



Newsletter

Ocean Grove,
Uniting Church in Australia
Sunday August 23rd 2020

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COVID REPORTS FOR CHURCH ACTIVITIES

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.

OPPORTUNITY SHOP *the dove*: Over the past weeks *the dove* Committee and other volunteers have been busy with the process of endeavouring to re-open *the dove*. The shop has had a deep clean, the clothes have been sorted with much new stock replacing the old stock and all other items have been cleaned. Perspex screens have been made for the shop counter.

The Committee has been in regular contact with the volunteers informing them of developments. Work has been done on safe distancing regulations and a Working Procedures document has been prepared and will be sent out to volunteers before we re-open.

The Committee had hoped that the shop could be re-opened in mid August but unfortunately that has been postponed until the time comes that it is safe to do so.

The Committee wrote to all the volunteers wishing them well in these difficult times and expressing the hope that we will see each other again when we resume the valuable work at *the dove*.

On behalf of *the dove* Committee
Gonni Runia Secretary.

THE WELCOME PLACE

For the past 5 years the “Wesley Asylum Seeker Welcome Place “ has provided a drop-in centre in central Geelong. People seeking asylum can meet for social activities and a shared meal. They are able to improve their English skills, receive information, support, referrals to other services, and to enjoy friendship and laughter.

The “Welcome Place” is auspiced by the Wesley Church, Geelong Parish, who provide the oversight and the rooms for our volunteer organisation to operate. We are staffed entirely by volunteers who are fully screened and trained. This much-needed service depends completely on community donations and small non-government grants to keep operating.

2 years ago a food bank was opened. Our purpose is to provide groceries and food vouchers to those refugees and people seeking asylum who do not have any adequate means of support, and who are not eligible for any safety-net income government support.

Now that we are experiencing the consequences of the covid-19 pandemic, we have had to close the doors to our social meetings, though we meet once a week through zoom link-up! Although we can't share a meal, we are still sharing laughter and friendship!.

Thankfully, our much-needed food bank support is still active!. We have been amazed at the community response to our call for help with our Food Bank donations. We have had incredible support from groups across the whole community over these past difficult months.

We have been assisted by church groups from different denominations, (including wonderful support from the Seventh Day Adventist Church, Uniting Church, Catholic Church), community service groups and individual donors. They have all helped us provide essential food, store and food-bank vouchers for our friends in need.

The fact that we can still offer ongoing help is a testament to the generosity, kindness and care that abounds in our diverse and broad community.

To you all, we say a heart-felt “Thank You”!

Cathie Bond
Co-co-ordinator, Wesley Church Welcome Place.

MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS
By The Reverend Fiona Bottcher.

Our reaction to the first lockdown was almost frenetic as we grasped the novelty of isolation and how we would best use our time. We would come out of it new, transformed. This time it's different. This time there's no real sense of an end or of a better future. My advice is this:

Weep.

The grief of this lockdown has crept in like a thick invisible fog, swirling around our feet and knees. Our bodies feel heavy as we push against it. Processing grief goes beyond listing our losses, we need to stand in the wind-torn holes in our hearts and feel it.

Weeping is a kind of emptying. It allows us to give form to our loss, to cradle it in our arms and to name it.

And what then? Well, then we dance! Because there is "a time to mourn, and a time to dance" (Ecclesiastes 3: 4) and where there was death there is new life—we know this, as Christians it's etched into our hearts. Henri Nouwen reminds us that. "often our grief allows us to choreograph our dance while our dance creates the space for our grief." so let us weep and let us dance my friends!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 6TH
VIA ZOOM

Please make sure that you keep checking your emails and the website for further details.

If you have any items for discussion please contact
David Runia (Congregational Chairperson)
on (H) 4201 5056
(M) 0419 419 766
(Email) dtrunia@gmail.com

Prayer:
Accepting
May we accept the people we are
May we become who you call us to be
May we follow together in the way you lead
May we bear each other's burdens with patience and grace
May we extend to all human kindness
May we love for that is your way
Just as you showed us as the Christ
Amen.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

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

**If you would like to help with boosting the income for the church,
please call Lesley Pope (Treasurer) on 0419 384 192.**

Photographers across the Presbytery

We are building a new Port Philip West Presbytery website and would love you to donate photos of your area. For example local church street front, Op- Shop, Congregational life, mission activities etc.

Contact Linley on 0408 169 882 for more details

Key Bible Verse for this week

“Simon Peter answered, You are Christ the Son of the living God.”

Matthew 16:16