



**for those able, please stand*

Gathering Music & Lighting of Candles

Centering Silence & Prayer

Prelude

Words of Welcome

*This is the day that our God has made...
let us rejoice and be glad in it!*

*Opening Song “God Welcomes All”

John Bell, South African Traditional

***God welcomes all, strangers and friends;
God’s love is strong and it never ends.***

*Sharing God's Peace

Preparing our Hearts

Reading “Alone” *Maya Angelou*

Gospel Ensemble

“Keep Your Eyes on the Prize”

Reading “Shaking Hands” *Pádraig Ó Tuama*

A Time of Offering & Announcements

God is good ***all the time...***
and all the time... ***God is good!***

Offertory “We Rise” *Batya Levine*

Children's Time

***I am a child of God,
nothing can shake my confidence;
I am a child of God,
no one can take my inheritance;
Never alone I'll stand,
strengthened by God's own hand,
I am a child, I am a child, a child of God.***

Bible Bits & Scripture

Isaiah 40: 21-31 Mark 1:29-39

Sermon “Reaching Out, Rising Up”

Silent Reflection

Gospel Ensemble “Like a Mighty Stream”
Moses Hogan, John Jacobson

Holy Communion

*This is Christ's table, and all are welcome.
Please come forward by the center aisle and return by the
side aisles. If you would like to remain seated, raise your
hand and we will gladly come to you.*

Communion Song “On Eagles Wings” #438



A Time of Prayer

*God in your grace... **Hear Our Prayers***

*The Prayer of Jesus *As created by Riverside's
'Greatest Prayer' study group*

***O Giver of all life,
clear a space within us for your light to dwell.
Create your holy reign of justice and love
here today, on Earth,
through our fiery hearts and willing hands.
Give us the bread and strength we need for this day.
Forgive us the harm that we do to all that you love,
as we forgive those who harm us.
And lead us not into numbness, distraction, or greed,
but bring us back from our fears.
For You are the source of all that is good and holy—now
and forever. Amen.***

*Closing Song

“I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me” #574

*Benediction

*Congregational Response

“Halle, Halle, Hallelujah”

Rev. Vicky Stifter | Minister
Rev. John Boonstra | Communion Co-Celebrant & Kristen Warnock | Music Minister
Tim Mayer | Pianist & Gospel Ensemble Director | Paul Thompson | Bass
Katie Cook | Youth Coordinator & Kristen Daly | Nursery Care Provider
Alison Betzing, Sandy Spellecy & Elaine Johnson | Diaconate Team
Rev. John Boonstra & Ann Becker | Readers
Kathryn Murray | Audio Visual & Sound System
Karen & Doug Roof, Vicky Stifter | Hospitality

Welcome to Riverside Community Church
United Church of Christ

VISITORS We are blessed to worship with you today. Thank you for the gift of your presence. We invite you to fill out a “welcome card” and place it in the offering plate or give it to Pastor Vicky after the service.

CHILDREN AT RIVERSIDE We joyfully welcome children of all ages at Riverside. Those 5+ are invited to join Katie Cook for Sunday School after Children’s Time. Those birth – age 4 are invited to the nursery, located in the Ruth Wells Room from 10:15 am – 12 noon.

THIS WEEK AT RIVERSIDE & NEXT WEEK

Today. All are welcome after worship for coffee & conversation in the Riverview Room.

Agape Feast: “A Celebration of God’s Expansive Love” potluck lunch 1- 3 PM at Spirit of Grace Church. All are welcome.

Tuesday. Bible Study at 10:30 a.m. at Down Manor.

Wednesday. Meditative Prayer - 3:30 PM | Chancel Choir 7:00 PM

Saturday. Men’s Group Meets 9:00-11:00 AM in the Riverview Room. Contact Doug dwroof17@gmail.com for more information.

FISH FOOD BANK- Riverside seeks volunteers to distribute food February 5, 7 & 9 from 3:30 – 5:00 PM. Please contact Judith Poage 541-990-2209 if you can help.

COMMUNITY ACTION FOR PEACE On Fridays at 4:30, justice seekers of all ages are invited to join interfaith gatherings for peace and a permanent ceasefire in Gaza. We seek to create a world where the children of Palestine and Israel can flourish. 2nd and State streets in downtown Hood River.

LENTON DISCUSSION SERIES “The Land is Not Empty: Following Jesus in Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery” by Sarah Augustine. Join in a three-church kickoff Zoom event with the author, Tuesday, February. 6 from 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Please contact pastor@riversideucc.com to join.

MEMORIAL SERVICE for David Warnock will be held February 17 at 2 PM and for Helmut Riedel on February 24 at 2 PM.

Riverside is blessed by your presence.

We are . . .

. . . a vibrant, Spirit-filled community of people who seek to follow in the ways of Jesus: loving our neighbors, doing justice and sharing the extravagant welcome of God with the whole of creation.

. . . an “Open and Affirming” congregation—affirming the full inclusion of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender persons (LGBTQ+) in the church’s life and ministry.

. . . an “Immigrant Welcoming” congregation—called by our faith to stand together with our undocumented and documented immigrant brothers & sisters and their families.

We seek to honor and protect the gifts of God’s creation--divesting our financial resources from the fossil fuel industry, reinvesting in renewable energy and reducing our use of fossil fuels.

Riverside’s youth ministry team supports: Sunday School, teen groups, and Our Whole Lives (OWL)--a comprehensive human sexuality program. Contact Youth Leader Katie Cook at katie@riversideucc.com.

Our Justice and Witness team promotes engagement with the Warming Shelter, FISH Food Bank, Somos Uno, Columbia Gorge Climate Action Network. Contact Ann Harris at harris.annj@gmail.com

Our “Cheers” team offers care, comfort and meals to those with health, aging issues, new parenthood or other transitions. Contact Pastor Vicky if you have a need: pastor@riverssideucc.com

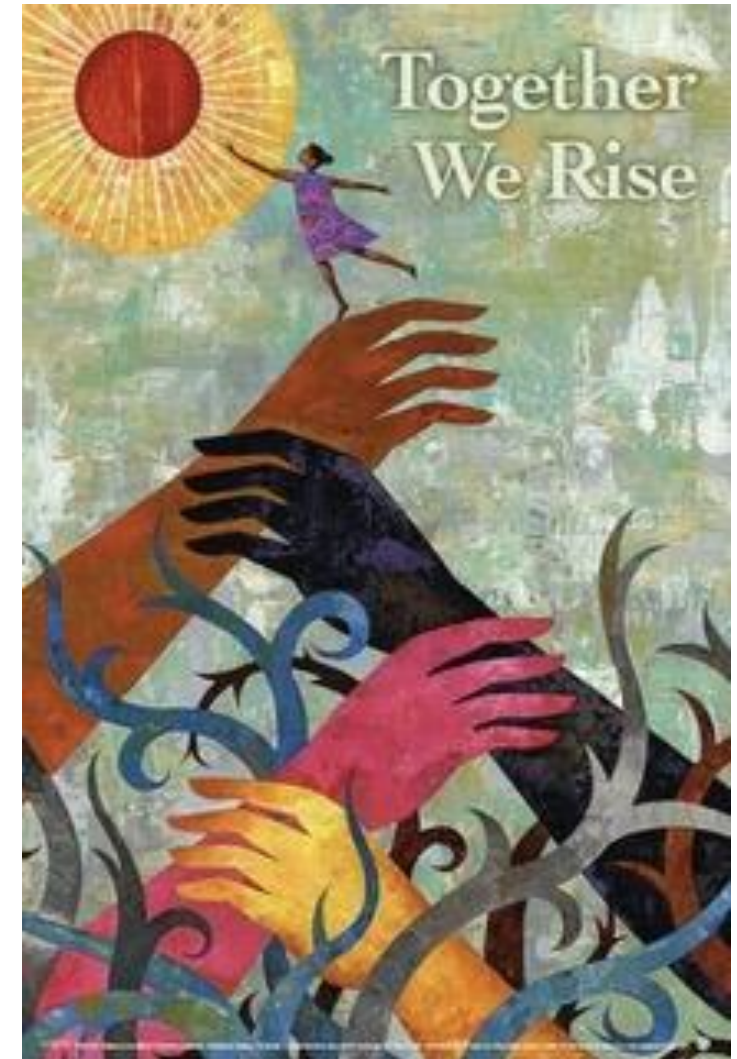
More ways to connect, learn and feed the spirits of those of all ages: Men’s Discussion Group, monthly book group, adult education classes and a Tuesday Bible study & reflection group. Contact office@riversideucc.com for more information.

Keep up on what’s happening! Sign up for our weekly online newsletter, *The Current*, by contacting editor Kathy Watson, kathy@watsonx2.com. Or visit our Facebook page: Riverside Community Church, UCC.

On the Web: Riverside’s web site, www.riversideucc.com, includes: a calendar of all events, the most recent Current newsletters, a way to give electronically, and everything about the life of our congregation.

Riverside is one of more than 5,000 communities of faith that make up the “United Church of Christ” (UCC). The UCC has been on the cutting edge of justice movements in the U.S. since its work to abolish slavery in the 1800’s. For more information about the United Church of Christ visit <http://www.ucc.org>

For more information about Riverside
contact the church office at 541-386-1412 OR office@riversideucc.com
or visit www.riversideucc.com



Artwork by Rafael Lopez

Riverside Community Church
United Church of Christ

Sunday, February 4, 2024