

May 2024

Connecting Younger Generations IN GOD'S LOVE

Embracing All People WITH CHRIST'S COMPASSION

Strengthening Community THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT



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We acknowledge the sovereign First Peoples of the lands and waters where we live and work across the country and pay our respects to Elders past and present who have cared for these lands for millennia. We are committed to walking together seeking justice and reconciliation.



High Street Times

## **Sign up now for Uniting in Prayer 2024, 35 days of prayer and connection for the whole Uniting Church**

The Act2 Project has moved into the third and final phase, Recommendations for Action. From December 2023 the Project has been working through hundreds of responses from across the Uniting Church and developing recommendations for the 17th Assembly in July 2024.

Uniting in Prayer is a time to pray and reflect on our past and present as the Uniting Church and what God might have in store for our future. All who call the Uniting Church home are invited to join together in thanksgiving and hope to pray and seek the leading of the Spirit for the years ahead.

This year we will be drawing on the upcoming Assembly theme, “Threads of Love, Weaving Christ’s Love Across Cultures and Boundaries” as a catalyst for reflection.

During these days of prayer we will join together to pray and reflect on our past and present as the Uniting Church. Seeking to acknowledge and honour our shared humanity in God our creator, and act upon our shared call to shape a world that mirrors the love and unity Christ has for us all.

### **Daily Prayers**

We'll be sharing daily prayers over the 35 days drawn from people across the breadth of the Uniting Church and our faith tradition. Sign Up using the link above to receive them each day by email, or find them on Facebook and Instagram. The full set of prayers will also be available as a pdf to download on the 17th of May. See below for the download link

### **Gathered Worship**

The Act2 Project Unit in partnership with the Assembly Transforming Worship Circle has provided some rich resources, including a full service of worship, prayers, intergenerational activities and creative worship ideas. Biblical reflections are also available to aid your reflection or preaching.

### **Pray at Home**

The Act2 Project Unit has offered an intergenerational resource written for young children and families to take part. Each day has a short reflection, question for sharing and a prayer. This is a great conversation starter around the dinner table, in the garden, heading to school, or wherever you spend time together! Although aimed at a younger age range, it's easy to tweak for whoever is around your table.

### **Prayer Chain**

Through Uniting in Prayer different parts of the Uniting Church will be connected to each other through a national prayer chain. The prayer chain has been sent by email and is now available in full below. If your community didn't receive it or you're not on the list, please email the Act2 team. [uca.act2@nat.uca.org.au](mailto:uca.act2@nat.uca.org.au)

### **Online Prayer Gathering**

On the 29 May we'll be hosting a national online time of prayer, open to all. This will be a wonderful expression in real time of what we dream will happen across the country during Uniting in Prayer - people gathering to seek the Spirit and pray for each other, our Church and our life.

Join us on Zoom on Wednesday 29 May, 7:30pm AEST.  
For registration or more information [act2uca.com](http://act2uca.com)

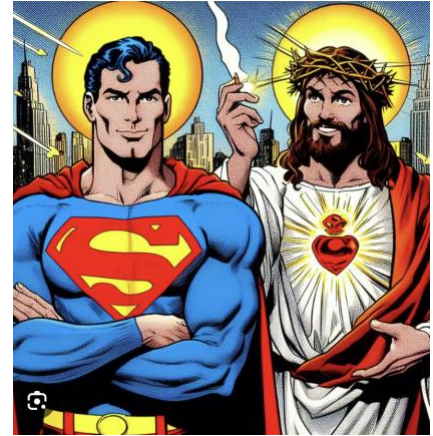


# From the Minister...



## Rev Ross Writes

It seems that we have come to the end of the trend in cinema for superhero movies that has dominated our screens for last 10 years. Maybe they were dominant because the generations that grew up on comic books and cartoons are now at an age to buy their own movie tickets. Or maybe it was more about the technology of movie making being able to replicate the fantasy world of comics. Or maybe it was people seeing the world as out of control, and their feeling of helplessness leads to the desire for a 'superhero'. Corruption, wars, violence, and crime seem to be beyond the control of the law, beyond the control of people, and so a 'hero' or 'heroes' are needed. Heroes with abilities beyond the normal.



And maybe the end of this era of superheroes has come because people have seen that that is a false need we have, and superheroes are not in control of things anymore than normal people. Indeed, in all the movies these 'heroes' seem to cause more damage than they prevent.

The big objection in my mind is that the cry for a superhero is a denial of both the gospel and our understanding of community and democracy. You don't need superheroes when people stand up for what is right and act together. While the Gospel could be seen as a 'superhero' story, indeed there was a book written in the 1980's called *The Gospel according to Superman; Strange visitor with powers and abilities far beyond mortal man*, the reality is that the story of Jesus was confined to Jerusalem and Nazareth, the world changing effect of the Gospel came through the work of the Spirit on communities of faithful people standing up for what is right in their area of the world. The church is the present body of Christ, and we are called to stand up and fight for what is right.

It is true that we have a world full of problems, and most of it seems beyond our control, but there is no basis for giving in and hoping for God to solve all the problems. It is for each of us to stand up in our little bit of the world and resist what we know to be wrong, and for the church, as a whole to act and speak for what is right. You don't need superheroes when ordinary people can act heroically, and you don't need to picture Jesus as a superhero when we can each fulfil our place in the world as the people of God.



## 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 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, Margaret Snyder and Barbara Yates.
- For the family and friends of Beth McNamara, who died recently.
- For Marj Mitchell who is unwell currently.
- For Jessie Williams, recovering after a knee replacement.
- For Marilyn Downing, recovering after shoulder surgery.
- For the Carolus family, with Eileen receiving care, and her sister Val and family.
- For Roy Gieseman, with upcoming surgery.
- For all who are in poor health and having treatment, including Jen Johnson, and Michelle Clarkson.
- For all those affected by the terrible deaths and injuries at Bondi Junction shopping centre, for the victims' family and friends, for the police and emergency services and health workers. For the distraught parents of the perpetrator.
- For all affected by the violence at the Good Shepherd Church in Sydney, including the Bishop and Father, the police injured in the riots, and the other emergency services caught up in the conflict.
- For all affected by violence against women, and the family and friends of all the women killed recently.
- For the conflict in Israel and Palestine.
- For Ukraine, still under attack from Russia.
- For all those living with mental health needs in our church family and our community, and our country.
- For those around Frankston who experience homelessness.
- For those struggling with the ever-increasing cost of living.



*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.*

Fete time is fast approaching so it's time to get the jars ready and look out those recipes to stock the stalls.

We need: Pickles, Jams and preserves of all kinds and of course cakes, slices scones etc.

Our faithful Trash and Treasure volunteers: Graham Peacock and Robert Latimer are no longer able to lift heavier items so are appealing for some "stronger backs" to help with arrivals and disposals after the event.

If you want to get involved in the fete market then there are still spots available. Have a chat with Marg Scarlett 0419 805 362 or email her at [info@margscarlett.com](mailto:info@margscarlett.com)

And don't forget to turn up to grab the Mother's Day Bargains on Saturday May 11th



## The Old Lady Turns 100

A hundredth birthday slipped by recently without anybody making any fuss.

Our wonderful Aeolian pipe organ was built in the 1920's and installed in the home of the General Manager of Kodak Australia, Thomas Baker at a cost of £2,000. Many a happy concert party was held at "Manyung" in Mornington with ex World War 1 soldiers being transported in Kodak trucks to spend the weekend.

When the house passed into the hands of Dr John Fullarton Mackeddie, he decided to donate it to St Andrews in Frankston, the church he attended in 1939. Over the last 80 years the organ has had a number of rebuilds and improvements including a relocation when St Andrews and Wesley came together. Her latest refurbishment was recently when her bellows were replaced giving her a new voice.

It is now time to celebrate and we are doing that with a concert. We have engaged services of Mr Christopher Cook, one of Australia's foremost organists and together with some young friends he will be presenting a glorious afternoon of music showing how wonderful our organ can sound.

Make sure you keep the date Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May free. 2pm for a musical treat.

**High Street Uniting Church**  
*presents a grand*

# ORGAN CONCERT

Saturday May 4<sup>th</sup> 2pm



**Christopher Cook**  
plus guest artists:  
**Nyah Andersson Kitty La Nauze**

\$20 cash at the door  
(children & students free)  
or [trybooking.com/CQMIS](http://trybooking.com/CQMIS)



Enquiries: 0409938672





## A big thank you from LEGS

Recently the LEGS ladies appealed for some jars for a project they had in mind. Well they have completed the task and thank all of the coffee addicts who provided them with a goodly quantity.

What are they up to? Well, the pictures below should give a clue and I expect you will get a chance to buy back your jars at the fete?



keep this in mind when you are responding  
“Lord have mercy” during the liturgical services.

**The meaning of Kyrie Eleison**

The word mercy in English is the translation of the Greek word eleos. This word has the same ultimate root as the old Greek word for oil, or more precisely, olive oil; which was poured onto wounds and gently massaged in, thus soothing, comforting, and making the injured part whole again. The Hebrew word which is also translated as eleos and mercy is 'hesed,' which means steadfast love.

The Greek words for 'Lord have mercy' are 'Kyrie, eleison' meaning, ***'Lord soothe me, comfort me, take away my pain, show me your steadfast love.'***

Thus mercy does not refer so much to justice or acquittal but to the infinite loving-kindness of God, and His compassion for His suffering children.

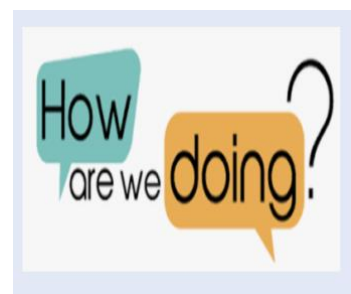
+ Fr Anthony Coniaris

We thank Karen Jooste for finding this interesting piece.

# Summarised Statement of Income/Expenditure for 3 Months to 31st March 2024

INCOME	Budget		Actual	
Planned Giving/Open Plate		26250		29890
Rental Income		11500		8451
Donations		375		300
Donations: Children's Outreach		125		130
Reimbursements/Miscellaneous		1500		2244
Goods and Services Tax				396
Fete				185
Interest - Cash Management Account		100		123
GST Reimbursement MBA		250		0
Atkinson Foundation Income		1500		1827
Guest Foundation Income		2000		2295
Bomar Grant		4500		4500
Transfer from Wesley Lease		5000		0
Transfer from Bequest				0
Transfer from Employment Reserve		5500		0
Money for Mission Fund		20000		22628
Unit Price Adjustment				-20
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>78600</b>		<b>72949</b>
EXPENDITURE				
Ministerial Costs		31000		32952
Administration Costs		12975		13656
Planned Giving Expenses				
Property Costs:				
Fire Brigade Levy	125		592	
Cleaning/Maintenance	11500		12607	
Rates: Council/Water	1375		1301	
Gas/Electricity	2500	15500	1128	15628
Insurance				
Sunday School/Children's Outreach		250		0
Organ/Choir/Copyright		625		1329
Goods and Services Tax				3268
Miscellaneous		2500		2283
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>62850</b>		<b>69116</b>
Outreach:				
Mission and Service Fund	3000		3000	
Tom Sutherland	125		500	
Community Support	375	3500	0	3500
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>66350</b>		<b>72616</b>

Note: Operating surplus for 3 months is \$333



Our thanks to Keith and his team and to Helen Beeby for the Easter photos.



The following article appeared in a previous issue of High St Times and contains information new to myself which I thought might interest readers. Ed.

## A Potted History of “Wesley” the Plant

I caught up with Bev Fowler last week, and found out an interesting potted history of “Wesley” the plant! Some of you may not be familiar with “Wesley” and its origins. The story begins quite a few years ago!

Bev informed me that there has been a church presence at 26 High St Frankston since 1860. The initial building was a small wooden structure. A new, larger brick building was opened in 1887. And an even larger modern brick building (the current one) opened in 1969.

Many of you will have been in the most recent church building, and may remember the vast grey brick front wall of the church. On this front wall were placed some very special items:

A font: symbolising birth

A large wooden cross: symbolising crucifixion

A tall creeping vine: symbolising mission going into the world.

Bev explained that these items provided particular focus and meaning for worshippers during many years of regular services at the church. When it was time for Wesley and St Andrews congregations to merge at 16-18 High St several years ago, it was important for Wesley members to bring significant symbols to the new shared building. Bev took a cutting from the original vine, has carefully tended it over recent times, and “Wesley” is the vine which continues to grow at the front of our High St Uniting Church presently. “Wesley” provides special memories for members originally from the Wesley church, and it is very much hoped that it is appreciated and meaningful for all involved in our church now.



← Wesley today.



# HAIKU PRAYERS

A couple of weeks ago a challenge was issued to the contemporary congregation. Could you write a prayer in HAIKU format (three lines: five syllables then seven, then another five) The exercise was extremely successful with some very succinct prayers being created.

Try it yourself. It really focusses the mind.

God give us the strength  
And courage to change ourselves  
For a better world

Lord keep people safe  
From the violence in this world  
Put peace in their hearts

Loving Father God  
May peace prevail on Earth Lord  
This, my earnest prayer

Friends in hospital  
Needing God's and nurses care  
To help make him well

Remember the sick  
The people who care for them  
Your hand, O God heals

We thank you O Lord  
We pray for all your people  
Through Jesus we pray

Love the Lord your God  
He always hears fervent prayer  
He is always near

I'd love to eat sweets  
And never get more fatter  
And always be slim

God be with us all  
Help us in our time of need.  
Peace be with us always

I love You Lord God.  
Be with me at this hard time.  
Thankyou Lord Most High