



Newsletter

Ocean Grove,
Uniting Church in Australia
Sunday July 19th 2020

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PRAYER POINTS FOR THIS WEEK

Loving and compassionate God we pray for:
Our government leaders; that they will make wise decisions which affect us all and our economy.

Our church leaders; give them wisdom and insight as they lead our church through these troubled times.

Our ministry agents; may you sustain them and encourage them in their ministries.

Our church council: agency boards and school councils; we give thanks for people willing to be leaders within our communities. Help them as they oversee decisions and directions for our ministry contexts.

Ourselves that we would truly be followers who reflect your ways within our community. Jesus our Lord. Make us more fully into your people, sharing your love and grace here and now so that this world can be transformed.

And to end we offer special prayers for the Greater Melbourne and Mitchell Shire areas as they once again face the difficulties of lockdown. May we all be aware of what we should all be doing so that this virus can be contained as much as possible.

Dear Congregational Members,

As we all struggle to get through the covid-19 crisis, it may seem that the process for obtaining a new Minister for our Parish is stagnating. But we want to assure you that this is not the case. Progress is taking place, albeit more slowly than we would like.

The Joint Nominating Committee has been meeting at regular intervals. We are now meeting via zoom and the most recent meeting was on Friday June the 3rd.

A main aim of the meetings is to touch base on the current situation. But we are also planning for the future. Our most important task is prepare a profile of the 2 Congregations that will form the basis for attracting a new Minister.

We wish to put forward proposals for this profile as soon as we can organise a combined meeting of the 2 Congregations in the Barwon Heads Hall, which has a capacity of at least 40 on the 1 per 4 square metre rule. There will also be a questionnaire for those who cannot attend the meeting for health or risk reasons. The aim is to hold this meeting in August if there is a lifting of restrictions. But of course the latest setbacks in Melbourne may delay things again.

In the meantime it is heartening that it appears that some of our activities will be starting to resume soon.

There are plans for starting physical church services which will also be accessible via zoom. The dove Op Shop is planning to resume trading on a limited basis in early August.

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For both these activities, however, we may have to be patient.

It is good to hear that the Prayer Group is still operating. It is not meeting in person, but Robin Munro is circulating the requests by phone.

Pat Reid has also informed us that, though the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry has not been able to operate, team members are staying in touch with clients and assisting where possible.

Let us take heart and renew our commitment to building a future for our church community in Ocean Grove.

Carol Naylor and David Runia

CAN YOU HELP?

Bikes for Humanity are needing bikes to fill another container of 500 bikes to be sent to Namibia.

Blankets are urgently required by the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre in Melbourne. One load of blankets and doonas have already been delivered to the centre thanks to Barry Calcutt's help with transport. Thanks also to those who have already donated blankets recently. These are gratefully received.

To donate to either organisation
please contact Lyn Mulligan on 5255 2638

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.

THANK YOU

To all those people who took the time to complete and return the recently distributed survey form.

At the last Elders meeting all the answers were discussed and clear decisions were made on ensuring that when the church re-opens we will all enter a safe environment.

Please watch this newsletter for that all important date on when we can worship in our church again.

TIME OUT

Because we can't see Him
Face to face,
Other things in our lives
Seem to take first place.

Sure, we know He's there,
All day in everything we do.
When do we find the time
To pray and read our Bibles too?

Kids, meals, dishes, washing,
So many things about.
As we work for ourselves,
Who's there to say "Time Out"

"Time out", should come in our lives,
At least once a day.
Just a little word with God.
We need the time to Pray.

M. Hanson