asked to bring a gift for the warming shelter in the form of a snack or shelf-stable meal; a list of preferred items is on the orchid-colored flyer in the entryway.

Contact Mary Anne or Thelma for more information.



**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!



## The Longest Night Service at Down Manor

On December 21st at 6:15 PM at Down Manor there will be a special Longest Night Service, also widely known as a Blue Christmas service.

This service is scheduled to coincide with the Winter Solstice—the year's longest night—and is specifically designed to offer comfort and respite for those who find the Christmas season difficult.

It is a dedicated space for those mourning the loss of a loved one, struggling with illness, feeling the strain of a difficult year, or simply experiencing a profound sense of sadness amidst the celebration.



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

Anse Hopkins  
2428 San Marcos Pass  
Santa Barbara California  
93105

### 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) |



On Sunday  
December 14, we will  
be joined by the  
wonderful Brass

Quintet who will be providing special music for our Worship service. Please join us in giving them a warm welcome that morning, and we extend our sincere thanks to these talented musicians for sharing their gift with us.



## **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

Judy Hiatt

Term ends 2027

Barb Ritoch

Margaret Strasser

Joanie Logan

Kathy Holmson

## TRUSTEES

*Terms are for 3 years*

Term 2026

Wes Bailey

Term ends 2027

Betty Osborne

Term ends 2028

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.

Sign our All Church Christmas Card – 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 basket

with your greeting if you are able.

Donations go to: HRVCC Help A Neighbor Fund.





Save your recycling for the Second Sunday Recycling on December 14! If you need a reminder of what we recycle, see a flyer on the entry table.

Dry and clean, all commingled.

In January an announcement of new items which qualify through the Forge Sustainability Project will be made.

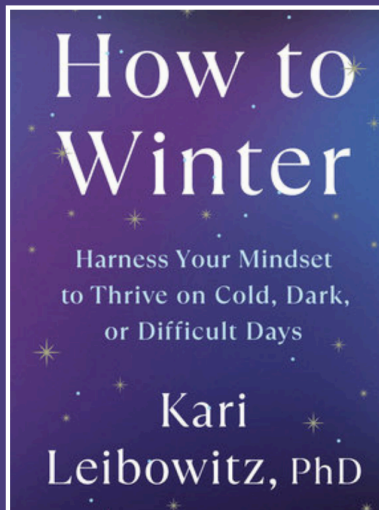
Thanks.

Mary Anne



HOOD RIVER COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT &  
GORGE HAPPINESS PRESENT:

## Book Club & Community Circle



Every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>  
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](http://www.hoodriverlibrary.org)



[WWW.GORGEHAPPINESS.ORG](http://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

# Church Calendar

## Wednesday December 03

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

## Sunday December 14- Third Sunday of Advent. Recycling day. Youth Christmas Play.

9:30am Lectionary Preview  
10:30am Worship  
Congregational vote on budget and nominating  
4:00pm Hope and Life Church worship

## December 16-18 Pastor Alicia out of town

## Tuesday December 16

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

## Wednesday December 17

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

## Thursday December 18

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

## Saturday December 20

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

## 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

|                 |                      |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| Elder this week | Suze Nigl            |
| Communion prep  | Barb Ritoch          |
| Coffee hour     | Jennifer and friends |
| Deacon          | Woody and Sue        |

## Scriptures for Sunday December 14, 2025

Isaiah 35:1-10  
Psalm 146:5-10 or Luke 1:46b-55  
James 5:7-10  
Matthew 11:2-11

## Serving Sunday December 14, 2025

|                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Elder this week | Chrystal Akin    |
| Communion prep  | Maggie Strasser  |
| Coffee hour     | Barb and friends |
| Deacon          | Scott and Laurie |

## Sunday December 21- Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:30 Adult lectionary study  
10:30am Worship  
4:00pm Hope And Life Church Worship  
6:15pm Longest Night service at Down Manor

