
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).

THE BEGINNING

Gen 1:1-2:3

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness covered the surface of the watery depths, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. 3 Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. 4 God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." There was an evening, and there was a morning: one day.

6 Then God said, "Let there be an expanse between the waters, separating water from water." 7 So God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above the expanse. And it was so. 8 God called the expanse "sky." Evening came and then morning: the second day.

9 Then God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. 10 God called the dry land "earth," and the gathering of the water he called "seas." And God saw that it was good. 11 Then God said, "Let the earth produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants

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and fruit trees on the earth bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds.” And it was so. 12 The earth produced vegetation: seed-bearing plants according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. 13 Evening came and then morning: the third day.

14 Then God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night. They will serve as signs for seasons and for days and years. 15 They will be lights in the expanse of the sky to provide light on the earth.” And it was so. 16 God made the two great lights — the greater light to rule over the day and the lesser light to rule over the night — as well as the stars. 17 God placed them in the expanse of the sky to provide light on the earth, 18 to rule the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. 19 Evening came and then morning: the fourth day.

20 Then God said, “Let the water swarm with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky.” 21 So God created the large sea-creatures and every living creature that moves and swarms in the water, according to their kinds. He also created every winged creature according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. 22 God blessed them: “Be fruitful, multiply, and fill the waters of the seas, and let the birds multiply on the earth.” 23 Evening came and then morning: the fifth day.

24 Then God said, “Let the earth produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that crawl, and the wildlife of the earth according to their kinds.” And it was so. 25 So God made the wildlife of the earth according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that crawl on the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

26 Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, the whole earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth.”

27 So God created man in his own image;
he created him in the image of God;
he created them male and female.

28 God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every creature that crawls on the earth.” 29 God also said, “Look, I have given you every seed-bearing plant on the surface of the entire earth and every tree whose fruit contains seed. This will be food for you, 30 for all the wildlife of the earth, for every bird of the sky, and for every creature that crawls on the earth — everything having the breath of life in it — I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. 31 God saw all that he had made, and it was very good indeed. Evening came and then morning: the sixth day.

CHAPTER 2

So the heavens and the earth and everything in them were completed.

2 On the seventh day God had completed his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. 3 God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, for on it he rested from all his work of creation. -- Genesis 1:1-2:3 (CSB)

SERMON NOTES

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) Why is it important to hold on to the truth that it was God who created, and that creation did not just come into being.
- 2) Who was present at the creation?
- 3) What pattern is followed in the creation story?
- 4) At the creation, what was man's purpose? Why did we need to be image bearers in order to fulfil this purpose?
- 5) Why is the Sabbath so important to this story?
- 6) Was creation perfect at this stage? Why or why not?

DIARY

Sunday 8 August

10:00 am Online Worship Service

4.00 pm Zoom for Youth (Online)

Thursday 12 August



| | | | | | |
|---------|--------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|-----------|
| Suzanne | Theron | 30 July | Nicolette | Wildenboer | 12 August |
| Lynette | Dyer | 31 July | Alison | Horner | 12 August |
| Jack | Organtzoglou | 1 August | Martin | Van der Merwe | 13 August |
| Neil | Bester | 8 August | Mari | Van Staden | 14 August |
| Anne | Keegel | 11 August | | | |

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>

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.



A huge thankyou from the Deacons for the wonderful response to our call to help with The Dining Room Mission in Croydon.

So far, we have delivered two lots of great food over the last two months and the team at the TDR Mission have really shown their heartfelt appreciation.

We have a small list of volunteers, but if anyone else might like to consider joining us in the future please let us know.

Yours in His service.

Joy, Sandra, Lizet and Dale.

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 |

Make A Difference



The Newsletter team is looking for another volunteer!

Unfortunately one of our team members is unable to continue as part of the team and we are looking for a replacement. Full training will be given and you don't need to be a computer wizz to join. You will only be rostered on for two weeks out of six and we are flexible to change rosters around your other commitments. For more information, please email the newsletter team

CONVENTION 2022

TRIVIA NIGHT

SATURDAY 7TH OF AUGUST
6:30PM - 9:30 PM
•
BYO DINNER
•
DESSERT AND COFFEE FOR SALE
•
LOCATION:
WONGA PARK REFORMED CHURCH
251 YARRA RD, WONGA PARK
•
TICKETS:
\$10 PER PERSON
\$90 FOR A TABLE OF TEN
•
RSVP AUGUST 1ST:
CASSIE - 0499 230 872

POSTPONED—WATCH THIS SPACE FOR UPDATES

PRAYER POINTS

If you find your life of prayer to be always so short, and so easy, and so spiritual, as to be without cost and strain and sweat to you, you may depend upon it, you have not yet begun to pray. ~

Alexander Whyte

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

That we will not dwell on past sins already forgiven but press on to the goal for the prize won for us by our Lord Jesus.

Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:13b-14 NRSV)

- ⇒ Give praise and thanks to God for giving us such a wonderful prize to strive for, a prize that makes everything else pale into insignificance, eternal life with him.
- ⇒ Please continue to pray for Phillip and Suzanne Nel, Suzanne has now gone into aged care.
- ⇒ Pray for our children and young people as again they face having to learn from home, pray that they will not lose patience and will not be disadvantaged by this.
- ⇒ Pray for unity in our congregation and that we will seek to support and encourage one another even when there are disagreements among us, that Christ's love will always rise to the top.
- ⇒ Please pray for all those who are suffering because of the constant on again, off again lockdowns. Pray that in all of this we will seek our refuge in God our Saviour and come to trust him more and more.
- ⇒ Continue to pray for our leaders, state and federal, as they continue to wrestle with the effects of the corona virus. Pray for wisdom and perseverance and that they will not grow weary as they have to make decisions that are far from popular.
- ⇒ Pray that the church in our nation may become havens of refuge for those who struggle with loneliness and depression as a result of the pandemic.

Christians in Lebanon are requesting prayer as the country still struggles to recover a year after the Beirut Port explosion which killed at least 218 and injured more than 6,000. The aftermath of the explosion exacerbated the economic crisis and hyperinflation, as well as the impact of Covid-19, which had already led to many being unable to buy food or medicine. On 4 August 2020 around 2,750 tonnes of ammonium nitrate stored in a Beirut warehouse was ignited, causing a devastating blast which demolished thousands of homes, completely destroyed three hospitals, and damaged homes as far as six miles (ten km) away. Several Christian neighbourhoods, near to the port, were severely affected.

A year on thousands of the 300,000 people who lost their homes are still homeless and only 50% of buildings damaged or destroyed have been repaired. The country is still ravaged by hunger, sickness and suffering, as inflation spirals out of control, the currency devalues, wages become worthless and many are completely without work. "We ask for your constant prayer for our country so the Lord may give us peace and comfort and hope for the future," Ms Trivina Kassis, a Lebanese Christian, had said the day after the explosion.

"Your prayer brings hope to every single individual in Lebanon to continue and to rise above the crisis we are in," continued Ms Kassis. "The Lord says, 'The righteous will flourish like a palm tree and will grow like a cedar in Lebanon'." (Psalm 92:12)

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Those prayers are still needed one year on. “One year later, as difficulties are still piling up and it becomes harder to go on, it is our faith in the Lord of life which carries us through,” said Rima Nasrallah van Saane of the National Evangelical Church of Beirut earlier this week. “[Our faith] carries us to care and to share, to serve and to build and to work tirelessly towards justice and truth, so that the life of Christ may be revealed in the midst of death.”

Please pray for our brothers and sisters in Bangladesh. The inhabitants of Suandrapara, a Christian village in the Rangmati area of the Chittagong Hill Tracts, Bangladesh, were forced to flee after suffering threats and two violent attacks from Buddhist radicals. The villagers, who converted from Buddhism 16 years ago, were attacked after they refused to re-convert and demolish their church building. The Buddhists attacked both members of the church and the building, breaking a cross, tearing down part of a wall, and damaging the roof. The assistant pastor, Tubel Chakma Poran Adetion, explained, “We were Buddhists and we met Jesus Christ in 2005. In January of this year, we built the church. Every day we gathered and prayed, but the local Buddhist majority didn't like it.”

On 12 July Buddhist radicals led by Joan Chakma – a leading figure in the United People's Democratic Front (UPDF), a local political party – warned the 50 Christian villagers to demolish the church within three days. Three days later the Buddhists returned, attacked the villagers and church building, and ordered them to re-convert to Buddhism within seven days. On 22 July the extremists returned once again, launching another violent assault against the Christian village. They also warned the villagers of further consequences if they reported the incident to police or local media.

“The radicals told us to destroy the church, but we will not,” continued Pastor Adetion. “If we have to sacrifice our lives, we will. They threaten us to return to our old religion, but we will not return. Jesus Christ is our Saviour. We will die for Him.” The Christian community of Bangladesh is estimated at just 1% of the population. Believers have typically enjoyed greater religious freedom in Bangladesh than in many other Muslim-majority countries, but have suffered violence, particularly in rural areas. The Buddhist population of Bangladesh is less than 1% nationally, yet Buddhist tribes represent a majority of the population in the Chittagong Hill region.

NEXT PRAYER MEETING

NEXT CHURCH PRAYER MEETING— Thursday 12th of August at 7.30pm via zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5625807703>

For more information please contact Herman Linde





Alister and Adri are pleased to share their engagement on 18/7/21!



PASTORAL CARE TEAM

Most of our pastoral care takes place within our growth groups, but we also have a dedicated pastoral care team to supplement this. If you would like to be visited, please feel free to contact any of our pastoral care team

Peter Williams
0431 500 006

Kasha Schubert
0450 012 177

Lourens Geldenhuys
0409 990 398

Lynette Pretorius
0423 889 912

Jack Organtzoglou
0403 377 559

Michelle Organtzoglou
0488 777 517

Martin Van der Merwe
0458 908 148

Joy Van Veen
0409 199 840

Harry Berends
0421 302 418

Ina Du Plessis
0425 833 596

Neil Bester
0429 569 149

GROWTH GROUPS

We have a number of growth groups in our church, please contact the person listed below to connect to one. We have a few specific groups (noted below) as well as some general groups.

Sunday afternoons (Afrikaans in person)
Contact: Lourens Geldenhuys
insightabs@bigpond.com
0409 990 398

Wednesday Nights (Online)
Contact: Tim Gray
timothygray000@gmail.com
0448 660 291

Monday Nights (currently online)
Contact Peter Williams
pw4@live.com.au
0431 500 006

Wednesday Nights (Online)
Contact: Chris Pretorius
pastor@wpcrc.org.au
0423 889 913

Wednesday Nights
(Young Adults, hybrid in person and online)
Contact: Kasha Schubert
kasha.schubert@hotmail.com
0450 012 177

Thursday Mornings (In person)
Contact: Wendy Harrison
wendy@tagroofing.com.au
0407 801 630

Wednesday Nights (In person)
Contact: Lynette Pretorius
pretorius.lynette@gmail.com
0423 889 912

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

Martin Van der Merwe
0458 908 148

Harry Berends
0421 302 418

Neil Bester
0429 569 149

ADMINISTRATION

Session Clerk & Church**Administrator**

Currently vacant
clerk@wpcrc.org.au
admin@wpcrc.org.au

DEACONS

Joy Van Veen
0409 199 840

Sandra Stork
0418 592 206

Lizet Kritzinger
0405 762 190

Dale Reed
0412 216 300

ADMINISTRATION

Newsletter Editors

newsletter@wpcrc.org.au
Enè Crous
0450 211 133
Neil Bester
0429 569 149
Gina Herft
0411 694 316

Treasurer

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

Child Safe Coordinator

Lynette Pretorius
0423 889 912

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: