

HIGH STREET UNITING CHURCH NEWS – Web version

19 April 2020

Greetings in Christ's name!

It's hard to believe that we've been worshipping "online" for 3 or 4 weeks now – or maybe not so hard to believe, when "how things used to be" seems like another world at the moment. I have been delighted with the amount of connection that we have managed to achieve in worship, particularly with the Traditional congregation connecting well to phone-based services, and the Contemporary service continuing to improve our participation together.

Following Jesus' way is not just about Sunday mornings; it is about living life in the Kingdom of God in all of our being. The situation in which we find ourselves now tests many of our edges. For some of us, time spent without lots of close human interaction is easy, and almost restful. For others, especially the more extroverted, the challenge runs very deep. For those who don't live alone this period may be less about isolation and more about learning to live in a situation where various personalities are under stress. For almost all of us, the greatest difficulty may be not being able to physically visit people we love.

The Bible is full of narratives and reflections because of the different experiences that God's people have faced through history, and the different responses drawn from God's people by the Spirit's call. Even in the early church life including significant trials, but we are encouraged that endurance produces character and hope, grounded in God's love, through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us (Romans 5:1-5).

Our worshipping together is one way of fostering our ongoing fellowship; encouraging one another through this period; and turning our hopes and our prayers to God, who is faithful, and sends the Spirit among us. And that's the story that begins in the book of Acts, which we'll be following in the coming weeks.

Peace and grace,
David

CHAOS - Saturday 25 April

The next CHAOS will consist of dinner in your home shared online over Zoom and a Soirée, hosted by Yvonne and Craig Mitchell.

The Meal - you can cook and eat what you like BUT if you wish, join the challenge to include one of the following ingredients in one of your dishes - rosemary, Golden Syrup, or lemon. Plan for at least 2 courses in your meal. More if you wish! We'll be meeting up online on Zoom at 6.30pm to begin our dining.

The Soirée - each household is invited to share something during the evening - a story, a song, a joke, whatever! Be adventurous! But if this is too intimidating, just be a spectator! We will also have a quiz about Music through the Decades. We'll work out a schedule so that our entertainment and our eating are interspersed.

We will share the link details through the church email group, but you can also email us for info - craigmitchell01@gmail.com

Hope you'll join us for conversation and entertainment!

CROSSLIGHT

We have attempted this week to deliver copies of the April **Crosslight** to as many people as we can. Steven Bernaudo features in one of the articles! Most of Crosslight can also be viewed online – go to <https://crosslight.org.au/>

HIGH STREET TIMES

We are planning for the next edition of High Street Times to be out in time for Mother's Day on May 10, which will mean posting late in the previous week. If you have any material that you would like to propose for it, please send it in to frankstonuc@gmail.com by Monday 27 April. There may be limits on what we can print.

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, keep a bowl for your offerings at home, or mail a cheque to the church office, 16-18 High Street, Frankston 3199.

OFFICE HOURS

The current cessation of the hiring of the church facilities impacts both our finances and the work required to manage the hiring. There is also a significant reduction in reception and front-office work for managing the activities of the church. Following discussions at Church Council and with Jacqui, Jacqui's hours will be reduced from the end of next week. The answering machine in the office will be checked regularly, but not daily. Alternative phone numbers were circulated recently.

BEV GRAY

Rev Norman Gray and his wife Bev were regular members of High Street Uniting Church, before Norm's death. One of their children let Arthur know that Bev passed away peacefully on 9 April. There will be a memorial service later in the year.

WORSHIP LINKS (the same every week)

TRADITIONAL (9:00am)

Phone **(03) 7018 2005**; Meeting ID **616 254 006**; Password **3199**.

If you want to join using a video link that is also possible by going to

<https://zoom.us/j/616254006>

but the focus will be on people linking by phone.

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

<https://zoom.us/j/556610676>

or phone **(03) 7018 2005**; Meeting ID **556 610 676**; Password **3199**.

WEBSITE:

Reflections accessible in text format from the Sunday afternoons.

<https://www.frankstonuniting.org.au/>

Please keep everyone in prayer, and reach out if you need.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in faith, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13)