



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. 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).

13TH FEBRUARY - GOD USES SUFFERING TO BRING ABOUT HIS PROMISES

Ruth 1 and Ruth 4:13-17

CHAPTER 1

NAOMI'S FAMILY IN MOAB

During the time of the judges, there was a famine in the land. A man left Bethlehem in Judah with his wife and two sons to stay in the territory of Moab for a while.

2 The man's name was Elimelech, and his wife's name was Naomi. The names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They entered the fields of Moab and settled there. 3 Naomi's husband, Elimelech, died, and she was left with her two sons. 4 Her sons took Moabite women as their wives: one was named Orpah and the second was named Ruth. After they lived in Moab about ten years, 5 both Mahlon and Chilion also died, and the woman was left without her two children and without her husband.

RUTH'S LOYALTY TO NAOMI

6 She and her daughters-in-law set out to return from the territory of Moab, because she had heard in Moab that the Lord had paid attention to his people's need by providing them food. 7 She left the place where she had been living, accompanied by her two daughters-in-law, and traveled along the road leading back to the land of Judah.

8 Naomi said to them, "Each of you go back to your mother's home. May the Lord show kindness to you as you have shown to the dead and to me. 9 May the Lord grant each of you rest in the house of a new husband." She kissed them, and they wept loudly.

10 They said to her, "We insist on returning with you to your people."

11 But Naomi replied, "Return home, my daughters. Why do you want to go with me? Am I able to have any more sons who could become your husbands? 12 Return home, my daughters. Go on, for I am too old to have another husband. Even if I thought there was still hope for me to have a husband tonight and to bear sons, 13 would you be willing to wait for them to grow up? Would you restrain yourselves from remarriage? No, my daughters, my life is much too bitter for you to share, because the Lord's hand has turned against me." 14 Again they wept loudly, and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. 15 Naomi said, "Look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods. Follow your sister-in-law."

16 But Ruth replied:

Don't plead with me to abandon you
or to return and not follow you.

For wherever you go, I will go,
and wherever you live, I will live;
your people will be my people,
and your God will be my God.

17 Where you die, I will die,
and there I will be buried.

May the Lord punish me,
and do so severely,
if anything but death separates you and me.

18 When Naomi saw that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped talking to her.

19 The two of them traveled until they came to Bethlehem. When they entered Bethlehem, the whole town was excited about their arrival and the local women exclaimed, "Can this be Naomi?"

20 "Don't call me Naomi. Call me Mara," she answered, "for the Almighty has made me very bitter. 21 I went away full, but the Lord has brought me back empty. Why do you call me Naomi, since the Lord has opposed 1:21 LXX, Syr, Vg read 'has humiliated' me, and the Almighty has afflicted me?"

22 So Naomi came back from the territory of Moab with her daughter-in-law Ruth the Moabitess. They arrived in Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest. -- Ruth 1:1-22 (CSB)

RUTH 4:13-17

13 Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. He slept with her, and the Lord granted conception to her, and she gave birth to a son. 14 The women said to Naomi, "Blessed be the Lord, who has not left you without a family redeemer today. May his name become well known in Israel. 15 He will renew your life and sustain you in your old age. Indeed, your daughter-in-law, who loves you and is better to you than seven sons, has given birth to him." 16 Naomi took the child, placed him on her lap, and became a mother to him. 17 The neighbor women said, "A son has been born to Naomi," and they named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David. -- Ruth 4:13-17 (CSB)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you think the times we are living in resemble the dark days of the judges from the past? Why or why not?
2. Elimelech faced a difficult decision regarding the welfare of his family. Do you think he made the right decision, moving his family into a pagan land so that they would have food to eat, or do you think he should have stayed in Bethlehem, waiting for the famine to end, trusting God to provide for the needs of his family?
3. Naomi's husband's choices led to her instability. Have you ever had a time when someone else's choices caused you to suffer? How did God show up in the midst of your suffering?
4. Was Naomi right in blaming God for the painful loss of her husband and two sons?
5. Was Elimelech doing "what was right in his own eyes" rather than trusting God? Do you think his faith was weak?
6. Looking again at Ruth 1:12-13, do you think Naomi had lost hope because of the difficult, bitter circumstances she'd endured during her last 10 years living in Moab?
7. Was Naomi right in blaming God for the painful loss of her husband and two sons?
8. How does seeing Naomi's faith help you to hold on to hope, even in the midst of difficult circumstances?

SERMON NOTES

WHAT'S HAPPENING



Sunday 13 February

10:00 am Online and in person Lords Supper Service

4.00 pm Zoom for Youth (Online)

GIVING

In our church we have 2 offerings every Sunday. The first offering goes toward the ministry of this congregation. The second offering this Sunday goes toward the Reformed Theological College. 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.

If using bank transfer: BSB: 063 167 Acc: 1015 8356.

If the offering is for the first collection please add your name and SUN 1 in the description line and if the offering is for the second collection add SUN 2

Any additional gifts for the Deacons are always appreciated and will go towards supporting people within and outside of our congregation.

For the Deacons BSB: 063167 Acc. 1015 8372

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

2ND OFFERING—13/2/22— REFORMED THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

The Reformed Theological College is committed to training people to serve God in the whole of life.

<http://www.rtc.edu.au/>





Jan	Van der Merwe	6 February	Hennie	van Wyk	17 February
Hugo	Pretorius	7 February	Leoni	Holtzhausen	18 February
Danika	van der Merwe	8 February	Jess	Remminga	19 February
Jacques Petrus	Theron	10 February	John	Barnard	20 February
Nicolas	Viljoen	14 February	Daniel	Oppermann	20 February
Rob	Lichtendonk	17 February			



WORSHIP TEAM are looking for Singers and Instrumentalists to contribute to worship

If this is something you feel you would like to become involved in, please give Mia or Hennie van Wyk a call to discuss to see how you can become involved. Phone: Hennie 0420204538

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 at newsletter@wpcrc.org.au or call Enè on Mob: 0450211133.

NATIONAL CHURCH LIFE SURVEY

YES, IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN! For a number of years now our congregation has taken part in the National Church Life Survey and Session has decided to continue this tradition by participating in the 2021 survey. However whereas, in the past, church members were asked to stay behind after the service on a designated Sunday to fill in a paper copy of the survey, this time round most of you are asked to fill in an electronic copy instead and, as the timeline has been extended due to the COVID situation, can do so any time until the end of February.

The on-line survey can be found at attendersurvey.ncls.org.au

To be able to access the survey, participants will need to fill in a Church Code, which is unique to a specific congregation. To ensure that only WPCRC members can fill in the survey in relation to our congregation, those eligible will receive a separate email, containing this code as well as further instructions.

We would strongly urge all eligible members to participate in the survey, as not only will it allow you to express your views on a number of aspects of our congregational life and practice, but it will also eventually result in valuable feedback, which will help Session in its leadership of our congregation.

The survey is open to all congregation members aged 15 and over. While some statistical details will have to be supplied (e.g. your year of birth), names and other identifying personal details will not be asked and answers will remain anonymous.

For those members who have no access to the Internet, we also have a number of paper surveys, which will be distributed according to need.

Additional information will be provided through the announcements in our Sunday services and I will be happy to answer any further question if required.

Harry Berends,

Survey Co-ordinator.



House Rental: Timothy & Leah Gray

Greetings from the Gray's over West! While away on vicariate, our home in Kilsyth has become available for a short-term rental period. We wanted to offer it to the church community in case it might be suitable to someone. Currently the home will be available for a 6-month rental period, beginning about 7th March. It is a newly renovated comfortable 3 bedroom, 1 bathroom, 2 toilet dwelling in Kilsyth. Please speak to Timothy (0448660291) or Leah (0438887155) for further details.



2022 is here and you are not sure what your next step is? Looking to do ministry in the church and study at the same time? Have a heart for youth and creativity? Or looking at doing pastoral care or small group ministry- how about worship ministry?

Then look no further!

PC3 Youth and Ministry 2022 Internships are now open

PC3 Internship program is designed to develop, equip, and release people into their personal, ministry and leadership potential. For those wanting to strengthen their faith and grow deeper through intentional discipleship, PC3 seeks to raise and support future Christian leaders.

We are proud to be able to offer up our first Youth and Ministry Intern program at PC3. We are wanting a Youth and Ministry intern for 2 years in which they will learn, lead, train and be apart of an ever growing church.

To know more or to speak to someone please [email admin@pc3.org.au](mailto:admin@pc3.org.au) or to register your interest please go to [PC3.org.au](https://pc3.org.au) go to the internships page!

2022 can be an exciting start in your ministry!

New segment

Michelle discovered quite a few folders of past church newsletters and thought that it might be fun to add a new segment to the newsletter where we can pass on interesting articles from years gone by.

So enjoy this week's **"Throwback Thursday"** - the first of many more to come!

Throwback Thursday

NEWSLETTER November 2009

K&F Kids & Friends #34

One in each group is true. Which one?

Eagle: sent out by Noah from the ark; okay to eat by the Old Testament Law; one of the living creatures around the throne of heaven.

Ravens: fed Elisha by the Jordan River; fed Noah on Mount Ararat; fed Elijah by the Kerith Ravine.

How are these linked?

Water turned into wine, a storm calmed, ten lepers healed.

Jesus in Samaria, a request for a drink, five husbands

Locusts, camel's hair, wild honey.

Peter had some tricky tests to pass.

One of them was about his eating habits! "Peter."

"Yes Lord?"

"You know about all those things Moses told you not to eat because you are Jewish? Well, eat them."

"You sure?" Bugs, lizards, shell fish, a vulture, an emu? Just as well Brussels sprouts were not mentioned! And it was only a vision, but it gets us thinking:

What makes food good or bad? What would God say to us today?

Jokes

Q. What word if pronounced right is wrong, but if pronounced wrong is right?

A. Wrong.

Q. What three letters turn a boy into a man?

A. A-G-E.

Q. What do you call a sleeping dinosaur?

A. A bronto-snore-us.

Q. What do you call a man with a shovel in his hand?

A. Doug.

Q. What do you call a man without a shovel in his hand?

A. Douglas.

Q. What do you get when you cross a rooster with a wolf?

A. An animal that howls at sun rise.

Q. What happens when you don't clean your mirror?

A. It gives you a dirty look.

PRAYER POINTS

"Prayer is simply talking to God like a friend and should be the easiest thing we do each day." - Joyce Meyer

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

That our faith will never be compromised causing us to shrink back from upholding the word of God in the public sphere.

We are not among those who shrink back and so are lost, but among those who have faith and so are saved. Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. (Hebrews 10:39-11:1 NRSV)

Give praise and thanks to our heavenly Father for the faith he has instilled in us and his promise to uphold us in it as long as we trust in him.

Please pray for the elderly among us especially those who are alone and/or are finding it more difficult to get about. Evelyn van Dortland, Ina de Graaf, Johann and Hanna van der Walt, Phillip and Suzanne Nel, Henk and Maria Knol among others.

Please continue to pray for Thinus and Ina du Plessis pray that Thinus will be given the strength he needs to be able to do the things he wants to do.

Pray for our children as they are growing up in a world quite different from the one most of us adults grew up in with restrictions due to the pandemic and attitudes towards God's people deteriorating.

Please pray for Isaac and Tanya's and Hanna and Luke's weddings. Pray that the Lord will hold them close to himself and bless these unions. that he will be the glue that binds them together.

Pray for our church that the Lord will pour out his Holy Spirit upon us so that we will be filled with zeal for the Lord and seek to do his will in harmony with one another.

Pray for our nation, especially our leaders that the Lord will use them mightily for his glory and for the benefit of our nation.

Pray for the various legislation that is before the parliaments both state and federal eg. the religious discrimination bill. Pray that God will ensure that his will is done and that we, his people will humbly honour him whatever the outcome.

Please continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in Nigeria. Eleven people were killed when gunmen attacked a community in Zangon Kataf Local Government Area (LGA) of Christian-majority southern Kaduna State, Nigeria on Sunday 30 January. More than 30 houses were razed during the early morning assault on Zaman Dabo village in the Atyap Chiefdom. Around 84% of the Atyap people are Christians. A resident, who asked not to be named, said the gunmen stormed the village at around 3am. "Most of those killed were burned in their houses as the people were fast asleep at the time," he added. People's foodstuffs have also been destroyed, other valuables were also burned."

The dead were named as Elizabeth Ayuba, Veronica Auta, Bege Daniel, Kephas Waje, Promise Jacob, Damaris Istifanus, Hauwa Joshua, Dogara Gambo, Lidia Ishaya, Michael Achi and Gabriel Michael.

In August 2021 the President of the Southern Kaduna Peoples Union Jonathan Asake spoke out on national television following a series of attacks on Atyap communities in Zangon Kataf LGA. He accused suspected Fulani militants of planning the "systematic extermination" of "nationalities" in Nigeria's Middle Belt and the takeover of their ancestral lands.

Pray for the families bereaved by the attack on Zaman Dabo and ask that their needs will be met. Pray for an end to attacks on Christian communities in Nigeria's Middle Belt and that the plans of the militants are brought to nought.

Leonie Holtzhausen would value prayers for her sister Juanita Hugo, who was admitted to hospital for surgery to remove an ulcer that affected her stomach and pancreas, since the surgery she has suffered from the complications of an infection and have difficulty breathing and is unable to speak. Can you please pray for God's healing hand over her, for peace and comfort for her family and loved ones and for God's guidance for those treating her and that they will be able to resolve the complication and restore her health quickly and that she would be cancer free.

As part of the [Be Kind Maroondah](#) campaign, Maroondah City Council is continuing to offer mental well-being activities and programs to support our community during these challenging times.

Don't miss this opportunity to attend our free workshops. Bookings are essential. These sessions are being facilitated by Victoria Carrier from LifeConnect, Neami National. [Neami National](#) is a community-based organisation providing services to improve mental health and wellbeing in local communities. All activities are currently planned to be held in person. However the current State Government COVID-19 guidelines will be followed at the date of each event.

The science of stress

Date: Monday 28 February

Time: 10am to 11am

Location: Realm, 179 Maroondah Hwy, Ringwood (same building at the Ringwood Library, opposite Ringwood Station)

Booking link: <https://www.trybooking.com/BWZTW>

The Science of Stress aims to strengthen resilience through enhancing our understanding of what stress is and how we might be able to manage it. Join our workshop and explore the core physiological processes of stress, learn the difference between acute stress, chronic stress, and burnout, learn examples of practical skills to self-manage stress and the importance of having productive self-care strategies.

Mindful Walking Program 1

Dates: Friday 4, 11, 18 & 25 March

Time: 9.30am to 10.30am

Location: Central Ringwood Community Centre, Rosewarne Lane, Ringwood

Booking link: <https://www.trybooking.com/BWZUB>

Mindful Walking Program 2

Dates: Monday 21 & 28 March and 4 & 11 April

Time: 9.30am to 10.30am

Location: Yarrunga Community Centre, 76-86 Croydon Hills Dr, Croydon Hills

Booking link: <https://www.trybooking.com/BWZUD>

Mindful walking can reduce stress and anxiety, improve sleep and overall mood, and improve mental health. Join our new Mindful walking program, learn some of the important practices of mindfulness and get some exercise at the same time. This is a four-part walking mindfulness series that will take you on a journey of connection and exploration. We will explore what it feels like to truly arrive in the moment and connect to our bodies, our minds, and the world around us.

The Suicide Conversation

Date: Monday 7 March

Time: 10am to 11am

Location: Realm, 179 Maroondah Hwy, Ringwood (same building at the Ringwood Library, opposite Ringwood Station)

Booking link: <https://www.trybooking.com/BWZTZ>

Have you ever had concerns for the welfare of a family member or friend but didn't know how to start that difficult mental health conversation? Then this is the workshop for you. Victoria from LifeConnect will help build your confidence in having conversations about mental health and suicide and increase your awareness of where to find help and how to link people to support. The content is based on the latest research in suicide prevention and informed by lived experience. This training covers the skills to overcome the barriers that may prevent you from having difficult conversations, practical steps to start a conversation about suicide with someone who may be at risk, skills to assess the level of risk and support the person to seek help and the knowledge about where to find support.

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

Chris Pretorius
0423 889 913

Neil Bester
0429 569 149

Peter Williams
0431 500 006

Kasha Schubert
0450 012 177

Martin Van der Merwe
0458 908 148

Lynette Pretorius
0423 889 912

Michelle Organtzoglou
0488 777 517

Joy Van Veen
0409 199 840

Harry Berends
0421 302 418

Ina Du Plessis
0425 833 596

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: Neil Bester

neil_bester@yahoo.com

0429 569 149

and Martin Van der Merwe

martin.vandermerwe@bigpond.com

0458 908 148

Monday Nights (currently online)

Contact Peter Williams

pw4@live.com.au

0431 500 006

Wednesday Nights

(Young Adults, hybrid in person and online)

Contact: Kasha Schubert

kasha.schubert@hotmail.com

0450 012 177

Wednesday Nights (Online)

Contact: Chris Pretorius

pastor@wpcrc.org.au

0423 889 913

Wednesday Nights (In person)

Contact: Lynette Pretorius

pretorius.lynette@gmail.com

0423 889 912

Thursday Mornings (In person)

Contact: Wendy Harrison

wendy@tagroofing.com.au

0407 801 630

KEY CONTACT DETAILS

ELDERS

Pastor

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

Youth Pastor

Position vacant

Chairman and Worship Services

Peter Williams
0431 500 006

Finance

Martin Van der Merwe
0458 908 148

Neil Bester
0429 569 149

Growth Groups

Martin Van der Merwe
0458 908 148

Neil Bester
0429 569 149

Harry Berends
0421 302 418

ADMINISTRATION

**Session Clerk & Church
Administrator**

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clerk@wpcrc.org.au
admin@wpcrc.org.au

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Sandra Stork
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Lizet Kritzinger
0405 762 190

Dale Reed
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0448 469 569

Child Safe Coordinator

Michelle Organtzoglou
0488 777 517

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

Sarah Pretorius
0409 221 277

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: