



Hood River Valley Christian Church Newsletter

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www.hoodrivervalleychristianchurch.com

and on Face book

February 1, 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

New Event! mark your calendar

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.

Special music February 5 piano duet, Thelma and Mary Anne, "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

9:30am Adult Sunday school classes, nursery available

Change--Vista Room Class led by Rod Parrott

Reading Matthew The adult study at 9:30am is now a study of the Gospel of Matthew (year A in the lectionary). The study will be taken consecutively—not the specific lectionary text for a given Sunday).

10:30am Sunday Worship with Children Worship and Wonder

Links:

Wednesday Jan 25 <https://www.facebook.com/100064940580441/videos/579330314039042>

Sunday Jan 29 <https://www.facebook.com/100064940580441/videos/1610544956050715>

Monday Jan 20 <https://www.facebook.com/100064940580441/videos/510822177828044>

Tuesday Jan 31 <https://www.facebook.com/100064940580441/videos/739328367786002>

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:

Katy White	Jennifer Burbank Roch	Courtney Erickson	Stacey Jubitz
Bonnie McCollister	Layla Gaffney	Sharon & Gordon Cook	Nola Hardman
Lauree Winfield	Vicki White	Bev Thomas	Virginia Sheppard
David Nash	Margaret Strasser		

Devotionals for Lenten Season 2023

In just a few short weeks, the season of Lent will begin - officially, on Ash Wednesday, February 22. If Mother Nature lets go of her winter mood, we should have clear sailing straight through to Easter Sunday with NO closures or cancellations!

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. Here is all you need to do:

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 devotional booklet for Lent.
2. Submit to Kathy by Sunday, February 12 either by email (hrcchurch@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. It 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.

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.



The chore of laundry never seems to be done. All of the towels, sheets and clothing can be washed and dried only to have something get dirty or need washing immediately afterwards. It's just one of those chores that is never-ending, no matter how many loads you have done. More always appears. It's the name of the game when it comes to keeping things clean. Which then means things need to be folded and put away. Those are the next steps whether we like them or not.

The beauty of laundry (I know that's hard to imagine) is that it can be done while listening to music, watching tv or possibly even playing a game, depending on the game. This mundane chore can be livened up or at least you are able to focus your attention on something else at the same time. If this is the case, which it is, what about engaging in prayer while you wash, dry, fold and put away? What about giving thanks for clean clothes and bedding? What about giving thanks for the many hands that made that clothing and bedding possible? What about giving thanks for the various occasions you wore the clothing and the sleep you got in that bedding? What about shifting your mindset from a boring task to all of the blessings that have come instead?

Shifting our mindset is sometimes the best option. It makes it possible to view a situation differently, to give thanks when we normally wouldn't and to move in a positive direction. It deepens our connection with God, focusing our minds and attention beyond ourselves. These are all beneficial ways to live. So, the next time you're doing laundry, offer thanks to God in ways that maybe you haven't thought of before.

Alicia

A Note from Rainier Bendanillo, Women's Ministries Adopted Student at Dumaguete Kalauman Center for Development in the Philippines, dated December 3, 2022

Dear Hood River friends, Good day! I hope you're all in good health always. I am in senior high now, grade 11. Thank God all my grades are good; I'm happy about my performance in school and with my other activities like role playing, speech, and group reporting, etc.

Christmas is coming, and I'm so excited about it. People are busy decorating their houses, Christmas songs are being played on the radio, and you can see children caroling from one house to the other. I hope that God protects you and gives you strength, and I hope you are happy no matter what trials you encounter.

Merry Christmas and wishing you a New Year that brings luck and prosperity in your homes. Thank you for everything you have given for my school needs. Love, Rainier



**Souper Bowl of Caring 2023 is Sunday February 12
On Super Bowl Sunday!**

This year, in addition to collecting monetary donations and food for FISH Food Bank, we will collect donations for Hood River Warming Shelter. The warming shelter provides breakfast bars and cup of soup for shelter guests. (Local restaurants provide dinners.)

- **For the Warming Shelter**, donate boxes of individually packaged breakfast, granola bars, and chocolate bars; cup of noodle soup, bottled water, individual Kleenex packets.
- **For FISH Food Bank** donate non-perishable food, baby foods and diapers, personal hygiene items, pet food.

Cash or checks are always welcome to help fight hunger/ or assist those who are houseless in Hood River—even \$1 helps (please indicate Shelter or FISH on your check.) Thank you for your support.



What are those little white boxes? In case you see one of these small, white boxes in a bathroom or near a sink in the church, know they are water sensors from our insurance company to detect if a leak happens. They are placed there to do their job, which hopefully they will never have to.

**Pastor Alicia's sermon from January 29, 2023
Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31**

We are in week three of our walk through the beginning of the first letter Paul wrote to the Corinthians, to the church at Corinth. Week three and we are still in chapter one, still laying the groundwork, still setting the stage, still listening to Paul explain the reasons for why he was writing this letter.

That was how serious Paul was in getting his message across. He knew their potential. He saw the possibilities. He had the answers or the route to travel. And he cared for them. He truly wanted the best. It wasn't about upsetting them or trying to get them in trouble. It was about having compassion for them, desiring for them to follow in Christ's ways and connect with God. Paul really held them in his heart.

A message like this is sometimes hard to get across because defensiveness may be the response. Those hearing the difficult words that need to be heard get angry and shut down, not wanting to hear anymore. Excuses get made. Heels get dug in. The conversation is no longer a conversation because one party isn't willing to hear whatever is being said. So the whole process becomes meaningless in a way.

Which was why Paul wrote this letter so detailed and so focused in this opening chapter on God's ways and the differences between humanity and God. He had to open their eyes and return them to what led to them becoming a church in the first place. Without those explanations he wouldn't have a path forward and they wouldn't listen.

Relationships such as this matter. They make it possible to be honest, to share from the heart and to hopefully move the other party to a better place. Away from the divisions and quarreling. Away from the wisdom of the world. Away from human strength. Away from what is high and mighty. Away from all that makes one think they do not need God and are able to provide everything they need on their own. Paul was leading the Corinthians away from all of this.

And that makes sense because since when are divisions and quarreling the way to go? Since when is the wisdom of the world what leads? Since when does human strength dominate above all else? Since when does being high and mighty prove to be the best option? And really, when does thinking everything can be provided all on one's own actually amount to that? We know the answers to all of these questions. Even if we wonder sometimes, thinking those might be the routes to go, we know otherwise. And Paul knew otherwise. And the Corinthians knew otherwise too, even if they were struggling to follow and had some internal issues going on, they knew. What Paul had to do was get them to realize that, to help them create a new path forward or really return to the path they had been on. He had to redirect them.

Redirecting someone is something most, if not all of us, have done at some point in our lives. It is moving someone from a not so good choice to a better choice. It is showing the possibilities, highlighting a positive direction and doing it in an effective way. Plus, it's different from simply reprimanding or scolding.

Think of when you have redirected a child, in a way that was successful and taught the importance of why you were doing what you were doing. "I see that you are throwing the ball against the window in the living room where there are breakable things like pottery bowls and glass figurines. That is not a good idea. Something could break from you throwing the ball. Let's instead roll it on the ground, throw it outside or find a different room where it could be thrown against a wall, not against a window. Here, let's together find another option because I know how much you love to throw a ball."

Now there is always the option to grab the ball, say that's enough and leave it at that. That's always a possibility, however there is no redirecting happening then. It does end the ball throwing, but that's about it. So redirect instead. Provide another option. Move in a different direction.

Because, as Paul stressed in today's passage, it was about the wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption which came from God and are God. It was about redirecting the Corinthians to this path where these were the gifts being extended. As Reverend Richard M. Simpson explains, "For these Christians (and for the church of every generation, including our own) Paul reframes the question. Rather than trying to 'solve' the disputes with a technical fix, by entering into a process of mediation or conflict resolution, he sees these conflicts as an opportunity for the whole community, in spite of their very real differences, to encounter the living Christ in their midst again."

He's correct because we don't see Paul saying, "Okay, so and so you need to sit down and have a serious conversation with so and so. You need to apologize to each other, accept the other's apology and figure out how to move forward." And Paul also doesn't say, "You are going to timeout. You need to sit there until you figure out what you did wrong and how to change it." Or "We are going to walk through the steps of active listening together."

No, Paul doesn't say any of that. He says, "You all are saints. You have all of the spiritual gifts present among you. You are sanctified in Christ Jesus. You have been enriched in so many different ways. You have God's strength. You have God's wisdom. You have life in Jesus Christ. You have

all of this within reach. You simply need to open your eyes, refocus and see what is before you. You have what you need to be the people you are called to be. You really do.”

Sometimes that is all we need to hear. That we have it within us. That God is with us. That God is leading the way. That God is providing. Sometimes that is the push or nudge or encouragement that is needed. Of course wrapped in the explanation of you’re not using it though. You kind of forgot that part. You aren’t acting like saints. You aren’t demonstrating those spiritual gifts. You aren’t using God’s strength. You aren’t relying upon God’s wisdom. You aren’t portraying how enriched you really are. So knock it off and do something about it. Okay then. If that’s the way it needs to be, then alright. Now what? Oh ya, the redirect part. What redirecting needs to be embraced?

That is always the hardest question, which then leads to a whole bunch of other questions. What next? Where to turn? What does that look like? Which steps are to be taken? How am I to do this? Well I did recently get the book “How to lead when you don’t know where you’re going: leading in a liminal season,” which is for leaders within the church. I haven’t started reading it yet though, so that’s not going to help. So again, now what?

Listen to Paul’s words. “Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God.”

It has all been flipped around according to the world’s standards. It has been redirected. So we need to keep that as our mindset. To see the opposite. To live the opposite. To live into these ways of being, whether more than we already are or beginning now. To make it clear that the living Christ is in our midst.

In how we treat one another. In what comes to our minds when we see someone different than us, someone who pushes our buttons, someone who isn’t as we anticipated. In how we speak about one another. With the words said to someone and about someone. With what actually comes out of our mouths. In how we respond to others. With the emotions we exhibit and the actions we take to demonstrate what we think in those moments. In how we love in the world. Love for humanity. Love for animals. Love for creation. Love for those who go against everything we believe and drive us crazy. In how we become Christ in our lives and in our communities, emulating what was professed so long ago and remains with us today.

We are able to redirect ourselves back to Christ. We are able to lead the way. We are able to live as we have been called to live. Sometimes we just need a little reminder to make it so.



DID YOU KNOW? Hood River Lions Club recycling event is Saturday February 4 in the parking lot at Rosauers, 9am until noon. They will take your recyclable beverage containers and turn those donations into funds that are used for charitable activities in our community.

GOT EXTRA BATH TOWELS? The Warming Shelter is asking for clean, gently-used bath towels for their guests. You can drop off towels at the church or thriftshop. Suze Nigl can tell you more.

Church Calendar

Wednesday February 1

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

Thursday February 2

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

Saturday February 4

9:00am-Noon Thriftshop open

Sunday February 5

9:30am Gospel of Matthew, vista room
9:45am Sunday Adult book study
11:30am Elders meeting and training
10:30am Worship
3:30pm Hope and Life church worship

Monday-Wednesday February 6-8

Pastor Alicia attending NWATD conference

Tuesday February 7

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

Wednesday February 8

9:00am-4:00pm Lifeline Screening, fellowship hall
9:00am-Noon Quilters meet
9:00am-12:00pm Thriftshop
5:30-8:30pm Master Gardeners, fellowship hall

Thursday February 9

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

Saturday February 11

9:00am-Noon Thriftshop open

Sunday February 12 Souper Bowl of Caring

9:30am Gospel of Matthew Study, vista room
9:45am Sunday Adult book study
10:30am Worship
11:30am Chocolate Coffee Hour
3:30pm Hope and Life church worship

Tuesday February 14

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

Wednesday February 15

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

Scriptures for Sunday February 5, 2023

Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12)
Psalm 112:1-9 (10)
1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16)
Matthew 5:13-20

SERVING Sunday February 5, 2023

Elder this Week	Suze Nigl
Communion Preparer	Kailey Speidel
Coffee Hour	Jennifer & friends
Deacons	Serving Team #2
	Kailey & Jackson Speidel
	Sue, & Woody Eskildsen
	Rylee Akin



Chocolate Coffee Hour!

A chocolate-themed fellowship hour is planned for **February 12**. People are invited to bring their favorite chocolate item to share.
Yum!