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## WELCOME

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Wonga Park CRC is a church that is committed to helping people grow in their faith, one step at a time. We believe people do this by encountering God in his living word, through prayer, and in community with other believers.

**New here?** We would love to meet and connect with you, so please fill in your details on the back of this newsletter or send us an email to [pastor@wpcrc.org.au](mailto:pastor@wpcrc.org.au) and we will get in contact with you.

**God's Word:** We encourage you to take notes in the place provided, to reflect on what God has been saying to you, and to discuss it with your family, friends and children.

**Prayer:** We have several places in our worship service where we pray. We believe that prayer is vitally important to our faith lives, and that God powerfully answers our prayer. If you have a specific prayer request, please let us know. We would love to pray with you.

**Community:** We are committed to our church community, even though we can't physically meet at this point in time due to COVID-19. However, many of our church growth groups continue to meet together online. If you would like to join in an online growth group, please contact [admin@wpcrc.org.au](mailto:admin@wpcrc.org.au) and we can get you connected.

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## SERMON: REMAIN IN CHRIST - ON OUR OWN, WE CAN DO NOTHING TO GLORIFY GOD

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### John 15:1-17 (CSB)

#### The Vine and the Branches

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.

2 Every branch in me that does not produce fruit he removes, and he prunes every branch that produces fruit so that it will produce more fruit. 3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 4 Remain in me, and I in you. Just as a branch is unable to produce fruit by itself unless it remains on the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. 5 I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without me. 6 If anyone does not remain in me, he is thrown aside like a branch and he withers. They gather them, throw them into the fire, and they are burned. 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you want and it will be done for you. 8 My Father is glorified by this: that you produce much fruit and prove to be my disciples.

Christlike Love

9 "As the Father has loved me, I have also loved you. Remain in my love. 10 If you keep my commands you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love.

11 "I have told you these things so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete.

12 "This is my command: Love one another as I have loved you.

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## SERMON: continue...

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### John 15:1-17 (CSB)

13 No one has greater love than this: to lay down his life for his friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15 I do not call you servants anymore, because a servant doesn't know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have heard from my Father. 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce fruit and that your fruit should remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he will give you.

17 "This is what I command you: Love one another.

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## SERMON NOTES

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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- 1) Read Isaiah 5:1-7. In what ways is Jesus the “true vine” that ancient Israel was intended to be?
- 2) What does Jesus mean when he says “you can do nothing without me” (verse 5)?
- 3) When does it glorify God to do good things? And when does it not? What are some good things you do which glorify God?
- 4) Taking Jesus’ picture of us as branches, how do we remain in the vine? And why is it important?
- 5) Jesus puts together “remaining in him (the vine)” and “obeying my commands”. How do you see these fitting together?
- 6) What’s the difference between a servant and a friend, as outlined in verses 14-16a?
- 7) How does friendship with Jesus work? What is it like, and what is it not like?
- 8) To what purpose does Jesus call us friends?
- 9) With the spiritual gifts and talents that Jesus has given you, how are you -or how can you – “produce fruit” that glorifies God?



# Diary

## Sunday 8 November

**9:40 am** Online Children's talk and Sunday school

**10:00 am** Online Worship Service

happy  
birthday



Adri	Pretorius	22 October	Peter	Day	7 November
Wynand	Cilliers	22 October	Eveline	Van Dortland	8 November
Theodore	Pretorius	24 October	James	Van Veen	8 November
Timothy	Gray	25 October	Will	Oppermann	9 November
Retha	van Staden	26 October	Andrew	Remminga	9 November
Marius	Viviers	28 October	Esmeralda	Bakkes	13 November
Jannie	Holtzhausen	29 October	Izelle	Steenkamp	14 November
Elmarie	Kock	30 October	Will	Roodt	20 November
Armin Daniel	Van Wyk	1 November	Hendrika	Jooste	24 November
Alex	Aitken	6 November	Cailynn	van der Merwe	29 November
Mila Carien	Van Wyk	7 November			

### The ANGEL TREE

As a volunteer of Prison Fellowship I would like to introduce you to the program **The Angel Tree**.

This program is run by Prison Fellowship which gives gifts to children between the ages of 0 – 15 of prisoners at Christmas. Normally church members would purchase a gift, however because of COVID restrictions this is not possible and therefore we would like to ask you for a monetary donation.



I am coordinating this program with the diaconate and together we will purchase gifts from the money received on your behalf, and post off the gifts.

Helping one child is simple. All you need to do is make an offering of \$30.00 for a gift, plus \$12-18 for postage. You can deposit this money into the Diaconate Bank Account noting the deposit is for the Angel Tree by the 15<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

The giving of a gift is a blessing for these children who feel excluded from normal family life because they have a parent in prison. Through receiving a gift, both the children and the prisoners feel that someone cares for them, and in the past this giving has changed their lives.

Please feel to contact me on **0407309257** or alternatively **Peter Day (0404227776)** or **Margreet Day (0491117900)** for more information if needed.

**Rob de Reus**

## Looking for Work

We would like to provide an opportunity for fellow congregation members to notify us if you are seeking employment so we could try and support you in the process.

Please send a confidential email to [admin@wpcrc.org.au](mailto:admin@wpcrc.org.au). If possible please attach your resume and give us an indication of what kind of work you are looking for and your availability. As part of this we would also like potential employers or people who are aware of vacancies within their businesses to please let us know of these opportunities by using the same email address.



## JOB VACANCY

### Keep on eye on these job sites:

**Christian Jobs:** <https://www.christianjobs.com.au>

**Ethical Jobs:** <https://www.ethicaljobs.com.au>

**Yarra Valley Water:** <https://yvw.csod.com/ats/careersite/search.aspx?site=1&c=yvw>

**Australia Post:** <https://auspost.com.au/jobs>

**Telstra:** <https://www.careers.telstra.com/home>

**OreTeck** Mining Solutions Recruiting Now!

### Senior Ventilation Consultant

[www.oreteck.com/employment-opportunities](http://www.oreteck.com/employment-opportunities)

OreTeck Mining Solutions, a boutique technical mining consultancy is seeking a Senior Ventilation Consultant to join their growing team. Please click [here](#) to view the job description and application details or contact Jannie Holtzhausen on 0476 817 975 for more information.

More Info: <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5aae303f5ffd2005d9bbd19c/t/5f9b45ee8d33a1541525fe1a/1604011505>



Join us for a virtual tea / coffee via Zoom after the service this Sunday

Meeting ID: 895 0931 0935

if prompted, the passcode is KINGDOM

or use this link:

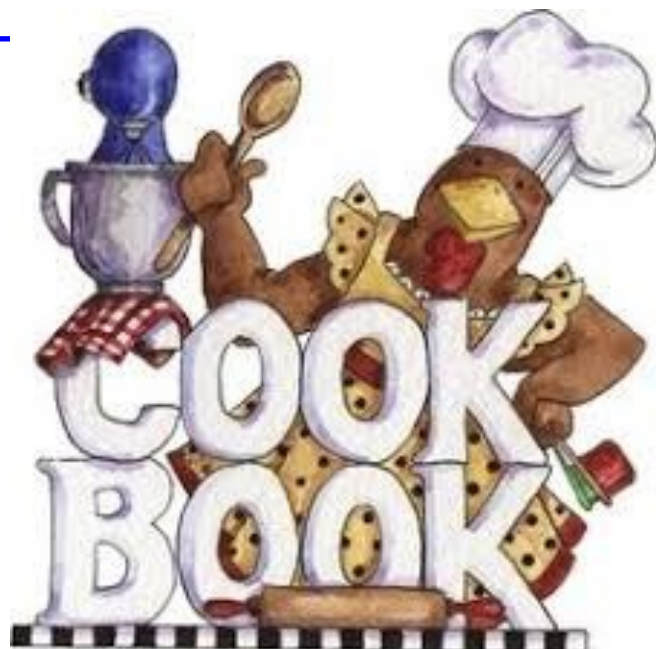
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89509310935?pwd=b01FV01sbEtTZlBFeUJHOGRaNHpnQT09>



During the last few years we have been able to share many divine meals and treats served at church. After some conversation around yummy things to eat during the Virtual Tea/Coffee there has been some key interest in sharing some of those lovely recipes, hence the suggestion of our own Wonga Park CRC Cookbook.

We would love it if every family could share one of their favourite recipes by emailing it to [admin@wpcrc.org.au](mailto:admin@wpcrc.org.au) by the end of November 2020 so we could compile something that would be just in time for the Christmas baking and cooking.

Looking forward to seeing those recipes



# Oasis **Traineeships** CAMP 2021

Oasis Camp is a not-for-profit organisation situated in Mount Evelyn on the picturesque foothills of Mount Dandenong. As a Christian campsite our mission is to provide life-enriching camping experiences to schools, corporate and community groups. We are looking for up and coming young leaders who want to develop their career in outdoor recreation and hospitality to serve in an energetic Christian work environment. Our trainees will embark on a year long adventure providing activities and hospitality to a diverse range of groups. They will be provided on an off-site training and will finish with a nationally accredited qualification (cert III in Outdoor Leadership through OETI).

**Do you want to develop exciting new skills or begin a career in outdoor recreation in 2021? If you are between 17-21 this traineeship may be for you!**



Please send expressions of interest to the assistant manager, Josh Chesterman:

**0433061206 | [josh@oasis.asn.au](mailto:josh@oasis.asn.au)**



Do you seek to engage  
OLDER ADULTS in new ways?  
**FACE to FACE**  
*is for you.*

YOU'RE INVITED TO...

**PREPARE**

Talk with older adults *before* and *after* their Face to Face Encounter and help them discover their continued ministry.



**PRAY**

Pray with participants of Face to Face, and invite the entire community to pray, as well.



**LISTEN**

Listen to older adults' stories and to their reasons for attending a Face to Face Encounter. Invite participants to share their stories in weekly worship or at a midweek community gathering.



**ENGAGE**

After a Face to Face Encounter, help older adults in your community identify ministries where they can best engage their passion for God and the world.



**FACE to FACE**  
THE UPPER ROOM®



Inspire, challenge, and equip older adults for Christian action  
in their churches, homes, places of work, and communities.

“Face to Face is the best tool available for  
building church leadership.”

- Dennis Reese, Pastor, Lakeside Community Chapel United Methodist  
Church (Lakeside, MT)

“Since introducing Face to Face  
to my small, rural church,  
it has been transformed.  
Those who have gone on an  
Encounter return energized  
and searching for how to make  
a difference in our community  
and in our church.”

- Donna Hinkle, Chesapeake Walk to Emmaus



Thank you for helping older adults reengage their desire for  
Christian discipleship. We pray that as more and more people  
participate in Face to Face they will be renewed in their faith  
and on fire for the Lord.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Wednesdays (1:00pm to 4:00pm) 4th, 11th, 18th and  
25th of November 2020.

Saturdays (9:00am to 12:00pm) 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th of  
November 2020

Cost: \$40 per Pilgrim (\$70 per couple)

Contact the **Melbourne Emmaus Community** at:  
P.O. Box 202 | Bayswater, Vic. 3153  
[melbourne@emmaus.org.au](mailto:melbourne@emmaus.org.au)  
<https://melbourne.emmaus.org.au/ministries/face-to-face>  
Phone 0417 398 278



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## BUDGET UPDATE

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Finance Overview		
Jun-20	Budget	Actual
Funds in	29,190	21,680
Expenses	25,962	28,186
Year-to-date		
Funds in	240,255	240,780
Expenses	260,021	240,663

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## UNITE 714 PRAYER

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"Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy. When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world."

— JOHN 16:20-21 (ESV)

"Shall I bring to the point of birth and not cause to bring forth?" says the Lord; "shall I, who cause to bring forth, shut the womb?"

— ISAIAH 66:9 (ESV)

Lord, we live in an hour of shakings. COVID-19 still lingers, our economies have been impacted, and many of our nations are rife with the pain of division and polarization. In some parts of our world, the winds of war are gusting, Your people are being persecuted, and millions are on the verge of starvation. Yet, in the middle of these shakings, we take our stand on the fact we have received a "kingdom that cannot be shaken". (Hebrews 12:28a)

Heavenly Father, we are thankful Your Kingdom is unshakable. We come boldly before Your throne, asking for the faith and peace we need to take our stand in this hour. We are also thankful for Your mitigation of COVID-19. We cry out for its complete eradication.

Awesome God, in the midst of these shakings, we believe divine contractions are also taking place. These are the birth pangs of revival and a great awakening. We choose to press forward mightily in prayer. Bring a fresh outpouring of Your Holy Spirit upon our lands.

Lord, may the words of this prayer resound through the courts of heaven and shake the gates of hell. Send revival! Send revival! Send revival! Pour out Your Holy Spirit worldwide and awaken Your Church. Let us see the conversion of millions of precious souls.

Heavenly Father, we live in an hour with an impending sense of revival throughout Your Church around the world. You promise not to shut the womb at the moment of delivery, as Isaiah 66 promises. Today, we claim that ancient promise. Help us persevere in prayer until the spiritual walls of resistance crumble, and our world is shaken by revival!

Lord, as Your church stands unified in prayer, pour out Your Holy Spirit on our planet. Fill us afresh with Your divine love. Let us be a barricade against the polarization and division fracturing the cities and nations of our world. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

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## NEXT PRAYER MEETING

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Prayer meetings are held on a regular basis on the **second Monday and fourth Tuesday** of the month at **7.30pm**

**Join the Zoom Meeting via the link below**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81276612936>**

**Meeting ID: 812 7661 2936**

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## PRAYER POINTS

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**Change is in the air, as old patterns fall away and new energies are emerging, consciously release what needs to be released, and welcome with a full embrace the newness you've prayed for.** **Marianne Williamson**

As we go into the coming week let us daily pray;

That we will honour our Lord and Master in our whole being in every part of our lives never shying away from giving the reason for the hope we have in Christ.

*But honour the Messiah as Lord in your hearts. Always be ready to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you. However, do this with gentleness and respect. (1Peter 3:15-16a HCSB)*

Give praise and thanks to our Lord Jesus for providing the anchor for our souls held fast behind the curtain in the inner sanctuary. Give praise and thanks to God that Maria Knol's operation went well and that she is recovering in rehab.

Give thanks that Suzanne Nel was able to come home again this week, please pray for her and Phillip as Alzheimer's disease becomes more of an issue with Suzanne.

Please continue to pray for Thinus du Plessis, give thanks that he is as well as he is and pray that the Lord will grant him strength.

Please continue to pray for our Session as they work through the issues concerning a return to normal, face to face worship. Pray that the Lord will grant them wisdom to discern his leading.

Pray for our young people preparing for their VCE exams, pray that they will not be anxious but know that peace which is beyond all understanding.

Pray for God's people throughout our nation that we will be examples of God's love, grace and peace bringing his comfort to an anxious nation.

Please continue to pray for our governments that they will lead us with wisdom through both internal problems and external pressures, pray that they will not be intimidated but do what is right in God's sight.

Please pray for our brothers and sisters in North Korea. A Christian who escaped North Korea twice tells Premier the country is failing to contain coronavirus and that border controls means there is a severe food shortage and rising prices. Timothy Cho fled North Korea in his twenties when he was denied entry to the army but was sent back and went to prison and was tortured. He later tried again and was put in prison in Shanghai, where he became a Christian. He was then extradited and now lives in the UK, where he graduated and works with Christian charity Open Doors. Cho said that the coronavirus has hit the country badly:

"People are dying so easily once they have shown the symptoms because their bodies are so weak to defend, with an ongoing lack of food and nutrition and malnutrition and starvation, and they die all of a sudden, and so quickly.

"North Korea was already presenting with existing issues of ongoing starvation and malnutrition and economic crisis. What's been happening since this virus lockdown is they had closed the borders with China. So, it has radically decreased the amount of imported food and medicine, this is the reason why a lot of items' prices have gone up to more than four times and some of these imported food and foodstuff are difficult to find in the market." With the blackmarket collapsing, and stalls closing down, more people are struggling to survive as it can cost two months' salary to buy a kilo of rice. Weather problems have also damaged internal produce. Mudslides and flooding have meant "vast areas of farmland, including rice fields have been wiped out," according to Cho.

The country is denying help from the United Nations because of its priority of secrecy. Cho explained: "North Korea is not willing to let UN representatives have free access to the country in exchange for aid as there are too many human rights abuses that would be exposed. For the same reason, they aren't willing to take any further steps towards nuclear demilitarisation to get international sanctions lifted." Open Doors is waiting for a window of opportunity to help Christians in the country. It estimates there are between 200,000 and 400,000 Christians in North Korea with between 50,000 and 70,000 in camps which no prisoner leaves alive. Inmates are tortured, starved and work long hours under dangerous conditions. Sometimes they are used for chemical tests or executed.

**Source:** *Premier Christian News*

Please also bring the plight of our brothers and sisters in Ethiopia before the throne of God. At least 500 Christians have been killed in an ongoing spate of coordinated door-to-door attacks and thousands of traumatized survivors have fled for their lives over the last few months in southern Ethiopia's Oromia regional state, including its capital Addis Ababa, according to reports. Members of Qeerroo (which means "bachelors"), a youth movement of men from the ethnic Oromo group who are predominantly Muslim, have allegedly gone on a killing spree in some parts of the Oromia regional state, extending south, southeast and east of Addis Ababa, since the assassination of a popular Oromo singer, Hachallu Hundessa, on June 29. "Some of the Qeerroo militants held lists of Christians and were helped by local authorities, often run by Muslims in the Oromia region, to find individuals, particularly those actively involved in supporting the Church"

"The Qeerroo extremists arrived in cars and, armed with guns, machetes, swords and spears, sought out and slaughtered Christians. Children were forced to witness their parents being brutally murdered with machetes," it added. An Oromo Christian was beheaded after he refused to tear off the thread around his neck, which is worn by many Ethiopian Christians as a sign of their baptism. The attackers told his wife that only those who prostrate before Allah for prayer are considered part of the Oromo community. While local Muslims in the Bale Agarfa area saved some Christians, risking their lives in doing so, police in some incidents stood by and watched as the Christians were murdered. Christians' businesses and houses were burned down, vandalized or destroyed.

**Source:** *Barnabas Fund*

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## KEY CONTACT DETAILS

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### ELDERS

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**Pastor**

Chris Pretorius  
0423 889 913  
pastor@wpcrc.org.au

**Youth Pastor**

Tim Gray  
0448 660 291  
youth@wpcrc.org.au

**Chairman and Worship Services**

Peter Williams  
0431 500 006

**Finance**

Lourens Geldenhuys  
0409 990 398

**Facilities Management**

Peter Day  
0404 227 776

**Youth and Children**

Ryan Weston  
0430 465 125

**Growth Groups**

Jack Organtzoglou  
0403 377 559

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### WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

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Margreet Day  
0491 117 900

### DEACONS

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Margreet Day  
0491 117 900 AH 9723 0753

Joy Van Veen  
0409 199 840

Gerry Smedes  
0432 559 725

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### ADMINISTRATION

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**Session Clerk & Church****Administrator**

Annandra Kock  
Mondays 9am-3pm  
clerk@wpcrc.org.au  
or  
admin@wpcrc.org.au  
0407 405 555

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newsletter@wpcrc.org.au  
Neil Bester  
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Enè Crous  
0450 211 133  
Will Roodt  
0401 645 075

**Treasurer**

Nelleke Arnold  
treasurer@wpcrc.org.au  
0448 469 569

**Child Safe Coordinator**

Lynette Pretorius  
0423 889 912

### MINISTRY LEADERS

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**Prayer Ministry**

prayer@wpcrc.org.au  
Herman Linde  
0411 069 808

**Music Ministry**

Mia Van Wyk  
0420 817 800

**Sunday School Coordinator**

Nicky Bester  
0439 084 987

**Audio Visual**

Cassie Van Veen  
0499 230 872

**Crèche ministry**

Abigail Remminga  
0497 370 820

**Creative Space**

Elmie Schachtner  
0416 805 656

**GEMS**

(primary aged girls group)  
Lynette Pretorius  
0423 889 912

**Kids Hope Coordinator**

Enè Crous  
0450 211 133

**CAP Money Course**

Neil Bester  
0429 569 149  
Martin Van der Merwe  
0458 908 14

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### GIVING

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In our church we have 2 offerings every Sunday. The first offering goes toward the ministry of this congregation. The second offering goes toward various ministry organisations we support. If you would like to support this work you can do so in a few different ways:

**In church giving:** Simply add your offering to the offering bag.

**Bank Transfer: BSB:** 063 167 **Acc:** 1015 8356. For the Deacons **BSB:** 063167 **Acc.** 1015 8372

**Via Church App:** Download it here <https://wpcrc.org.au/app/>