

Church Leadership

Intentional Interim Pastor

Rob Newton

Elder

Graham Wells

Deacons

Carys De Marchi

Adam Lindsay

Joslyn Mauchline

Chris Neilson

Rob Vandenberg

Ernie Vanderwert

Transition Team

Graham Wells

Jenny Banks

Joy & Ted Gray

Margaret Hartley

Joslyn Mauchline

Lorna McCrae

Rob Vandenberg

Ernie & Linda Vanderwert

Sunday Services

For the foreseeable future we are streaming Sunday services live on Facebook at 10.00am.

1. There will be live worship via Facebook at 10.00am with Adam, Josh and Emma.
2. The message will follow immediately on Facebook (10.10am) as a separate post.
3. Communion will be in Zoom Groups at 11.00am




We gather together for worship each Sunday at 10am to celebrate Jesus as our Lord and Saviour!



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Our July series '**Who's in the House?**' was aimed at helping us understand the ways the Holy Spirit gifts people for service, and highlighting the variety of capabilities that can be present amongst us. The scripture calls them 'grace-gifts'. All are vital components that complement each other as we serve Jesus together. It is important we each understand where we fit in the picture so we can fulfil our potential in Christ. We looked at the 'grace-gifts' in three groups.

1. **Functional Gifts.** This group concerns the ways God has graced each person to function day to day. There is a list in Romans 12:4-8: encouragement, giving, leading, mercy, prophecy, serving and teaching. When you offer your life to serve God's kingdom, you'll eventually notice that you have received some special grace that makes you particularly effective in ministering to others in one or more of these areas. For example, you may stand out as an encourager, or tend to show God's mercy in your interactions with others, or have a God-given bias towards teaching, or in leading groups and teams.

2. **Equipping Gifts.** The second area we looked at concerned a group of people Jesus gives to equip everyone else to serve. We considered a list of these in Ephesians 4:11: apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers. Most people who are called to leadership will identify with one or more of these. For example, apostolic leaders are especially motivated to pioneer and strengthen ministries, whilst pastors often sense a calling to develop existing ones, and evangelists want to reach non-believers. Further to this, many others feel called to be part of teams focused in one of these areas. For example, some might want to be part of an apostolic team because of their passion for new local outreach initiatives or missions or church planting. Others may gravitate to pastoral care teams and discipleship programs, because they love to serve in caring and nurturing.

3. **Manifestations of the Spirit.** The third area looked at gifts that are given in ministry settings, when we gather in groups and intentionally give the Holy Spirit the space to move. This can be in a home group, prayer meeting, worship service, around a hospital bed etc. The list we looked at

was from 1 Corinthians 12:7-11: word of wisdom, word of knowledge, discerning of spirits, healing, miracles, faith, prophecy, tongues and interpretation. Unlike the functional gifts which stay with us and shape our service, or the equipping gifts which are more a vocational calling, these gifts are given 'on the spot' according to needs in the ministry process. To exercise these gifts freely, we need to seek a Spirit-filled life and grow in sensitivity to Him.

If you missed any of these messages, they are available on the church website.

There are a variety of ways we can discover the gifts for serving others that God has placed on our lives. **Understanding by revelation** will come as we actively seek God and prayerfully reflect on scriptures and teachings that address the topic. **Understanding by experience** will come as we make ourselves available to serve, eagerly desire for God to use us, and step out in faith when we feel He is directing us. **Spiritual Gift Surveys** can also give us a snapshot of the ways we are experiencing God's grace in our service of others.

Thanks to everyone who completed the spiritual gifts surveys. If you missed doing this, please use the links in the recent email from the church office. This information will help us in completing the church profile and help you reflect on your journey and your place in the Body of Christ. The surveys only take a few minutes to complete. If you need help, please feel free to ask.

Blessings,
Rob

The Men's Coffee Gathering is now in recess until current restrictions are relaxed.

The Women's Fellowship Morning takes place on the 3rd Thursday of the month, the next one being 20th August. In July, those who attended purchased takeaway coffee and then went for a walk. This was enjoyed by all. It had been decided to repeat this for August, but in light of current restrictions it has been decided to revert to meeting on Zoom. Please contact Linda if you wish to be included in this meeting.

Reopening - Due to the upgrading of restrictions in Victoria, considerations about reopening have now been put off to at least the September Board meeting. For the time being we will continue to operate as we have been.

We realize the restrictions are a strain on many people as we are prevented from gathering together and working as usual. For personal well-being and the opportunity to help others, it is highly beneficial to participate in the available church activities. We stream a meaningful time of worship and practical message from the scriptures each Sunday morning at 10am on Facebook (recordings can also be viewed later on the church website). There are also a number of opportunities to connect to groups via the Zoom platform. These groups include a prayer meeting every Wednesday, Bible studies during the week and communion on Sunday mornings following the livestream. If you need help to get started with these options we can assist. You can also connect to our Zoom groups from a landline or mobile phone if you prefer.

Pastoral Support - Being part of a small group is very important in terms of giving and receiving personal support. The pastoral care team is also doing an amazing job in offering additional support to individuals as required. If you would like to catch up personally any time, Rob is available by phone, Skype, Zoom, WhatsApp etc.

Counselling - Rhonda is a qualified Christian Counsellor and is offering a free session to anyone in the congregation who'd like help processing how they are adjusting to the pandemic etc.

Seen on the noticeboard in front of a church –

Don't tell God how big your problem is, tell your problem how big God is!

NEW ARRIVAL

Our church family increased on 9th July with the safe arrival of Ethan James Neilson. We offer our congratulations and best wishes to Alison & Chris on the addition to their family. Please pray for them, and also Lucas as he learns to be a big brother.



Pray CONTINUALLY

Prayer & Praise

- We uphold Bruce & Jo Neilson and Chris & Alison in our prayers following the passing of Bruce's mother in Sydney. Because of travel restrictions they were unable to attend the funeral and watched via live-streaming.
- Anne Atkins is now at home (in isolation) following her heart surgery in early July. The surgery went well, but Anne still needs our prayers for her continued recovery.
- We praise God that Alan McCormack is continuing to recover from his treatment, but apparently this is not happening as fast as he would like. Please pray for Alan that healing will continue and he will feel he is making progress. Remember Jan also as she supports and cares for him.
- Rita Baldwin is currently in Hawthorn Village and eager to return home.
- Ron Osborne and Geoff Cook have ongoing health issues and need our prayers as they cope with these.
- The Transition Team as they commence the next part of their task to identify the profile of the church.
- Rob Newton as he continues to lead and minister to us from a distance.

Financial Matters

Tithes and offerings received for June were \$5460 and for July \$4520.

Tithes and offerings can be transferred electronically to the CBA Bright BSB 063645 Account 10022514.

Missions – The church recently changed the recipients of its giving to missions. We now support the Gandep Bible College in Papua New Guinea, the Mindat Project in Myanmar and Global Mission Partners, giving \$85 to each of these every month.



Carolyn Webb has advised that she has a pattern for a face mask which she is willing to share, if you wish to sew your own. She also has a supply of material if you don't have any suitable at home. Please contact Carolyn if you are interested.

I'm sure we're all aware that Bible verses can be taken out of context and quoted to suit almost any occasion. Here we have verses which apply to our current restricted COVID-19 lifestyle here in Victoria.

Physical Distancing – Leviticus 20:26 "I have set you apart";

1 Corinthians 6:11 "You are set apart".

Washing Hands – James 4:8 "Wash your hands"; Psalm 26:6 "I wash my hands in innocence".

Staying at Home – Exodus 12:22 "None of you shall go out of the door of your house"; Isaiah 26:20 "Enter your rooms and shut the doors behind you".

Work from Home – 2 Corinthians 5:9 "Therefore whether we are at home or away we strive to please Him".

Trust Him – Isaiah 41:10 "Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand".

We have received information about a free Healthy Lifestyle Wellness Program being offered by the State Government via Equip4Life. You can check it out on the website at www.lifeprogram.org.au. The services are conducted by qualified dietitians and exercise physiologists and are completely free. If you are interested, please contact Joslyn and she will forward further information on to you.