



# Newsletter

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

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## COVID REPORTS FOR CHURCH ACTIVITIES

**U.C.A.F:** owing to the current age bracket it's not been a good idea to meet with the uncertainty of covid-19. As we meet on the 4th Wednesday of the month our August meeting may be possible. Our plan for that meeting is "Arm Chair Exercises", which we will all be needing by then! UCAF members have been catching up by the phone, delivery of Network Magazine and birthday calls and "distant" doorstep visits. We have all remained well in our isolation!

**PRAYER CHAIN:** The Prayer Chain still operates but we are very small in number but that doesn't matter. We don't meet in person. Because the group is small I phone everyone with the request. Members are myself, Velda Willis, the Scott's, the Barry's, Lyn Mulligan, and Helen Baum, and Dawn Quarrell who both worship at another church. Cheers Robin Munro.

**LOAVES AND FISHES PANTRY:** Due to the restrictions in place for covid-19 the food pantry has been unable to operate out of the church on Friday nights. However, the following measures have been taken:

- Team members contacted every client currently attending and talked to them about the temporary closure of the food pantry.
- Gave them information as to how to contact us by phone if they were in need of assistance and we would provide them with a Coles Food Voucher and make further referrals to Uniting for other assistance.
- We also gave them information in regard to the "Feed Bellarine" meals program.

*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.*

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

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

*Carol Naylor and David Runia*

*Joint Nominating Committee Representatives.*

***Please note that there was a mistake in this letter. The most recent meeting of the JNC was on July the 3rd not June 3rd. The next meeting is scheduled for July 31st.***

**LOAVES AND FISHES FOOD PANTRY COVID-19 REPORT continued.**

Over the past 10 weeks we have been called upon 14 times—6 times people were given food parcels that were to hand in the pantry and 8 Coles Food Vouchers have been issued.

“Mary” one of our regular clients phoned quite distressed and asking for help. She explained to me that one of her adult sons had had his working hours greatly reduced to the covid-19 situation, consequently he was unable to continue to live in his current accommodation because he couldn't afford the rent. He had asked if he could come and live with her for the time being. He is now sleeping in the living room of her one bedroom flat. We talked about asking him to make a reasonable contribution to the household expenses and Mary said he was happy to do this, however, the son has an auto-immune illness that requires medication—approximately \$400.00 per month so that impacts on his ability to contribute financially.

“Bill” also one of our regular clients called last Friday asking for food assistance—he had just finished paying off a debt he had incurred for car repairs—(he had to have a refurbished gear box installed). On the way home from the garage, he was driving behind a large truck when it threw up a stone which cracked his windscreen! Bill was anxious to have it repaired as soon as possible because he was concerned that if the police noticed the crack, he would be required to have an expensive roadworthy check. He told me he would be able to negotiate to pay for the replacement windscreen over a period of several weeks but that would severely impact on his ability to buy food.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OLIVE MARSHMAN**

On the 1st of August  
Olive will be celebrating her  
90th Birthday.

Best Wishes from all of us.

**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.

## THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

We are all like gardens.  
In our bodies, minds and spirits.  
We cannot be controlled (for long),  
but cultivation we love.

Fond best wishes Lyn Mulligan.

## ONLINE CLIMATE PASTORAL CARE CONFERENCE

30th July—1 August

Run by Uniting Earth. Cost \$30.

The Climate Pastoral Care Conference is a two-day online event focusing on climate and the church. Learn how to communicate climate messages from Dr. Rebecca Huntley, one of Australia's most experienced and respected social researchers. Other topics include climate anxiety, grief and mental health issues, and how we can provide best practice pastoral care for people in our churches and communities who are struggling.

This conference is open to all and some of the OGUC Justice and Mission Members are registering for this very interesting looking event.

The hope is that it will lead to some discussion of ways in which our church can connect with the issue of climate care and to come up with some strategies to address it in our local community.

## CROSSLIGHT AUGUST ON LINE

Regrettably the Stage 3 restrictions mean next month's issue of Crosslight will not be able to be printed and distributed. However, as with the June edition, it will be available online in an easy –to-read “flip book” format. You will also be able to download it as a PDF and print it out. The August edition will be of particular interest to our CALD Congregations, as the feature story asks: “What does an intercultural church look like?”