

March 2023

# High Street Times

Connecting Younger Generations IN GOD'S LOVE

Embracing All People WITH CHRIST'S COMPASSION

Strengthening Community THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT

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



MINISTER: Rev Ross Pearce (0437 561 833)

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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.*



# From the Minister...



## Rev Ross writes...

When I first came into the church here at Frankston, a thought struck me, that has occurred to me many times when sitting in various churches, "This place would be good for theatre. Just add a few rods to hang some curtains and some lights and it would be a good place to do *Murder in the Cathedral* or *A Christmas Carol*".

It's a bit of an obsession of mine, coming from too many years of theatre. It does, however, point to some obvious similarities between a church and a theatre; all the people pointing one way, watching, and sometimes participating in, a performance. Even when we move the church into a round shape, that still matches many theatre performances that are set in the round, some that I have performed in. Some churches even have the lighting, curtains, and sound systems that I would want to have to do theatre in the church!

What happens in church also seems to be similar to a theatre performance. God inspires and directs the minister and other leaders who 'perform' for the congregation - the audience. In some ways, it's not surprising that thoughts of theatre and drama inspire people to come up with creative approaches to readings, anthems and preaching, to make a service more of a performance.

Except, that is not what worship is all about! It is not a case of God as the director, minister as the performer and congregation as the audience. The minister and worship leaders are the directors, the congregation are the performers and God is the audience. The word liturgy means 'the work of the people', and that work is worship aimed at God. The prayers and the singing are not merely performances to watch or participate in, they are the very stuff of the worship that we collectively offer to God. If the creativity we add to elements of the worship are to be helpful, they need to support the worship of the people, not just to be entertainment.

When you come to worship, try to resist the idea that you are in an audience, watching and listening. You, and all of us, are assembled to worship God, I and the other leaders are called to offer guidance, leadership, and inspiration for that worship. Set your hearts and minds on God and allow the elements of the service to 'perform' worship to our true audience – God, our loving Father who has reached out to us in Jesus the Christ and inspires our worship through the Spirit.



Ross



## 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, Fay Dungey, Marie de Silva, Lola Coupe, Molly Maughan, Pat Johnson, Margaret Snyder, Beth McNamara, Effie Tilley, and Barbara Yates.*

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

For the Poole and Pederick families, following the loss of Ruth.

For Michelle, daughter of Marilyn and Robert Downing, undergoing treatment for cancer. And for Marilyn and Robert, with various health issues.

For Kerrin Hill, as she continues her rehabilitation.

For Roy Gieseman, recovering from surgery.

For all others who mourn the loss of loved ones.

For all others who are in poor health and having treatment.

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

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

For Ukraine: for those fleeing, those caught up in fighting, and those seeking to provide shelter and hope.

For Turkey and Syria, and all affected by the recent earthquake causing so much devastation

For New Zealand, for all affected by damage caused by the cyclone and floods

For students and teachers as they begin a new year in schools and universities.

For our church as we move forward into a new year, and 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.*

### A Prayer from Congress by Pastor Mark Kickett

May our footsteps, on these ancient lands,  
remind us of creation and connectedness, in our search for truth.

May the Gum Tree, from its roots to its branches,  
remind us to dig deep and reach high, in our action for justice.

May the Eagle, who soars in the sky,  
remind us of the power, in our call for love.

May the expanse of the lands and seas, of the sky and stars,  
remind us of God's timing in our faith in hope.

May the Holy three, Creator Spirit, Lord God, Papa Jesus,  
remind us of community.

So with grace, mercy, and peace, go in truth, justice, love and hope.

Amen.



**You're invited to a season of prayer, simplicity and generosity to change the world.**

**22 February – 6 April 2023.**

**Lent Event** is a unique fundraising activity to support the work of UnitingWorld. Over the 40-day season of Lent, give up something to help fight poverty and bring hope and healing to our world.

Lent Event is inspired by a simple but powerful idea:

Every one of us has a role to play in building a world free from poverty and injustice.

But with so much suffering and injustice demanding our attention, where do we begin?

We believe that positive change can start with the everyday choices we make; what we spend our limited time, attention and money on.

Lent Event gives an opportunity to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, choosing to focus our lives on compassion, generosity, and love for our neighbours across the world.

### **How to join in:**

#### **Pray**

Prayer is powerful. Use our [prayer guide](#) to pray alongside our partners across the world and be inspired to make a difference. Go deeper and reflect on how to be a good global neighbour through our [Bible Study series](#).

#### **Live simply**

During the season of Lent, choose to give up something in solidarity with those who have less (coffee, alcohol, screens, cynicism?) or you could do something to walk more gently on the earth (dust off the bike and leave the car at home? Eat less meat and dairy?) Pick whatever unique activity you like!

Donate the money you would have spent on it to fight poverty and build hope in the world! Better yet, [take up a fundraising challenge](#) and get your friends and family to sponsor you.

#### **Give**

The money we raise together will help fight poverty and build hope across the Pacific, Asia and Africa through UnitingWorld and our international partners.

**We hope you'll join us. Together we'll make a lasting difference, inspire others, and the practices we put in place will impact our lives and our world far beyond the 40 days.**

Visit [www.lentevent.com.au](http://www.lentevent.com.au) to get started.



## Palm Sunday Walk for Refugees

**April 2nd at 2pm.** At the State Library, Swanston St

The Victorian Council of Churches and Australian Churches Refugee Taskforce (ACRT) are two of the many organisations that endorse the Palm Sunday Walk for Refugees, and they encourage congregations, groups, schools and individuals to consider being involved. You can read more about this now annual event on the VCC website, and more information to come.

This year the Ukrainian Bishop Mykola Bychok will be one of the speakers. As you know, there are many Ukrainian citizens who have become refugees since the invasion on February 24th, 2022, and some are now living here in Victoria.



## Türkiye – Syria Earthquake

We have all been shocked by the scale and devastation of this earthquake, and the almost unbelievable loss of life, and are wanting to know what to do. And following all the destruction and grief there are more than a million people homeless and in need. The Uniting Church, through its agency Uniting World, are joining with Act for Peace (the body that runs Christmas Bowl) to offer an appeal. Donations will be directed to ACT Alliance members in the region to provide much needed humanitarian support.

If you would like to offer a donation and have no access to Uniting World of Act for Peace, please forward your donations to the church office, clearly marked **Türkiye – Syria Earthquake**.

## 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.

*Belonging to the people of God on the way, praying for the **gift of the Spirit** and entering into a period of **self-examination** of our life, we are guided by the **vision of the Basis of Union** and embody rich and diverse expressions of the Church. Living in a **time of significant change**, we heed the invitation of the Basis of Union to **consider afresh** the ordering of our lives so that we can live out our common commitment to the Church's **mission** and to demonstrate our **unity**.*

— Statement of the Act2 Task, Assembly Standing Committee

The Assembly website contains a lot of material on the Act2 project based on two national consultation surveys and lot of conversations:

*... we've heard what people across the country feel and think about their Church. We've listened to the Spirit and to each other.*

*We've heard how we're proud of the unique identity and faithful witness we've grown over time within the one holy catholic and apostolic church in Australia.*

*We're proud of our inclusiveness, commitment to justice and equality and Covenant with First Peoples. We're a church of many nations following Christ, and all are welcome in our communities, where people of all cultures and ages share in faith, prayer, discipleship and service.*

*We also know we're facing big challenges.*

*We know we're not the Church we were at Union. We've heard we need to make our structures sustainable. We've heard we need to break down silos and increase*

*collaboration. We've heard the desire to centre faith and discipleship in our life. We've heard that we need to be more flexible, agile and responsive. We've heard we need to change so that we may be a truly inclusive, multicultural and covenanting Church. To work towards a faithful future, we must be honest about the past and present as we seek to follow Jesus in a radically changed context.*

I encourage us all to enter this time of self-examination with a hopeful and faithful view to the future.

## World Council of Churches

As you would expect from a body that is global, there is always a lot going on in the World Council of Churches, and if people are interested there are ways to connect in via social media outlets.

Here are a few stories that can be followed up if you want more information:

Leaders from The Clewer Initiative, the national work of the Church of England to combat modern slavery, visited the World Council of Churches (WCC) on 30-31 January to discuss current and future collaboration.

A Human Rights Monitor report has found that more than 60,000 internally displaced persons in West Papua remain without government aid.

In the inaugural edition of Geneva Policy Outlook, a new online publication Peter Prove, director of the WCC's Commission of the Churches on International Affairs reflects on the issue of ecumenical peacebuilding as a guide towards shared interests in the Russia-Ukraine war, which exemplifies the clash of fundamentally different value systems, ethical frameworks, and historical narratives.

The work of the World Council of Churches can be found at <http://www.oikoumene.org> and you can sign up to receive a regular newsletter.



**Friday, 3rd March 2023**  
**10:30am service, with a cuppa afterwards**  
**High Street Uniting Church**  
**16-18 High Street Frankston 3199**  
**Guest speaker: Rev. Arthur Poole (who has spent time in Taiwan)**

**All welcome! Contact High Street Uniting Church on 9783 3400 for more information.**

### World Day of Prayer Taiwan - "I Have Heard About Your Faith"

One of the WDP Guiding Principles states that 'Prayer is rooted in listening to God and to one another. In WDP we listen to the Word of God and to voices of women sharing their hopes and fears, their joys and sorrows, their opportunities and needs.'

The theme of the worship service "I Have Heard About Your Faith," based on the letter to the Ephesians, is an invitation to active listening, which is the ground of our prayers. Following the example of the letter (1:15-19), where the author praises the church for their faith in Jesus and love toward all the saints, the worship service contextualizes the witness of the saints with the stories from Taiwan.





## A Thank You & An Opportunity

Last year, our HSUC Social Justice Group (SJG) asked for your support in deciding on and financing a banner supporting refugees. The prompt response by members of the congregation led to the 'Justice & Compassion for Refugees' banner being made and erected on the front of the church. Thank you for your support. It has been a witness seen by many Frankston people.



One man who saw it when driving by the church told his mother about the banner. She contacted Esther, excited to hear that a church would support refugees; and has since then joined our congregation's Social Justice Group. Who knows who else has been impacted by the banner's message? So, thank you for helping make this public statement.

Shortly after we began, the SJG considered many areas of social justice that we might support. We decided on these four priorities:

- Support for Refugees.
- Listening to and walking with First Nations Australians;
- Climate Change; and
- Homelessness (particularly in our local area).

It is our intention to raise awareness on these priorities and seek opportunities to support them: including making a banner on each theme. Then, over a period of time, we will circulate the banners; stimulating the passing community to consider each one in turn. We have received a promise of \$500 for a Climate Change banner (which added to the monies we have 'in hand' will be enough to make and erect it). The SJG has been considering options; and we bring these two for your consideration.

During March, in both the Traditional and Contemporary Worship services, you will be given opportunity to vote for the one you prefer. Then, after the Refugee banner has been in place for nine months or more, we will store it for use again; and put up the Climate Change banner.

**Alan Mathews (for the HSUC Social Justice Group)**



Recently Brenda Cooper received a delightful email from David Fotheringham\* complete with pictures which he is happy to share.

Enjoy...

*Hi Brenda,*

*Here are a few new photos to show off! We're going pretty well - Nora is feeding and sleeping well, and usually pretty content in between. We're trying to get used to some new rhythms, but of course they'll change every other day!*

*Best wishes to you and to those around.*

*Blessings, David*



\*For new friends among us David Fotheringham was our previous minister and is now the Moderator of the Uniting Church Victoria & Tasmania.



## Ladies Evening Group (LEGs)

A social group for women meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month (unless it is a public holiday). LEGS Members also take responsibility for catering at church (events, funerals etc) as well as assisting with church fetes. LEGs normally have a speaker or activity at their monthly meetings which begin with a light dinner at 6.00pm followed by a speaker and the LEGs meeting. Gatherings conclude between 8pm-8.30pm. Men are welcome to come along with their partner however they are asked to recline to the lobby for "Secret Men's Business" whilst LEGs hold their actual meeting.

**New members very welcome. Contact Marg Scarlett, President LEGS- 0419 805 362 or email: [pcs@cogroup.com.au](mailto:pcs@cogroup.com.au)**

### LEGS PROGRAM for 2023

Friday 3 MARCH	WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
6 MAR	Guest Speakers: Dawn Peacock Social Justice Group and update on Larder
3 APRIL	Guest Speaker: Rona Russell – Life as a volunteer
7-10 APRIL	EASTER
29 APRIL	CONCERT TO SUPPORT LARDER
1 MAY	Member night / Activity: Mother's Day – Alice Needs
Saturday 13 MAY	Church Fete – Mother's Day
5 JUNE	Guest Speaker: Rev Ross Pearce
3 JULY	Guest Speaker: Carmen Schmandtke Remedial Massage & Manual Lymphatic Drainage
7 AUG	Guest Speaker: Rev Brenda Cooper
4 SEPT	Guest Speaker: TBC
9 SEPT	LEGS FUNDRAISING - HIGH TEA
2 OCT	Guest Speaker: John & Elaine Govan Bangladesh Children's Home
6-8 OCT	WEEKEND AWAY
13 NOV	AGM – Members Night – Harriet Holton & Preparation December Fete
Saturday 1 DEC	Christmas Fete
4 DEC	Christmas Dinner – Settlers Run Golf & Country Club

Kind regards Marg Scarlett

### 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 #

## **Church Council News**

Greetings fellow members of the High Street Uniting Church family. Clearly, 2023 has well and truly begun, given that we recently held our first Church Council meeting for the year on 7 February. This news item is intended to highlight some key matters which we sought to address at our initial meeting.



### **Pew arrangements**

Late in 2022, Fiona Ryan wrote to Church Council to pose the question as to whether our current pew configuration best enabled ready connection between congregational members and the minister. Since then, you will have noticed that there has been some experimentation with different layouts. As many would probably be aware, this was the original intention of the architect, David Reid, who advised us to remodel our pews to enable them to be easily moved to suit different styles of worship and church uses.

All Church Council members shared their views on the optimal layout. It soon became apparent that there were many factors to be taken into consideration such as emergency and wheelchair/ mobility walker access, funeral access, room for the traditional choir, contemporary band access and flexibility for different worship styles and external users. So, Church Council concluded that some experimentation was needed to determine the favoured 'standard' layouts required by each worshipping group. Rev Ross will convene a small working party with representatives from both services to explore options and then report back to our next meeting in April.

### **2023 Dates**

We continue to be so indebted to our wonderful Office Administrator, Esther Galvin for her wonderful and diverse work on our behalf. She presented us with a draft calendar for this year at the end of 2022. We revisited these dates and endorsed them. Two dates you should firmly place in your 2023 calendar now are those of the fetes: Saturday 13 May and Saturday 2 December. It should also be noted that Rev Ross has some exciting visions, hopes, and plans for this year, so watch this space!

### **Church cleaners**

You will no doubt recall that late in 2022, after the resignation of our long-time cleaner, we appointed a new cleaning company for our suite of buildings. A formal meeting was held with their area manager and a detailed contract was signed. Regrettably, not only were these detailed cleaning requirements not met, but when concerns were raised by Esther, no reply was forthcoming. Indeed, Esther used our internal cameras and the cleaner communication book to ascertain that the cleaner in question was only on-site for between 7 minutes and 41 minutes on any day. As a consequence, the buildings have not been fully cleaned and hygiene has been compromised at times. Clearly, action was needed to rectify this situation. Therefore, on behalf of Church Council (and you!) I have written to that company to terminate our contract with them in 30 days. We have accessed another far more reputable and accountable cleaning company, who will provide 2 cleaners for each cleaning session, and they should commence in early March. Even though this will be more costly, we are confident that will all see a very noticeable and pleasing difference.

### **2023 Budget**

One of the important tasks for the first meeting of each calendar year is the endorsing of the draft budget; as always, very carefully and meticulously developed by our hard-working Treasurer, Keith Holmes, in association with Emma Lindenburg. You will appreciate the challenges in developing such a budget at a time when the cost of utilities and many key items is rising, whilst our overall income is being challenged in many respects. As a result, our overall expenditure in 2023 needs to be somewhat less than in 2022, whilst many important maintenance items need to continue to be funded. It is hoped that we will still be able to have a positive budgetary situation overall, but this is by no means certain. Church Council will develop a comprehensive planned giving program for the second half of the year to ensure that our church community activities and buildings are appropriately funded to enact God's promise and love in the Frankston area.

**Ross Huggard, Chairperson**

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

Date	Colour	Preaching	Bible Reader	Day	Bible reading	STB
05-Mar-23	P	Ross Pearce	Rona Russell	Lent 2	Genesis 12: 1-9	Issue 11, p. 18
12-Mar-23	P	Ross Pearce	Elaine Kenyon	Lent 3	Exodus 17:1-7	Issue 11, p. 26
19-Mar-23	P	Ross Pearce	Mac Cleland	Lent 4	Psalms 23	Issue 11, p. 34
26-Mar-23	W	Ross Pearce	Ross Huggard	Lent 5	Ezekiel 37: 1-14	Issue 11, p. 41

Date	Notes	Stewards	Morning Tea Helpers	Flowers
05-Mar-23		Jen & Mick Johnson	Dorothy Bucher, Alister Munro, Eileen Carolus	Edna Reeves
12-Mar-23		Jen & Mick Johnson	Bev Fowler, Jill Cayzer, Ali Vagenas	Gill Jenkins
19-Mar-23	Annual General Meeting	Edna Reeves, Marilyn Sheerin	Enid Churcher, Michael & Jen Johnson	Gill Jenkins
26-Mar-23		Edna Reeves, Robert Latimer	Marilyn Sheerin, Virgil Snyder, Denise Andrews	Beryl and Marg

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP									
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Date	Preparing and Leading Worship			Preaching	Day	Bible reading	Title	STB
05-Mar-23	Ross			Ross Pearce	Lent 2	Genesis 12: 1-9	Should I stay or should I go?	Issue 11, p. 18
12-Mar-23	Alan	Gill		Ross Pearce	Lent 3	Exodus 17:1-7	What's in a name?	Issue 11, p. 26
19-Mar-23	Barb	Valmai	Glenise	Ross Pearce	Lent 4	Psalms 23	Who provides?	Issue 11, p. 34
26-Mar-23				Ross Pearce	Lent 5	Ezekiel 37: 1-14	How shall we live?	Issue 11, p. 41

## CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

Date	Holy Communion	Notes	Children's Time	Band Leaders	Singers	Zoom	Sound
05-Mar-23	RP	Clean up Australia Day	Irene	Mike	Yvonne & Valmai	Meg	Tim
12-Mar-23			Meg	John	Mandy & Jenni	Karin	Alan
19-Mar-23		Annual General Meeting	Rowena	Mike	Tim & Valmai	Matthew	Alan
26-Mar-23			Meg	John	Yvonne & Kerry	Russell	Tim

## CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

Date	Welcome and Offering	Hospitality
05-Mar-23	Barb & Joy	Valmai
12-Mar-23	Patti & Ley	Joy
19-Mar-23	Marg & Beryl	Andi
26-Mar-23	Kate & Mandy	Gill





# Lent Countdown Calendar

Hey kids colour in the steps on the road to Easter.

