

May 13, 2026



Hood River Valley Christian Church Newsletter

541-386-2608 hrcchurch@gmail.com

<https://www.hoodrivervalleychristianchurch.org/> and on [Facebook](#)

Sunday Worship Time

10:30am

Church Administrative Assistant

Sable Duback

Minister

Rev. Alicia Speidel

aliciaspeidel@gmail.com

Office hours 9am-12pm or as needed

Sunday Worship

9:30 Adult Lectionary Preview

10:30 Worship

Link to Worship on May 10- [Facebook](#)



Sharon & Gordon Cook

Bev Carpenter

Sue Merry

Hardman Family

Lee Repp

Bud Harris

Bill & Lauree Winfield

John Olson

Tyler Luna

Hardman Family

Rich Nichols

James Gaffney

*Prayers of strength and healing for Bill and Lauree Winfield as they were moved to Parkhurst.

* Prayers for healing for John Olson as he recovers from a broken hip.

Please email any prayer requests to hrcchurch@gmail.com or call our office at 541-386-2608.



Reed Melby- 03

Fred Duckwall- 12

Emily Krager- 18

Lee Repp- 20

Joan Lage- 27

Jimmy Lupoli- 05

Betty Osborne- 16

Rylee Akin- 19

Nathan Olson- 22

Bruce Holmson- 30

This past weekend Geoff, Jackson and I went out on the Columbia River for a few hours. The river was calm. The weather was perfect. The fish weren't exactly biting. But that was okay because we were enjoying mother nature. We were basking in the beauty of the Gorge. We were in complete awe of our surroundings. Jackson said multiple times, "I can't believe we live here." He is correct. It is pretty unbelievable. There is so much in this area that causes you to stop, notice and say wow.



Sometimes we forget to do this. We get busy with life and responsibilities. We get overwhelmed with health concerns, finances, relationships or something else that holds our focus. We get going too fast or we take what's around us for granted, not acknowledging the power and majesty that is present. We don't always do this, just sometimes. That's normal.

My challenge to you is to do more paying attention to your surroundings. Notice the beauty right outside your door. Give thanks for the sights, sounds and smells that are all around. And then let that feeling remain in your being for a while. Actually let that be your focus. See what happens when you do that. Notice how it shifts your mindset and maybe how it moves your spirit in a different way afterwards. Because stopping to say wow really does make a difference.

~Pastor Alicia

Mission statement:

Sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ through service, stewardship & generosity

Values statements:

Welcoming with warmth and respect

Community partnerships

Worshipping God with thanksgiving

Outreach without borders

Caring relationships



Thriving
Congregations

This past Sunday we finished the five week sermon series on our church's values statements. We discussed how we are currently living these statements. We wrote down ideas for how to expand upon them. We got creative and thought outside the box. Those ideas will now be shared with our church's Thriving Team. Then they will work together to see what comes next, how these suggestions might be a part of who we are and what we do.

As we continue this journey, you are invited to hold our Thriving Team and our faith community in prayer. Seek out God's call for this faith community. Ask how you are able to be involved. Be open to the leading of the Spirit. Lift up our church leaders. Pray for insight. By all of us engaging in this way, we will hear our calling and take the steps needed to move in that direction. Because it's a community effort as we respond to God's call.



As a local nonprofit serving Wasco, Hood River, and Sherman counties, we at Columbia Gorge CASA would appreciate any mention of our upcoming events.

Columbia Gorge CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) is inviting community members to take action for some of the region's most vulnerable children by attending two upcoming events focused on awareness, connection, and volunteer recruitment.

“We anticipate serving over 100 children this fiscal year—the highest number in recent years,” said Executive Director Christopher Janetzko. “Even so, there are still around 20 children on our waitlist that could benefit from having a dedicated advocate by their side.”

CASA empowers trained volunteers to advocate for children who have experienced abuse or neglect. After completing training, volunteers are sworn in by a judge and become a consistent, independent voice in court—helping ensure each child's best interests are heard and prioritized. Through steady, one-on-one support, CASA advocates play a pivotal role in helping children find safe, stable, and permanent homes.

To meet this need for volunteer advocates, Columbia Gorge CASA is hosting upcoming events designed to inform, inspire, and welcome new volunteers:

Ribbon Cutting & CASA 101 in The Dalles

Date: Thursday, June 4

Time: 4:30–6:30 PM

Location: Copper West Building, 314 Lincoln St, The Dalles

Celebrate the opening of Columbia Gorge CASA's new satellite office while connecting with current advocates and learning how to make a difference. The event will feature a ribbon-cutting ceremony, meet-and-greet with current volunteers, and a CASA 101 informational session, along with appetizers and beverages.

Community members, professionals, and anyone passionate about supporting children are encouraged to attend one or both events. RSVPs are appreciated but not required. To RSVP, email: chayes@gorgecasa.org. For more information about Columbia Gorge CASA visit gorgecasa.org.

**Oregon and Southwest Idaho
Region of the Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)!**

We are getting so excited about welcoming our our colleagues and friends to the 2026 Regional Assembly.

The members of Red Rock Christian Church and I are looking forward to hosting you all here in Boise, Idaho May 15-16, 2026. Registration is now LIVE! You can find all the registration materials online on our Website: [Click on this Link and it will take you there!](#)

A few things I want to highlight for you:

Our regional Anti-Racism/Pro-Reconciliation team is looking forward to including you in two late breaking opportunities to gather as community at the upcoming Regional Assembly. First, a prayer vigil will be held after worship on Friday evening, May 15th, in the sanctuary of Red

Rock Christian Church. This will be led and facilitated by Rev. Holly Greenidge. All assembly attendees are invited to participate, including our online attendees. On Saturday, another breakout session, titled, "Let's Talk: A Conversation" will be offered and facilitated by Robi Ingram-Rich. In this breakout session, Robi will lead us through events in the history of the states of Oregon and Idaho that contribute to attitudes about racism. These are sure to be meaningful moments together. More information to come!

Virtual Attendance:

For the first time, we are offering a virtual attendance option that includes a \$10 registration fee. You can find this specific registration form By clicking [HERE](#) or on our Website on the link above. This registration fee is helping us cover our additional technology fees and is helping us pay for our dedicated tech team. My hope, as we have been planning, is that no matter



where you are in the region geographically, that you will feel included and a part of assembly. We are still working out some technology bugs, but I have confidence in our tech team and their abilities to troubleshoot any challenges.

Translation:

Translation services will be available, in person and also if you are attending virtually.

Keynote Speaker:

Dr. Stephen Sprinkle is our keynote speaker and facilitator for our time together. He is Emeritus Professor of Practical Theology at Brite Divinity School, and Theologian-in-Residence of the Episcopal Church of St. Thomas the Apostle, in Dallas, Texas. He has been preparing engaging sermons and an all-assembly workshop for us. He will be extending his time with us and preaching Sunday morning, May 17th at Red Rock Christian Church. The title of his sermon on Sunday is “The Mirror of Love” and the scripture will be Hebrews 12:1-2. You are all invited to join us for worship at 10:45 am.

Finally, I would like to extend a THANK YOU to the churches and sponsors who have given donations to help us lower the registration cost for this year’s assembly. I am grateful the reduction will allow more people to attend assembly. And if you need further assistance to cover registration costs or travel expenses, please reach out to me. Church, let us gather together, united in covenant! See you all soon.

Rev. Tracia Deal

pastor@redrockchristianchurch.org

Be a Secret Sister for a Summer

Women of the church are invited to be a Secret Sister for a Summer. Contact Mary Anne with the name of who you would like to be a secret sister for June, July and August. You will receive personal information to help your outreach.



HRVCC Women’s Ministries is sponsoring a waterfalls trip on Wednesday, May 20. It will last from 9:30 to about 2:30. The only cost is for lunch. The itinerary includes Multnomah Falls, Horsetail Falls, Starvation Creek Falls, and the Mitchell Point tunnels. Lunch will be at the Bridgeside in Cascade Locks. Bring a friend. Men welcome, too. Sign up in the narthex. Mary Anne can answer any questions

REACH BEYOND BORDERS

Women's Ministries, for a second year, is supporting Tsering Tasha at the Tibetan Refugee Self Help Center, Gape O. Ndayi at the Lephoi Center for the Blind, and Miss Mercy Deva Kumasi at the Elder Family Village Farm. These relationships are made possible by Global Missions of the Disciples of a Christ and United Church of Christ. See the

bulletin board for photos and more information.

Gorge Ecumenical Ministries

Spring Potluck & Social



**Let's connect with each other
and hear from about GEM programs!**

5:30pm - Gather to socialize and share a meal! If you are able, bring a simple potluck item or topping for our salad bar supper. If not, just come and enjoy!

6:00-7:00pm - Representatives from our sponsored programs will inform us about what they are up to and how we and our various congregations and organizations can support them.

**May
21st**

5:30-7:00pm

Fish Food Bank Classroom

1130 Tucker Road, Hood River

For more info www.gorge-em.org/gem-events



Please join us on Saturday, June 6 @ 2pm at the Hood River Valley Christian Church for the Celebration of life for Nola Hardman.

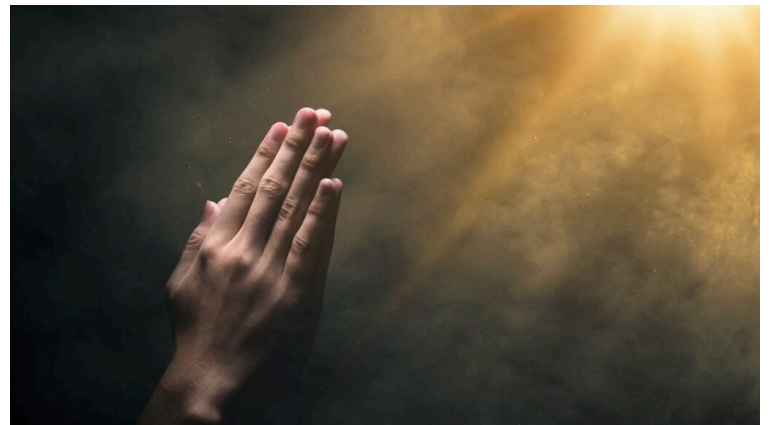
A reception will follow in the FellowShip Hall.



Sunday, May 17, celebrates the vibrant energy and improvisational spirit of Jazz Sunday.

It is a day where the rhythmic complexity and soulful melodies of jazz take center stage, blending musical mastery with a sense of communal joy. Whether enjoyed in a lively club, a sun-drenched park, or as a spirited addition to a morning service, the music creates an atmosphere of creative freedom that perfectly captures the essence of a relaxed weekend afternoon.

Sunday, May 24, invites a meaningful shift toward communal worship and spiritual devotion. By gathering in a shared space, it offers the opportunity to connect with faith and find strength in a collective voice. This focus on worship provides a sanctuary from the demands of the everyday, fostering a sense of peace and spiritual renewal that carries through the rest of the week.



Church Calendar

Wednesday May 13

9:00am-12:00pm Thrift Shop open

Thursday May 14

8:00am Men's Study

1:30pm Chimes practice

Pastor Alicia at Regional Assembly May 15-18

Saturday May 15

9:00am-12:00pm Thrift Shop open

9am-4:30pm C.G. Quilter's Guild meeting in Fellowship Hall

Sunday May 17- Jazz Sunday!

9:30am Lectionary Preview

4:00pm Hope and Life Church worship

Tuesday May 19

10:00am Women's Bible Study

Wednesday May 20

9:00am-12:00pm Thrift Shop open

Thursday May 21

8:00am Men's Study

1:30pm Chimes practice

Pastor Alicia out of town May 22-25

Saturday May 23

9:00am-12:00pm Thrift shop open

Sunday May 24

9:30am Lectionary Preview

10:30am Worship

4:00pm Hope and Life Church worship

Tuesday May 26

10:00am Women's Bible Study

1:30pm Chimes practice

Wednesday May 27

9:00am-12:00pm Thrift shop open

9:00am-12:00pm Quilters meet

Thursday May 28

8:00am Men's bible study

1:30pm Chimes practice

Saturday May 30

9:00am-12:00pm Thrift shop open

Sunday May 31

9:30am Lectionary Preview

10:30am Worship

4:00pm Hope and Life Church worship

Scriptures for May 17, 2026

Acts 1:6-14

Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35

1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11

John 17:1-11

Serving Sunday May 17, 2026

Elder this week

Rod Parrott

Communion prep

Kathy Holmson

Coffee hour

Judy Hiatt

Deacon

Sable and Layla

Scriptures for May 24, 2026

Acts 2:1-21 or numbers 11:24-34

Psalm 104:24-34,35b

1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 or Acts 2:1-21

John 20:19-23 or 70:37-39

Serving Sunday May 24, 2026

Elder this week

Suze Nigl

Communion prep

Kathy Holmson

Coffee hour

Carol Sabins

Deacon

Sue and Woody

