

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).

10TH APRIL, 2022

PREACHER: PASTOR CHRIS PRETORIUS

SERMON TITLE: PALM SUNDAY—THE KING COMES!

Luke 19:28-48

THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

28 When he had said these things, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. 29 As he approached Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples 30 and said, "Go into the village ahead of you. As you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. 31 If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' say this: 'The Lord needs it.'"

32 So those who were sent left and found it just as he had told them. 33 As they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, "Why are you untying the colt?"

34 "The Lord needs it," they said. 35 Then they brought it to Jesus, and after throwing their clothes on the colt, they helped Jesus get on it. 36 As he was going along, they were spreading their clothes on

the road. 37 Now he came near the path down the Mount of Olives, and the whole crowd of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the miracles they had seen:

38 Blessed is the King who comes

in the name of the Lord.

Peace in heaven

and glory in the highest heaven!

39 Some of the Pharisees from the crowd told him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples."

40 He answered, "I tell you, if they were to keep silent, the stones would cry out."

JESUS'S LOVE FOR JERUSALEM

41 As he approached and saw the city, he wept for it, 42 saying, "If you knew this day what would bring peace — but now it is hidden from your eyes. 43 For the days will come on you when your enemies will build a barricade around you, surround you, and hem you in on every side. 44 They will crush you and your children among you to the ground, and they will not leave one stone on another in your midst, because you did not recognize the time when God visited you."

CLEANSING THE TEMPLE

45 He went into the temple and began to throw out those who were selling, 46 and he said, "It is written, my house will be a house of prayer, but you have made it a den of thieves!"
47 Every day he was teaching in the temple. The chief priests, the scribes, and the leaders of the people were looking for a way to kill him, 48 but they could not find a way to do it, because all the people were captivated by what they heard. -- Luke 19:28-48 (CSB)

SERMON NOTES

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) What has God done to provide mankind peace?
- 2) Why do you think some people easily believe peace apart from God is possible while peace through a relationship with God seems unreal?
- 3) The Lord promises that the world cannot take away the peace he gives (John 14:27; 16:33), but we see Christians who lack peace and face trouble. How do we reconcile those two things?
- 4) Would you say you are in a season of peace or of turmoil? How might getting to know Jesus better increase your peace?
- 5) Where do you think most people search for peace?
- 6) What are you doing to maintain peace with God? How can you help others find greater peace in Christ?

WHAT'S HAPPENING



7.30—9.30 pm Youth and Parents Group

Sunday 10 April

10:00 am Worship Service (Online and in person)11.30am —1 pm AGM (In the church)4.00 pm Zoom for Youth (Online)

Thursday 14 April

7.30 pm Prayer Meeting (In the church)

GIVING

In our church we have two offerings every Sunday. The first offering goes toward the ministry of this congregation. The second offering goes toward various Christian causes. 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—10/4/22— TRAIN WORKGROUP FOR MINISTRY FORMATION

TRAIN's mandate is to 'equip our church members to be disciples of Christ and multiply the number of well- trained leaders (ordained, non-ordained, full time, part time, voluntary) who are actively involved in God's mission.'

We coordinate different aspects of the CRCA's training platform:

Christian Reformed Church Youth

Leadership Development

Candidacy for Word ministry within the CRCA

We're seeking to work with local churches to be more effective in the work of discipleship. Our prayer is that all across the nation we grow disciples who will also be used by God to grow more and more disciples.

We're seeing wonderful collaboration grow between the ministry areas of youth, children, ministry development and the Reformed Theological College. We organise the annual Recharge training event for those involved in CRCA ministry

http://www.crca.org.au/our-ministries/train.html



Anush Barnabas 7 April Gerry Herft 17 April Lynette Pretorius 14 April Lydia Oppermann 17 April

PALM SUNDAY

In Revelation chapter five we see Jesus depicted as a Lion and a Lamb, and we can apply this picture also to Palm Sunday.

The crowd, come to the city for the Passover feast, imagined Jesus entering Jerusalem as the triumphant King, soon to depose the hated usurper Herod and kicking out the even more hated Romans. They saw him as the victorious Lion of the Tribe of Judah, come to reclaim – as, they were convinced, the prophets had predicted – his rightful earthly throne.

But Jesus himself knew that that was only part of the picture. And that first he had to come as a lamb – the sacrificial Lamb of God to which all those lambs, slain on hundreds of Passovers past, had been steadily pointing forward. "The Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world," as John the Baptist had proclaimed when he first saw Jesus. And that the sign proclaiming him king would first be placed, not in an earthly throne room, but above his bleeding, thorn-crowned head as he sacrificed himself on a cross.

It is not without significance that, in Revelation chapter nineteen, after writing, "Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: 'Hallelujah! for our LORD God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory,'" John continues that he is told by an angel to write, not: "Blessed are those who are invited to the crowning of the Lion of the Tribe of Judah," but rather: "Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!"



THE 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

To help encourage our congregation to participate in our wonderful Music Ministry, we are opening the first Thursday of every month's practice session at 7.30pm to any member who would like to come and "jam" with our regular musicians/singers. So please come along if you want to try some of our percussion instruments or, bring your own, we would even encourage you to have a go at singing if you like. Who knows you may even discover that you have a hidden talent.





Our Church Camp has been booked for the weekend of September 9th – 11th 2022.

You can check it out by going to the following website. https://www.araluencamp.com.au/

As a church council we want to stress how important we think this church camp will be for building relationships within our church community - so you really don't want to miss out on this opportunity! As a family united by Our Lord we need each other.

The campsite has a range of different accommodation options available, some with double beds, some with bunk beds. We will allocate families to the rooms as best we can to make sure everyone is comfortable. All the food will be provided by the campsite which leaves us free to enjoy each other's company.

The camp has a games room, beach volleyball court, a playground with trampoline for the little ones, sports oval and more. There will be relationship building activities places to have a catch-up coffee and we will also be having all our meals together.

We want to make it as affordable for everyone as we can, and so we will be subsidising part of the camp cost.

What do we need?

- 1. Please come This is about us being together as a Church family,
- 2. Volunteers. To help with planning. This will probably take 2 hours each month with a few hours extra here and there as needed.
- 3: Sponsorship Please pray about this, and if you feel God is calling you to contribute financially to the camp you can do so in one of two ways:

Via the special fundraiser button on our website. Simply go to https://wpcrc.org.au/give and click on the "Give to Camp Fundraiser". Enter your amount and details and you are all done.

1. Make a bank transfer to the church bank account and put "Camp" as the reference. The bank details are as follows: BSB: 063 167 Acc: 1015 8356.

As always, if you have any questions, please let me know either on 0423 889 913 or via pastor@wpcrc.org.au

Blessings

Chris P



Abridged Session Minutes

March 2022

Meeting held on 8 March at 8.00pm

Church attendance as covid restrictions ease, vaccination passports, etc.

Constantly reviewed as government continues to change things

Child Safe

No incidents to report for the past month

Concern regarding the number of people yet to complete Child safe training

Ministry Structure

Joint elder/ deacons meeting will now be held in July and December as a social event

Elders and Election

Will be restructured to ensure that Elders stepping down will have an overlap of at least 6 months to ensure continuity

Administration

NCLS Church Life Survey ~ October 2021 has been completed by 57 members.

New procedures approved for the serving of the Lord's supper to comply with Covid safe regulations.

Use of sanitiser instead of gloves and using only gluten free bread.

Positive discussion regarding overview of previous months Church Services

Confirmed that the AGM would be held on the 3^{rd of} April and Minutes, Ministry reports and

Financials be sent out to our congregation 2 weeks prior to AGM

Church Administration

Membership requests / transfers

Kock family moved to Clyde. Weston family moved to Woori Yallock Viviers family moved to WA

Wedding requests John and Elmie. Devon and Mari

Received correspondence from Synod regarding various recommendations which our Elders supported.

Deacons

Healthy Bank Balance thanks to the support of our congregation

Continue to support the Dining room mission both financially and practically

Awaiting approval from our insurance regarding the removal of the fallen tree

Hard Rubbish has been collected and the external play equipment repaired

Finances

Martin and Neil have met with Lourens and finalised taking over the role of Elders of finance.

Other business

Allocation was made regarding two spare second offerings this year.

The first to be dedicated to our Young Adults going to convention and the second to help with the crisis in Ukraine

Church Camp confirmed for the 9th – 11th September to be held at Araluen Lutheran Camp – Angelsea – half to be funded by Church.

Playground equipment to be upgraded in the near future

Discussion was had regarding the use of the pulpit space to make the area more inviting.

Session meeting on Tuesday

The Session meeting of the church elders is held on the second Tuesday each month, starting around 7.45pm to 8.00pm (it follows on from the pastoral care meeting). Any WPCRC member is welcome to attend Session as an observer, or to raise a relevant proposal advised at least one week in advance so it can be included on the agenda for the meeting. If you would like to attend, please email session@wpcrc.org.au to be advised whether the meeting is in person or on Zoom and, if the latter, the Zoom link.





SAFE CHURCH UNIT FACILITATOR

The Synod of the Christian Reformed Churches of Australia is committed to ensuring the safety of all children and vulnerable people in their congregations. A new **Safe Church Unit** is being created to ensure that commitment. A **Facilitator** is required to conduct the work of the new unit. The newly established position requires:

- A mature Christian who has a passion for such a ministry.
- Tertiary qualifications in either health, social work, counselling, law and/or administration.
- Provide personal criminal history check (Working with Children Check and National Police Certificate).
- Outstanding communication and inter-personal skills, both oral and written, including the capacity to listen deeply to another.

Desirable:

- Minimum four years' experience in office management or as an administrator in a related field.
- Ability to gain a comprehensive knowledge of and explain the CRCA church structure and Church Order.
- Ability to interpret and explain the CRCA Safe Church policies, including all relevant legislation to CRC ministers, elders, church councils and classes.

The position is a nominal three day a week (.6FT) role.

The **Job Description** and remuneration details are available for those who wish to express an interest in the position. Such can contact:

Rev Dr Leo Douma
Chairman
CRCA- National Sexual Abuse Committee
leo.douma1@gmail.com 0425 264 605

TRIVITA TRUITA

FRIDAY APRIL 8TH 7:30PM - 9:30 PM

BYO DINNER OR HAVE A PLATE TO SHARE

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 APRIL 4TH: CASSIE - 0499 230 872

PRAYER POINTS

Prayer is the forerunner of <u>mercy</u>. Turn to sacred history, and you will find that scarcely ever did a great mercy come to this world unheralded by supplication. –<u>Charles Spurgeon</u>

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

That we will never cease giving praise and honour to our Lord and Saviour, worshipping him for all that he has done.

The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" (Matthew 21:9 NRSV)

- Give praise and thanks to God for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ that we may know that through him we are accepted as children of God into his kingdom.
- Please continue to pray for those of us struggling with the effects of cancer, pray that the Lord will grant his healing mercies and restore to full health and strength.
- Please pray for those within our church community affected by covid, pray that there will be no lasting ill
 effects.
- Please continue to pray for all those affected by the floods in Queensland and New South Wales, pray that the rains will stop and that people will be able to start to rebuild their properties. Pray that he will provide for all their needs and that they will recognize him as Lord.
- Please pray for our nation that this Easter the message of the saving grace of our God through Jesus will be heard loud and clear in all corners of the land.
- Please continue to pray for the situation in Ukraine, pray that the Lord will bring an end to hostilities and allow Ukraine to rebuild in peace.

Please continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in Nigeria and give thanks and praise him for God's goodness. A man who risks his life to share the Gospel in Africa recently revealed a potentially deadly scenario he faced that was thwarted by a simple act of love and compassion. Oscar Amaechina, president of Afri-Mission and Evangelism Network, a group that seeks to preach the Gospel in African towns where people have never heard about Jesus, told The Christian Post about a group of people he once encountered on a challenging mission field in Nigeria. "We were ministering to people, and some people came to kill us. They confessed that they were there to kill us," he said. "We saw them with their machetes, we saw them with their swords, and we believed that that was our last breath." Amaechina and those with him assumed they would face almost certain murder, but then something incredible happened. Rather than cower, beg, or panic, he and his fellow missionaries decided to do a kind act for the assailants. They provided them with food and resources, and it changed absolutely everything. "We gave them rice, spaghetti, cream and soup ... and they moved away from us," he told The Post. "They returned, and one of their leaders spoke to us through an interpreter and said, 'We were here to kill you. Since we are poor, no one has ever given us gifts, but because of these gifts, we want to become Christians." So, not only did Amaechina and the group secure their survival, but they also saw those who came to kill them experience heart change and transformation. He said he "couldn't believe it." "We led them to Christ. It was wonderful, it was awesome, and it was an eye-opener," he said. "Since that day, we have never resisted showing kindness. There's power in kindness and love. And that is what we believe in ministry."

While not every such encounter ends so positively, Amaechina's story is a powerful reminder of the life change that is possible when Christians live out Jesus' command to "love God and love others." Nigeria is one of the most dangerous places in the world to be a Christian. The nation ranks seventh on Open Doors USA's 2022 "World Watch List," with Open Doors blatantly calling the persecution in Nigeria "brutally violent." Christians, in particular, are targeted by Islamic militants from groups like the Islamic State West Africa Province, Boko Haram, and other cohorts. Continue to pray for Nigeria and other areas in which people are unreached.

Source: Faithwire

PRAYER MEETING



20 years of God's help - partnering with 70+ tribal church planters.

Prayer and Praise Items for April

- A special meeting for prayer in the Dahod cluster was held on 18th March 2022. About 160 believers from the mission fields set aside time to call on God's name.
- 2. Sunday School teacher training was given in March in 6 clusters. This may not be considered such a significant prayer point, but when parents come to faith, they have little knowledge of how to nurture their covenant children. Sunday school is a great blessing to assist parents in teaching of their children. Over 100 participated in these seminars.
- Bapulal praises God for 12 new believers from his outreach village. He has requested us to uphold these believers in your prayer to grow in Christ and experience the joy of transformed life in our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 4. All the outreach churches will be holding Good Friday and Easter services. Please pray for a meaningful and gospel sharing to be conducted in all our GOSPEL mission fields with God at the centre of all activities as we celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- 5. Please pray for the upcoming women's meetings planned in April. About 150 to 200 women from different fellowships are expected to participate in these times of teaching and fellowship for women whom are often downtrodden and abused. They will be taught that because of Christ's redemption they are loved and valued children of God.
- 6. On as sadder note, one of our key leaders: Mr. Paul Arasu, aged 64 years, died on 8th March 2022. He was called "home" while doing what he loved: visiting in the mission field and encouraging the missionary workers. Please pray that God will comfort and strengthen his bereaved family members and also pray for the GOSPEL team. He is being sorely missed.

Throwbacks Thursday



His name is Bill. He has wild hair, wears a T-shirt with holes in it, jeans, and no shoes. This was literally his wardrobe for his entire four years of college. He is brilliant. Kind of profound and very, very bright. He became a Christian while attending college.

Across the street from the campus is a well-dressed, very conservative church. They want to develop a ministry to the students but are not sure how to go about it.

One day Bill decides to go there. He walks in with no shoes, jeans, his

T-shirt, and wild hair. The service has already started and so Bill starts down the aisle looking for a seat.

The church is completely packed and he can't find a seat. By now, people are really looking a bit uncomfortable, but no one says anything.

Bill gets closer and closer to the pulpit, and when he realizes there are no seats, he just squats down right on the carpet.

By now the people are really uptight, and the tension in the air is thick.

About this time, the minister realizes that from way at the back of the church, a deacon is slowly making his way toward Bill.

Now the deacon is in his eighties, has silver-gray hair, and a three-piece suit. A godly man, very elegant, very dignified, very courtly. He walks with a cane and, as he starts walking toward this boy, everyone is saying to themselves that you can't blame him for what he's going to do.

How can you expect a man of his age and of his background to understand some college kid on the floor?

It takes a long time for the man to reach the boy.

The church is utterly silent except for the clicking of the man's cane. All eyes are focused on him.. You can't even hear anyone breathing. The minister can't even preach the sermon until the deacon does what he has to do.

And now they see this elderly man drop his cane on the floor. With great difficulty, he lowers himself and sits down next to Bill and worships with him so he won't be alone.

Everyone chokes up with emotion...

When the minister gains control, he says, 'What I'm about to preach, you will never remember. What you have just seen, you will never forget.'

'Be careful how you live. You may be the only Bible some people will ever read!'
(Thank you Janette & Herman for this contribution!)



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
 Neil Bester

 0423 889 913
 0429 569 149

Peter Williams Kasha Schubert 0431 500 006 0450 012 177

Martin Van der Merwe

0458 908 148 Lynette Pretorius

0423 889 912

Michelle Organtzoglou

0488 777 517

Joy Van Veen Harry Berends 0409 199 840

0421 302 418

Herman Linde Ina Du Plessis 0425 833 596

0411 069 808

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

Monday Nights (currently online)
Contact Peter Williams

pw4@live.com.au

0431 500 006

Monday Nights (online)
Contact Lynette Pretorius
pretorius.lynette@gmail.com
0423 889 912

Wednesday Nights
(Young Adults, hybrid in person and online)
Contact: Kasha Schubert

kasha.schubert@hotmail.com

0450 012 177

Wednesday Nights (In person)
Contact: Adri Bennie
physio.pretorius@gmail.com
0425 727 949

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

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

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

ELDERS	DEACONS	MINISTRY LEADERS
Pastor	Joy Van Veen	
Chris Pretorius	0409 199 840	Prayer Ministry
0423 889 913		prayer@wpcrc.org.au
pastor@wpcrc.org.au	Sandra Stork	Herman Linde
	0418 592 206	0411 069 808
Youth Pastor		
Position vacant	Lizet Kritzinger	
Shairman and Warshin Comissa	0405 762 190	Music Ministry
Chairman and Worship Services		Mia Van Wyk
Peter Williams	Dale Reed	0420 817 800
0431 500 006	0412 216 300	
Finance		Sunday School Coordinate
Martin Van der Merwe		Sarah Pretorius
0458 908 148		0409 221 277
	ADMINISTRATION	
Neil Bester		
0429 569 149		Audio Visual
Growth Groups	Newsletter Editors	Cassie Van Veen
Martin Van der Merwe	newsletter@wpcrc.org.au	0499 230 872
0458 908 148	Enè Crous	
0430 300 140	0450 211 133	
Neil Bester		Kids Hope Coordinator
0429 569 149	Harry Berends	Dale Reed
0.20 000 2.0	0421 302 418	0412 216 300
Harry Berends		
0421 302 418	Treasurer	CAP Money Course
	Nelleke Arnold	Neil Bester
ADMINISTRATION	treasurer@wpcrc.org.au	0429 569 149
	0448 469 569	Martin Van der Merwe
Session Clerk & Church		0458 908 14
Administrator	Child Safe Coordinator	
Michelle Organtzoglou	Michelle Organtzoglou	
0488 777 517	0488 777 517	
clerk@wpcrc.org.au		
admin@wpcrc.org.au		

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: