

For You to Note

RENTING OUR PREMISES - We have had a request from "Lake Mac Church" to rent our premises.

They were previously meeting at the multi-purpose centre but are needing a new home. They would need regular bookings on Friday evenings (youth group) and Sunday afternoons (worship). Church Council this week held a meeting by Zoom to discuss the request, and have agreed in-principle to rent to them. A small committee will work out details, and the proposal will be put to the congregation at a later date.

FRONTIER SERVICES usually ask churches about this time of the year to host the Great Outback Barbecue to raise money for their work. This year they are unable to do this. However, you can still support Frontier Services by buying a seat at a virtual BBQ! Just click on this link <https://greatoutbackbbq.com.au> to buy your virtual seat. Thank you for your continuing support of Frontier Services. If you are not on the internet, perhaps you can ask someone to buy a seat for you and pay them back after lockdown?

DAWN ROWE AND JOAN HARLEY

Dawn and Joan are both unwell and thank the congregation members who have been in contact and praying for them. Dawn is now home from hospital. Joan Harley has had a successful operation and is recovering in hospital.

REPORTS FOR CONGREGATION AGM

Following are the remaining annual reports of various groups prepared for the AGM which we had to postpone several weeks ago. Have a read through and be impressed with what is happening at The Church in the Trees.

PASTORAL CARE

One definition is:

"Pastoral Care is the faithful ministry of a religious community to the needs of people in face-to-face relationships. This ministry comes from a genuine concern for each person, caring about them as a person of unique worth; and caring as a mutual responsibility." (Paul Johnson - A Theology of Pastoral Care)

Holistic pastoral care in a community of faith seeks to provide loving support to members of that community. It can include visits, cards, flowers, phone calls or an intentional conversation over a cuppa. It should occur with or without a team by nature of our common faith.

The pastoral care team meet monthly. The members monitor activities and coordinate what is already happening within our church family and beyond. Pastoral care is carried out by all of our congregation; (collectively) as people talk together, share stories, phone and visit each other, give lifts when needed and genuinely care for each other. The op-shop provides a wonderful opportunity for outreach. I would like to mention and thank our team: (Barbara Dufty, Helen and Bruce

Edgell, Leanne Koenen, Pauline Wilding, Hazel Rolfe and Bronwyn Sheldon) who are always working quietly behind the scenes. Our thanks also to Sue Kesterton who organises cards, flowers, books etc.

Shirley Strachan resigned from the team after many years but she still keeps us informed of any relevant issues. Joy Farr moved to Sydney; she was so involved in caring and other activities. They are both greatly missed.

From (1 Peter 4:8-10) we read; *"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms"*

Effective pastoral care involves: Prayerful preparation; Listening and communicating; Practical help where appropriate; and Developing a relationship shaped by your own giftedness. It promotes "connectedness" among us. We give thanks that the Holy Spirit is guiding us in this church congregation.

Betty Small, Coordinator

PRAYER BREAKFAST

This group has met monthly on the third Saturday with a two-fold purpose; to share in fellowship around the breakfast table and to pray, giving thanks and praise to God and praying for each other, the church, our congregation, our community and the world. We start at 8am and finish promptly at 9am. We did not meet during COVID lockdowns.

Each month, different members of the team take turns to lead the prayers or to prepare the breakfast. We have been meeting for more than 5 years and we have between 8 and 18 members attending.

We would welcome anyone who has a desire to corporately pray for our church or who wishes to come along to enjoy fellowship, over breakfast, with other members of the congregation. Prayer suggestions are usually supplied and there is opportunity to share your own prayers aloud or silently if you prefer.

The members of the Prayer Breakfast team believe that prayer is a vital part of our personal lives and our church life. Through prayer, we reach out to God who guides, comforts and reassures us as our faith, hope, and love are strengthened and nurtured.

Cathie and Owen Smythe

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 credit 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 Parriss McDougall.

Lectionary Readings for 12th September

Proverbs 1:20-33

Psalm 19

James 3:1-12

Mark 8:27-38

Connect in Prayer

September 5

- Give thanks that NSW is tracking well with the COVID-19 vaccination roll-out, with 70% first dose target achieved. Pray for the families of those who have passed away as a result of COVID in our state and country. Pray for medical staff, hospital staff and all those front-line workers who, daily, put their lives and the lives of their families at risk from contracting COVID.
- Pray for our members of government, both federal and state who are making decisions for the good of all Australians during the pandemic. Pray that God will guide, sustain and enable them to seek good and wise advice to offer us and to steer our country through to a more 'normal' way of life
- Pray for residents of aged care facilities and their families, as they are suffering greatly from the enforced separation. Ask for patience for those families, and that our leaders may find a way to ease the restrictions that are so devastating for them.

September 12

- While online learning is far from ideal, we pray for students, teachers and parents/caregivers as they continue to persevere with this situation during lockdown; pray for their emotional and social needs and give each of them patience to sustain them until face-to-face learning is permitted once again.
- Pray for those in our society who are resistant to obtaining the COVID-19 vaccinations. Speak to them Lord, in ways that only you can do, to open their minds and eyes to see the benefits to them, their families and the community.
- The heartbreaking situation in Afghanistan, where there is confusion and fear...ask God for wisdom for world leaders as they try to negotiate a way forward with the Taliban, and for peace and safety for those living there.

Submissions to the Newsletter

Articles for the Weekly Newsletter should be submitted in writing by Wednesday.
Email: morissetnews@hunter.uca.org.au



MORISSET UNITING CHURCH

"THE CHURCH IN THE TREES"



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1243 5th September 2021

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.

Service suspended during lockdown
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"