

June 2023

# High Street Times

Connecting Younger Generations IN GOD'S LOVE

Embracing All People WITH CHRIST'S COMPASSION

Strengthening Community THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT



**HIGH STREET UNITING CHURCH,  
16-18 HIGH STREET, FRANKSTON**



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*We acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we gather: the Bunarong people and we pay respect to their past present and emerging elders and their ancestors.*



# FETE RESULTS

MAY 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023

STALL	Interim	Post Fete	Current Total
Cakes	639.90	12.00	651.90
Fancy Goods	945.00		945.00
Sausage Sizzle	304.40		304.40
Plants	387.20	14.00	401.20
LEGS	271.00		271.00
Jams and Pickles	435.50		435.50
Raffle	242.00		242.00
Lucky Dip	25.00		25.00
Morning Tea	525.05		525.05
Books	515.05	2.00	517.05
Trash and Treasure	409.50		409.50
Photo-cards	335.00		335.00
Commissions	180.00		180.00
Band	78.85		78.85
Donations	20.00		20.00
Sundries	2.20		3.00
Other post fete sales			
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>5315.65</b>	<b>28.00</b>	<b>5343.65</b>



# *From the Minister...*



## **Rev Ross Writes**

It sometimes seems that everywhere we look, there are commentators predicting the demise of Christianity in the western world. There are forces and social changes threatening the existence of the church; rational thought, science and technology, individualism, alternate faiths, social media, sport on Sunday, seven-day trading, and so on. Many of us have lived through the steep decline in membership of the church, not just the number of members but the number of churches as well. As a young man I remember a couple of hundred in Sunday School; when I became a teacher in Sunday School, we had 6. When I first attended Presbytery meetings in the 1980's there were 26 Uniting churches in Geelong and suburbs, there are now 11. Even though over that same time the population of Geelong has increased astronomically! You will all have similar stories, I am sure. This is a sadness in many congregations, with tinges of grief and guilt. But I wonder if we are too self-focussed and caught up in nostalgia. Even the Teacher, who wrote the book of Ecclesiastes 2500 years ago chastised people for saying, "Weren't the former days better than these?"

Maybe we are over-thinking things, and what we are seeing is not a massive rejection of religion but the exit of people who were only in the church for social and cultural reasons. Yes, it is true that we have failed to keep the Gospel fresh and relevant in thought and language, for many people, however religion is simply not needed for their lives! The social and cultural role of the churches in the early twentieth century is now filled with entertainment, sport, social media and the 'café culture'. Many people aren't rejecting our faith, they have never really heard or encountered it, for them it's just an old religion. A rethinking of our situation opens all sorts of possibilities by focussing us on faith and not religion, by shifting us from looking to the past to looking to the world now.

For many it is more than an issue of attendance numbers. We are no longer the centre of social life or an institution of respect and authority. If we are no longer the social centre, we need to ask ourselves seriously, what do we offer the world? If we are no longer the carriers of culture, what can we share with the world? The answers to those questions can then drive our ministry; community for the lonely, care for the vulnerable, and a place to be yourself without judgement. We can be free to refocus on who we really are; the carriers of the Gospel of God's love in Jesus Christ, the offer of love and acceptance, and meaning for the confused.

Not being the respected centre of society is a big challenge and a bit scary, but it is also the place of God that shines in the Beatitudes and in Acts, a place built on faith and trust in God and not on power and influence and position. I don't think the decline we have witnessed is leading to the demise of Christianity because we are the people of God and not just people with a philosophy.

## **Uniting Church Assembly – ACT 2**

Initiated by the Assembly Standing Committee in 2020 and affirmed at the last Assembly meeting in 2021/2, some serious work was undertaken towards imagining and working for the future of the church. This work was given the title Act2. A name that picks up both the idea of a follow up to the initial work in forming the Uniting Church and the work of the Spirit in Acts Chapter 2.

While this may look like a bit of navel gazing instead of positive direction or initiative, it is becoming increasingly clear that our church is structured and governed by regulations written for a much larger church than we are now. What should the focus be for our diminishing resources? Act2 is seeking the collective wisdom of Uniting Church people to shape what it means to follow Jesus here and now.

Guided by a Project Plan that aims to make a report to the next Assembly Meeting in 2024, working to a timeline of three phases – we are now entering the Discernment Phase - the Act2 work is focussed on four streams of enquiry:

- Local communities of faith and discipleship
- National identity
- Governance and resourcing
- Theological culture and education



There are resources to enable congregations to think through the issues of being a faithful church now and into the future. If you would like to see a conversation or presentation here in High St, please talk to me. The focus of the Act2 Project and the Assembly right now is Uniting in Prayer. Between Pentecost and the anniversary of the Uniting Church there is a national time of prayer for 26. Resources for Uniting in Prayer will be available in the foyer for all those who are interested.

The Assembly website – [act2uca.com](http://act2uca.com) - contains a lot of material on the Act2 project and ways for people to engage in this important work, and I encourage us all to participate in this time of self-examination with a hopeful and faithful view to the future.

**Rev Ross**

### **2023 Synod Meeting**

The Seventeenth Meeting of the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania will commence at 10am on Saturday 18 November 2023 and conclude at 4pm on Tuesday 21 November 2023. The meeting will be held at Box Hill Town Hall, 1022 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill. Rev Assoc Prof Robyn Whitaker, a Senior Lecturer in New Testament at Pilgrim Theological College will be leading the Bible studies throughout the meeting and Brooke Prentis, an Aboriginal Christian Leader, international speaker, writer, educator, and poet will preach at the Opening Worship.

It is time to consider nominating for membership at the 2023 Synod Meeting. Any confirmed member of the Uniting Church can nominate as a Synod member. Adults of all ages, cultural backgrounds, gender, ability, sexuality, lay or ordained are encouraged to attend. The information about nomination will be sent out to congregation next week with more details.

### **Disabilities conference**

How churches can provide a welcoming and inclusive environment for people with disabilities and mental health issues will be explored at a conference in July organised by the Synod's Justice and International Mission unit. The July 29 conference will be held at the Salvation Army Centre in Box Hill, and also online. Email [Alicia Torres](mailto:Alicia.Torres@unitedchurch.org.au) or call (03) 9340 8815 for further information.



**We pray...** For those within our church family who find it difficult or are unable to attend worship, including: Sheila Knoop, Gwen Paxino, Audrey Smith, Audrey LaBrooy, Ruth Conn, Marie de Silva, Lola Coupe, Molly Maughan, Pat Johnson, Margaret Snyder, Beth McNamara, Effie Tilley, and Barbara Yates.

For all who are in poor health and having treatment, including Jen Johnson and Michelle Clarkson.

For Barb Conner, recently in hospital.

For Debra Gibb and her father's poor health.

For the Mathews and Jenkins families, as they continue to live with the loss of Angie.

For all others who mourn the loss of loved ones.

For the children and families affected by the school bus accident in Eynesbury.

For wisdom and discernment around the Voice Referendum discussions.

For those around Frankston who experience homelessness, or face injustices.

For all those struggling with mental health needs in our church family and our community.

For all involved in the outreach from our church on Saturday lunchtimes, providing food and social connection.

For Ukraine, still under attack from Russia.

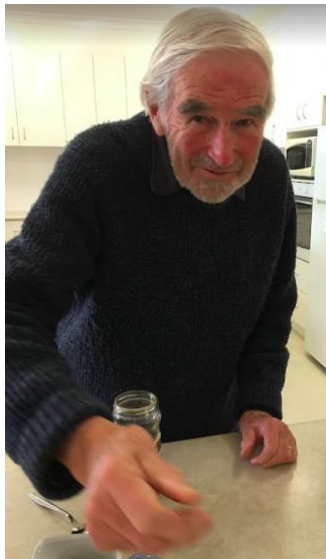
For Turkey and Syria, still in recovery from the recent earthquake causing so much devastation.

For communities in New Zealand, northern Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland, still in recovery from the cyclone, floods, and bushfires.

For our whole community that we serve in the love of God.

*The prayer chain regularly and continuously keeps particular needs in prayer. You can ask for prayers through the prayer chain by contacting Marlene, phone 5971 2840 or emailing directly to [hsuca-prayer@googlegroups.com](mailto:hsuca-prayer@googlegroups.com). The prayer chain is a small group of church members who are dedicated to prayer, and consider all communication and prayer needs strictly private and confidential unless specified otherwise*

# Communion Service at Baxter



It is a privilege to be part of the communion service at Baxter Village. It is good to see people meeting and chatting over a cup of tea. Thank you to Mac and Ann for their tireless pastoral care in the village. It is much appreciated.



## ZOOM/PHONE DETAILS

For all services:

On a tablet or laptop computer: Go to <https://zoom.us/j/95468493260> and use the password 3199.

(or go to <https://zoom.us/join> and use the meeting number below)

On a phone without video: call (03) 7018 2005

Meeting ID: 954 6849 3260 #

Participant ID: #

Password: 3199 #



"We are very happy this month to profile some of the wonderful outreach that is happening from our church premises on Saturday mornings. Project Fresh Start and Mother's Kitchen collaborate by working alternate weekends to produce delicious and healthy hot meals for anyone who might need it. People are welcome to attend and sit down for a meal, or take some food away, and there is of course invaluable social connection and fellowship happening during the meals. We give thanks for Jo and Jolene, the leaders of each group, and their inspiring volunteers who make all this happen."

## Mother's Kitchen (MK)

This fortnightly community lunch aims to provide a service to support those members of the community who experience food insecurity and may not have access to regular nutritious meals. Those who experience hardship- economic, social, housing - and may be marginalised within the local community. We provide healthy and nutritiously cooked vegetarian meals in a safe and supportive dining environment where people can feel part of a community and share a meaningful social experience. Currently there is an increasing number of people in the community seeking food assistance.

Meals are prepared in the UC kitchen and then served in the church hall from 12pm - 1pm. Take away meals are also given out. Everyone is welcome.

MK has a dedicated team and team leader who together prepare and serve the meals.

Fresh produce is collected from Community Support Frankston.

Staples and dry goods are purchased or donated to augment fresh fruit and vegetables provided.

Mother's Kitchen is part of the Amrita Australia Pty Ltd Charity (AAL).





# Project Fresh Start

We are a plant-based not-for-profit organization that takes food waste and turns it into delicious healthy free meals for our community via our Community Fridge which is located at the needle exchange in Frankston on Young St as well as our fortnightly Saturday lunches where we welcome people into the hall and often entertain with our volunteer musicians.

We cook up to 400 meals a week for the community fridge and the need is rising along with the cost of living.

We have strong connections with Community Support Frankston as well as the Bayside community kitchen and assist both these organizations to meet the need of our most disadvantaged community members.

You can look us up on our website [projectfreshstart.org.au](http://projectfreshstart.org.au) or Facebook.



PROJECT  
FRESH START INC.

PO Box 10027

Pines Forest, VIC 3200

Australia

Email: [enquiry.freshstart@gmail.com](mailto:enquiry.freshstart@gmail.com)





# Coronation Chaos



Our Contemporary Congregation social group, "Chaos" took the opportunity to combine their monthly get-together with the Coronation of King Charles.

Dressed in royal regalia a good night was had by all as they tucked into the street party food then gathered around the TV to watch the big event.

If you want to be part of future fun, email [fairgo@mtlake.id.au](mailto:fairgo@mtlake.id.au) to be put on the email list.





# June Rosters

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP						
Date	Colour	Preaching	Bible Reader	Day	Bible reading	STB
04-Jun-23	W	Ross Pearce	Rona Russell	In the beginning	Genesis 1: 1-5	Issue 12, pp. 8-16
11-Jun-23	G	Ross Pearce	Keith Holmes	Land and plants	Genesis 1: 9-13	Issue 12, pp. 39-46
18-Jun-23	G	Ross Pearce	Jill Cayzer	Be fruitful	Genesis 1: 20-23	Issue 12, pp. 17-24
25-Jun-23	G	Ross Pearce	Rod Carruthers	It was very good	Genesis 1: 24-31	Issue 12, pp. 55-61

Date	Notes	Stewards	Morning Tea Helpers	Flowers
04-Jun-23		Daryl & Shirley Groves	Graeme & Jenny Horsburgh, Fay Loader	Beryl and Marg
11-Jun-23	King's Birthday Long Weekend	Daryl & Shirley Groves	John Upton, Harriet Holton, Brenda Cooper	Beryl and Marg
18-Jun-23		Marilyn Sheerin, Fiona Jones	Karin Jooste, Vilma LaBrooy, Bev Fowler	Beryl and Marg
25-Jun-23		Neville Parker, Aubrey Mair	Rona Russell, Stanley & Viola Zhungu	Edna Reeves

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP (Elders and Communion)				
Date	Holy Communion	Duty Elder	Communion Setup	Communion Helpers
04-Jun-23	RP	Mac Cleland and Dawn Peacock	Erica Hutchinson and Jill Cayzer	Keith Holmes
11-Jun-23				
18-Jun-23				
25-Jun-23				

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP						
Date	Preparing and Leading Worship		Preaching	Day	Bible reading	STB
04-Jun-23	Ross		Ross Pearce	In the beginning	Genesis 1: 1-5	Issue 12, pp. 8-16
11-Jun-23	Valmai	Glenise	Ross Pearce	Land and plants	Genesis 1: 9-13	Issue 12, pp. 39-46
18-Jun-23	Kerry	Mandy	Ross Pearce	Be fruitful	Genesis 1: 20-23	Issue 12, pp. 17-24
25-Jun-23	John	Jackie	Ross Pearce	It was very good	Genesis 1: 24-31	Issue 12, pp. 55-61

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP							
Date	Holy Communion	Notes		Children's Time	Band Leaders	Singers	Zoom
04-Jun-23	RP			Meg	Mike	Tim & Jenni	Russell
11-Jun-23		King's Birthday Long Weekend		Irene	John	Valmai & Yvonne	Tim
18-Jun-23				Meg	Russell	Alan & Bronwen	Matthew
25-Jun-23				Irene	Mike	Tim & Mandy	Meg

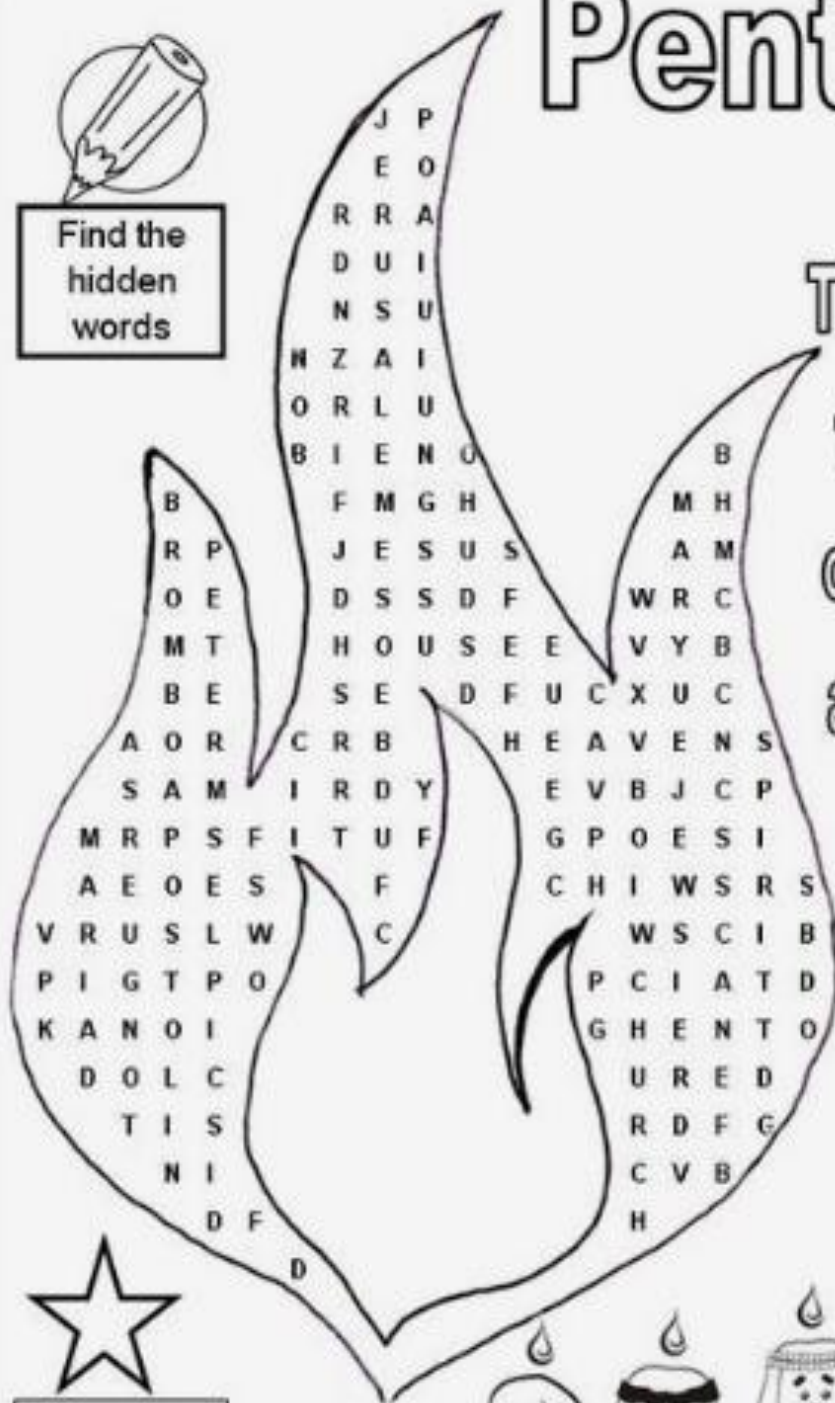
CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP		
Date	Welcome and Offering	Hospitality
04-Jun-23	Santhira & Joy	Valmai
11-Jun-23	Patti & Ley	Joy
18-Jun-23	Kate & Santhira	Gill
25-Jun-23	Marg & Beryl	Valmai



# Pentecost



Find the  
hidden  
words



Then there appeared  
to them tongues as  
of fire, which parted  
and came to rest on  
each one of them.

Acts 2:3



Wind  
Heaven  
House  
Tongues  
Fire  
Spirit  
Jews  
Jerusalem  
Peter  
Jesus  
Wine  
Disciples  
Mary  
Church



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