



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, place it in the offering bag and one of our team will contact you. Alternatively send 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 would also love to pray with you after the service. If you would like someone to pray with you, please remain in the main auditorium and a member of our prayer team will come and pray with you.

Community: We encourage you to stay after the service for coffee and fellowship. If you are a visitor, please grab a free barista made coffee (available most mornings). We would love to meet you and get to know you more. We have a **cry room** off to the side of the church for parents with infants. During school terms we also run a **Sunday School** program before the church service for high school aged children and during the church service for primary school aged children, and we have a **crèche** for ages 1-5 at the end of the main hallway.

Groups: We have a number of growth groups that meet throughout the week to pray for people, gather around God's word, and care for one another. If you would like to join a group, please contact pastor Chris (pastor@wpcrc.org.au).

JESUS IS THE DOOR (OR THE GATE)

John 10:1-21 (CSB)

THE GOOD SHEPHERD

"Truly I tell you, anyone who doesn't enter the sheep pen by the gate but climbs in some other way is a thief and a robber.

2 The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 The gatekeeper opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

4 When he has brought all his own outside, he goes ahead of them. The sheep follow him because they know his voice. 5 They will never follow a stranger; instead they will run away from him, because they don't know the voice of strangers."

6 Jesus gave them this figure of speech, but they did not understand what he was telling them.

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7 Jesus said again, “Truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. 8 All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep didn’t listen to them.

9 I am the gate. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture.

10 A thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it in abundance.

11 “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12 The hired hand, since he is not the shepherd and doesn’t own the sheep, leaves them and runs away when he sees a wolf coming. The wolf then snatches and scatters them. 13 This happens because he is a hired hand and doesn’t care about the sheep.

14 “I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me, 15 just as the Father knows me, and I know the Father. I lay down my life for the sheep. 16 But I have other sheep that are not from this sheep pen; I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. Then there will be one flock, one shepherd.

17 This is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life so that I may take it up again. 18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have the right to lay it down, and I have the right to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

19 Again the Jews were divided because of these words. 20 Many of them were saying, “He has a demon and he’s crazy. Why do you listen to him? ”

21 Others were saying, “These aren’t the words of someone who is demon-possessed. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind? ”

John 10:1-21 (CSB)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think Jesus first calls himself the gate of the sheep pen, and then the shepherd afterward? What does this indicate about how faith in Christ works?
2. Who are the ‘all’ in v8 who came before Jesus? How does this colour the way we see the pharisees and other religious leaders.
3. In what way does the thief in v10 steal kill and destroy?
4. How does Jesus provide life in contrast to the thief of v10?
5. Jesus says that the sheep in his fold come in and go out and find pasture. What do you think this coming and going of the sheep refer to?
6. Jesus says he is the gate. The gate to what?
7. One commentator notes: “If your life is about anything other than Jesus, that thing will steal your joy”. Do you agree? Why or why not?
8. What are some of the other gateways we look to in order to give us joy?
9. What is one step you can take today to trust Jesus as your only source of joy today?

SERMON NOTES

BUDGET UPDATE

Funds in: March was a better month in terms of offerings and funds received into our church bank account.

Expenses: Payments for the month were much higher than budget, primarily due to some arrears CRC Australia ministry share contributions that were brought up to date. The year-to-date expenses as reported is now reasonably accurate and mostly in line with budget.

Shortfall: Our year-to-date cash shortfall is about \$25k, marginally better than budget. This means y.t.d. we have drawn down on or depleted our cash resources to the amount of about \$25,000. .

Finance Overview		
Mar-21	Budget	Actual
Funds in	19,660	18,725
Expenses	23,608	34,312
Year-to-date		
Funds in	171,520	174,335
Expenses	198,579	199,486

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>

DIARY

Sunday 02 May

9:30 am Senior Sunday School

10:00 am Worship Service

10:30 am Junior Sunday School

Thursday 6th May

10:00 am WWOW Craft Morning at Church

**VOLUNTEER
Needed!**

The Newsletter Team is in need of one more volunteer to assist with compiling the newsletter every week. Schedule is generally 2 weeks on and 4 weeks off.

If you are interested please email newsletter@wpcrc.org.au or feel free to chat to or contact Enè Crous (Mob: 0450 211 133) or Neil Bester (Mob: 0429 569 149).

**Hello Wonderful Wise Women of Wonga Park (WWOW),
Let's get creative!**

**Come along to our Church this Thursday 6th May & let's get crafty together!
Morning Tea: 10am & Crafting begins at 10.30.**

Not crafty? No worries!

Come along for the fun & fellowship!

Please feel free to bring a fellow female friend!

It's a wonderful opportunity for our faith filled women, young & older, to share in a time of fellowship over some God given creativity!

RSVP Joy 0409 199 840 or Wendy 0407 801 630
by Wednesday the 7th of May.

Looking forward to crafting with you **Wise Women of Wonga!**



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.

Happy Birthday

Rob	De Reus	2 May	Bart	Van Leeuwen	4 May
Lucy	Pretorius	3 May	Noah	Lichtendonk	5 May
Sandra	Stork	3 May	Arina	Kritzinger	6 May
Arthur	Witteveen	3 May	Corrie	Van der Walt	8 May
Jemma	Lichtendonk	4 May	Gerry	Smedes	9 May



Our Sunday School program is flourishing, and we'd love others in the congregation to be a part of it.

Who are we looking for?

Anyone! The kids learn in many different ways and what is very clear is that they benefit from having a variety of role-models who all have the same beliefs and all teach them the same message!

What is the time commitment?

A typical commitment is for a period of 2 consecutive weeks at a time. At the start of each Term, you choose which 2-week block you would like to help out with, and then you prepare ONE lesson only, which you will deliver once to the older kids in the first week and again to the younger kids the next week. You can also sign up for 2 x 2 weeks per term too!

How do I know what and how to teach?

There is generally a specific theme/story for each term. The main resource we use is excellent in telling you what the story is about, what message to teach the kids, and even give you lots of ideas on how to deliver the message in a fun and creative way. You can use any method you like and we have a reasonable budget to purchase what you need. Over the last few years we've had arts and crafts, games, drama, music, movies, science, magic shows, cooking and LEGO, just to name a few.

What else do I need to do?

You will need a working with children check and complete the "Childsafe" course for volunteers.

Great, I'm interested – after all, 2 weeks is not a huge commitment, and kids are awesome!!!!

Please speak to/text/email Nicky. 0439 084 987 or nicheyer@yahoo.co.uk



CRCA WOMEN'S CONVENTION 2021

May 28th - May 31st 2021

come and follow
"Ruth's" journey with us

visit tivolicrc.org.au
wendy 0408 073 680

registrations close 24th April 2021



On Campus at RTC Melbourne or Live-Streamed Online, 1 May 2021

Transformed: Changing Our World Through Biblical Thinking | Hosted by RTC and Christian Education National (CEN)

In Romans 12:3 believers are called to be ***“transformed by the renewal of their minds”***. This implies that being a Christian has profound implications for how we view ourselves and the world in which God has placed us. ***Join us for a day of thinking through the application of Biblical truth on culture, education, society and much more.***

Helping us explore this topic will be Simon Kennedy (Director of the Millis Institute and Senior Lecturer in Humanities at Christian Heritage College), Chris Prior (Principal of the National Institute of Christian Education), Fiona Partridge (SA State Executive Officer for CEN) and our own, Phillip Scheepers and Stephen Lewis.

This joint RTC/CEN Worldview Seminar will be hosted On Campus at RTC Melbourne with live-streaming options available for participants all around Victoria and Australia.

EVENT DETAILS

When: Saturday 1 May 2021, 9am-5pm

Where: RTC Melbourne, 3/221 Queen Street Melbourne or live-streamed

Cost: \$65 (On Campus) or \$40 (live-streamed)

For more information and registration: rtc.edu.au/news-events

Kind regards,
RTC Events Team

PRAYER POINTS

“Prayer should not be regarded as a duty which must be performed, but rather as a privilege to be enjoyed.”

E.M. Bounds

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

That we will not grow weary of doing what pleases our Lord and Master but that he will revive our spirits and enthusiastically embrace the tasks he gives us to do.

But those who live to please the Spirit will harvest everlasting life from the Spirit. So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up. Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith. (Galatians 6:8b-10 NLT)

- ◆ Give praise and thanks to our God for being our strength so that we may soar like eagles as we work for his kingdom here on earth.
- ◆ Please pray for the Fernando family as they mourn the loss of Veronica, pray that in their grief they will find joy in the fact that her suffering is over and that she is with her Lord.
- ◆ Please continue to pray for Maria Knol as she is now in rehab, pray that she will continue to recover from her operation.
- ◆ Please pray for those elected to the office of elder or deacon that they will seek the Lord's face so that they will be assured of his will.
- ◆ Please pray for our elderly folk who because of age related difficulties are no longer able to meet with us in worship, Eveline van Dortland, Ina de Graaf, Henk Knol, Johann and Hanna van der Walt, Suzanne Nel.
- ◆ Pray for the leaders of our nation especially our Prime Minister who professes Jesus as Lord and sees his election to office as the will of God.
- ◆ Please pray for the church in our nation that no matter what pressures may be applied that we will remain faithful to our God and his word.

Please remember to uphold in prayer our brothers and sisters facing persecution. The global coronavirus pandemic has exacerbated underlying systemic discrimination, un-equal treatment and even persecution experienced by at least 340 million Christians world-wide. That's the conclusion of the 2021 World Watch List, the annual survey of countries around the world to monitor how difficult it is to live as a Christian, produced by the global charity Open Doors International. This year, for the first time ever, all top 50 countries score levels of at least “very high” persecution; the top 12 scoring “extreme” levels of persecution, up from 11 the year before. Beyond the top 50, four more countries also score “very high,” showing the impact of COVID-19 restrictions. Overall, 74 countries, one more than the previous year, showed extreme, very high or high levels of persecution, affecting an average of at least 1 of every 8 Christians worldwide.

The List, based on extensive surveys combined with expert interviews, looks behind the global headlines of unremitting violence, as well as surveillance systems used to monitor citizens for their own “protection” and “security.” It also reveals the ways in which organised criminal networks consolidate their power in the absence of state systems' capacity to meet local needs for health provision, food, work and other daily essentials. Lack of governance and even collusion, too often means there's impunity for religiously-based violence or discrimination. COVID-19 has been a catalyst for repression of minority Christians, who in countries from Bangladesh, India and Pakistan to Yemen and Sudan were at times denied aid; some were told it was because “your Church or your God should feed you” or even “the virus was created and/or spread by the West.”

The violent Islamist group Al Shabaab in Somalia blamed Christians for the coronavirus, announcing it was spread “by the crusader forces who have invaded the country and the disbelieving countries that support them.” Sometimes, such as in an incident in Sri Lanka, coronavirus was the pretext for police to visit Christians' homes to investigate church members and activities. In North Korea, which tops the list for the 20th year in a row, Kim Yong Un's sister has made her presence felt a little more. In September, she ordered the daily lesson about the Leaders' “Greatness” for all children from nursery age upwards to increase from 30 minutes a day to 90 minutes. In the face of such extensive indoctrination, parents are often too afraid to tell even their own children about their Christian faith.

The main changes in the top 10 countries from 2020 are that Nigeria has entered it for the first time since 2015, at 9, up from 12 last year. Yemen and Iran have both risen one place. India stays at 10, due to rising Hindu nationalism where ‘to be Indian is to be Hindu’. Nigeria again scores the maximum for violence, due mainly to armed Fulani herdsmen laying waste to several hundred Christian villages, as well as to Boko Haram and a range of criminal groups who continue to kill, kidnap and rape with impunity. Sudan, however, has abolished the death penalty for renouncing Islam. Its 2019 interim constitution guarantees freedom of religion, omits sharia as its primary source of law and no longer specifies Islam as its state religion – although there is still a lot of resistance to such sweeping changes after 30 years. It has dropped from no. 7 to no. 13.

Source: *World Watch Monitor*

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

GROWTH GROUPS

We have a number of growth groups in our church, please **contact Chris on 0423 889 913** to get connected to one. We have a few specific groups (noted below) as well as some general groups.

Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday
Evenings (General Groups)

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

Currently vacant
Mondays 9am-3pm
clerk@wpcrc.org.au

or

admin@wpcrc.org.au
0407 405 555

Newsletter Editors

newsletter@wpcrc.org.au

Enè Crous

0450 211 133

Neil Bester

0429 569 149

Treasurer

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

Child Safe Coordinator

Lynette Pretorius
0423 889 912

Facilities Management

Rob De Reus
0407 309 257

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

CONNECT WITH US

If you would like someone from church to connect with you, please fill in this page, tear it off and put it in the offering bag.

Your name:

Contact number:

Contact email:

Notes: