

HIGH STREET UNITING CHURCH NEWS

27 November 2020

Dear friends,

I can hardly believe that I'm writing this on the nearly the last day before taking some time off in order to get married! There's so much going on! When Robyn and I announced our engagement, we never dreamed that we would still be having zoom meetings, and that at this time planned for our wedding we would gradually navigating new paths out of lockdown.

But we are planning some new paths. Gatherings at the church are still limited to groups of 20 for ordinary events, and 52 if we were gathered for worship (due to density limits). The Covid-Safety Oversight Group has affirmed our staying the course with phone and zoom worship at least until the end of January, knowing that even if density limits change, we still have issues with singing, limits with sharing food, and vulnerable and distant people who would struggle to attend. But at the same time, Contemporary Oversight Group and the Traditional Transition group are starting to shape up possibilities for how we plan to gather in the first half of 2021.

The first steps are going to be smaller group gatherings. Brenda has put out invitations for coffee mornings; Mac and Anne have a welcoming home in Baxter Village; Bronwen and Alan will look to host a small gathering at their place; and CHAOS has plans to meet in the Arboretum tomorrow night. Other small groups are venturing out, with appropriate care for safety. If you want to meet at the church, please ensure that you book with Jacqui beforehand so that we know when and where cleaning is required. The Covid-Safety Oversight Group has decided that we no longer require church-based groups to do the Infection Control Course; but for groups meeting at the church there are registers of attendance that will need to be completed and given to the office, and anyone who is unwell will need to stay away.

Blessings for this first Sunday of Advent! If you have advent candles at home, be ready to light the first one this week. If you would like some ideas on how to set up some advent candles, there's a link on our website.

Blessings for the season of anticipation,
David

LET'S 'DO' COFFEE (with Brenda)

As many of you know, I enjoy coffee. In my role as pastoral worker, I would like to invite you to join me for coffee on any Tuesday morning at 11.00am at a coffee shop, (venue to be arranged). Let's enjoy a post lockdown treat, and a time to just catch up. If you're interested, please phone me on 0405 194 327. Brenda

PRESBYTERY PRAYERS

This Sunday we encourage congregations to pray for newly ordained ministers and ordinands (candidates ready for ordination). In particular we pray for Andrea Mayes who is finishing her study over the next two weeks and is looking for supply work while she waits for a ministry placement.



Robyn and David
together with Matthew and Cameron
warmly invite you to celebrate

The Wedding of Robyn and David

Saturday, December 5th at 3:00 PM

online at

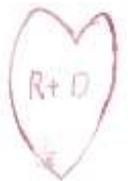
<https://www.turbo360.com.au/david-and-robyn/>

*While we'd love to have you there in person,
given the pandemic, we're delighted
to share this celebration online.*

In lieu of gifts, we invite you to donate
to the UNHCR COVID-19 appeal at

[https://www.mycase.com.au/page/
237975/robyn-and-davids-wedding](https://www.mycase.com.au/page/237975/robyn-and-davids-wedding)

*I'm sorry that we can't have anyone from the church at our wedding, but the consequences of COVID include that even my parents aren't coming over to attend, so I'd ask others not to come to the church out of respect for others whom we've had to exclude. We'd be delighted to have you attend online though! The link is <https://www.turbo360.com.au/david-and-robyn/>
- David*



CHRISTMAS CAROLS – bookings now open

There are THREE Christmas Carols events being planned. All will be outdoors, allowing for singing together, even if wearing masks. At present the outdoor groups will be limited to 50, so we are asking people to “book” their places either by using the trybooking links below, or by phoning and leaving a message for Jacqui at the church office (phone 9783 3400). There will be more advertising for these in High Street Times.

Christmas Carols in the Park: Sunday 20 December, 7:00pm, George Pentland Botanic Gardens (Foot Street end) – please bring your own chair. Book at <https://www.trybooking.com/BNEKF> or phone the church office.

Family Christmas: Christmas Eve, 5:30pm, Beauty Park at or near the shelter - please bring your own chairs, and food and drink for a picnic to follow. Book at <https://www.trybooking.com/BNELC>

Christmas Eve Carols: Meeting to sing carols in front of the Arts Centre, opposite the Council's Christmas Tree, at 8:30pm, and then walking to sing elsewhere. Book at <https://www.trybooking.com/BNFSU>

Heeyoung Lim's induction at Leighmoor, 2 pm Sunday November 29

Rev Heeyoung Lim is being inducted as Minister with the Leighmoor congregation in Moorabbin this coming Sunday, 2 pm. A limited number of people will be at the church. The service will be broadcast through Zoom to the rest of the Presbytery. Heeyoung recently concluded her time on the ministry team at the Korean Church of Melbourne. Click on this link to join in on Zoom: <https://bit.ly/3nXSaX5>
Meeting ID: 988 200 6525 Passcode: 183Wickham

ANNOUNCEMENT MADE LAST SUNDAY

In case you missed it, last Sunday I let the congregation know that my name is one of three being given to the meeting of the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania in late February for the election of the next Moderator of the Synod, for the period 2022 – 2025. The Synod will have some important issues to navigate during that period, which for which I think clarity, sensitivity, vision and prayer will be needed. The role of Moderator is a particular calling, for which I am open to the discernment of the church. Whichever of the three of us is elected will commence in that role at the Synod meeting in 2022, so even if I am elected there would be few dramatic changes straight away. In the meantime, I'd appreciate your prayers for me, for the other two nominees (Cameron McAdam and Rachel Kronberger), and for the Synod. - David

THIS WEEK

Thursday 3 December, 7:30pm – Thursday night Bible Study (zoom)

Sunday 6 December – services include Holy Communion

Don't forget to have a small portion of bread, and a drink (wine/juice/similar) with you on Sunday morning.

David will be on leave until 15 December

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP (9:00am) Phone **(03) 7018 2005**; Meeting ID **616 254 006**; Participant ID (none); Password **3199**. If you want to join on a computer or iPad, go to zoom.us and “join meeting” using the Meeting ID details above, or use the link
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/616254006?pwd=MkhoWjdXemFiUjAyVmN3bXBxSURqUT09>

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP (children from 10:25, main worship from 10:40)

Zoom Meeting ID **556 610 676**; Password **3199**. Join meeting from zoom.us or use the link
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/556610676?pwd=T3k4RmVUV0NldGR2eEswZVlvVUIXUT09> or phone **(03) 7018 2005**.

WEBSITE: Reflections accessible in text format at <https://www.frankstonuniting.org.au/>

PRAYER TEAM: The Prayer Team can be contacted on 9781 5351 (Marlene) or email HSUCPrayer@googlegroups.com

OFFICE HOURS: Jacqui will be in the office on Wednesday and Friday mornings, phone 9783 3400 or email frankstonuc@gmail.com

OFFERINGS: If you are not connected to regular direct debit, one-off or regular offerings can be made to the church by transfer to FRANKSTON UNITING CHURCH BSB **063 133** Account **00800128** Description **OFFERING**. Alternatively, mail a cheque to the Treasurer, Keith Holmes c/- the church.