\*for those able, please stand

# **Gathering Music & Lighting of Candles**

# **Centering Silence & Prayer**

## **Prelude**

## **Words of Welcome & Introductions**

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

\*Call to Worship

**Allelulia** Pedro Casadaliga

# \*Opening Song

"I Woke Up This Morning" African American Spiritual – see insert

# \*Sharing the Peace of Christ

# **Preparing our Hearts**

# Reading

"I Am With You Always"

(adapted) John Phillip Newell

# **Gospel Ensemble**

"We've Come This Far" Albert Goodson

We have come this far by faith, Leaning on the Lord, Trusting in His holy Word. He's never failed us – yet. Singin' oh, oh, oh, can't turn a-round. We've come this far by faith.

# A Time of Offering & Opportunity

Today's Pockets of Plenty offering will support the SafeSpace Children's Advocacy Center of the Gorge.

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**

Luke 16:1-13

## Sermon

"Gotta Serve Someday"

## **Silent Reflection**

# **Song of Response**

"Guide My Feet"

Guide My fee while I run this race . . . (3x)

For I don't want to run this race in vain!

# 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

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

"We Shall Not Be Moved"

African American Spiritual - see insert

## \*Benediction

# **Congregational Response**

"Amen"

African American Spiritual

Rev. Vicky Stifter | Minister
Katie Cook | Youth Program Coordinator - Steve Chance | Childcare Volunteer
Tim Mayer | Piano - Paul Thompson | Bass - Cynta Butts | Guest Vocalist
Pam Riedl, Alison Betzing, Susan Baldwin | Greeters
John Boonstra & Steve Chance | Readers
Jenn Anderson | Audio Visual & Sound System
Betty Shalhope & Susan Bell | Hospitality

**Welcome!** We are blessed by your presence. **Guests** ~ 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.

# THIS WEEK AT RIVERSIDE TODAY

Children - Please join Katie Cook for Sunday School after Children's Time. Nursery care is not available today. All are invited to join for coffee, snacks and conversation in the Riverview Room after worship. Council meets in the Ruth Wells Room.

\*\*\*

## **TUESDAY**

Acupuncture Series with Rachel Moore-Beitler. 30 min appts from 4-6 PM. Information in the Riverview Room.

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### **W**EDNESDAY

Bible Study at Parkhurst 2:00 - 3:00 PM Meditative Prayer 3:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM OWL 6:45 PM

## **FRIDAY**

Justice seekers of all ages are invited to join an interfaith gathering for peace and a permanent ceasefire in Gaza. 5:00 – 5:30 PM at 2<sup>nd</sup> and State streets in Hood River.

\*\*\*

## **SATURDAY**

Tabling for "We are Immigrants" campaign at Farmers Market 9 AM -1 PM. Please contact Deanne if you can take a shift: deannemclaughlin@gmail.com

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## **CIRCLES OF SOLACE**

If you are carrying sadness in your heart due to the loss of a loved one or the state of the world, please join Pastor Vicky for this Fall series: Oct 9, 16, 23 & 30 | 5:30 - 7 PM. \$55.

To register, contact office@riversideucc.com by October 1st.

## RIVERSIDE AT THE OCEANSIDE | CAMP MACGRUDER!

Register today! October 24-26.



## **Welcome to Riverside Community Church**

United Church of Christ

## WHO WE ARE

We are a vibrant, Spirit-filled community following the ways of Jesus-loving our neighbors, seeking justice, and sharing God's extravagant welcome.

### **OPEN AND AFFIRMING**

We fully embrace LGBTQ+ individuals in all aspects of church life and ministry.

## IMMIGRANT WELCOMING

We stand in solidarity with our immigrant siblings, documented and undocumented.

### CARING FOR CREATION

We divest from fossil fuels, invest in renewable energy, and strive to reduce our environmental impact.

### MINISTRIES & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Youth Ministry - Sunday School, teen groups, and Our Whole Lives (OWL), a comprehensive human sexuality program. Contact: Katie Cook 541-980-0505 or katie@riversideucc.com

## **JUSTICE & WITNESS**

Engaging in advocacy & service Contact: Jeannie Chance 541-806-6648 stjechance@gmail.com

### "CHEERS" CARE TEAM

Providing meals and support during times of transition and challenge.

Contact: Pastor Vicky 541-386-1412 pastor@riversideucc.com

## **CONNECT & GROW**

Men's Discussion Group Monthly Book Group Adult Education Classes Bible Study & Reflection

### STAY CONNECTED

Weekly Newsletter, The Current Sign up at kathy@hungerchronicles.com Follow Us on Facebook - Riverside Community Church

Learn more about the United Church of Christ at www.ucc.org



RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH United Church of Christ September 21, 2025