



Newsletter

Ocean Grove,
Uniting Church in Australia
Sunday April 26th 2020

The Reverend Robert (Bob) Thomas
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Vestry hours Thursday 12noon—2.00pm

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Prayer is a communication between you and God.
Prayer is talking and listening to God.
Prayer is the gateway to God's presence.
Prayer opens your spiritual eyes.
Prayer makes you to be sensitive.
Prayer is to present your matter to God.

Why do we need to pray?

To come to know God and build a relationship with God;
To ask for strength, healing, or to make requests or petitions;
To come to understand God's will for us; and because we are
encouraged to do so.

PRAYER POINTS FOR THIS WEEK

- Teachers across our nation who are either teaching remotely or face to face. Keep them safe,
- For families of people in nursing homes where lockdown rules are in place.
- For ministers and Church Councils struggling with the changes that are happening.
- For those within our Community who are grieving for loved ones who have died, grieving for a familiar past, grieving for the loss of physical contact, grieving for the loss of employment.
- For all members of the Congregation so that they know they are not alone.
- For health workers of all types and members of the police force as they work tirelessly to ensure that we are all safe.

CHURCH CLOSED

This does not mean that you have to miss out on worship though. The Reverend Bob Thomas is posting his sermons (which includes You tube versions of hymns) and a liturgy for worship on the website.

Key verse for this week

"Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognised by them when he broke bread.
Luke 24: 35

FREE CLASSES TO HELP ALLEVIATE STRESS AND ANXIETY

The physical toll indicted by the COVID-19 pandemic is well documented but the mental effects are largely unknown. However, as any mental health professional will tell you, times of anxiety, stress and loneliness impact significantly on people's mental well being. The Reverend John Tansey, who works with Mental Health Ministries, recognises this and is now offering free mindfulness sessions for anyone who need help.

For more info contact John at tojtansey@gmail.com, call 0433 259 146 or download a brochure:

<https://victas.uca.org.au/download/31/general/8486/mindfulness-flyer>

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Even though the church is closed for worship, there are still expenses that need to be paid.

You can make your contribution to the income of the church in a variety of ways

You may like to send a cheque to PO Box 393 Ocean Grove

Make a deposit in our bank account at the
Commonwealth bank

Account Name Ocean Grove Uniting Church Council
BSB number 063 834

Account number 1005 1143

Notarisation: your surname and/or envelope number

This can be done either by direct debit or physically going into the bank and giving the teller the above details.

Set up a Direct Debit payment via Synod on a weekly, fortnightly or monthly basis. Please call Synod on 951 5200 for advice.

PRAYER CONTACT

If you would like our prayer team to pray for you or others (with their permission, then please call Robin Munro on 4202 0323

Call Robin also if you would like to be part of the Prayer Chain.

At this time, prayer is an important part of our Christian life.

Do you know how Barry Calcutt is getting his exercise these days?

Unable to answer the question!
He is working on the gardens around the new carpark.

Moving rocks, digging holes, running from garden shed to garden beds and in between times chatting to people (at a safe distance) who walk through our church grounds.

If you are also gardening and finding that you have plants or shrubs that you do not need then please ring Barry on 5250 3789 after 6.00pm and see if he can use them.

There is a lot of garden space to fill and Barry has a plan so is looking for specific colours of plants and types.

If you would like to make a monetary donation for Barry to use to buy new plants that is also an acceptable way for us all to contribute to the gardens.

By the time we are able to return to church the gardens will be looking splendid and then it is a certainty that Barry will need help with watering.

So watch this space for updates!

Hi, Ocean Grove,

We would just like to say, please stay safe from the Coronavirus. We are praying for everyone that coronavirus doesn't affect anybody, everybody is safe and healthy. We are self-isolating, and our school has closed down. Even my Dad's church has closed down. We hope you are all safe and healthy.

We have been praying for your Congregation, and everyone during this pandemic stage. We pray that people in the community don't hoard things they don't need, and it is left for people that are in need and vulnerable.

We pray that everyone has everything they need, and is safe.

On behalf of the Park Family

Helen Park.

And the people stayed home,

And read books, and listened, and rested, and exercised, and made art, and played games, and learned new ways of being, and were still. And listened more deeply. Some mediated. Some prayed, some danced. Some met their shadows. And the people began to think differently.

And the people healed. And, in the absence of people living in ignorance, dangerous, mindless, and heartless ways, the earth began to heal.

And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again, they grieved their losses, and made new choices, and dreamed new images, and created new ways to live, and heal the earth fully, as they had been healed.

Kitty O'Meara

SHARING TIME

Seeing that we are not able to share any exciting news with each other during a Sunday morning, maybe you would like to send it to the church office by 8.30am on Friday mornings so that it can be published in the weekly newsletter.

This means we will all stay in contact and beware of those important birthdays, anniversaries etc. as well as good news that has happened during the week.