

WAGAP releases 2020 Community Needs Assessment

By Leslie Naramore
WAGAP executive director

For many years, Washington Gorge Action Programs (WAGAP) has been doing assessments of the real needs of our residents in Skamania and Klickitat counties. There are patterns that repeat across the decades, and the causes of poverty within our rural communities have remained much the same. What we are witness to here locally is similar to what we see nationally in other rural communities. Families struggling to meet basic needs, compounded by the trauma of intergenerational poverty and the changing economy from timber and agriculture to tourism and high-tech design and manufacturing, has created a growing divide between the haves and the have nots.

We recognize that these challenges are ongoing and are often out of our control locally.

Because of all of this, our goal to create opportunities for all people remains unchanged. We are doing this by helping to build strong, resilient communities, and ensuring a more equitable society for everyone. In order to do this, we need community input, and we get that through the Community Needs Assessment which takes place every three years.

The 2020 Community Needs Assessment has recently been released following months of collaboration with more than 600 participants from the public, clients, staff, partners and stakeholders. An assessment of this detail is required by the Office of Community Services, the Federal body that oversees

Community Action Agencies (CAAs), such as WAGAP, to ensure that agencies are aligning their programs and services with current needs in their community. This is an opportunity for CAAs across the nation to ensure they're meeting the promise of Community Action. It also ensures that our dollars are being spent in a manner that agrees with and best helps our community members.

The assessment outlines factors such as demographics, poverty levels and employment data, and then offers key findings on the causes of poverty in the region. Unfortunately, the results of the 2020 Assessment were not surprising, given the pandemic and economic downturn.

One quarter of the population in WAGAP's service area is considered low income,

and both counties have a higher poverty rate than the state's 11 percent, with Klickitat County at 15.5 percent and Skamania County at 13 percent.

Additionally, in Klickitat County, Native Americans suffer the highest rate of poverty at 40 percent. Notably, in both counties, single females with children have the lowest median family income, that is far below county and state levels.

The causes of poverty are complex and there are no easy answers. Key factors were analyzed including employment, food, housing, healthcare and transportation. Other issues such as access to childcare, broadband internet service and education were also reviewed. Lack of access to these factors contributes to poverty and creates barriers

to getting oneself out of the cycle of poverty. In Skamania and Klickitat counties, many of our families are living in intergenerational poverty which is a cycle that can be extremely hard to break.

During the pandemic, the number of households in Skamania and Klickitat Counties served by WAGAP was up from 3,216 in 2019 to 4,006 in 2020. Of those being served, 45 percent had been unemployed for up to six months, while 29 percent had experienced extended unemployment greater than six months or were not in the labor force at all.

Access to affordable housing is a huge issue for many families. In both counties nearly one in three households are considered "housing cost burdened," meaning that they pay more than 30 percent of their income

toward housing. The high cost of living in the region suggests that even people earning over 150 percent of the Federal Poverty Level also struggle to make ends meet.

As noted by one participant from a focus group held with the Klickitat County Health Department, "Affordable housing in our area is so scarce it causes homelessness. It makes it hard to get healthcare providers to come here too. Some homeless people already work full time and can't afford housing — where is the 'out'?"

There are very few housing options on the market for rent. A quick internet search while writing this editorial shows some examples. Using several well-known sites, including local newspapers, a

See GRANTS, page 11

Worship Directory

1ST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ODELL
3081 Odell Hwy
Pastor Rick Plank
541-354-1863
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morning Service 11 a.m. Evening Service 6 p.m. Wednesday Service 6 p.m.

BAHA'I FAITH
Building Spiritual Communities
Come Join Us
Call Brook at 509-365-3749 or Visit bahai.us

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Pastor Rob Lawson, Principal
Pastor Jesse Jacobsen,
2323 E. 12th St. The Dalles.
541-298-8385
Sunday worship service, 11 a.m.
Sunday school 12:15 p.m.
Home to Columbia Lutheran School. www.gorgelutherans.com

BETHEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Inclusive - Welcoming - Peace & Justice
480 E. Jewett Blvd, White Salmon (509) 493-1747
Family Worship & Sunday School 10 am
Taize - 2nd Wednesdays 7 pm
Rev. Laura Robinson
www.bethelwhitesalmon.org

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
3350 Columbia View Dr.
The Dalles., 541-296-2711
Sunday Worship 10am,
Sunday Anchored H.S Youth 6pm, Tuesday Refuge M.S. Youth 6pm, Wednesdays AWANA Clubs ages 4 years through 5th grade 6pm.
www.calvarythedalles.org

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE SOCIETY
701 Washington St., The Dalles.
541-298-2711
Sunday service and Sunday School at 10 a.m. Testimony meeting last Wednesday of every month 7 p.m. www.christiansciencethedalles.org

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS
The Dalles Ward, Bishop Jason Corey, 541-296-6082;
Sacrament meeting 10 a.m.; Missionaries 509-306-0016.
1815 E. 15th St., The Dalles.

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
Kim Linder, Pastor
2168 Belmont Drive Church
Office: 9 a.m. - Noon
Phone: 541-386-2604
Website: www.hrnaz.org
Sunday Worship Service - 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School - 11 a.m.
Monday-Thursday Home Small Groups

CONCORDIA EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELS
Evangelical Lutheran Synod
11th & Pine • Hood River
541-386-4004 or 541-298-8385
Pastor Robert Lawson
Sunday School & Bible Class 8:00 a.m.
Divine Service 9:00 a.m.
Office Hours: Wednesday
www.concordiahoodriver.org

CORNERSTONE CHURCH
"Church of the Nazarene"
1313 Mount Hood Street,
The Dalles., 541-604-8986
Saturdays at 6:30 p.m.
Sundays at 10:45 a.m. Building Blocks (k-5th), Agents of Christ (6th-12th Youth Group), Anchored Women's Bible Study, Wednesdays 6-7 p.m.

COVENANT HOOD RIVER
Pastor Fritz Stranz
455 Frankton Rd.
Hood River, OR 97031
Sunday Service 10:00 a.m.
Service streamed on our website
541.386.8805
covenanthr.org

DUFUR CHRISTIAN CHURCH
315 NE Harrison St., Dufur.
541-467-2257
Service at 10 a.m.
See website for updates and to livestream service.
www.dufurcc.org

EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH
Pastor Nate Warren, 2819 W. 10th St. The Dalles, 541-296-2631
Sunday School 9:45 a.m. ,
Worship 11 a.m., Sun. Eve. 6 p.m.; Bible Study Wed. 6 p.m.,
Student Ministry - 6th-12th grades Wed. 6:30 p.m.

FAITH BIBLE CHURCH
1889 Belmont, 541-386-3557
fbhoodriver@gorge.net
www.fbhoodriver.org
Pastor Chris Mullins
- Sunday -
Worship Service 10:30am - 12pm
Expository preaching
Childcare provided 11:00 am
We offer small groups/studies
Call for times and locations.

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Pastor Zachary Patterson,
2810 W. 10th Street,
The Dalles, 541-296-3586
Sunday Worship Service 10 a.m.,
Bible Study Sunday 9 a.m.
FaithLutheranTD.com

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Pastor Mike Wilson,
909 Court St. The Dalles,
541-296-6189
Service 10:30 a.m.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Pastor Gigi Siekkinen,
305 E. 11th St., The Dalles.
541-296-4675
Worshipping ONLINE at 11 am SundayJoin by Zoom
See our website or Facebook link
thedallesumc.org
facebook.com/DallesFUMC
Email: thedallesumc@gmail.com

GATEWAY CHURCH (ECO)
John Geiter Pastor
1111 Dry Hollow Rd, The Dalles,
541-298-8531
Sunday Worship 9 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
www.gatewaypc.org Services live-streamed through website

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH
2 Services 9 am and 11 am with live streaming at 9am on our website
No children's church or nursery at this time.
PO Box 1098/
1280 W Jewett Blvd
White Salmon, WA 98672
www.Grace-ws.org
509-493-2597

HOOD RIVER ALLIANCE CHURCH
2650 Montello Avenue
Hood River
541.386.2812
office@hrralliance.org
Service times:
Sunday 9am and 10:45 am
Celebrate Recovery,
Thursdays 6:30pm

HOOD RIVER CHURCH OF CHRIST
Evangelist GW Cliver
903-426-8064
9:45 Bible Classes
10:45 Services
Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m. -
541-386-2782

HOOD RIVER VALLEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)
Pastor: Rev. Alicia Speidel
975 Indian Creek Road
Hood River, OR 97031
541 386-2608
Currently gathering for worship on Face Book 10:30am Sunday
For more information, please check church website:
www.hoodrivervalleychristianchurch.org or email:
hrcvchurch@gmail.com

HOUSE OF GRACE
114 W. Jefferson, Bingen
Sunday Service 10 a.m.
"Come experience the presence of God"
509-493-1145

HUSUM COMMUNITY CHURCH OF GOD
Sundays
Sunday School...9:30 a.m.
Worship...10:45 a.m.
Several Weekly Bible Studies
Call for information and locations
Church -- 493-2724
Pastor Tom Culp

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
305 9th St. 386-3046
Pastor Jeff Mueller
www.ImmanuelHR.org
Sunday Morning Schedule
Adult Bible Class 8:45 a.m.
Worship Service 10:00 a.m.
Children's Church 10:00 a.m.
Nursery Care 9:45 a.m.-11:15 a.m.
Small Groups All Week
Check our web page above for all the details
Sr. High Youth Group
Saturdays @ 6:30 p.m.
Middle School Youth Group
Fridays @ 3:30 p.m.
"It's all about RELATIONSHIPS!"
Please join us!

KRHP TV-14
"Christian TV the way it ought to be"
Available free over the air in The Dalles & Dallesport.
Also available free online at www.krhp.org.
Also available free on Roku TV.

LIFELINE BAPTIST CHURCH
Pastor Fred Sheldon, 801 E. 10th St. The Dalles, 541-296-1508
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.,
Worship 11 a.m., 6 p.m. Sunday, Wednesday 7 p.m.

LIFE IN CHRIST CENTER (ASSEMBLIES OF GOD)
Pastor Allen Refsland, 3095 Cherry Heights Rd, The Dalles, 541-296-1136
Sunday School and Adult Life Groups 9 a.m., Sunday Worship Celebration 10:15 a.m. Wednesday night activities include: Kids clubs, Youth and Adult classes all starting at 6:30 p.m. See more info at www.christcenter.net

LYLE CELEBRATION CENTER
715 Washington St., Lyle
509-365-3971
Pastor Les Haarstad
Sunday School -- 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service -- 10:30 a.m.
Youth & Small Groups -- 6 p.m.
Wednesday -- 6:30 p.m.
Bible Study
Children's Ministries (K-5)

MAUPIN COMMUNITY CHURCH
Pastor Tim Morelli,
490 Fifth St.,
541-395-2653
Sunday School, 9:00 a.m. with Sunday Worship, at 10 a.m. Youth Group Wed. 6 p.m.; Women's Bible Study Thurs. 10 a.m.; Men's Breakfast Fri. 7 a.m.

MID-COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST
Pastor David Astin, 206 6th St., Dallesport, Wash., 509-767-4901
Sunday Worship, 11 a.m., 6 p.m.; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; Wednesday 7 p.m.

MID-COLUMBIA UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
Online Worship Sunday at 10 a.m.
Religious Exploration for Children and Youth
Email mcuufl@gmail.com for a link to the online service
Rev. Judy Zimmerman
Info: (541) 241-6771 or mciuuf.org
Justice. Inclusion. Compassion. A Welcoming Congregation

MT. ADAMS BAPTIST CHURCH
Come as you are!
Sunday Worship: 10:45 a.m.
Sunday School for all ages: 9:30 a.m.
2366 Hwy 141, Trout Lake
509-395-2929
mountadamsbaptistchurch.org

MT. ADAMS BUDDHIST TEMPLE
Virtual Meetings:
Temple service Sat 9-10 am
https://us04web.zoom.us/j/507878725
Meditation and Metta Mon 12-1 pm
https://zoom.us/j/366450747
May all be well and happy, may all know love and peace

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN
Bingen WA.
Sunday Worship...9:00 a.m.
Bible Study...Sun., 8 a.m.
509-493-2499

PARKDALE BAPTIST
6310 Dee Hwy
541-352-6515
Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship, 11 a.m.
Evening Worship, 6 p.m.
Wednesday Study, 6 p.m.

PARKDALE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
4th & Van Nuys (by grade school) Services
Carl Casey, Pastor
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 11 a.m.
Ladies' Bible Study, Mon. 9:30 a.m.
Call 541-352-6913 or 541-490-6673 for further details.

PARKDALE COMMUNITY CHURCH
4910 Baseline Drive 541-352-7747
Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship, 10:45 a.m.
Rev. Mark N. Willems, Pastor

QUAKERS, RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS
Mt View Worship Group
601 Union St, The Dalles
Meets via Zoom on the 1st and 3rd Sundays at 10:00 am
Check out our website: Quakersinthegorge.com
We are a non-programmed worship group under the care of Multnomah Monthly Meeting
Contact person, Jeff: 541-490-6006 or Lark 541-980-6322
All are welcome.

RIVER OF LIFE ASSEMBLY
Lead Pastor Terry Abbott
Children's Pastor Harvey Walls
Youth Pastor Jesse Davis
979 Tucker Rd,
Hood River, OR 97031
541-386-3656, rolahr.org
Sunday 9:30 am in person & virtual
Worship Service & K-6th Grades
Wednesday 6:30 pm
Pastor Terry - virtual
Kidz Connect (K-6th) in person & virtual
ShareHouse Youth Ministries in person
Thursdays 6:30 pm Share-House Youth - Instagram
FACEBOOK, YOUTUBE, INSTAGRAM

RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH UCC
Heart of Downtown at 4th & State
Sunday worship service at 10:30 am via Zoom.
Check out our website at riversideucc.com for more information
Doubters welcome
An "Open & Affirming" congregation
Rev. Vicky A. Stifter,
541-386-1412

RIVERS OF GRACE CHURCH
1122 Oak Street
The Dalles, OR 97058
Services at 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. on Sundays
Pastor Cindy McLean

ROWENA BAPTIST CHURCH
Pastor George Clark, 5964 Hwy 30 West, The Dalles (Rowena), 541-296-5933
Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship, 10:45 a.m.
Ladies Bible Study Wed. 9:30 a.m.
Good News Club Thurs. 4:30-5:30 p.m. - School Year - at Church.

RUFUS BAPTIST CHURCH
Interim Pastor Scott Holliday,
309 Wallace St., Rufus,
541-739-2328
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.,
Sunday Worship, 11 a.m., Sunday Evening 6 p.m.

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST
New Location: 3339 E. 13th St.
Adventist Elementary
541-298-1956
Services: Saturday, 11 A.M. Wednesday, 7 p.m.
Pastor David Woodruff

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST
13th & Oak, 541-386-3220
David Woodruff, Pastor
9:30 a.m. Bible Study
11 a.m. Worship Service
Spanish Services meet at 1100 22nd St.

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
509 NE Tohomish St.
White Salmon
Sabbath School 9:30 a.m. (Saturday)
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
Community Service Center open to needy on Tuesdays, 9:30 - 2:30
Pastor Merrill Caviness
340-953-1372

SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY BIBLE CHURCH
8th & Pacific, Hood River
Tommy Moon, Pastor
Sunday Service 10:00 a.m. svbchr.org

SOVEREIGN GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH
Pastor Norm Wells, 1003 Sunflower St. W. The Dalles, 541-296-9651
Sunday School 10 a.m., Sunday Worship 11 a.m. and Wednesday Evenings 7 pm

SPIRIT OF GRACE (A Lutheran/Methodist Cooperative Church)
Interim Pastor Sue Seifert
1140 Tucker Road
541-386-3993
10 a.m. Worship
11 a.m. Fellowship
Everyone is welcome!

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH
240 NW Washington
White Salmon
Masses:
• Saturday - 5 p.m. (English)
• Saturday - 7 p.m. (Spanish)
• Sunday - 9 a.m. (English)
• Sunday - 11 a.m. (Spanish)
Father Salomon Covarrubias
493-2828

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Rev Kelly Mahon
Sunday worship 10 a.m. @ Facebook.com/stmarks.hoodriver
400 11th St., Hood River
541-386-2077

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
1501 Belmont, Hood River
Saturday Sacrament of Reconciliation in English/Spanish
3-4 p.m. Saturday
Mass in English 5 p.m.
Mass in Spanish 7 p.m.
Sunday
Mass in Spanish 8 a.m.
Mass in English 10 a.m.
Mass in Spanish 1 p.m.
Holy Day Masses
7 a.m., 12:10 p.m., 7 p.m.
Daily Mass 7:30 a.m.
Father Tomy Chowaran, Pastor,
541-386-3373

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
1805 Minnesota St., The Dalles,
541-296-9587
Sunday Services at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m., Adult Forum 9 a.m., Rev. Marilyn Roth, Rector

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
Visitors Welcome
Sunday Services 10 a.m.
Youth Activities, Weds. 7 p.m.
1041 W Jewett Blvd, WS
493-1919
www.mormon.org

THE DALLES SALVATION ARMY
Lt. Raymond Morris, The Dalles,
541-296-6417
Sunday Coffee fellowship 10 a.m.,
Worship 10:30 a.m.; Wed. Bible Study, 6:30 p.m.

TUCKER ROAD BAPTIST
Pastor Dean E. Kelly, Jr.
1455 Tucker Road
Hood River, OR 97031
541-386-1049
- Sundays -
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
- Wednesdays -
Prayer Meeting 10 a.m.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL
Rev. Lea Mathieu, Pastor,
111 E. 5th St., The Dalles,
541-296-2909
Worship 10 a.m.

VALLEY WORSHIP CENTER
5780 Hwy 35, Mt.Hood/PrkdL
Rev. Don & LaRonna Howell
Sunday Service.....10:45am
Virtual Service wkly. Facebook
www.valleyworshipcenter.org
valleyworshipcenter.pastor@gmail.com or (541) 352-7269

WHITE RIVER CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
Pastor Jeff Hoover, Tygh School Community Center Annex, 83147 Tygh Valley Rd., Tygh Valley, OR 97063
Worship 9 a.m. Sunday. Email: wrcfellowship@gmail.com; http://wrcfellowship.com; PO Box 11, Tygh Valley, OR 97063

WHITE SALMON PINECREST
Nazarene Church
10 a.m. Sunday Worship Service & Children's Service
6 p.m. Saturday Night Spanish Worship Service
255 Rhine Village Dr., White Salmon
360-567-5454
Come Join Us for the Story

WHITE SALMON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
341 N. Main Avenue
White Salmon, WA 98672
(509) 493-1308
wsuunc@embarqmail.com
www.whitesalmonumc.org

WY'EAST COMMUNITY CHURCH
Pastor Doug Massingill
3422 Odell Hwy, Odell
541-354-1063
Sunday Worship Schedule
9 a.m. Adult Bible Study
10 a.m. Children's Sunday School
10 a.m. Worship Service
Come let us worship!

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
Rev. Tyler Beane Kelly,
101 W. 10th St., The Dalles,
541-296-9146
Worship online at 10:00 a.m. Sunday On YouTube. Visit our Website
www.zioninthedalles.com or our Facebook page.

To be included in the next worship directory, contact us at 541-296-2141 ext 101 or email nikip@gorgenews.com