



# Hood River Valley Christian Church Newsletter

541-386-2608 [hrcchurch@gmail.com](mailto:hrcchurch@gmail.com)  
[www.hoodrivervalleychristianchurch.com](http://www.hoodrivervalleychristianchurch.com)

and on Face book

**December 6, 2023**

## Sunday Worship Time

10:30am Worship

## Minister

Rev. Alicia Speidel 541 601-1949

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

## Church Administrative Assistant

Kathy Holmson office hours 10am-1pm or as needed

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

**Website:** [www.hoodrivervalleychristianchurch.com](http://www.hoodrivervalleychristianchurch.com)



**Thank you to our decorating crew!** For decorating the church last week: Bob & Mary Kummer, Judy Hiatt, the Speidels, Rod & Mary Anne Parrott, Lauren & Kathy Holmson. Also, thanks to Bev Carpenter for repairing the Chrismons that needed it.



## ADVENT at HRVCC

### Thursday, December 7

10:00 a.m. The Christmas music of Mary Anne Parrott Sanctuary

### Friday December 8

7:00pm VOIC Choir Concert Holiday Pops!

### Sunday December 10, Second Sunday in Advent

10:30am Savor Peace

**Special music: Chari Harrington and Skylar Nelson**

2:00pm VOIC Choir Concert (encore)

**The full schedule for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany services and special events is included in this newsletter.**

## LINK:

Sunday Worship Dec 3 <https://www.facebook.com/100064940580441/videos/883145703363506>

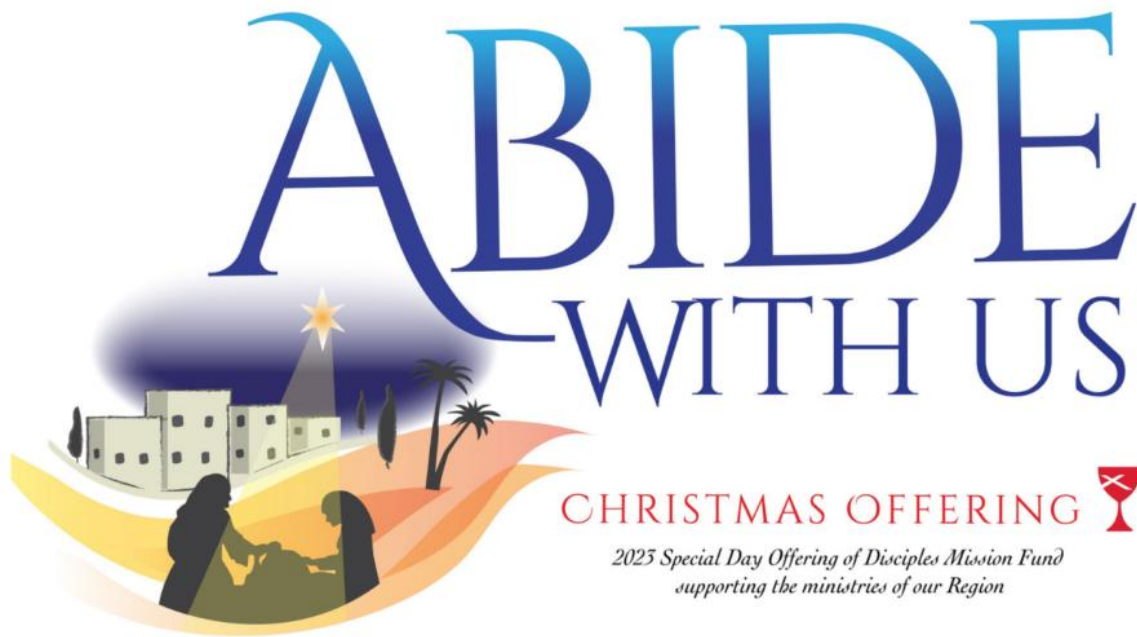
## About Church Giving

**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.



## Christmas Offering

*Received in many congregations on Dec. 17 & 24, 2023*

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

**The Christmas Special Day offering supports all of these and many other ministries of our regions.**



**Protecting  
God's World**

## **Second Sunday Recycling December 10**

Next Sunday, December 10, is Second Sunday Recycling.

What to bring: Clear clamshells, recycling triangles marked #1, #3, #4, #5, #7; medicine bottles and caps; unused medications for safe disposal; and plastic film such as bags, bubble wrap, mailers. And a small donation to help cover the cost.

## **PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

Layla, JJ & Rider Gaffney  
Katy White  
Fred Duckwall  
Frances Henne

Sharon & Gordon Cook  
Stacey Jubitz  
Linda Thomas  
Glenna McCargar

Lauree Winfield  
Bonnie McCollister  
Suze Nigl's niece Trisha

Vicki White  
David Nash  
John Nigl

Peace for our world.

**The memorial service for Doris Jensen** will be Saturday, December 9, at noon here at HRVCC. Please sign up to bring food for the reception.

**The Secret Place** a daily devotional for December, January, February is available in the narthex. Suggested donation per copy, \$2.

## **Sunday December 17 Third Sunday in Advent**

**10:30am Worship with Children and Youth Christmas Program**

### **Special Coffee Hour December 17**

**11:30am Savory & Sweet Bites Christmas Refreshments coffee hour** This gathering is a different spin on our Christmas dinner. You are invited to bring a favorite hors d'oeuvres or sweet Christmas item to share for coffee hour. We will gather in fellowship hall after the Children & Youth Christmas program.



## **The Pastor's COLUMN**

**Advent is here.** The first candle, the candle of hope, has been lit. The sanctuary is all decorated. The Advent booklet is ready for people to read. Everything says we are on the road to greeting the Christ child. The question is are we ready? Are we doing what we need to in our hearts to make this journey? Are we focusing on what Advent means and where it leads?

The answer is probably yes and no. Yes, we are preparing ourselves. Yes, we are focused. No, we lose sight. No, we get hung up on everything else that needs to be done. So, yes and no. The challenge then is moving ourselves back to yes, we are focused, when we find ourselves shifting in the other direction. Imagine the beauty of the sanctuary and focus on why it is there. Think of Mary and Joseph making their preparations. Engage in the act of giving. Light candles, letting their warmth fill the room and your heart. And of course, there are many, many other ways to get ourselves prepared and on track. It takes dedication and time.

So this Advent season ask yourself if you are ready and then make the necessary preparations to get yourself ready. The opportunity to do this is there for each and every one of us. Blessings as you make this journey to greet the Christ child.

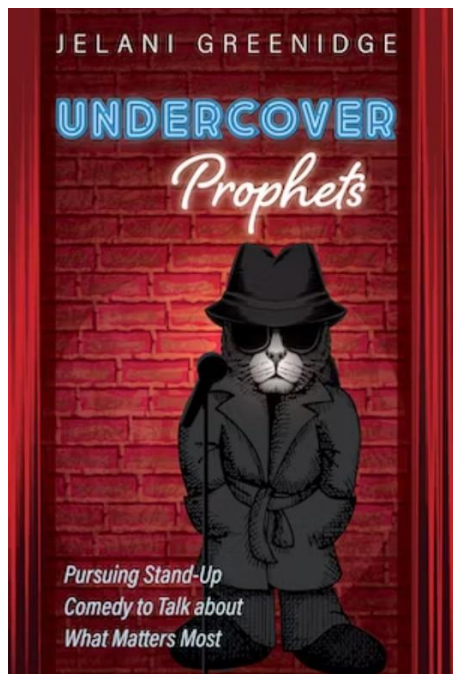
## **Notes from Women's Ministries**

The Women's Ministries thanks Thelma Warnock for the "Getting to Know Me Book" created after the dessert tea in September. Those attending were invited to fill out a personal information form, and these and other things are included in the book. This theme will be carried into the Christmas dinner on December 13 at Stonehedge; those attending are invited to bring a favorite Christmas story.

A reminder to Secret Sisters to remember your friend at Christmas time. A "reveal party" will be held in January.

**Wednesday Thriftshop Needed** If you are able help on a Wednesday 9am-noon (once a month) please talk to Barb Ritoch.

**Pastor Holly Greenidge shares that Jelani Greenidge's book has been published and is available for sale! (Jelani was our guest musician October 22)**



Undercover Prophets is a journey of self-discovery, an analysis of comedic innovation, and a call to action. Reading this book will help you grab ahold of your story and transform it into a tool you can use to connect with people, both onstage and off. It's one part cultural diagnostic, one part memoir, and one part instruction manual. With accessible, funny prose, Jelani Greenidge does a deep dive into an obvious truth hidden in plain sight--that pastors and other Christian leaders need help in connecting with unchurched audiences, and that stand-up comedy can be a great way to do just that. You can order it from his website, [JelaniGreenidge.com](http://JelaniGreenidge.com).

Jelani Greenidge, a.k.a. JG the Comic  
(also known as G\*Natural)

[JelaniGreenidge.com](http://JelaniGreenidge.com) [to get merch]

[Linktr.ee/JelaniGreenidge](http://Linktr.ee/JelaniGreenidge) [for cool links]

## Christmas Cards



### **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.
- **Sent greetings by email, too** [hrvccchurch@gmail.com](mailto:hrvccchurch@gmail.com)
- **Donate:** You save money for cards & postage by sending your Christmas greetings to church friends this way, so drop a donation in the basket with your greeting.
- **Donations go to:** HRVCC Help A Neighbor Fund.

***Christmas Greetings will be published in the December 20 newsletter***



## **Holiday Pops!** **VOCI Community Choir** **Here!**

Dan Kenealy, Conductor  
December 8, 7:00pm  
December 10, 2:00pm

Tickets and info at [gorgeorchestra.org](http://gorgeorchestra.org)



**2024 Slate of  
Church Officers, Elders, Deacons, Trustees  
To be voted at Congregational Meeting on December 3, 2023**

**Terms are for 2 years**

Chair of the Board  
Vice Chair  
Secretary  
Treasurer

**Term ends 2025**

Woody Eskildsen  
Jennifer Stager  
Suze Nigl  
Carla Bailey

**Terms are for 2 years**

**ELDERS**

**Term ends 2024**

Suze Nigl  
Thelma Warnock  
Gerald Sawyer  
Rod Parrott

**Term ends 2025**

Jennifer Stager  
Chrystal Akin  
Carol Sabins

**Terms are for 2 years**

**DIACONATE SERVERS**

**Term ends 2024**

Betty Osborne  
Linda Meyers  
Rylee Akin

**Term ends 2026**

Jan Behrmann  
Otto Behrmann  
Chance Chevront  
Sable Duback

**Terms are for 2 years**

**COMMUNION PREPARERS**

**Term ends 2024**

Kailey Speidel  
Mary Finley

**Term ends 2025**

Barb Ritoch  
Leslie Hidle  
Joanie Logan

**Terms are for 3 years**

**TRUSTEES**

**Term ends 2024**

**Chair** Gary Hidle  
Judy Hiatt  
Betty Osborne

**Term ends 2025**

Woody Eskildsen

**Term ends 2026**

Wes Bailey

**HOW TO VOTE:**

**Annual congregational meeting is  
December 17, 2023**

Voting on  
2024 Slate of Officers and  
2024 Church Budget  
Voting may be done in 3  
ways

- 1) By email
- 2) By mail
- 3) In person  
December 17, 2023

**Projected Income**

**2023 Budget**

205,200

**2024 Budget**

209,800

**Expense**

Administration

9,200

10,000

Christian Education

400

400

Membership

750

650

Personnel

145,961

147,489.18

Property & Grounds

22,507

21,507.20

Stewardship & Finance

200

Worship

1,350

2,550

**Total Expenses**

**180,368**

**182,596.38**

Projected Outreach 10% of Giving

21,000

20,980

Net Profit

6,223.62

***A detailed copy of the proposed 2024 budget is available.***



## Hood River Valley Christian Church 2023 Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany

### Sunday mornings, 10:30

December 10- Savor Peace  
Special music: Chari Harrington and Skylar Nelson

December 17 - Savor Joy  
Special music: chimes choir  
Children and youth program  
Annual meeting of the congregation  
Christmas Savory & Sweet Bites

December 24 - Savor Love  
Special music: Margaret Marshall and Mary Anne Parrott

Sunday, December 24 – Savor the Story  
7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Service

December 31 - Carol Sing

January 7 - Epiphany  
Reader's theater presentation of  
"The Other Wise Man"

### Special Events

Thursday, December 7 – 10:00 a.m.  
The Christmas music of Mary Anne Parrott Sanctuary

Friday December 8  
7:00pm VOCl Christmas Concert

Sunday December 10  
2:00pm VOCl Christmas Concert  
Wednesday, December 13 - 5:00 p.m. Women's  
Christmas Dinner Stonehenge Restaurant

Thursday, December 21 – 6:00pm  
The Longest Night service at Down Manor

December 17 - 10:30 a.m.  
Children and youth Christmas program  
Annual meeting of the congregation  
Christmas Savory & Sweet Bites  
and a visit from You-know-Who

### **FISH Food Bank 12 Days of Giving**

**Please help stock our shelves with these most needed food items.**

**(Please deliver to FISH by December 18, 2023)**

- |                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 1 Cereal or Oatmeal (low sugar) | 7 Jelly or Jam                                     |
| 2 Canned Soup or Stew           | 8 Juice  |
| 3 Rice 1 or 2 lb bag            | 9 Healthy snacks (nuts, granola bars, dried fruit) |
| 4 Canned Ham                    | 10 Canned Peppers (jalapenos, chilies)             |
| 5 Crackers                      | 11 Olive/Vegetable Oil                             |
| 6 Condiments                    | 12 Flour or Masa                                   |



### **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 KHR Gorge Radio, if possible. Call your group leader before you venture out. Be careful out there!

## Holiday Giving in Our Hood River Community

Here are some local service organizations in our community 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 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 Warming Shelter Mid Columbia Community Action (MCCAC)**

supporting unhoused community members. Mail checks to: MCCAC 312 E 4<sup>th</sup> Street, The Dalles, OR 97058. Donate online: [mccac.com/donate](http://mccac.com/donate)

Learn more: [www.mccac.com](http://www.mccac.com)

**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 6

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

## Thursday December 7

7:00am Men's Bible Study

### 10:00am Mary Anne's Christmas Songs

1:30pm Chime Choir practice

## Friday December 8

7:00pm VOCI Christmas Concert here

## Saturday December 9

9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop open  
12:00pm Doris Jensen Memorial Service

## Sunday December 10 Second Sunday in Advent SAVOR PEACE

9:30am Adult Sunday School  
10:30am Worship  
2:00pm VOCI Christmas Concert here  
3:30pm Hope and Life church worship

## Tuesday December 12

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

## Wednesday December 13

9:00am-Noon Quilters meet  
9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop open  
5:00pm Women's Christmas Dinner,  
Stonehedge restaurant

## Thursday December 14

7:00am Men's Bible Study  
10:00am Mary Anne's Christmas Songs  
1:30pm Chime Choir practice

## Saturday December 16

9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop open

## Sunday December 17 Third Sunday in Advent SAVOR JOY

9:30am Adult Sunday School  
10:30am Worship  
with Children & Youth Christmas program  
11:30am Savory and Sweet Bites fellowship  
3:30pm Hope and Life church worship

## Scriptures for Sunday December 10, 2023

Isaiah 40:1-11  
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13  
2 Peter 3:8-15a  
Mark 1:1-8

## SERVING Sunday December 10, 2023

Elder this Week	Chrystal Akin
Communion prep	Joanie Logan
AV Tech	
Coffee Hour	Barbara & Friends
Deacons	<u>Serving Team #1</u> Woody & Sue Eskildsen

## Scriptures for Sunday Nov 26, 2023

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24  
Psalm 100  
Ephesians 1:15-23  
Matthew 25:31-46

## SERVING Sunday December 3, 2023

Elder this Week	Chrystal Akin
Communion prep	Joanie Logan
AV Tech	
Coffee Hour	Jennifer & friends
Deacons	<u>Serving Team #3</u> Betty Osborne, Tatum Wyatt

*Need snow tires installed?*

## Lupoli's Mobile Tire, LLC

**-Mobile Tire Service-**

"Lupoli's Mobile Tire provides exceptional service that's brought to you! We meet your tire needs including new tires, mount and balance, flat repairs and much more. Call us today to get things rolling!"

**Exceptional service on the go!**

**541 430-3742**

**[lupolitire@gmail.com](mailto:lupolitire@gmail.com)**