



WHITEHORSE UNITING CHURCH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2023.

HELLO WHITEHORSE UNITING CHURCH PEOPLE.

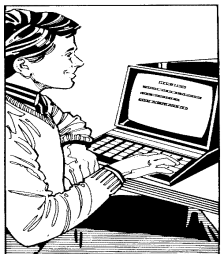
WELCOME TO THE FEBRUARY AND FIRST EDITION OF OUR MONTHLY COMMUNICATION.

AS YOU WILL HAVE READ IN THE NEW, WEEKLY NOTICESHEET THIS COMMUNICATION IS SUPPLEMENTARY TO THAT, IN THAT ARTICLES WILL BE SLIGHTLY LONGER, AND HOPEFULLY A LITTLE MORE VARIED.

WE WOULD LIKE TO INCLUDE SOMETHING FROM THE MINISTERS, NEWS FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL, THE MONTH'S PREACHING PLAN, WHAT'S ON DURING THE MONTH AND NEWS OF PEOPLE AND THEIR ACTIVITIES WITHIN EACH CAMPUS. (PRIVACY PERMITTING) ALONG WITH THE ODD ITEM TO MAKE YOU SMILE.

I HOPE YOU CAN SEE THAT THERE'S A PLACE FOR YOU TO CONTRIBUTE SOMETHING YOU BELIEVE TO BE OF INTERESING TO OTHERS IN THE CHURCH COMMUNITY.

OF COURSE WE CANNOT PROMISE TO PUBLISH EVERYTHING WHICH COMES OUR WAY, BUT WE WILL TRY TO MAKE THIS COMMUNICATION GOOD READING AND RELEVANT.



HEATHER BRAIN
nhbrain@tpg.com.au
98787929

FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON.

From the outside it may seem that we're in a vacuum at present. Circumstances have meant a number of changes have been made that may be not have been what was expected. You may be asking "Are we moving forward?" or thinking "Changes are moving too fast."

The new Whitehorse Church Council is finding its feet and trying to get on with the important decisions to be made. Many are operational to ensure that organization is in place for our ongoing congregation. However, it is important that we do not spend so much time on administrative issues that we fail to look at where we are going and what is our identity as the Whitehorse Uniting Church.

An important challenge for our Council and the whole congregation is to plan for our future together. That involves considering our vision and direction, what is important to us as a congregation, where we fit in our local and wider community, and how as a church we carry out being disciples in the real world of the 21st century.

Many will have been surprised or disappointed by the decision to continue worshipping as one congregation during February. For those who have experienced worshipping together, there have been many positive outcomes. The opportunity to "get the feel" of what it's like to be together regularly, to take time to meet and speak with members who we do not know, to extend ourselves beyond our comfortable known, may outweigh the slight inconvenience of not worshipping in our 'local' place. In our current situation, worshipping in one place also takes the pressure off our Ministry Team to try to provide leadership for all worship services.

We have come together but that is not the full stop - it is the start of an adventure together. It can be a time for renewal that can mean moving in a new direction as opportunities present themselves. At the same time we must balance the needs of members and the effect of change. Streaming our worship services has been meaningful for a proportion of our members and others. How do we relate to our online worshippers?

The Church Council wants to hold a Planning Day at which the thoughtful contributions of the whole congregation can be heard and considered. The exact format and timing are yet to be decided, but

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Remember sometimes when someone is going through a rough time – just sit with them and listen.

No preaching, no advice.

Just be there.



The Paradox of our Age.

*We have bigger houses, but smaller families,
more conveniences, but less time.*

*We have more degrees but less sense;
more experts but more problems,
more medicines, but less healthiness.*

*We've been to the moon and back,
but have trouble crossing the street
to meet our new neighbours.*

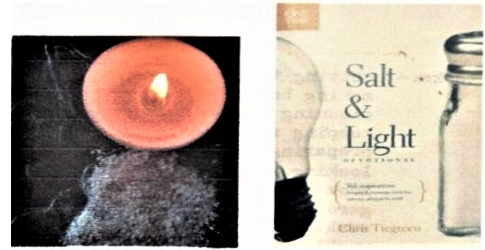
*We built more computers to hold more copies than ever
but have less real communication;
We have become long on quantity,
but short on quality.*

*These are times of fast foods but slow digestion
tall means but short characters,
steep profits but shallow relationships.*

*It's a time when there is much in the window
but not much in the room.*

HIS HOLINESS THE 14TH DAHLAI LAMA.

Salt and Light series. Rev. Tina.



Lord, may
*we bring the flavor of Christ's love to our community
and be the light of Christ in the world. Amen.*

The birth we longed for has happened. We are a new church.

We have begun the journey of building Christ's church, where he is the cornerstone, and we are the living stones. We build his church, stone by stone, slowly at God's pace. We do it with the Holy Spirit's guidance and help. We do it by looking at Christ as our exemplar.

Currently, a new system is being created and in some ways Whitehorse UC will have a new structure and way of doing things.

Regulations, principles and disciplines may assist us from time to time, but it is our vision that will shape our hearts and lives and bring permanent transformation. The foundation of that vision is Jesus Christ, his love for us and through us. This year we hope our vision emerges from amongst us. This cannot be rushed, and we will do it together in Christ.

Christ's love working through each of us will add the saltiness to our community and how we shine Christ's light into the world around us.

We may ask: How can we be the salt of the earth, and flavor Christ's church?

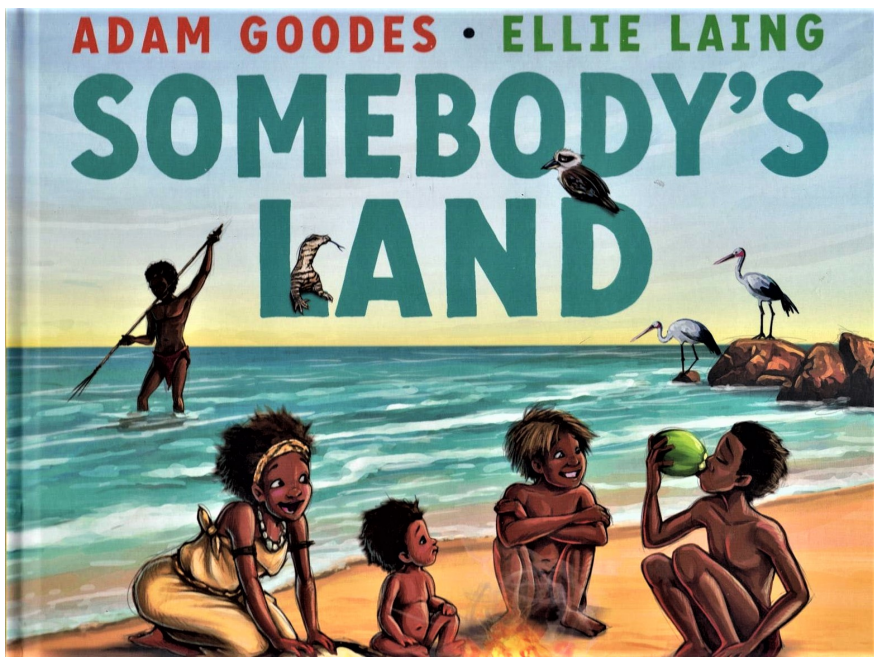
How can we be the light of Christ in the world?

This year our Lenten study will be based on a series of movies that witness to people who have been salt of the earth and Christ's light in the world. I invite you to come to the studies with your questions and reflections and share them. The series will be at Forest Hill on Sundays at 4.00pm for five weeks.

You may also choose to find a good book to read about someone you think is the salt of the earth or Christ's light in the world.

Over the coming weeks and during Lent we will focus on Christ's call to be salt of the earth and light in the world. I encourage you to spend time praying and pondering on how you would like to embody some of the qualities of the people in the study movies or the book you read. I also introduce the book I've chosen as my daily devotional which is called *Salt and Light* by Chris Tiegreen.



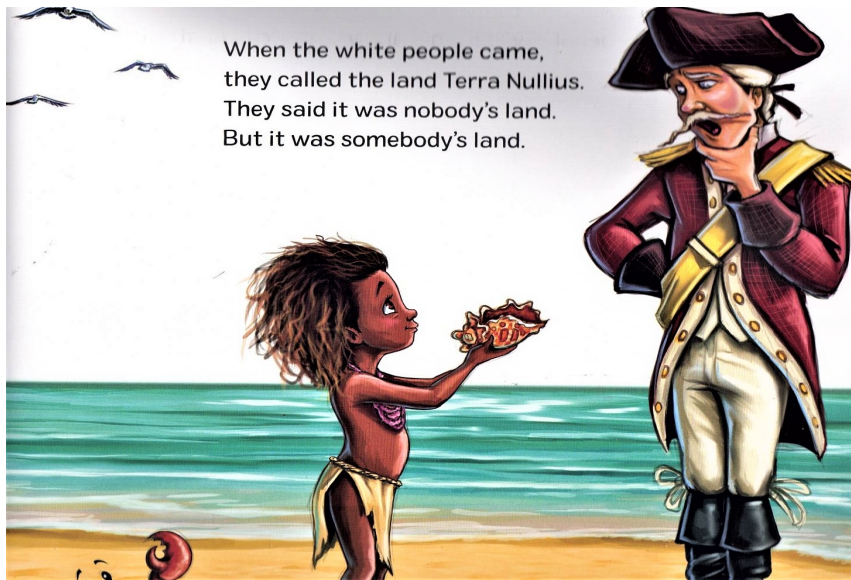


For thousands and thousands of years,
Aboriginal people lived in the land we now call Australia.

The land is where people
cared for the rivers and seas,
collected shells to share,
and caught fish and mud crabs to eat.



When the white people came,
they called the land Terra Nullius.
They said it was nobody's land.
But it was somebody's land.



Somebody's Land, by Adam Goodes, is the book which Jeff Randles showed the congregation at Mitcham UC on Sunday, January 22nd at the Day of Mourning service, which Jeff led with the help of Bev Brown, Elaine Hewson, Jill Kidd and Julie Hawkey. The service was simple with appropriate and uplifting singable hymns, a filmed message from Rev. Sharon Hollis, prayers and readings.

The book is popular in kindergartens and childcare centres, and my daughter, who works mostly with an Aboriginal child in long day care says that by about the third page the children know the meaning of 'terra nullius' and can repeat the chorus verse. She adds that all her friends have at least one copy. **Somebody's Land** is available at all regular bookshops, and would be a worthwhile addition to your bookshelves.

Lent is almost here.

As a teacher in a Catholic school one of the most important activities was to make pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, to remind us that in olden times people cleaned out their pantries and used up the old foodstuffs, so there was nothing tempting for Lent. So, my grade 1 read the recipe, added the ingredients, mixed the dough, warmed the frypan and doled out the spoonfuls of mixture and rejoiced in the great smell, buttered the pancakes, then took bites.

Then the looks of horror!!!

Why did they taste so bad?

When I looked at the ingredients that I had brought from home, I realized that instead of sugar I had brought the identical looking jar of bi carb soda!!!! We tried adding sugar to the mixture, but nothing worked, so a lesson was learned but not the one expected!

Lent came and went for that year, but not the years following, and for as long as I taught at that school and taught higher grades some of those children would remember being in my grade 1 and would say—

"Remember the year we made pancakes and they were so bad!!!!!!"

HEATHER BRAIN

MARGARET COSSTICK—

- WEEKLY EDITOR WC NEWSLETTER.



I WAS BORN IN BRIBANE,
SO I' M A PROUD QUEENS
-LANDER . SOMETIMES I
FEEL OUT OF STATE AND
OUT OF DATE.'

HAVING TRAINED AS A PRIMARY TEACHER, I TAUGHT IN BRIBANE FOR TWO YEARS, BEFORE ROMA (ABOUT 7HOURS DRIVE WEST OF BRISBANE, WHERE I WORKED FOR ANOTHER TWO YEARS. DURING THIS TIME I FELT GOD' S CALL TO MISSIONARY WORK. AFTER SIX MONTHS TRAINING IN SYDNEY, I WAS SENT TO MILINGIMBI, A SMALL ISLAND OFF ARNHEM LAND WHICH WAS THE HOME OF ABOUT 700 ABO-RIGINES AND ABOUT 70 MISSION STAFF. AFTER THREE YEARS I RETURNED TO WORK AT A NEW BRISBANE SCHOOL (WHICH WASN' T READY) BEFORE BEING INVITED BY REV. JOHN MAVOR, THE DIRECTOR OF PICEC (PACIFIC ISLANDS CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COUNCIL) AND HIS WIFE TO SPEND SOME OF THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS WITH THEM IN SUVA, FIJI. I SUGGESTED THAT I COME AND WORK THERE FOR A YEAR.

WHILE THERE I MET AND MARRIED JOHN, WHO WAS WORKING AT THE BANK, AND JUST HAPPENED TO BE THE PICEC TREASURER!

TWO YEARS LATER WE RETURNED TO MELBOURNE, PURCHASED A HOUSE IN MITCHAM AND BEGAN WORSHIPPING AT' MOUNT VIEW' THEN WE MOVED HOUSE.....ABOUT 300 METRES DOWN THE ROAD! WE HAVE TWO SONS AND TWO GRANDCHILDREN, SO WHEN THE BOYS WERE OLD ENOUGH I UPDATED MY TEACHING QUALIFICATIONS AND TAUGHT ONCE MORE, THOROUGHLY ENJOYING MY 20 YEARS AT MOOROOLBARK EAST PRIMARY SCHOOL. BEFORE COVID PUT AN END TO SUCH ACTIVITIES I WAS INVOLVED IN BUSH WALKING AND CYCLING. THIS YEAR I' M HOPEFUL OF RETURNING TO THE WALKING GROUP.

MARGARET COSSTICK.

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you will receive plenty of notice. Start observing, thinking and jotting down your ideas.

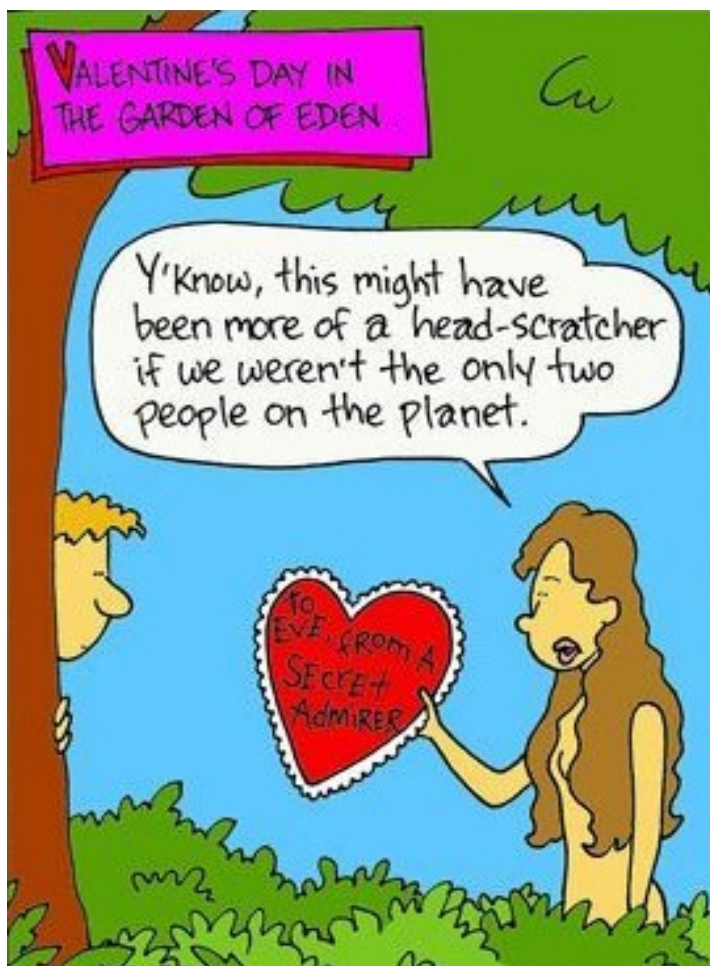
A strong community needs to stand on a strong base. Not everyone will have the same opinion or will be at the same stage of their spiritual journey. We all need nurturing in our faith. Worship can be the source of that, but to be a strong faith community perhaps we need more. Each person will find what can provide the spiritual sustenance for them! Let us consider how we can come together in ways that assist us on our journey.

Grim forecasts and pictures have been painted of the Uniting Church's future. If we seriously believe that God works through His people whether inside or outside the church, then we must look for ways in which we are being led to be the church. How are we "the salt of the earth" and the light that is not hidden, but a beacon?

You have the names of the Church Council members. Please keep them informed about what is working well, what you would like to see change, and give them encouragement to bring positive and helpful ideas to the decision making of the Council

Are we as a church, like the aftermath of the bush fires- burnt out? Do we see the new growth that can follow, and with careful nurturing can again be a vibrant landscape? I invite you read or reread the article "Where are we going?" in the October 2022 edition of Crosslight.

JULIE HAWKEY. CHAIR, CHURCH COUNCIL.



REMEMBER, IT'S ONLY NEXT WEEK!



BOTH PHOTOGRAPHS WERE TAKEN FROM APPROXIMATELY THE SAME PLACE



WHAT IS YOUR MISSION?

At Forest Hill in 2007 member Wendy Parish suggested that the old, empty kindergarten which had been vacant for many years be used as an **Op Shop**. And it was so. Wendy, and some of her friends volunteered their time; with that first year being something of a learning experience.

When \$100 of stock was sold there was much celebration! In 2020, after two years of Covid and major refurbishment funded by some of the St. Ninian's property sale proceeds, the Op Shop now has over fifty volunteers and needs more. We have three yellow donation bins, the middle for our shop and the other two for the UC Broadmeadows, which runs a truck to collect excess stock from all Melbourne UC Op shops.

Donations are sorted into "saleable now" for display, "seasonal" for our store in the Tennis shed, "excess" for Broadmeadows, and "junk" to be disposed as rubbish. Display stock is priced, with Ladies' dresses \$6, Long sleeved blouses \$3, Short sleeved \$2.50, and Children's toys from 50cents, etc.

You must come and check it out, and bring your purse as we are waiting for EFTPOS to arrive in a few weeks. The money raised is gifted to small charities, local and national. In 2022 we sold stock for \$59,500 and gifted it to UC East Burwood Emergency Relief, Emergency Relief Network, Servants Community Housing, Kids Hope local, Centre 81, Angel Flight Australia, UCA Frontier Services, Benwerren, International Needs Australia, Kondanani Zambia, Leprosy Mission Australia, Missionary Aviation Fellowship in PNG, Tongan Relief Fund, and Act for Peace Ukraine Crisis. In addition, Op shop donated clothing to assist individuals registered with other local charities, valued at over \$2000 at Op shop prices. The \$4500 donated to Kids Hope Australia was matched dollar for dollar with Philanthropic Co-payments so they received \$9000, which will initiate Kids Hope programs in three additional schools. We donated 410,00 to International Needs Australia (Google their website) which attracted a five times multiplier from the Federal Government as INA received \$60000! All added up the Op shop's donations were worth \$116,120 to recipients in 2022.

Thank you Op shop volunteers.

You did good work, and a lot of it! Daily teams are of 3 or 4 people, and many new friendships are made. If YOU would like to volunteer for a shift, 9.30am-1.00pm any day of the week bar Sunday, weekly, fortnightly or monthly please talk to any Op shop Committee member -Don Sinclair, Lyn Wilson, Pam Oxley or Trevor Thomas, or call 0438592092.

TREVOR THOMAS.

EMMANUEL- GOD WITH US-Michael Morwood

We believe in an ultimate Reality, a Reality beyond our words,
Beyond our images,
A Reality that grounds and sustains everything that exists.
We see this Reality at work in the immensity of our universe,
In the incredible display of life-forms on this planet
And in the development of consciousness in the human species.
All our collected wisdom is a visible expression of this Reality,
Active for millions of years in human development,
Active in all places and at all times in individuals and cultures.
Seeking expression in the betterment of humanity.
As Christians we rejoice in the birth of Jesus,
In him we see the fullness of human possibility, to make God visible in our lives,
In him we have seen the Ultimate Reality, God, Breath of life, Wisdom,
Come to expression in human form.
Like all of us he grew in wisdom as he aged, he questioned,
He searched for meaning, he shaped his convictions, he experienced love..
He stood firmly in his own religious tradition and preached good news
To all people dreaming of a better humanity.
We rejoice that his teaching sets us free.
From imagining a manipulative, intervening God
And from thinking we are distant from Reality, In which our very existence is grounded.
We rejoice that Jesus led people to discover the sacred in the ordinary:
In the crowd, in the lowly, in everyday life, in human yearnings to be better people
And in being neighbor to one another .
We rejoice that his teaching sets us free to believe that we live in God
And that God lives and comes to a wonderful expression in us.
We believe in an eternal dimension to this intimate connectedness
giving meaning to who we are.
We give thanks for God being with us In the love of family and friends.
In whatever has been, in the circumstances of life now,
In whatever the future holds for us
May we recognize God-in-us and give generous expression
To this wonderful gift we all share. AMEN.

I am having my burst of Progressive Christian theology at present, courtesy of Rev. Alex Adam's Lending Library! I have watched a DVD of John Dominic Crosson addressing the Progressive Christian network here in Melbourne, which was really great, and I am almost finished Michael Morwood's book 'In Memory of Jesus', where Michael speaks to Jesus as a real, human friend, which required me to turn my brain inside out, and that's not easy at my age!

HEATHER BRAIN.

**WHITEHORSE UNITING CHURCH—
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT—
PART TIME
COMMENCING ON 8 HOURS PER WEEK.
UNITING CHURCH—WHITEHORSE
IS LOOKING FOR AN ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT WITH APPROPRIATE EXPERI-
ENCE TO PROVIDE ADMINISTRATION AND
CLERICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE
WHITEHORSE CONGREGATION.
AN EXCITING POSITION TO SUPPORT A NEW
CONGREGATION.
THE SUCCESSFUL PERSON WILL BE A WEL-
COMING AND HOSPITABLE PERSON WITH
EXCELLENT ADMINISTRATION SKILLS WILL-
ING TO WORK IN A UCA ENVIRONMENT.
POSITION DESCRIPTION FROM AND
APPLICATION TO—THE SECRETARY
trevordt2@gmail.com BY 13TH FEBRUARY
2023.**

MEMORIES AND REFLECTIONS.

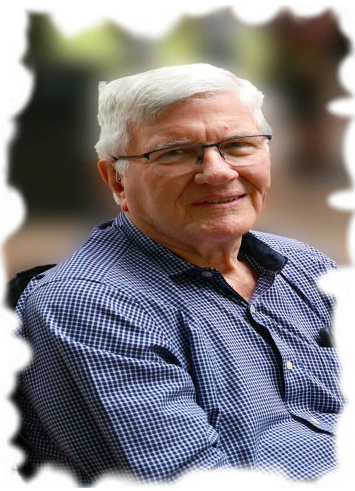
LAST CHANCE TO GET YOUR STORY IN OUR BOOK.

FEBRUARY 28TH DEADLINE.

STORY TELLING WORKSHOP AFTER CHURCH THIS
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 5TH. .REV.TINA.

WITH LOVE TO THE WORLD.

Elinor Morison was responsible for organizing the dissemination of Crosslight and With Love to the World at the Nunawading venue of Whitehorse UC. She would like to know how the Mit-cham and Forest Hill venues organize the dissemination of these publications, or whether indeed they have formal systems. Could you let either Margaret, of the Weekly newsletter or I know asap.



CHIPS - CHURCH IN A PUBLIC SPACE!

SUNDAY JANUARY 29TH, BEING THE 5TH SUNDAY OF THE MONTH WHITEHORSE UC ONCE AGAIN EXPLORED CHURCH IN A PUBLIC SPACE, BY HAVING A PICNIC IN HALLIDAY PARK. ABOUT TWENTY PEOPLE HAD A PLEASANT DAY GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER A LITTLE MORE. WE WERE GIVEN A 'BINGO' SHEET CONTAINING A TABLE OF MANY ITEMS DESCRIBING PEOPLE IN OUR CONGREGATION, AND WERE ASKED TO FIND SOMEONE TO FIT EACH ITEM ON THE SHEET AND TRY TO GET SEVEN IN A ROW TO GET 'BINGO'! THIS WAS A GREAT WAY TO GET TO KNOW A LITTLE MORE ABOUT EACH OTHER

TINA LED US IN PRAYER, A BIBLE READING AND THEN A STORY ABOUT GROWING UP AND THE SACRIFICES OUR PARENTS MAKE FOR US. WE GAVE THANKS , SAT AT TABLES , CHATTED AND ATE OUR PICNIC LUNCHES, WHILE BEING ENTERTAINED BY SEVERAL CHILDREN'S BIRTHDAY PARTIES NEARBY IN PLEASANT WEATHER.

DENNIS EASTWOOD



GREAT PHOTOS FROM MARIE BARTLETT.

PREACHING PLAN–FEBRUARY 2023.

| | | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 5 th Feb | Together @ 10 ^c | | | Epiphany 5 |
| 12 th Feb | | Together @ 10 | | Epiphany 6 |
| 19 th Feb | | | Together @ 10 | Transfiguration |
| 22 nd Feb (Wed) | | | | Ash Wednesday |
| 26 th Feb | Together @ 10 | | | Lent 1 |

Legend:

- Live or Local Indicates multiple options exist for local lay leaders, from receiving a livestream of a clergy-led service, to local lay leading using a variety of resources (and supported by the ministry team).
- ^c Indicates a Communion service, conditional upon such being a fully clergy led service.
- ^R Indicates sermon recording is available for use on SWAY and for any Local lay led arrangements.
- ^S Indicates worship likely to be led by a supply person (clergy or lay, depending upon availability).
- CHIPS * Jan 29th is to be a Church Picnic (BYO lunch). Alternate plans will exist if weather unsuitable.

Together @ 2 PM – Venue: F on 4th Thursday of month. A monthly “mid-week afternoon” brief communion service

Members of Whitehorse Uniting Church Council (A-Z):

- Julie Hawkey juliesh1879@gmail.com 0488 460 875 (F/Hill)
- Brian Head elblhead@bigpond.com 9878 4923 (BNNUC)
- Rob Jackson robhelenj@optusnet.com.au 0413 599 047 (M'view)
- George Manuofetoa g.manuofetoa@gmail.com 0404 884 140 (BNNUC)
- Michael Plumridge mjplumridge@live.com.au 0403 948 095 (M'view)
- Jeff Randles randlesworld@bigpond.com 9878 7491 (BNNUC)
- David Rowe dachro@bigpond.net.au 0411 268 680 (M'view)
- Trevor Thomas trevordt2@gmail.com 0438 592 092 (F/Hill)
- Joy Williams ceejaywill@gmail.com 0402 491 013 (F/Hill)

CLERGY AND THEIR AVAILABILITY

- | | |
|--|--|
| REV. PETER CANNON. revpeterc@gmail.com | SUNDAY-THURSDAY 0434 310 862 |
| REV. TINA LYNDON tinalydon@gmail.com | SUNDAY, TUESDAY-THURSDAY(FLEXIBLE) 0423 715 590 |
| MINISTER ON CALL | FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS 0403 225 257 |



At the Nunawading venue of WUC Elaine Hewson runs a Prayer chain. Further details can be obtained by ringing Elaine on 0425709089.

This monthly newsletter is intended to be disseminated early in each month, so please send items for inclusion or contact me so space can be kept well before the end of the month.

98787929 or nhbrain@tpg.com.au