



# Hood River Valley Christian Church Newsletter

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

and on Face book

**April 12, 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 as needed  
[hrcchurch@gmail.com](mailto:hrcchurch@gmail.com)

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

**SIMPLICITY SALE is April 22** Start cleaning out your closets, going through your garage and getting items you no longer need ready to bring to the church. This sale benefits the youth group, helping them go to church camp during the summer. Recycling things we no longer need is a great way to celebrate Earth Day!  
The sale will be on Saturday, April 22, 8:00am-3:00pm.



## Celebrating Earth Day (Kid's Activities, too) Sunday, April 23, after worship

**For Adults** During coffee hour there will be an "information fair" in the fellowship hall about products available at Safeway, Rosauers and on-line which employ fewer non-renewable resources thereby being greener alternatives.

There will also be information about the recycling initiative through Gorge Sustainability Project with takes many items that are not accepted by the Tri-County Recycle Program (items such as clear clamshell containers, plastic bags, and styrofoam.)

**For the Kids**—Hank and Rocky, two small ponies, will be outside. Children and youth are invited to decorate the ponies with painted handprints. Sidewalk chalk and craft activities will also be available.



Hank & Rocky

## SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

9:30am Adult Sunday school classes, nursery available  
10:30am Sunday Worship with Children Worship & Wonder  
**Special music – Chime choir**

## EVENING PRAYER ON FACEBOOK

5:00pm Monday – Thursday (schedule permitting)

### Links:

Wednesday April 5 <https://www.facebook.com/100064940580441/videos/562446835988038>

Sunday April 9 <https://www.facebook.com/100064940580441/videos/738047384474187>

Tuesday April 11 <https://www.facebook.com/100064940580441/videos/1843990592651151>



## **EASTER LILIES GIVEN**

| <b>Name</b>             | <b>In memory/in honor of</b>   |
|-------------------------|--|
| Rod & Mary Anne Parrott | In memory parents & brothers   |
| Margaret Marshall       | In memory of Ned   |
| Judy Hiatt              | In memory of Chuck<br>In memory of Lee & Minnie Hiatt<br>In memory of Gladney & Berenic Hamilton |
| Joanie Logan            | In memory of parents & grandmother   |
| Jim & Jennifer Stager   | In memory of Mom, Dad & Marilyn Stager<br>In memory of Mom and Dad                               |
| Lindamay Woosley        | In memory of Roger L, Cindy Marie Woosley<br>Cletamay & Albert Maurer, Wig & Edna, Terry Woosley |
| The Shepherds           | In memory of loved ones  |
| Dot Swyers              | In memory of son Michael & husband Fritz   |
| Shar & Ron Wilkins      | In memory of Wilkins & Hermann parents   |
| Betty Osborne           | In memory of Barry Ternahan  |
| McCargars               | In memory of Mom and Dad   |
| Frances Henne           | In memory of Paul and Christopher Henne  |
| Margaret Strasser       | Elizabeth Wright and Bobi Jones  |
| Bob & Mary Kummer       | In memory of family members who are gone   |

*Thank you to all who bought lilies in honor or in memory of loved ones. Lilies are available for you to take home to enjoy.*

### **New Deposit Box for Offerings**

Some people have asked where to drop off their tithes and offerings. Geoff Speidel recently installed a locking deposit box to the left inside the double sanctuary doors where offerings and tithes can be dropped off at any time.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Layla Gaffney

Bev Thomas

Bonnie McCollister

Sharon & Gordon Cook

David Nash

Lauree Winfield

Katy White

Vicki White

Stacey Jubitz



### The Pastor's COLUMN

**New Daycare Coming to HRVCC** The board has been working with Kiddie City, LLC who approached the church to use the fireside room, art room and nursery downstairs to operate a daycare facility as well as using the kitchen and fellowship hall for meals. They currently operate a daycare facility in Parkdale. They are excited to have the opportunity to expand to Hood River. They are currently getting those spaces ready for an opening in May. The daycare will operate five days a week, 7am-6pm. Outside of those times we will have access to those rooms and the supplies we have in them, for example in the art room. Please let Pastor Alicia know if you have any questions as this partnership begins.

Did you know I am going on sabbatical this year mid August to mid November? Did you know the church received a grant from Lilly Endowment Inc to make it happen? Did you know I am incredibly excited to have this opportunity? Why am I writing about it again? Because the women's Bible study recently asked me to share about my sabbatical plans. So now I'm sharing more of those details here.

My sabbatical, focused on the theme savor, begins August 14. I will be savoring time with God, my faith, family, friends and time alone. Over the course of my sabbatical there are various milestones that will be savored. Kailey will start her senior year in high school. Jackson will start his freshman year in high school. It is Geoff and my 20th wedding anniversary. It is my parents' 50th wedding anniversary. To truly savor all of these occasions, there are various trips planned. Our family will be going to New York City. I'll spend time at the beach alone, with a friend and with Geoff. We're taking my parents to Leavenworth, Washington. My mom and I are going to a cabin in Welches. Geoff and I are going to Italy. In between these various times away I will be savoring time at home.

The congregation will also engage in savoring as various preachers fill the pulpit and an interim minister serves every other week for two days a week. There will be a focus on spirituality with a book study, emphasis on music and exploring the importance of this faith community. There will be connections made on many different levels. It will be a time of growth for all of us as we are all invited to savor. As the time draws closer, I will continue to share about what is coming and how to prepare. Please feel free to ask questions during this time if you have any. **Alicia**

#### **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

#### **Meal Schedule for Dave Nash – Fridays only – 5:00 p.m.**

David Nash says it would help to have a meal delivered on Fridays. Suze Nigl is coordinating a meal schedule. A sign up list is on the bulletin board in the lobby or please contact Suze by phone or email [mamafan11@aol.com](mailto:mamafan11@aol.com) to sign up.

**April 14 McCargars**

**April 21 Frances Henne**

**April 28 Margaret Strasser**



## **MEN'S GROUP-NEW STUDY!**

The Thursday morning men's group starts a new study this week (April 13), looking at Burton Mack's book, *The Lost Gospel*. The study, which will take a chapter a week, examines the material in Matthew and Luke that is believed to have come from one of the earliest church writings (apart from Paul). Mack asks what this material tells us about some of the earliest followers of Jesus.

All men are invited. Coffee is ready by 7:00 a.m. in the Vista Room. This is a good way to get acquainted and get involved in our Men's Ministry group.

**HRVCC Higher Education Scholarships** Educational Scholarship applications are now available in the church office for high school seniors and college students. Deadline for high school seniors to apply is April 15; deadline for continuing college students is May 15<sup>th</sup>. Pick up an application in the church office.

**Something New—Would You Like to Participate?** We are starting a "Member Checking on Member" plan for our shut-Ins.. All you have to do is call, send a note, or even visit once a month. The sign up will be on the table in the lobby on Sunday. Thanks for your help making their day a little brighter.

Barb Ritoch and Carol Sabins.

**Looking for some fun ideas for activities** Want to have fun and get better acquainted with people in our church community through church activities? Some suggestions are coffee klatch, game activities (card games, board games, etc), progressive dinner, and secret sister. Please use the sign-up sheet in the lobby to let me know what interests you or what you think others might be interested in. Thanks for your help! Shar Wilkins

### **Pastor Alicia's sermon from April 9, 2023**

**Scripture: John 20:1-18**

Who would like to explain the resurrection? Who would like to make it clear so that everyone understands? From the young to the old? Who is able to paint that picture? And you'll need to reference scripture too, highlighting the different individuals who were there. Share about their experiences, the journeys they each took to get to that point. Plus all of the events that led to the resurrection in the first place, ending with the resurrection itself, how Jesus was crucified on a cross, placed in a tomb and then three days later rose from the dead.

Who would like to explain all of this? Anybody? Nobody? No takers? Oh right, that's what I'm supposed to do and all of the other clergy on this day, Easter Sunday, when we stand up in front of our congregations and talk about the resurrection. We are to explain it. We are to make it clear. We are to paint a picture that everyone understands. I mean I have been doing this for twenty-one years, surely I've got it under control, right? Right. The resurrection is super easy to talk about. Makes all the sense in the world. What isn't to understand about it? How about everything?

The resurrection is hard to understand and therefore, in some ways hard to talk about. Yes, it is the reason we are here. Yes, it is what Easter is all about. Yes, it is why we shout "Alleluia, Christ is risen!" Yes, it is what dictates our faith and makes this all possible. And, and, yes, it is still a lot to understand and contemplate.

That is why we get confused. That is why we don't know what to say or how to say it. That is why no one was jumping up and down saying, "I'll explain the resurrection. Let me tell everyone all about it."

I mean, shoot, even those who were right there following the resurrection didn't understand and didn't know what to say. Mary Magdalene, Simon Peter and the other disciple were the first ones to arrive at the empty tomb. They each arrived at different times and they were the first three on that first day of the week.

Mary Magdalene, alone, saw the stone removed and immediately jumped to the conclusion that someone had stolen Jesus' body. She didn't understand what was going on. She didn't understand why the stone had been removed. She didn't understand where Jesus would be. So she voiced her lack of understanding to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved. She brought in reinforcements to help her figure out what had happened.

Even though those reinforcements raced to the tomb and entered the tomb before Mary, they also didn't understand. They saw and believed as scripture explains, however they didn't understand what the scripture meant, that Jesus was to rise from the dead. So the whole understanding the resurrection was out of their reach too. And they were among the first on the scene as we keep hearing. They went away believing, just not entirely.

Then we return to Mary Magdalene where her lack of understanding was not over. We find her back at the tomb weeping because of not knowing where Jesus' body was. Weeping after Simon Peter and the other disciple had their experience and lack of understanding at the tomb. Weeping because her world was continuing to crumble before her eyes.

Then the resurrected Jesus arrived on the scene. He confused matters even more. He talked to Mary Magdalene. He didn't explain who he was. He just asked her why she was weeping. There was no clearing up the sadness, heartbreak and misunderstanding. Jesus didn't help in that moment. Granted the confusion was mostly cleared up very soon thereafter for Mary, however everyone in our passage had to go through their own journey of not understanding first.

Mary's eyes were opened when Jesus spoke her name. She then believed. And she went and told the disciples all that had happened. She was the very first person to see the risen Christ. The stories and sharing all happened because of her, because of her witness, because of her experience.

Did Mary Magdalene fully understand? We don't know the answer to that question. We know Simon Peter and the other disciple did not, so it very well could be that Mary Magdalene did not understand everything either.

Which, in all honesty, it doesn't really matter if they fully understood or not. That may sound crazy, however I believe it's true. And really, it's actually a good thing. It's okay that they didn't fully understand. That didn't need to be their reality. We don't need that to be their reality.

They believed what they were able to in that moment, at that time, in that place. They believed in their hearts and in their minds. They believed deep down. They believed. This belief caused them to spread the news, to share the message with others, with the disciples and beyond. This belief led them to keep Jesus' message alive, to tell about the resurrection. They didn't have to explain it or make sense of it. They didn't even have to convince others of what had happened. They simply told their story with passion, heart and conviction. They embodied it with everything they had.

That type of belief does not require complete and full understanding. It doesn't need the answers to everything. It doesn't mean everything has to be explained ahead of time.



Because how would this scenario have been explained anyway? So Jesus, whom you follow and left everything in your life for, is going to teach, preach, heal and minister throughout the lands. He is going to challenge the authorities and the status quo. He is going to include those on the margins, those who have been pushed to the side by the majority. He is going to make waves. And you're going to go with him on that journey. You are going to lead as he does. You are going to rock the boat in the same way.

Then after a few years of journeying in this way, the authorities are going to crucify Jesus. They are going to kill him. But it's okay because he's not going to stay dead. He will be in a tomb for three days and then he will rise again. He will be resurrected. He won't remain here on earth though to keep leading in the way he was. He will ascend to heaven, not being physically with you any longer. And that's okay because he'll be alive in a new way, leading in a new way.

And you'll still keep being his followers and spreading his message. It'll just be a little different than it was. That is what is to come. Oh and you can't ask any questions or change what's going to happen. This is the way it's going to be. And it can't be explained. It just is.

To understand this then sounds practically impossible. You could and would spend an entire lifetime trying to explain all of the ins and outs, trying to make it clear, trying to wrap your mind around resurrection. You really would. So to not fully understand it or be able to fully explain it is perfectly acceptable because those very first witnesses weren't able to.

They still followed. They still led. They still made a difference, impacting others, reaching those on the margins and challenging the status quo. They still did all of that.

Which just goes to show that we do not have to fully understand either. We do not have to have all of the answers. We do not have to know how to paint the entire picture. We simply have to believe. To believe and share the good news. To believe with passion, heart and conviction. To believe where the margins get widened, the circle gets expanded and all are welcome. To believe.

This is how we explain the resurrection. This is what we say about that momentous occasion where we shout "Alleluia, Christ is risen!" This is all we have to know.

It's that easy. Which doesn't it sound easy? To believe in these ways? To do it with passion, heart and conviction? To know you don't fully have to understand? Maybe not necessarily easy, it's still challenging to live, however it's reassuring to know we don't have to have it all together. We don't have to know it all and have all of the answers. We simply have to follow, be disciples of Christ, celebrate the resurrection and explain what it is we do understand with our entire beings. It's that simple.

## **Women, Wine, and The Word**

**Wednesday, April 26 4pm at  
Stave and Stone at the vineyard**

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 beverages are available) and a snack while we share how the passage intersects with our lives. Invite friends from outside the church, too.

# Church Calendar

## Wednesday April 12

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

## Thursday April 13

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

## Friday April 14

**7:00pm CGOA Concert, sanctuary**

## Saturday April 15

9:00am-Noon Thriftshop open

## Sunday April 16

9:30am Gospel of Matthew Study, vista room  
9:45am Worship  
11:30am Coffee Hour  
**2:00pm CGOA Concert, sanctuary**  
3:30pm Hope and Life church worship

## Tuesday April 18

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

## Wednesday April 19

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

## Thursday April 20

7:00am Men's Study  
**11:30am Gorge Ecumenical Ministries, vista room**  
1:30pm Chime Choir  
**5:30pm Church Board Meeting**

## Friday April 21

3-7:00pm music teacher in sanctuary

## Saturday April 22

**8:00am-3:00pm Simplicity Sale**

## Sunday April 23 Earth Sunday

9:30am Gospel of Matthew Study, vista room  
9:45am Worship  
11:30am Coffee Hour, recycling info fair, kids activities  
3:30pm Hope and Life church worship

## Tuesday April 25

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

## Wednesday April 26

9:00am-Noon Quilters meet  
9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop  
4:00pm Women, Wine, & the Word, at Stave & Stone

### **Scriptures for Sunday April 16, 2023**

Acts 2:14a, 22-32  
Psalm 16  
1 Peter 1:3-9  
John 28:19-39

### **SERVING Sunday April 16, 2023**

|                           |                            |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Elder this Week</b>    | Sharon Smiley              |
| <b>Communion Preparer</b> | Barbara Ritoch             |
| <b>Coffee Hour</b>        | Frances & friends          |
| <b>Deacons</b>            | <b>Serving Team #2</b>     |
|                           | Jennifer Stager            |
|                           | Kailey Speidel, Rylee Akin |

## **Lupoli's Mobile Tire, LLC**

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**April 14 and 16  
At HRVCC**

## **CGOA Voci Community Choir presents Music From the Margins**

After centuries of neglect by the classical music establishment, composers from underrepresented, marginalized groups are finally gaining recognition, respect and, most importantly, performances. The Voci Community Choir is thrilled to join this exciting movement with concerts called “Music From the Margins.”

Directed by Corin Parker, the programs explore both historical and recent music by female, Black, Native American and other often undervalued groups. For example, the concert includes a selection by Vicente Lusitano, one of the earliest Black published composers from the European Renaissance. Native American composer and rock musician Valerie Naranjo is represented by a traditional chant, arranged by PSU composer and conductor Ethan Sperry.

In addition to the choral performances, the selections will be introduced by members of the choir, giving context, historical background, and the meaning behind the music. “Music From the Margins” is Voci’s first live performance of 2022-23 season, as the choir’s Winter Holiday concert was canceled due to weather and school closures.

“Music from the Margins” will be Friday, April 14 at 7 PM, and Sunday, April 16 at 2 PM. Concerts are in the sanctuary of Hood River Valley Christian Church, 975 Indian Creek Rd in Hood River. Tickets are \$25 for adults (\$15 for CGOA members), \$5 for youth ages 10-17, and free for kids under 10. Tickets are available at [gorgeorchestra.org](http://gorgeorchestra.org). A limited number of \$5 tickets are available for those with Oregon Trail/SNAP cards or the Washington equivalent.

For information about all CGOA events, visit [gorgeorchestra.org](http://gorgeorchestra.org), or check out [gorgeorchestra](#) on Facebook and Instagram.

The Columbia Gorge Orchestra Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting and presenting musical performances of the highest quality in the Columbia River Gorge region. With a commitment to artistic excellence and education, the Association brings the joy of music to audiences of all ages.