

House of Covenant NEWSLETTER

April 2024



INTRODUCTION

Shalom,

Welcome to the House of Covenant newsletter! The purpose of this newsletter is to provide further connections to our community. It will be published once every two months and will include:

Upcoming Events: Everything from Feasts, Men's or Women's groups, classes, annual picnic, etc.

Appreciation: This section will express our deep, heartfelt gratitude to all our generous congregants who selflessly offer their time and effort to serve.

Key Dates: This will provide all the important days and times for our feasts, services, and celebrations.

Getting to Know You: In this section a member of the community will be highlighted to give their testimony, background, and journey with God. This is a wonderful way for us to connect to our community on a personal level.

Chai with the Rabbi: This will be a section that will provide insights into Hebrew words, Torah portions or current teachings.

APPRECIATION

We want to thank the kitchen crew, the decorating team, the dancers, worship team, AV team, security, the clean-up crew, and those who worked feverishly on Purim preparation and participation. Thank you!

CLASSES

Hebrew Class

Mondays, 6pm

Kevin Wells: 541-480-5424

Isaiah Study Group

Thursdays, 6:30pm

Sherel Stosik: 808-778-1172

Davidic Dance Class

Mondays, 7pm

Darla Estes: 541-550-6750

All events meet at 21300 Bear Creek Rd unless noted.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Passover *April 22 (Seders in homes)*

Passover is the beginning of the seven Biblical feasts and is one of the three pilgrimage festivals. This feast commemorates God's deliverance of His people from slavery and the Exodus from Egypt. It also marks the sacrifice of Yeshua the Messiah. Join us for our in-home Passover Seders. Please sign up with our Pesach Hosts on the clipboards to participate.

Unleavened Bread *April 22 - 29 (Potluck)*

Unleavened Bread is the week-long observance of removing the leaven from our homes and participating in the eating of matzah. This also commemorates the Exodus and symbolizes the removal of sin (leaven) from our lives. Messiah, the Bread of Life, was in the grave during part of this feast. We celebrate this feast by having a community potluck on **April 29th at 6:30pm**.

First Fruits *April 27, 10am (Potluck)*

First Fruits occurs on the first day following the Sabbath after Passover. This celebration is to remember that our first and best harvest belongs to the Lord Yeshua the Messiah, who resurrected on this day. This also begins the Counting of the Omer. Our **April 27th** service starts at **10:30am** and will be followed by a potluck.

Shavuot *June 15, 6pm (Ice Cream Social)*

Shavuot is a Biblical holy day that commemorates the anniversary of when God gave the Torah to the nation of Israel at Mount Sinai. Shavuot is the second of the Shalosh Regalim, the three Biblical pilgrimage festivals. It marks the conclusion of the Counting of the Omer. In the Brit Hadashah (New Testament), this was also known as the Day of Pentecost (Greek for 50) - the Day that God sent his Ruach (Spirit) to His disciples. We meet for an evening service and ice cream social on **June 15th at 6pm**.

All upcoming events and services are listed on our online calendar at houseofcovenant.org.

RECIPES

Homemade Matzah *Unleavened Bread*

Matzah (מַצָּה) is unleavened bread made from flour and water. It is eaten during the Passover Seder and throughout the feast of Unleavened Bread. The ingredients are carefully kept apart until they are mixed and kneaded together. The dough is baked before it has a chance to rise and become leavened, which is forbidden on Passover.

Visit our YouTube Channel at "House of Covenant in Bend Oregon" and search for [Baking Matzah with Peachy](#) to find a wonderful homemade recipe provided to us by Peachy Dolly.

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CHAI WITH THE RABBI

“Chai with the Rabbi.” This phrase spawned out of my calling as a Messianic Jewish rabbi. Years ago, in a desire to get to know and develop deeper relationships with congregants, we scheduled coffee meetings throughout the week. I would lightheartedly add that I preferred chai tea.

Then I had a fascinating realization. The Hebrew word for life is chai – **חַי** (phonetically pronounced *chai*). Thus, Chai (life) with the Rabbi was born. It held the deeper meaning of developing relationship, the covenant relationship that produces life. Another idea was relationship with a teacher of Torah, of God’s Word, conveys life. A rich and abundant life. However, I quickly realized....



“What is so special about me?”

I am enriched and learn from all the people I get to know better, too. Everyone I interact with teaches me as well. Anyone, especially one who loves and pursues God, offers life. Then a profound revelation struck like a beam of light from heaven! Yeshua the Messiah, the Savior and Redeemer of all mankind, the true Rabbi said:

“I come to bring life, and more abundantly!” (John 10:10)

Chai with the Rabbi is not about relationship with an earthly teacher, it’s about a deeper relationship with the true Rabbi, Yeshua the Messiah, who produces abundant life. The calling of a rabbi is to be a guide, a teacher, a light that introduces one to Yeshua our King. If you love God and seek Him, that is your calling too. So, grab a seat, have a cup of chai (life) and let’s introduce each other to our Rabbi.

God bless,
Adam Spears

Keep your eye on this section. In the coming months Adam, John, and perhaps some others will convey thoughts and teachings that give insight into God and His Word which will help us get to know our Savior better.

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GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Sandi Harris

Written by Kyle Suenaga

Sandi joined the congregation around 2008, and although she arrived with decades of experience as a Sunday school teacher under her belt, she spent her first year at HOC reading everything Adam and John had written in order to learn the Messianic message before trying to share it with others. She is now the children's ministry leader and has developed an incredible program that engages the kids in Scripture, their relationship with Yeshua, and their Messianic Jewish community.

"I want every child to find the Lord as their savior and to grow up knowing they are special to God, that He has a plan for them. We will soon begin memorizing Psalm 91, because I want the children to not be afraid. I want them to have good memories of this place; I want them to feel the love here so they always return."

Sandi particularly loves the kind notes of gratitude she receives from kids, and one of her favorite things about running the children's ministry at HOC is encouraging those who tend to hold back initially to come alive and find a place here, even to the point of becoming Shabbat school teachers themselves.

"I am very, very thankful that God put me in this role. It's been 61 years, and I'm not willing to give up yet!"



RESOURCES

To find a previous teaching, search for us on YouTube at [House Of Covenant In Bend Oregon](#).

If you desire more in-depth study materials, visit [lostintranslation.org](#).

WHERE TO FIND US

Phone: (458) 899-4922

Email: office.houseofcovenant@gmail.com

Website: www.houseofcovenant.org

We meet at:
21300 Bear Creek Rd.
Bend, OR 97701

Office hours:

Tuesday - Friday 10am - 6pm
Saturday 10am - 3pm
Sunday - Monday Closed

Mailing address:

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