



WELCOME

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 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 and we can get you connected.

SERMON: REPENT AND LIVE

Jonah 3

Jonah's Preaching

1 The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time:

2 "Get up! Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach the message that I tell you." 3 Jonah got up and went to Nineveh according to the Lord's command.

Now Nineveh was an extremely great city, a three-day walk. 4 Jonah set out on the first day of his walk in the city and proclaimed, "In forty days Nineveh will be demolished!" 5 Then the people of Nineveh believed God. They proclaimed a fast and dressed in sackcloth — from the greatest of them to the least.

6 When word reached the king of Nineveh, he got up from his throne, took off his royal robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. 7 Then he issued a decree in Nineveh:

By order of the king and his nobles: No person or animal, herd or flock, is to taste anything at all. They must not eat or drink water. 8 Furthermore, both people and animals must be covered with sackcloth, and everyone must call out earnestly to God. Each must turn from his evil ways and from his wrongdoing. 9 Who knows? God may turn and relent; he may turn from his burning anger so that we will not perish.

10 God saw their actions — that they had turned from their evil ways — so God relented from the disaster he had threatened them with. And he did not do it. -- Jonah 3:1-10 (CSB)

SERMON NOTES

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think it is so difficult to call other people to repentance?
2. What is involved in repentance?
3. What character traits are needed for repentance?
4. How easy is it for you to accept God's forgiveness in Christ Jesus?
5. How does 1 John 1:9 encourage you?
6. How does 1 John 1:9 confront you?
7. In Nineveh there is a mass revival as many turn to God in faith. Why is this so remarkable?
8. Do you think this could or would happen today?
9. How does Jonah 3 encourage us to see our role in revival?
10. What do you need to do this week to live out the message of Jonah 3?

Diary

Sunday 7 February
10:00 am Worship Service



happy birthday

Nicky Bester 28 January
Maria Knol 29 January
Maria Smedes 30 January
Chris Pretorius 30 January
Lucretia Aitken 30 January
Emma Wildenboer 31 January
Jacinta Oakley 03 February
Rhodé-Mari Cilliers 04 February
Jan Van der Merwe 06 February
Hugo Pretorius 07 February
Danika van der Merwe 08 February
Jacques Petrus Theron 10 February
Nicolas Viljoen 14 February
Harry Westendorp 16 February
Marco Cilliers 17 February

Rob Lichtendonk 17 February
Hennie Van Wyk 17 February
Leoni Holtzhausen 18 February
Jess Remminga 19 February
John Barnard 20 February
Daniel Oppermann 20 February
Wendy Harrison 21 February
Sarlene Nel 23 February
Henk Knol 25 February
Ina De Graaf 28 February
Janette Fernando 01 March
Magda Teeuwen 05 March
Dirk Schuring 07 March
Sanita Geldenhuys 10 March
Johanna Rademan 11 March
Hannah Arnold 13 March

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

As required by Victoria Health we need to keep a record of who has been attending the church service. We have set up a QR code that you can scan when you arrive at church on which your basic information will be captured securely onto a form in Elvanto. We will only use or disclose your check-in information for coronavirus (COVID-19) contact tracing. Your data will then be deleted after 28 days. Your details won't be used for marketing or other purposes. We will also have some volunteers with iPads to assist people who are unable to check in using their phones. It may take a bit of time to get everyone through the process so please try to be a bit earlier at church than what you would normally be.

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. 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.



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>

CHURCH NOTICE

Dear Church Family. Now that groups are meeting again at the church premises this is a kindly reminder to keep the premises tidy after your function. Please clean and pack up resources and leave the room tidy when leaving as other groups within and outside the church community are using the premises after you. EG the hall is used fortnightly on a Thursday by an Organic Market. This past year the market has contributed to the ministry of the Diaconate and we want to keep this relationship a positive one. If you use glasses or cups, please wash them and put them back in the cupboard - not left on the sink. You will have noticed that there is no current cleaning roster. One couple is cleaning the bathrooms weekly until we can arrange a contracted cleaner, therefore it is up to us collectively as a body to keep the church premises clean, packed away and tidy.

Thanks for your cooperation. - FMC

FROM THE DEACONS...

Just a note from your current serving deacon.

I am starting up the 'deacons pantry' again to assist those who could use a helping hand with keeping mouths fed when money is a bit tight.

I would love to see some of the pantry staples that most people can use.

Ideas include...coffee, tea, milo, cereals, spreads, rice, pasta, cans of fish or beans or fruit....maybe just check your own pantry for the staples you would rather not be without as an idea of what to give to others.

Sanitary / personal health, (eg hand sanitiser and disposable masks), and kitchen wraps and cleaning products are also helpful.

Yarra rd Primary will happily take some bags of groceries from us for four of their families and the rest will be distributed as we see someone who might benefit from this service.

Thank You for your love and prayers at this time. Please continue to pray and support not only me but all who have been, and who are, and who will be involved in diaconal work for our congregation.

Yours in Christ's name—Joy van Veen.

GOSPEL

Generating Outreach Support for Planting churches, Evangelism and Literacy training

Prayer Items for February.

1. Christmas 2020 was a wonderful opportunity to share gospel message amongst the many villages. We thank God for his protection of all our teams.
2. By the grace of God, our workers could distribute 1000 bibles to new believers in the month of December and January.
3. Prayer meetings were conducted all over our mission fields. We "waited upon the Lord" to lead and guide us in the New Year in the ministry of GOSPEL.
4. In many places in the mission field, where GOSPEL workers are involved in church planting, anti-Christians groups agitate and demand that those who become Christians must no longer be eligible for government benefits; which are only available for tribals under Tribal Welfare Programs. So, they try to hinder people from turning to Christ.

FamilyVoice
AUSTRALIA

A Christian voice for family, faith and freedom

Webinar Series

Religious Freedom in Australia: An Update

with Kevin Andrews MP



The Hon. Kevin Andrews MP has been a member of the Australian Commonwealth Parliament, since 1991, serving as the member for the Victorian seat of Menzies in the House of Representatives. He is the Chairman of the Joint Standing Committee on the National Disability Insurance Scheme, and Chairman of the Human Right Sub-Committee of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade. In 2018 he was Chair of the Inquiry into the status of religion or belief which focussed on the protection of the right to freedom or belief in Australia.

DATE: MONDAY FEBRUARY 8

TIME: 7PM (NSW TIME)

**REGISTER FOR THIS FREE WEBINAR:
WWW.FAMILYVOICE.ORG.AU/EVENTS**

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

PRAYER POINTS

“Not to pray because you do not feel fit to pray is like saying, “I will not take medicine because I am too ill.” Pray for prayer: pray yourself, by the Spirit’s assistance, into a praying frame.” – Charles Spurgeon.

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

That as we go into this year of uncertainty, we will not lose sight of the fact that the God who loves us enough to die for us will work all things so that they will ultimately be for our good.

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28 ESV)

Let us praise our God for all the good things he does for us every day even when things look bleak.

Please pray for those amongst us struggling with chronic illnesses, Lydia Oppermann, Suzanne Theron, Thinus du Plessis as well as others. Pray that they will know God’s comforting presence especially when things get them down.

Please pray for those of us continuing to struggle with cancer or the aftereffects, pray for Martie Schachtner, Gretchen Fourie, Veronica Fernando, Joke van der Veen as well as others amongst us.

Please continue to pray for Chris and Gretchen Fourie as they continue their search for another home, pray that the Lord will grant them a suitable, affordable house close to where they need to be.

Please pray for our congregation as we seek a way forward that will preserve our unity, pray that everyone will show grace and a genuine desire to honour our Lord’s command that we love one another as he loved us.

Please pray for our governments especially as they seek to pass legislation that goes directly against God’s holy word. Pray that he will forgive them for they don’t know what they are doing.

Please pray for God’s people throughout our nation that no matter what happens or how strongly we may feel about issues we will always show grace, love and mercy as Jesus did.

Let us learn from the Abdallah family who know better than most of us what it means to forgive.

A year on from the tragic car crash that killed three of their children, Danny and Leila Abdallah urged others to embrace forgiveness as they marked the anniversary of the four children’s deaths. Last Monday 1 February, i4give Day took place to coincide with the anniversary of the deaths of Antony, Angelina and Sienna Abdallah and their cousin Veronique Sakr. In the aftermath of the crash, Mrs Abdallah told reporters “I think in my heart I forgive him” – referring to the intoxicated driver of the vehicle who pleaded guilty to four charges of manslaughter in October, last year. Now, in partnership with the NSW Government, Mrs Abdallah is urging others to honour the legacy of her children by incorporating forgiveness into their own lives. In an interview to launch i4give Day, she said “Forgiveness is very important, not only for us but for everyone.”

“Forgiveness is the way to healing” Mrs Abdallah said. Wearing a necklace with the initials of her deceased children, she acknowledged the outpouring of support from the public following their deaths. “Everyone was touched by it,” Mrs Abdallah said. The Abdallah and Sakr families hope that i4give Day will keep the memories of their children alive, and also be a chance for people to consider the power of forgiveness. Veronique Sakr’s mother Bridget said that she hopes the children’s deaths allow people to “mend bridges with estranged family members and move forward, to love each other in peace and harmony”. Mrs Abdallah echoed that sentiment. “We all get hurt in our life. But then the question is, ‘Is it worth it?’... the pain and regret that you have to live with for the rest of your life,” she said.

The family also spoke about the pain of their first Christmas following the children’s deaths. Mrs Abdallah said her family wanted to be left alone to cry and pray together. But for the sake of their surviving children, they had decided to put up a Christmas tree and get them two presents each. “One from Antony, Angelina and Sienna, sent from heaven. And one from Santa”. In a radio interview on Christian station Hope 103.2, Mr Abdallah also revealed that the family’s faith has shaped their attitude of forgiveness.

“Forgiveness is the core of our faith,” he said. “Christ forgave us for our sins, so who am I not to forgive?” “We choose not to have anger and resentment and bitterness.” Mr Abdallah said that he and his wife wanted to model forgiveness for their surviving children. “Kids don’t do what you say, they do what you do” he said.

“We choose not to have anger and resentment and bitterness. This is the biggest cross someone could carry. We’ve lost our kids. We had to accept the unacceptable.” But in the midst of their grief, Mr Abdallah said they have found peace in forgiveness. “You don’t know what Christ’s peace is until you forgive.” Mr Abdallah said that he hopes i4give Day will prompt the public to “reflect on their own lives and say, ‘These people were able to forgive in the most atrocious of conditions’. They can look at themselves and say, ‘What am I fighting over?’” Adding that forgiveness is not exclusive to Christians, he encouraged the greater public to think about their relationship with loved ones. “Ring each other and reconcile,” he urged. The i4give website will direct the public towards resources to help those dealing with grief, as well as trauma counselling services.

Source: *Hope 103.2FM*

KEY CONTACT DETAILS

ELDERS

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

Growth Groups

Jack Organtzoglou
0403 377 559
Margreet Day
0491 117 900

GROWTH GROUPS

We have a number of growth groups in our church, please contact **Annandra Kock** on **0407 405 555** to get connected to one. We have a few specific groups (noted below) as well as some general groups.

Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday Evenings
Wednesday Evenings (Young Adults)
Thursday Mornings (Women's Bible study)
Thursday Evenings
Friday Evenings (GEMS, and Youth Group)

DEACONS

Joy Van Veen
0409 199 840

ADMINISTRATION

Session Clerk & Church Administrator

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

Newsletter Editors

newsletter@wpcrc.org.au
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0448 469 569

Child Safe Coordinator

Lynette Pretorius
0423 889 912

Facilities Management

Rob De Reus
0407309257

MINISTRY LEADERS

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

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

GIVING

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: Online or via our church app: <https://wpcrc.org.au/give>