



Hood River Valley Christian Church Newsletter

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

and on Face book

February 15, 2023

Sunday Worship Time

10:30am Worship

Minister

Rev. Alicia Speidel 541 601-1949

aliciaspeidel@gmail.com

Church Administrative Assistant

Kathy Holmson office hours as needed

hrcchurch@gmail.com

Website: www.hoodrivervalleychristianchurch.com

Women, Wine & The Word

On Friday, February 17 @ 5pm, women are invited to join for a time of fellowship to talk about a scripture passage centered around women. We will gather at Stave and Stone Winery at the Vineyard (3827 Fletcher Dr, HR). Come grab a beverage (non-alcoholic or alcoholic) and a snack while we share how the passage intersects with our lives. Invite friends from outside the church, too.

Ladies' Mardi Gras Dinner

The Ladies' Mardi Gras dinner at Stonehedge is on February 21 at 5:30pm. Betty Osborne is encouraging the gals to jump into the celebration by wearing the official Mardi Gras colors of purple, green or gold - or something sparkly and glittery. It's our night for the ladies of VCC to shine!

Special music February 19 Diane Allen and Donna Reuter

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

9:30am Adult Sunday school classes, nursery available

10:30am Sunday Worship with Children Worship & Wonder

Links:

Sunday Feb 12 <https://www.facebook.com/100064940580441/videos/543561857873238>

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

February 22, 5:30pm

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Bonnie McCollister Layla Gaffney
Vicki White Bev Thomas
Katy White Stacey Jubitz
Earthquake victims in Turkey & Syria

Sharon & Gordon Cook Lauree Winfield
Thelma Warnock
People of Ukraine & Russia

Dave Nash fell Tuesday morning and broke his shoulder. He is wearing a sling and back home now. Please keep him in your prayers.

Jennifer Burbank Roch a young woman from Mosier who has been in our prayers for some time, died February 5. Please pray for her family and friends.

Please hold Mary Patterson in your thoughts and prayers. Mary is under the care of hospice now as her kidneys are no longer functioning. Mary is resting comfortably on morphine. Her daughter Kathy is with her. Prayers for a peaceful passing and prayers for her family during this difficult time.

Virginia Sheppard is feeling much better these days and says thank you for your prayers and cards.

Last Chance to send in Devotionals for Lenten Season 2023

Lent begins officially, on Ash Wednesday, February 22. Our Lenten theme for 2023 is "The Journey's Choices". God gives each of us free will to make choices that direct, shape and impact our lives. As we consider our own personal life journey, certain choices may have significantly moved us in positive directions; others, perhaps not so much. We are all invited to share a particular choice we have made, why we made that choice and the influence it has had on our life.

1. Write a few short paragraphs about a particular choice and how it impacted or influenced your life. You may choose to write a brief prayer as well. These will be included in a Lent devotional booklet
2. Submit to Kathy ASAP either by email (hrvccchurch@gmail.com) or in writing.
3. Indicate if you'd like your name included or remain anonymous.

Sunday Morning Door Greeters

Would you be willing to be a greeter on Sunday mornings before worship near the front doors? We would love to have a rotation of a few people to fill this ministry role. Thanks to Margaret Marshall for greeting at the front door last Sunday. This is one way to create a warm and inviting environment for those who enter the church building for worship. Please tell Kathy or Alicia if you are interested.



Kailey, Araya, Sebastian & Vincent



Children's Time February 5, 2023

Have you met Sebastian and Vincent? It's nice to get to know these two little ones. The boys were born late last fall. Their parents are Bobbi and Jimmy Lupoli and big brothers are Jaden and Oliver. Plus, they have lots of cousins and friends who are happy to lend a hand at church.



The Pastor's COLUMN

Over the past year the church has upgraded to Starlink internet and now new phones connected through the internet. There will be phones in the main office, the Pastor's office and the kitchen, all still with the same church number. The voicemail is still in process of being set up. There will no longer be a phone in the Thrift Shop. If you are a Thrift Shop volunteer, please make sure to bring your cell phone with you in case a call needs to be made. Thanks for your patience as we finish this transition.

I never realized how much work planning a sabbatical is. Yes, I am beyond thrilled and blessed to have the opportunity to take a sabbatical. Yes, the funding to make it so is unbelievable. Yes, the support of this faith community is more than I could have asked for. Yes, this all amounts to quite the journey as I "savor" the steps along the way. And yes, the scheduling, planning, meetings and arranging is a big deal.

Thankfully we already have a number of preachers in place to bring the message over the course of those three months. Thankfully we are in conversation with someone to provide interim pastoral care and worship leadership. Thankfully there are sub-themes on the topic of "savor" that are rising to the surface. Thankfully my sabbatical committee is amazing, demonstrating their true leadership gifts.

It is a process indeed and a lot of work. As I move towards my sabbatical, which begins August 14, I am remembering the words of a colleague who took a sabbatical a few years ago. She advised to not get so exhausted from the planning and preparation that when the sabbatical arrives it takes a long time to actually enter into that space. She advised to journey before the sabbatical with intention and a slower pace. So I am doing my best to remind myself that as the lists get made, the reservations get booked and the plans come into being. Because it is about "savor" after all.

Alicia

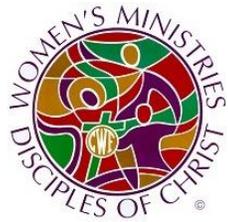


Week of Compassion Special Offering February 19-26

Week of Compassion is the relief, refugee, and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. For nearly 80 years, Week of Compassion has pursued its mission, working with partners to alleviate suffering throughout the world, toward the vision of a world where God's people transform suffering into hope.

Each year in February, congregations across the United States and Canada collect a **Special Offering** for **Week of Compassion**. While many congregations choose to collect their offering during this designated week, the offering truly fuels Week of Compassion's work and witness throughout the whole year!

Funds received through the offering enable Disciples to respond to disaster when it occurs, because Week of Compassion works with partners to immediately provide grants for urgent needs like emergency supplies, water, shelter, and food. The February Special Offering is set aside for congregations to lift up and celebrate this important work that we do together - not just in domestic and international disaster response, but in refugee and immigrant response, and sustainable development funding around the world.



Women's Ministries News

Thank you As HRVCC's Women's Ministries experiments with a new organizational pattern, I would like to thank those most recently "in the trenches." A leadership team of six was elected in January 2020, you guessed it—the month that the pandemic came into view. So the normal rhythm of activities changed drastically to continue the same purposes in new ways. Sharon Smiley, Jennifer Stager, Margaret Strasser, Judy Hiatt, Carol Sabins and I began to work together; Frances Henne joined at the beginning of 2021. This leadership team is now disbanded as we welcome a Women's Ministries program council to distribute responsibilities more broadly.

Watch for further announcements. But now, on behalf of the women in the church, I want to thank Sharon, Jennifer, Margaret, Judy, Carol and Frances for the many ways they gave their gifts of time, energy and expertise; and Alicia in her role as pastoral companion. I thank also the many others who serve in the thrift shop, especially Suze Nigl; Bible study leader, Jan Behrmann; and coffee hour teams who delight us each Sunday. Mary Anne Parrott

Want to help? The reorganization of Women's Ministries is nearly complete. We rejoice that Leslie Hidle has volunteered as treasurer. There are a couple of roles yet to fill, and if you can help, contact Mary Anne Parrott, now coordinator. In addition, other women who do not wish to serve in leadership positions but would like to help in one or more areas of service, please sign up on the sheet outside Alicia's office. These areas are: special events, outreach to shut-ins, excursions, relationship development, receptions/potluck dinners, and short-term outreach projects.

Thriftshop News – New Women's Clothes in Large Sizes

The Thriftshop recently received women's clothing in sizes XL, 1X, 2X, and 3X. Most of the items have never been worn. If you know someone who would be interested in the clothes please let them know. Suze Nigl has details.

Earth Day Task Force forming

Help is needed as we look forward to celebrating Earth Day in April. We will be planning activities for Earth Day and want to invite interested people to join in the brainstorming process. Please talk to Mary Anne Parrott or Kathy Holmson if you'd like to help.

Pastor Alicia's sermon from February 12, 2023 Scripture: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Reverend Doug Bratt writes, "The biblical scholar Sammy Alfaro sees verse 8 as Paul's call to the Church to rethink the nature of Christian ministry. The apostle, after all, writes there, 'The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose.' Alfaro senses that the Corinthians argued about which church leader is a better or more eloquent leader. Paul invites them to think, instead, of church ministry as a collaborative effort among all Christians whom God calls to be God's servants. 'Laboring in the church is a group effort,' Alfaro writes, 'and, in the end, God gets all the credit.'"

Bratt is accurate in his commentary on our passage from 1 Corinthians. It is about the group effort. It is about God. It is about expanding one's vision and seeing the big picture.

Because as we have discovered over the past few weeks, the Corinthians have had some challenges in following Jesus Christ. They started on the right track, receiving the message of Jesus Christ, hearing the impact it could and would have on their lives and on their community. They desired to live in the ways of Christ. They made changes, listened to the instructions of Paul and other leaders and came together as one body. They did this for a period of time and then their priorities shifted. They

forgot that Christ was the ultimate teacher, the one to be followed. They began having issues with one another, letting those issues create separation and division. They moved away from what originally brought them together.

Paul, as we have heard from the previous chapters, was having none of this. It was time to change, to recognize what was going on and do some self-correcting and community correcting. He pushed them in this way because turning back to Christ and relying upon God would make a huge difference in their lives. Paul had personally experienced it, seeing the benefits and hoping for that for others, for the church in Corinth who he had love and affection for. Paul wanted to provide the best possible guidance for them. He felt a responsibility for them, especially when he heard about their challenges and struggles. He wanted to help them.

This is very admirable. To see a teacher care for their students. To have that relationship established where the care continues and the concern drives the teacher to do more for years to come. It's not simply a "here is the lesson. Follow in this way. Do it because it's important," and then the teacher moves on. It's a path that remains. A movement between the teacher and students where observations continue to be made and advice continues to be given. And where hopefully those observations and that advice are well received so that change does occur and the relationship is strengthened. It is the hope after all.

So Paul had this hope for the Corinthians, propelling him to give even more recommendations and more examples of how to be and who to depend on. Within his words today come the metaphor of planting, watering and growing. Of laboring together as was quoted at the beginning in order for God to have the glory. This is the path.

Laboring together is seen in many different avenues where the end result is not about one particular person. It's about a coming together. When I think of it in this way I think of quilting and the ladies who have quilted for years in the quilting room downstairs, like Mary Patterson. A quilt top is given to the ladies or acquired in some way for them to complete. Together they determine how best to do the hand quilting. How does the top need to be stretched? Are the blocks straight? How much quilting is needed? It's a process for sure. And then the hand quilting begins. Hours and hours of hand quilting. Meticulous time spent pouring over the quilt with love and care. It's a beautiful process to watch. It truly is a group effort. When it is all complete and moves on to its home or back to its home, the glory is given to all of the pieces that came together. It isn't about only one of the quilters or one section of the quilt. It is about the entire thing. The beauty of it all. The work of art that is seen and appreciated for what it is. The credit becomes larger than the individuals.

Just as the credit in our lives and in our communities is way broader than the individuals within it. The credit within our church and faith communities is bigger than we imagine and than we know. It is about God.

Paul was reminding the Corinthians of this fact and I believe we all need this reminding every now and then. It is about way more than us. It is about more than the decisions we have made, the lessons we have taught, the directions we have traveled. It is about more than the teaching and instructing that has occurred. It is about where this has all stemmed from, the reason for engaging in these actions, what has led us throughout our lives and inspired us to be the way we are. It is about God.

We know that. The Corinthians knew that. Paul knew that. We sometimes forget that. The Corinthians forgot that. Paul did not, at least not in the writing of this letter. So we need that wake up call, to get us back on track, to open our eyes and widen our perspective. Plus we also need to remember we are a part of the planting and watering. We have roles to play in the big picture. It isn't a hands off

approach where we sit back and wait for God to do everything. No, we have steps to take. We have work to do together as God's servants. We have a path to walk.

There is evidence of this right here in our faith community. Think of the thrift shop. For over forty years the thrift shop has been a vital ministry within this congregation. Items of all shapes and sizes have been received, sorted, displayed and sold to many, many individuals and families throughout our community and beyond. The money then received has gone right back into our community and beyond, supporting women escaping domestic abuse and violence, meals for adults living in their homes, music equipment for new Disciples churches in our region, the youth of this congregation, safe water on native lands, food boxes and presents for families at Christmas. The list goes on and on.

The number of lives who have been touched is incredible. All because of the dedicated volunteers who have made this adventure possible and continue to make it possible. All because of their love, care and compassion instilled in them by God. All because God is ultimately leading the way.

It all combines together to be "God's field, God's building" as Paul writes in this chapter to the Corinthians. God's creation that impacts so many. "God who gives the growth." God who made it so. That is where the attention is to be given and turned. That is to be the focus. That is the mindset we are to hold, maintain and share as we do the planting and watering throughout our lives and as we witness others do the planting and watering.

Because it truly is this group effort. A group effort that is needed on so many different levels and in so many different ways. A group effort that we need to continue to engage in. A group effort to effect change on behalf of God in this faith community, in the wider community, in our lives, in the lives of others. It extends well beyond our doors, truly to the ends of the earth as the Disciples mission states.

We need to remember this as we go about God's work living as God's servants. We need to lead in these ways. We need to demonstrate it with our actions, our words, our finances, our commitments, our everything. We need to point it all back to God, to draw attention to God, to give it all to God. That's not always easy to do because society doesn't necessarily teach that, especially in the western world. It's about individual accomplishments and successes. How we did it ourselves. How we achieved everything on our own. How we are the ones who deserve the pat on the back.

Well, that's not how it is and that's not how it needs to be. In order to make those changes we have to raise our voices and speak up. Share what's important to us. Share about God. Share the group effort that is the reality. Share about the planting, watering and growth. Share the teachings. Share the message. Share Jesus Christ.

And not just once or twice or in certain circles or only at church. Share in the wider realm. Share where an impact is waiting to be made. Share in verbal and non-verbal ways. Share. Be brave. Be courageous. Be mindful. Be loving. Be compassionate. Be the change that is needed. Be the servants we are called to be.

Keep reminding yourself this and keep reminding others too. Because this continues to be a need in our lives and in the world. Paul wrote about it how many decades ago? Okay, how many thousands of years? And it still isn't the way it needs to be. And yet, there has been positive change. There has been movement. There has been God weaving in and out of all of history.

And there will be more positive change, more movement and more of God moving in and out of all that is. Thank goodness for that. Thank goodness for our role. Thank goodness for the group effort. Thank goodness for God. Really, thank goodness for God.

ELDERS' SHEPHERDING GROUPS – January 2023 (updated February)

CHRYSTAL AKIN 541 490-8386

Clymer, Keith & Marlene 541 386-5234
 Duckwall, Fred 541 386-1720
 Krieg, Nancy 541 386-4196
 Holmson, Bruce & Kathy 541 386-4001
 Jensen, Doris 541 386-1120
 Lage, Joan 541 386-2396
 Lupoli, Jimmy & Bobbie Sue 541 430-0798
 Jace, Oliver, Sebastian, Vincent
 McCargar, Ed & Glenna 541 478-3495
 Melby, Leslie & Reed 541 490-5617
 Parrott, Rod & Mary Anne 541 386-8766
 Repp, Lee 541 386-8841
 Swyers, Dot 541 490-0806

SUZE NIGL

Cantrell, Chuck & Karrie 541 806-5896
 Chloe, Brianna
 Carpenter, Beverly 541 436-2886
 Hardman, Nola 541 386-4020
 Hayes, Dianne 541 490-5435
 Kummer, Bob & Mary 509 493-3603
 Lopez, Jessykah 541 806-0661
 Araya
 Marshall, Margaret 541 386-1109
 Osborne, Kurt & Betty 541 386-2673
 Smiley, Karl, Katie, 541 490-7709
 Kyle, Brandon
 Speidel, Geoff & Alicia 541354-1385
 Kailey, Jackson
 Welch, Len & Carol 541 352-5586
 Woods, Jinx 541 436-4155

541 354-1919

SHARON SMILEY

Bailey, Carla 541 806-1307
 Behrmann, Otto 541 399-1424
 Jan 541 399-1425
 Cantrell, Julie 541 386-3867
 Clark, Dick
 Frasier, Lloyd & Barbara 541 490-1567
 Hathaway, Martha 541 386-3470
 Hiatt, Judy 541 386-3312
 Hiatt, Jon & Heidi Chapin 503 351-4422
 Cecilia
 Meyers, Linda 503 901-3625
 Patterson, Mary 541 386-2596
 Tallman, Trudy 541 386-2763
 Wacker, Jerri 541 490-8559
 Waits, Kyle & Jami 541 352-2304
 Isaac, Eli, Ayden, Owen
 White, Vicki 541 806-4011

541 490-0462

WES BAILEY

541 490-5389

Crosswhite, Brian 541 490-9192
 & Melissa 541760-7974
 Aubrianna, Austin
 Finley, Mary 541490-7488
 Stefanie, Nathan, Hailey Olson
 Grannemann, Glenn & Donnamae
 Donnamae 541 980-9666
 Glenn 541 980-9675
 Hopkins, Anse 541 386-3372
 Kenyon, Nick & Judy 541386-2864
 Logan, Joanie & Jim 541 490-3317
 Muenzer, Chad & Sarah 541 806-0970
 Natasha, Chad, Sierra
 Ritoch, Barbara 541 400-9640
 Sheppard, Bill & Virginia 541 399-6222
 Smith, Mary 541 861-2191
 Stager, Jim & Jennifer 541 386-3414
 Williford, Jim & Mimi 541 386-1415
 Wilkins, Ron & Sharlene 541 386-1489

GERALD SAWYER

515 771-2383

Akin, Rylee 541 490-8386
 Cook, Gordon & Sharon 541 386-2264
 Duback, Sable & Chance 541 399-3226
 J J (James John), Layla, Rider
 Eskildsen, Woody & Sue 541 387-4901
 Lexy
 Henne, Frances 541 386-2959
 Hill, Bud 970 393-0612
 Krager, Bernie & Emily 509 493-4981
 Lewis, Doris 541 386-6430
 McCaw, Kathie 541 308-0022
 Nash, David 541 386-2391
 Repp, Lee 541 386-8841
 Sabins, Carol 541 436-0632
 Wyatt, Larry & Jodi 541 386- 7051
 Carly, Miles, Tatum

THELMA WARNOCK

541 645-3748

Biddle, Tom & Cindy Winfield 541 296-4191
 Crosswhite, Laurie & Scott 541 386-5677
 Justin
 Hansen, Robert 541 386-2775
 Hidle, Gary & Leslie 541 386-3205
 Hopkins, Ellen 541 386-3801
 Logan, John 541 399-2206
 Katelyn 541 399-3904
 Emmi, John Henry
 Maurer, Michael & Suzanne 541 386-1444
 Sawyer, Gladys 551 771-4665
 Strasser, Margaret 541 490-2331
 Thomas, Fred & Bev 509 493-3663
 Linda
 Winfield, Bill & Lauree 541 386-8385
 Woosley, Lindamay 541 490-4360

Thanks for supporting Souper Bowl of Caring



Last Sunday we helped Tackle Hunger and collected \$283 and 4 bags (46 pounds) of groceries for FISH Food Bank, and \$40 and 3 bags of food supplies for the guests at Hood River Warming Shelter.

Thank you all for participating and supporting these worthwhile helping organizations in our community.

Church Calendar

Wednesday February 15

9:00am-Noon Quilters meet
9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop
5:30-8:30pm Master Gardeners, fellowship hall
6:30pm Christmas Project, vista room

Thursday February 16

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

Friday February 17

5:00pm Women, Wine & the Word at Stave & Stone winery

Saturday February 18

9:00am-Noon Thriftshop open

Sunday February 19

9:30am Gospel of Matthew Study, vista room
9:45am Sunday Adult book study
10:30am Worship
3:30pm Hope and Life church worship

Tuesday February 21

10:00am Women's Bible Study
3:00pm TOPS Group

Ash Wednesday February 22

9:00am-Noon Quilters meet
9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop
5:30-8:30pm Master Gardeners, fellowship hall
5:30pm Ash Wednesday service

Thursday February 23

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

Saturday February 25

9:00am-Noon Thriftshop open
9:00am-Noon Master Gardeners, fellowship hall

Sunday February 26

9:30am Gospel of Matthew Study, vista room
9:45am Sunday Adult book study
10:30am Worship
3:30pm Hope and Life church worship

Tuesday February 28

10:00am Women's Bible Study
3:00pm TOPS Group

Wednesday March 1

9:00am-Noon Quilters meet
9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop
5:30-8:30pm Master Gardeners, fellowship hall

Scriptures for Sunday February 19, 2023

Exodus 24:12-18
Psalm 2 or 99
2 Peter 1:16-21
Matthew 17:1-9

SERVING Sunday February 19, 2023

Elder this Week	Wes Bailey
Communion Preparer	Mary Finley
Coffee Hour	Frances & friends
Deacons	Serving Team #3 Betty Osborne, Linda Meyers Tatum Wyatt, Jackson Speidel

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