



MORISSET UNITING CHURCH

"THE CHURCH IN THE TREES"



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER **ISSUE 1219 22nd March 2020**

Welcome to the "Church in the Trees" this morning. If you are a visitor, help us to get acquainted with you by signing the Visitors' Book & staying for a time of fellowship at Morning Tea after Worship. Please also collect our Information Brochure.

Children are especially welcome as we share stories and have an activity table at the front.

Preacher **Ron Loom**
Services suspended indefinitely
Church Ph: 0249 735554
 PO Box 533, Morisset, NSW 2264
 www.morissetunitingchurch.org.au
 Facebook: churchinthetreesmorissetuniting

Op Shop Ph: 0249 735967

Prayer Circle Prayer support for all needs for both congregation
 and beyond. Contact Rev Joan Horgan 49736135

"Growing in the Spirit, reaching out in love"

What's on This Week?

Sunday 22nd **Lent 4**
9.30am Worship

Services are suspended indefinitely from today.
The Op Shop is closed indefinitely.

Tuesday 24th
7.00pm Church Council

Connect in Prayer

Pray for our world where extremism, intolerance and fear threaten to turn us inward. Ask God to show us how we can build peace, in our own community and globally.

Pray for our Moderator, Simon Hansford, as he guides and leads our church into the future. Pray for wisdom in his decision-making and prophetic words when he speaks so that God's name might be glorified.

COVID-19 and our response

As you would have noticed from the media, decisions on how to limit the spread of COVID-19 are changing rapidly. So where do we stand at the Morisset Uniting Church now?

An extraordinary meeting of Church Council was held on Thursday. The following decisions were made:

- Church services will be suspended indefinitely from today, 22nd March.
- The effect of that includes suspending the Mission Planning workshop next Sunday to a date to be decided.
- Cancelling all Easter services and events.
- Church group activities will be cancelled indefinitely unless the group leaders say otherwise. Church Council will still meet this Tuesday to firm up future plans.
- The Op Shop is closed indefinitely.

We don't at this point know what "indefinitely" means. It could be several months, it could be longer. Who would have thought, sitting in the Church last week that things would have moved so quickly? We are determined to keep in touch with our people during this time. Myself, the Church Council Secretary, Barb and Phill Hart are working on ways to keep in touch via email and post. The Pastoral Care team, led by Betty Small, are looking at ways we can keep a caring eye on others and how to respond to personal pastoral needs.

Things will be tough but hopefully it will give us time to reflect and we will come up with prayer points in the near future. But in the mean time we could all contemplate on what has been withdrawn from our daily life and how others who never had those things feel. What would it be like if you were socially isolated, like we will be briefly, if it was all the time and it would be good to reflect on the messages so far from Lent Event where we give up something to help others in Ambon and elsewhere.

May God be with you in these unsettling times.

Bob Starling
Chairperson
Church Council

Lectionary Readings for 29th March

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalm 130

Romans 8:6-11

John 11:1-45

For You to Note

PROPOSAL FOR LENTEN FASTING FROM REV JOHN MARTIN Part of the Lenten disciplines is giving up something we enjoy eating or experiencing. Popular ones are alcohol, cigarettes, tea, coffee, chocolate, going to the movies. Some give up sugar or eating meat. How about using Fair Trade as focus for what we give up?

Rather than give up tea, coffee or chocolate, give up non Fair Trade tea, coffee, chocolate and intentionally consume only those products where the workers received a fair wage and worked in good conditions in an environmentally sustainable way. This way you focus attention on the people of the world while feeling better yourself.

MODERATOR'S DISASTER RELIEF APPEAL - Moderator of the UCA NSW/ACT Synod Rev. Simon Hansford has invited donations to the Disaster Relief Fund, going directly to those in need effected by the drought and bushfires. Online follow the links from www.nswact.uca.org.au. By cheque mark your envelope Moderator's Appeal, PO Box A2178, Sydney South NSW 1235. Please make the cheque out to "The Uniting Church in Australia, Synod of NSW and the ACT". By Bank Transfer: Bank: Uniting Financial Services Account Name: Moderators Appeal Branch: L9 / 222 Pitt St, Sydney 2000 BSB: 634-634 Acc: 100044774. If you need a receipt, please call 02 8267 4342 after making your donation.

DIRECT GIVING - Your offering can be set up to go directly from your bank account into the Church accounts and thus avoid the need to use the envelope system on a Sunday. A direct debit can be set up using the Church's Westpac working account BSB 032-524 Account number 12-1985 or by filling in a form to go to Uniting Financial Services. This form is available from Owen Smythe.

Submissions to the Newsletter

Articles for the Weekly Newsletter should be submitted in writing by Wednesday.

Email: morissetnews@hunter.uca.org.au