



Hood River Valley Christian Church Newsletter

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www.hoodrivervalleychristianchurch.com

and on Face book

May 8, 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



Mother's Day

Sunday May 12 Mother's Day

A special day for all women. Invite your moms, daughters, sisters, friends, etc.

9:30am Adult Sunday School

10:30am Worship

11:30am Coffee and visiting

LINKS:

Sunday Worship May 5 <https://www.facebook.com/100064940580441/videos/3719091251695446>

SECOND SUNDAY RECYCLING ~ May 12

Bring the following items

#2, #6 plastic

Plastic caps and lids with a # and those without a # (keep separate)

Plastic straws and liquid pumps

Foam: trays, containers, blocks and coolers

Miscellaneous: small electronics, laptop computers, cell phones, wires, Christmas lights

Notes:

- ~ These items for recycling must be clean and dry.
- ~ Please make a cash contribution to cover the cost of recycling.
- ~ If you can't identify the number in the triangle, bring it anyway; we'll have a miscellaneous container for these hard-to-read marks on most plastic items these days.
- ~ There is no need to bring items accepted by community recycling (Hood River Garbage Service) such as bottles and jugs with a neck smaller than its base.
- ~ If you have questions, check with Mary Anne Parrott.

REMEMBER: recycling is good—but curtailing purchase or use of plastic as much as possible is MUCH BETTER!



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Layla, JJ & Rider Gaffney

Sharon & Gordon Cook

Lauree Winfield

Vicki White

Katy White

Bonnie McCollister

Stacey Jubitz

Suze Nigl's niece Trisha

Barbara Frasier's friend Julie Doris Lewis

Tedra Turner

Woody Eskildsen asks for prayers for his mom and dad, as they deal with health issues.

Pray for peace where there is war.

HOOD RIVER VALLEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Encouragement Cards

A couple of weeks ago, Sharon Smiley pointed out the encouragement cards we have in the pews. These cards are available for sharing a word of encouragement, appreciation or compliment for someone in our church family, along with personal greeting.

Many people have responded to Sharon's suggestion that we use the cards and have passed along their thoughts this way--including a couple of cards that should be directed to many people in our church and we want to share those messages:

"There are many people who do what they can for the church"

"All the people who bring food for coffee hours"

"All the people who greet us every Sunday"

Thank you so much, you are appreciated.

Women's Ministries will host four Salads for Six luncheons at the end of May.



These will be in the homes of Margaret Marshall (Tuesday, the 21st); Margaret Strasser (Thursday, the 23rd); Betty Osborne (Friday, the 24th); and Leslie Hidle (Wednesday, the 29th).

There is space for five attendees in addition to the hostess, and each is asked to bring a salad (carton from the deli is fine!). **Each is at noon. Sign up sheets are at the front table.** There is also a sheet to sign if none of these dates is convenient or if the spaces fill up; if so, an additional Salads for Six will be scheduled. This is a fellowship event but will include an interest finder for Women's Ministries activities. For more information, see Thelma or Mary Anne.

Savor Sabbatical Presentation

May 19

Pastor Alicia will be doing a Savor Sabbatical presentation/slideshow after church on Sunday, May 19, during fellowship hour.



Celebrating 2024 High School and College Graduates

Sunday June 9

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

Kailey Speidel is graduating from Hood River Valley High School. She has been accepted at Western Oregon University and plans to study education.

Carly Wyatt is graduating May 16th with her Master of Science in Occupational Therapy from Columbia University.

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.

Thrift shop needs Rosauer's grocery bags. Drop off next time you're at the church—in our upstairs lobby is okay. Thank you! Suze



WEAR RED on SUNDAY May 19!

The Pentecost Special Offering is received May 12 & 19

The Pentecost Offering supports Disciples new church development. Planning, nurturing and sustaining new congregation is part of the Disciples' vision.

Each Wednesday at 7:00pm we are asked to pray for our church.



Ways to engage in prayer for this faith community:

- *Go through the church directory, praying for every individual listed there.
- *Pray for the various small groups: women's Bible study, men's Bible study, youth group, children's worship and wonder, chimes, quilters, church board, program council, women's ministries and others.
- *Pray for the outreach this church is engaged in.
- *Pray for the staff.
- *Pray for the individuals and groups who enter the church building and grounds.

*Visually move through each area of the church, stopping to pray for the ministry that occurs in that area and the people who pass through it.

*Pray with a scripture passage or a particular reading or a song or an image.

*Pray for possibility and the Spirit moving in ways already known and in ways yet to be discovered.

*Select a scripture passage (maybe Jeremiah 17:7-8) to use lectio divina with the following steps:

1. Sit quietly and center yourself
2. For the first reading, simply read the passage.
3. For the second reading, read the passage more slowly and listen for the word, phrase or image that stands out.
4. For the third reading, attend to what is going on inside of you when you hear the word, phrase or image that stood out for you.
5. For the fourth and final reading, contemplate the way God is present to you and how God may be leading you in response to what you were paying attention to.
6. Give thanks to God for this time of prayer.

About Church Giving

Online Giving To donate online to Hood River Valley Christian Church, go to <http://www.hoodrivervalleychristianchurch.com/donate/> and make a donation

Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement App

on your Smartphone or tablet. A onetime gift can be made or you can set up online giving on a regular basis. **USPS Mail** You can also give to Hood River Valley Christian Church by mailing a check to: HRVCC 975 Indian Creek Road, Hood River, OR 97031

In the Sanctuary For offerings and tithes, there is a deposit box at the entrance of the sanctuary, inside the double doors. Offerings may be dropped off at any time.



**FISH Food Bank
May 2024
Coordinator's Newsletter**

Often people will ask, how many clients do you think we will have today? I have learned not to never try and guess because usually I am wrong. We started the year off with many big distributions at all the sites. Then in April, the numbers tended to go down slightly but by the end of the month the nightly numbers were up to forty to sixty families in Hood River and Cascade Locks had 62 families. While April seemed like a slow month, we still served almost 600 families.

**Hood River Valley Christian Church
serves at FISH Food Distribution
July 8, 10, 12
Please contact Kathy in the office if you'd
like to volunteer with the team on one of
those afternoons.**

One had to wonder why the numbers picked up at the end of the month. It is hard to say but anecdotally we are starting to see the orchard workers return to the valley plus we were also seeing more homeless individuals. Last Monday out of the 48 families that visited the Hood River Food Bank, 11 were listed as homeless.

Living without housing must be hard. My heart goes out to everyone who is in that situation. One example was one of the regular houseless clients needed a fry pan to heat his food on the campfire. We didn't have one but, he was able to get one at one of the thrift stores. He was so happy, then when he packed his food in his backpack, he forgot to put the fry pan in it. It appears someone picked it up, as it was gone. We felt so bad that we found a new one for him. When he picked it up, you would have thought we had given him a \$100 bill, he was so excited. It is nice to give smiles as well as food.

My mind goes to another young man, who is in his early 20ths and homeless. When he started coming to FISH, he would not even look at the FISH workers or even talk. Then as he continued to come, he started trusting FISH more and more. When he picked up food this month, he looked and talked to us. He needed help trying to fix a hole in his sleeping bag and he let us try and help him. Who knows what will happen with this young man, but at least he seems in a better place than he was 6 months ago.

Do you ever wonder where most of the unhoused are sleeping? I know you see a few on the streets, some stay in their cars, but many are moving from place to place around the county. I know there are several of our clients living in the woods around Cascade Locks. Because their lives are so transit, many of the homeless tend to just come and go. For example, one of our female clients that lives in her car, has not been to the food bank since before Christmas. She was a regular every week, some days she would be happy playing her music and dancing in the parking lot. Then the next time she would not even talk to us. But for the last 4 months she has been a no show, I just wonder where has she gone? The ever-changing lives of our homeless clients makes being stable very difficult. Maybe that is why we tend to have an uptick in homeless numbers currently.

Last Sunday when I was picking up the day-old bread from Safeway, a homeless man was also waiting to return pop cans. He was able to get the get the cans counted before I could get the bread in the car. So, as he was leaving, I asked him if he would like some bread and a sweet treat. He was so nice and polite and very happy to take a loaf of bread and a little box of sweets. It was a feel-good way to start my Sunday off, and a good reminder that our mission is to ensure no one goes hungry and food doesn't always have to be shared inside the walls of FISH.

My last thought to share this month is about a Spanish speaking client. She was a new client, so we were doing the intake for her FISH card. When it came to the question about disabilities for her husband, a tear came to her eye, and she quietly said he has cancer. And for the question on income, she replied no income. It was hard to see a very proud women, who's family worked hard all their lives and now they must ask for help. She had the saddest eyes. It is important that we are here to help families who are in all types of situations.

So, don't ask me what May will bring to FISH? I never seem to guess correctly, but we know our Spanish speaking families are starting to return to the valley to work in the orchards. Warm weather will surely come sometime and that always brings more homeless families. I can confidently predict that the client numbers at the FISH food bank will only go up. The flip side of that is the amount of food we are receiving from the Oregon Food Bank and the Columbia Gorge Food Bank continues to go down. On the positive side, while the shelves at the food bank look a little sparce, the clients are still leaving with a lot of nutritionally sound and tasty food.

Thanks for all your help. It could be a busy summer.

Billie Stevens
FISH Food Bank

FISH Food Bank Distribution Schedule

May 6-8-10	Riverside Community Church
May 13-15-17	Hood River Alliance Church
May 20-22-24	St. Mark's Episcopal
May 29-31	Rotary
June 3-5-7	Wy'East Community Church
June 10-12-14	St. Mary's Catholic Church
June 17-19-21	Spirit of Grace Church
June 24-26-28	Rotary
July 1-3-5	Shepherd of the Valley
July 8-10-12	Hood River Valley Christian Church

Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive is May 11



Stamp Out Hunger is a nationwide food drive sponsored by the National Association of Letter Carriers. It is held on the second Saturday of May, so this year it is on **May 11**.

The Hood River letter carriers do plan to participate in this nationwide food drive. Watch for the postcard in your mail that announces if your carrier plans to be a part of this food drive.

To participate, customers are asked to fill a bag with healthful, nonperishable food items and place it by their mailbox for mail carriers to pick up. During the drive, postal employees collect the food and donate it to local food banks and pantries.

Stamp Out Hunger was launched in 1993.

Church Calendar

Wednesday May 8

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

Thursday May 9

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

Saturday May 11

9:00am-3:00pm Thriftshop open

Sunday May 12 Recycling Sunday

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

Tuesday May 14

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

Wednesday May 15

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

Thursday May 16

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

Saturday May 18

9:00am-3:00pm Thriftshop open

Sunday May 19 Pentecost Sunday

Wear RED

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

Tuesday May 21

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

Wednesday May 22

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

Scriptures for Sunday May 12, 2024

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
Psalm 1
1 John 5:9-13
John 17:6-19

SERVING Sunday May 12, 2024

Elder this Week Jerry Sawyer
Communion prep Barb Ritoch
Coffee Hour Barb & Friends
Deacons **Servers**

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

Scriptures for Sunday May 19, 2024

Acts 2:1-21 or Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Romans 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21
John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

SERVING Sunday May 19, 2024

Elder this Week Jennifer Stager
Communion prep Mary Finley
Coffee Hour Judy Hiatt
Deacons **Servers**

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