

RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH

United Church of Christ

Sunday, April 21, 2024



**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 “The Whole World”

v. 1 ***He’s got the whole world in his hands...***

v. 2 ***She’s got the wind and the rain in her hands...***

v. 3 ***He’s got the tiny little baby in his hands...***

v. 4 ***She’s got you and me brother/sister/all of us together in her hands...***

*Sharing God’s Peace

Preparing Our Hearts

Poetry of the Holy Uprising

“Honor the Earth” *Chelan Harkin*

Anna Diem

Gospel Ensemble “Love Song to the Earth”

by Sean Paul, Toby Gad, Natasha Bedingfield & John Shanks

Lighting the Way

Stu Watson

A Time of Offering & Announcements

Today’s Pockets of Plenty offering will support Gorge Ecology

Outdoors. GEO fosters environmental awareness and appreciation

for the natural world through a variety of engaging and dynamic learning experiences for children.

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

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

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

Psalm 23

Gospel Ensemble “Sing of Spring” *Tim Mayer*

Poetry of the Holy Uprising

“Sabbaths” *Wendell Berry*

Keith Harding

“Remember” *Joy Harjo*

Ann Harris

Celebration of Baptism

Odin Olsen

Molly & Steve Olsen, Susan & Kirk Lalor, Kerry & Carole Olsen

A Time of Prayer

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

*The Prayer of Jesus *(as created at Riverside by members of the “Greatest Prayer” reflection group)*

Most Holy Creator: Your name is more precious than all the songs of the birds; Let your spirit enter the hearts of all. Let us find joy in the forces of your creation. Provide us with potatoes from the ground and honey from the hive. And grant us peace from the evil we do and the evil done unto us. And show us the path of healing. For only through you can the sun shine, the water flow and the wind blow. Amen.

*Closing Song “I’m So Glad Jesus Lifted Me”

v. 1 ***I’m so glad, Jesus lifted me (3x)... singin’ Glory, Hallelujah, Jesus lifted me!***

v. 2 ***Rose up from the grave, Jesus lifted me...(3x)***

v. 3 ***When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me...(3x)***

v. 4 ***I’m so glad, Jesus lifted me (3x)... singin’ Glory, Hallelujah, Jesus lifted me!***

*Benediction

*Congregational Response

“Halle, Halle, Hallelujah”

Rev. Vicky Stifter | Minister

Christy King | Youth Program Volunteer | Kristen Daly | Nursery Care Provider

Tim Mayer | Gospel Ensemble Director | Paul Thompson | Bass

Kristen Warnock | Guitar & Vocals

Elaine Johnson, Karen Roof, Gail Lyon & Donna McCoy | Diaconate Team

Steve Chance | Reader

Anna Diem & Nancy Johanson Paul | Hospitality

Michele Beaman | Audio-Visual & Sound System

Welcome to Riverside Community Church

United Church of Christ

GUESTS 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 Christy King for Sunday School after Children’s Time. Those birth-age 4 are invited to the nursery, located in the Fireside Room from 10:15 am – 12 noon.

THIS WEEK & NEXT SUNDAY AT RIVERSIDE

- **Today.** All are welcome after worship for coffee & conversation in the Riverview Room.
- Bill Weiler will be available at a designated table to share more about the work of GEO, including volunteer opportunities.
- Plastic recycling – see Elaine Thompson to donate plastics.
- Music and Arts Board meets in the Ruth Wells room.
- **Tuesday.** Bible Study at Down Manor 10:30-11:30 AM.
- **Wednesday.** Meditation 3:30 – 4:30 Ruth Wells Room
Circles of Solace 5:30 – 7:00 PM.
- **Thursday** – see details below.
- **Sunday.** Celebration Sunday for “Lighting the Way” Capital Campaign!

VOTER EDUCATION about upcoming bond & levy measures, hosted by Hood River Valley Parks & Recreation District, on Mon., April 22 at 6:30 PM in the Riverview Room. All are welcome.

“ISRAELISM” A powerful new documentary about the history and current realities of Palestine and Israel. Created by two Jewish filmmakers Riverside’s Riverview Room. Dinner at 5:30 PM. Film & discussion 6-8 PM.

COMMUNITY ACTION FOR PEACE Join us for an interfaith gathering for peace and a permanent ceasefire in Gaza. Fridays at 2nd and State Street, 4:30-5:00 p.m.

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING after worship on May 5th to consider the Proposed Resolution for a Ceasefire in Gaza



Welcome to Riverside Community Church.

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We are blessed by your presence.

Bienvenidos a la iglesia Riverside. Su presencia es una bendición para nosotros.

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 striving to reduce 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 541.980.0505 or katie@riversideucc.com.

Our Justice and Witness & Immigrant Welcoming teams promote engagement with the Warming Shelter, FISH Food Bank, Somos Uno, Columbia Gorge Climate Action Network. Contact Ann Harris at 541-806-2525 or 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: 541-38-1412 / 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 or call 541.386.1412 for more information.

Keep up on what's happening! Sign up for our weekly online newsletter, The Current, by contacting editor Kathy Watson, kathy@hungerchronicles.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

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Visit our Facebook page: Riverside Community Church, UCC



Photo by David Warnock

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