

November 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



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 Bunurong people and we pay respect to their past present and emerging elders and their ancestors.



What's Happening

Coffee Cup Challenge - Uniting

Making a small sacrifice regularly, can make a big difference for people in need.

Uniting has launched a new fund-raising campaign - *Coffee Cup Challenge*.

Put aside the cost of a cup of coffee each week from International Coffee Day on 1 October until Shrove Tuesday on 13 February 2024.

Each coffee cup donation is placed into a Coffee Cup Challenge collection

All funds raised from the Coffee Cup Challenge will support people experiencing crisis, vulnerability and disadvantage.

If you are interested, please let Rev Ross know and we can register as a congregation.



Volunteers needed!

John Paul College runs a food van every Tuesday and Thursday evening in Frankston, as a part of their Community Companion initiative. They provide pre-prepared food, tea and coffee, for those in need in the Frankston community. They are currently looking for individuals who would be available on Tuesday and Thursday, from 4:00pm—7:30pm to assist.

Please email Dylan Cronin at cronindy@jpc.vic.edu.au if you would like to help.



Our congratulations go to Rev Arthur Poole and Elaine Hewson who will be getting married in Mitcham on Saturday next, 28th October.

Rev Alan Mathews will be officiating, and we look forward to a wonderful photo spread in next month's edition.



From the Minister...



Rev Ross Writes



Essential Safety Measures, maintenance, disabled access, managing use and hirers; is it really worth having a church building? One of the unintended messages from the pandemic is that we can easily continue to be a church community without a building! Particularly when the building is bigger than we need for worship. Many see our denomination as asset rich but resource poor, they argue that we should sell all the spare properties, so we have resources for new ministry and ministry in new residential areas. “We aren’t property managers, let’s get back to our core business”, is their argument. But what is our ‘core business’? And who decides?

Sure, we functioned electronically and got by without a church building during the lock downs, but isn’t hospitality also part of our core business? Isn’t having the space to run a playgroup or host speakers or host essential outreach groups also a part of our core business? Deciding what is ‘core business’ is not as simple as talking about worship and Bible studies and fellowship, because we are not just in the business of ministry and spiritual growth, we are also called to mission. And while there are missional activities that can happen through people living out the love and grace of God, a lot of mission needs a building and having one is a good starting point.

We could go back to a first century model of communities of faith and have a network of house churches. But whose house could host a playgroup? And whose house could host a drop-in centre for the homeless? If we were only talking about our community and our worship, there would be answers to questions of gathering and celebrating. But outreach and mission and serving the wider community raise other questions. If we are operating mission in buildings we don’t own, what’s the funding source? If we don’t own the building, can we really be hospitable? If it’s the best building we can afford, is it safe and fit for purpose? Property can be a drain on community resources, both financial and personnel, but it can also be a resource for meeting missional needs, particularly those needs that have no commercial value.

What is God calling us to do is a much bigger question than what do we do with our property. And what we do with our property is a much bigger question than Sunday worship. Maybe the pandemic showed us that we don’t need property, but maybe it’s calling us to make better use of the property we have. There may be new opportunities for hospitality and ministry because the economic stress causes other venues and programs to close. There may be new needs for groups and programs to match the rise in loneliness or inactivity. We can look to what is our core business, but after all, our core business includes making the love of God available to all. What is God calling us to do for the wider community and for the advancement of the kingdom of love, and is our building an asset in answering that call?



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, Margaret Snyder, Beth McNamara, Effie Tilley, and Barbara Yates.
- For the family and friends of Pat Johnson, following her passing.
- For Vicky Leitch, following Barb Conner's passing.
- For all who are in poor health and having treatment, including Jen Johnson, and Michelle Clarkson.
- For Fiona Jones, back at home and recovering from back surgery.
- For Leon Knoop, back at home after several weeks in respite.
- For Chris Johnston, following treatment for her back.
- For Carmen Pearce and her family, with her sister Miriam in very poor health.
- For Arthur Poole and Elaine Hewson as they get married this month.
- For Catherine Annable celebrating her 30th birthday.
- For our indigenous Australians who are hurting following the referendum outcome.
- For the fighting and violence in Israel/Palestine, the loss of life, the disruption of lives, and for peace and justice to reign.
- For the earthquake in Afghanistan, all the people affected and for the first responders and governments in the aftermath.
- For Ukraine, still under attack from Russia.
- For those around Frankston who experience homelessness.
- For all those living with mental health needs in our church family and our community.

*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. 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.*

16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence

The United Nation's international campaign *16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence* takes place each year from 25 November (International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women) until 10 December (International Human Rights Day).

Around the world, communities are invited to join a call to prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls, so all people are safe, equal and respected, and live free from family violence and violence against women. This year's UN theme is "UNITE! Activism to end violence against women and girls".

Overwhelming, gender-based violence is perpetrated against women and remains a serious and widespread problem in Australia. Gender-based violence is any act that causes or could cause harm – physical, sexual or psychological, including threats of harm or coercion, in public or in private. It affects many different groups in the community, across all cultures, ages and faith groups. Police receive a call on average every two minutes in Australia relating to family and domestic violence, with 600 calls in Victoria alone every day.

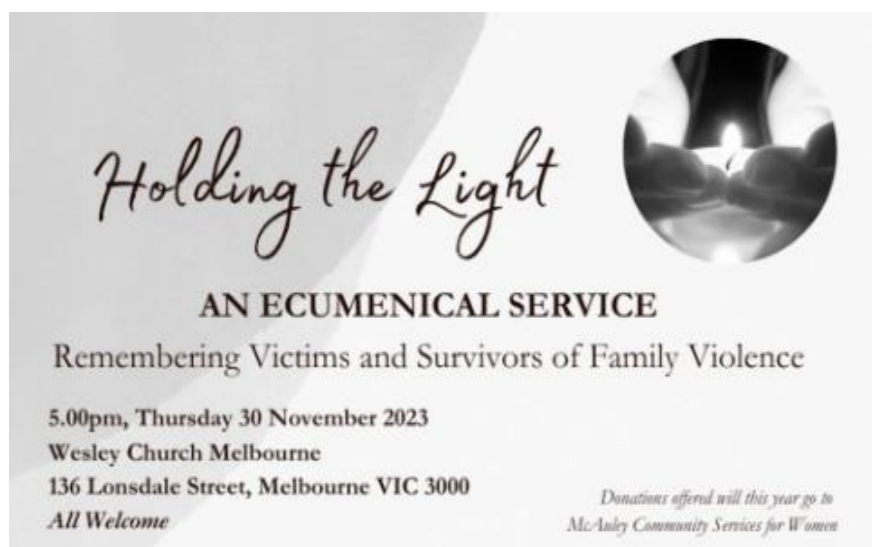
Violence against women takes a profound and long-term toll on women's health and wellbeing, families and communities, and society. It has been estimated violence against women in Australia is costing Australia \$21.7 billion each year. It is devastating that, on average, every ten days a woman is murdered by her current or former partner. Children are victims as well, whether their own young lives are stolen from them by violence, or they suffer the long-term trauma of losing a parent. Intimate partner violence (IPV) is the most commonly experienced form of family violence used against women in Australia. It is reported that 1 in 3 women (31.1%) has experienced physical and/or sexual violence perpetrated by a man they know. Young women (18–34 years) experience significantly higher rates of physical and sexual violence than women in older age groups.

Women and girls living with a disability may be especially vulnerable, and twice as likely to experience sexual violence and intimate partner violence over longer periods of time and perpetrated by more people, than people without disabilities. Over one-third of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women who have experienced physical violence identify an intimate partner as the perpetrator of their most recent experience of physical violence. Migrant and refugee women can be subjected to forms of violence that relate to their uncertain citizenship, where perpetrators threaten them with deportation or withhold access to passports. Family and domestic violence is the main reason people seek help from specialist homelessness services, with women making up more than 75% of the total number.



The 'Holding the Light' service seeks to raise awareness of domestic and family violence in our communities. Now in its eighth year, the service is held in a spirit of welcome and all are welcome. It is held within the Christian tradition and offers a message of hope that all may be healed. Mercy Sister Nicole Rotaru RSM will be the speaker at the 2023 service. She has a background in education, social work, and creative arts therapy, and often runs workshops for churches about understanding the issues and the role that churches and individuals play in responding to domestic and family violence. Sr Nicole notes that "following the Royal Commissions into Family Violence and the Institutional Response to Child Sexual Abuse, we are living in a climate of fear, a climate of suspicion and of having to tread very lightly. And I think we are still living in a climate of silence. Family violence thrives in silence. Victoria Police receive 600 calls a day related to family and domestic violence, and they're the ones that they receive. I hate to think how many more calls would come if all the lines were answered, or if all the calls were actually made – and that's just in this state". Sr Nicole highlights the three main priorities are to be 'informed, equipped, and courageous'.

We need to be clear that violence is never justified, and we can use our platform and influence to create awareness about the issue and support for people experiencing violence.' The 'Holding the Light' service begins with the tolling of a bell, and the naming those who are victims of domestic and family violence. The 2023 'Holding the Light' service will be held at 5pm on November 30th at Wesley Uniting Church, 130 Lonsdale Street. All are welcome



Maryanne Barclay, from the Dunkley branch of **Grandmothers for Refugees**, came to a well-attended meeting of the Ladies Evening Group (LEGs) in September. While the local group began two years ago, groups in Australia began in 2014.

Their website says "Grandmother for Refugees advocates for compassionate welcome and safe settlement of all people seeking asylum. Our primary focus is children. We also advocate for those subjected to the physical and psychological damage inflicted by Australia's offshore and onshore processing regime."



In her presentation, Maryanne helped us understand legal classifications:

- Migrant: chooses to leave their country of origin;
- Displaced Person: is forced to leave their hometown or region, yet remain displaced within national borders;
- Refugee: forced to leave their country; fleeing danger has many risks;
- Person Seeking Asylum: status not yet determined. If their case is accepted, they become recognised as a refugee.

There are 117.2 million globally displaced people; and 32.5 million refugees (13,600,000 of whom are children). 930,000 people have been given humanitarian re-settlement in Australia since World War 2. Most of these have contributed to the wellbeing of Australian society.

It is a basic human right to seek asylum if your life or freedom is threatened. Most asylum seekers who arrive in Australia by boat are found to be genuine refugees. Government policy continues to dehumanise asylum seekers.

Since 2013, \$9.547 billion of public monies have been spent on maintaining our offshore detention



policy. This includes \$350 million/year for the Nauru Detention Centre. In contrast, one person living in community on a bridging visa costs \$4429 per annum – less if they are able to work.

Grandmothers for Refugees work to reset the balance: to provide welcome, enduring protection and safe settlement. The Dunkley group:

- meets at Frankston Library on the first Friday of the month;
- holds stalls to raise funds and educate;
- has displays to raise awareness;
- holds vigils; one is being set up in November at Peta Murphy's office;
- in September, had a food drive supported by members of HSUC which distributed food to refugees through Dandenong Red Cross.

How can we Australians as signatories to International agreements:

- pass laws which violate those agreements?
- refuse to receive people who arrive by boat?
- detain asylum seekers – often for years - until they are accepted as refugees?
- be so slow processing asylum seekers?

For more information, go to

<https://www.grandmothersforrefugees.com/> or speak with Bronwen or Alan Mathews.

Written by Alan Mathews for the HSUC Social Justice Group





Synod 2023 – We belong to the day

The Synod of Victoria and Tasmania meets about every 18 months to receive reports, discern proposals, and discuss matters that concern the general oversight, direction and life of the direction and life of the Uniting Church in Victoria and Tasmania. This year's Synod meeting has the theme 'We

belong to the day', based on 1 Thessalonians 5:8, chosen by the Moderator – Rev David Fotheringham.

The Synod meeting includes nominated representatives from all eight presbyteries plus representatives from Synod, Uniting, and UnitingAgeWell, and as well as business sessions, there is a Tributes Service, which honours ministers who, since the previous Synod meeting, have:

- been ordained, retired, or been received from other denominations since the preceding Synod meeting (2021).
- celebrated 50, 60, 65 and 70 years since ordination or commissioning.

The meeting also includes the election of the next Moderator, who will take up the office in 2025. The nominee is Rev Salesi Faupula, who is currently in placement at Canterbury Balwyn Rd, a Tongan community.

Synod 2023 will be held from November 18-21 at Box Hill Town Hall. The meeting will also be live-streamed and recordings of most sessions, including the Opening Worship on the morning of November 18 which will be held in the Salvation Army Hall in Box Hill.



Great to see our very own Michael Guest heading the contemporary musicians as they helped celebrate Catherine Annable's 30th birthday in the hall recently. Catherine celebrated with family and church friends plus members of Emotion21 her Down Syndrome dance group fresh from the success of the Fringe Festival in Melbourne.

There were some great dance moves on show!



Many thanks to the LEGS ladies and helpers who fed us magnificently.



Reflection following the Referendum outcome

Alex Sangster in a reflection she shared over the weekend through the Assembly Worship Circle says it this way:

*Firstly, from our preamble, we in the UCA recognise the truth that:
The First Peoples had already encountered the Creator God*

before the arrival of the colonisers; and that the Spirit was already in the land revealing God to the people through law, custom and ceremony.

And that the same love and grace that was finally revealed in Jesus Christ sustained the First Peoples and gave them particular insights into God's ways.

So now we sit together and open our hearts.

We who have said yes, we who have said no.

*We sit with our division and revision
and the confusion and our pain.*

We sit.

Shhhhhhhhhhhhh

Now is not the time for speeches.

Now is holy silence.

No more words.

Not yet.

Be still and know that God is God

Be still and know

that the

*"the arc of the moral universe is long,
but it bends toward justice."*

Be still.

And then,

when we can,

we will resume the work of love.

(By Rev Alex Sangster)

In the image of God

Is it lawful to kill your neighbour?

No, because she bears the image of God,
loving God means loving your neighbour.

Is it lawful to kill my enemy?

No, because he bears the image of God,
loving God means loving your enemy.

All who bear the image of God
remind us that we are God's creation.

Does having a body bear the image of God?

No, that is the way of the world;
feeling, and loving is in the image of God.

Does thinking bear the image of God?

No, that is another way of the world;
compassion, and justice is
in the image of God.

All who bear the image of God
declare to the world that we are God's creation.

In response to Genesis 1:26

The Psalm of the Overworked

The Lord is my supervisor;
making me lie down in comfortable places,
leading me beside beautiful vistas,
to restore my soul.

The Lord tells me to rest.

Even when I face the darkest
schedules, I fear no burnout;
for the Lord is with me;
the diaries and planners,
they comfort me.

You prepare a holiday for me,
in the face of my workload;
you cover my head with a hat,
my sunscreen overflows.
Surely refreshment and vigour
shall follow me all the days of my
work.

Summarised Statement of Income/Expenditure for 9 Months to 30th September 2023

INCOME	Budget		Actual	
Planned Giving/Open Plate		75000		89956
Rental Income		22500		23967
Donations		1125		1350
Donations: Children's Outreach		375		410
Reimbursements/Miscellaneous		3750		15476
Goods and Services Tax				730
Fete		5000		5619
Interest - Cash Management Account		200		179
GST Reimbursement MBA		1500		868
Atkinson Foundation Income		3000		2722
Guest Foundation Income		3500		3501
Bomar Grant		0		0
Transfer from Wesley Lease		32250		20366
Transfer from Bequest		2250		0
Transfer from Employment Reserve		16500		0
Money for Mission Fund		40000		37469
Unit Price Adjustment				46
TOTAL INCOME		206950		202659
EXPENDITURE				
Ministerial Costs		90000		88841
Administration Costs		34750		33328
Planned Giving Expenses		500		520
Property Costs:				
Fire Brigade Levy	375		605	
Cleaning/Maintenance	32250		31008	
Rates: Council/Water	3375		3739	
Gas/Electricity	6750	42750	5257	40609
Insurance		10000		11120
Sunday School/Children's Outreach		750		208
Organ/Choir/Copyright		1875		1708
Goods and Services Tax				6036
Miscellaneous		7500		6717
OPERATING EXPENDITURE		188125		189087
Outreach:				
Mission and Service Fund	9000		6000	
Tom Sutherland	375		0	
Community Support	1125	10500	500	6500
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		198625		195587

Note: Operating surplus for 9 months is \$4072

There is however a projected deficit during the last quarter of this year.

As always we thank Keith Holmes and his team for looking after us financially.

Rosters

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

Date	Notes	Stewards	Morning Tea Helpers
5/11/2023	Melbourne Cup long weekend	Jill Cayzer, Heather Rawson	Denise Andrews, Enid Churcher, Virgil Snyder
12/11/2023		Rona Russell, Neville Parker	Carol Calderbank, Brenda Cooper
19/11/2023		Mick Johnson, Jill Cayzer	Jill Cayzer, Robert Latimer
26/11/2023		Rona Russell, Heather Rawson	Sue Baker, Erica Hutchinson, Michael Johnson

Date	Flowers	Duty Elder	Communion Setup	Communion Helpers
5/11/2023	Beryl & Marg	Mac Cleland and Marlene Thresher	Shirley and Daryl G.	Keith H. & Mac C.
12/11/2023	Beryl & Marg			
19/11/2023	Beryl & Marg			
26/11/2023	Edna Reeves			

Date	Colour	Preaching	Bible Reader	Prayers of the People	Day	Bible reading	Psalm
05-Nov-23	G	Ross Pearce	Marlene Thresher	Mac Cleland	Pentecost 23	Matthew 23: 1-12	Ps 107:1-7, 33-37
12-Nov-23	G	Ross Pearce	Aubrey Mair	Rona Russell	Pentecost 24	Matthew 25: 1-13	Ps 78:1-7
19-Nov-23	G	TBA	Dawn Peacock	Keith Holmes	Pentecost 25	Matthew 25: 14-30	Ps 123
26-Nov-23	W	Ross Pearce	Erica Hutchinson	Dawn Peacock	Christ the King	Matthew 25: 31-46	Ps 100

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

Date	Preparing and Leading Worship		Preaching	Day	Bible reading	Title	Resource
05-Nov-23	Ross	Rowena	Ross	Pentecost 23	Matthew 23: 1-12	Bad religion	STB: Humbled and exalted, Issue 36, pp. 91-99
12-Nov-23	Valmai	Glenise	Ross	Pentecost 24	Matthew 25: 1-13	What keeps your lamp lit	STB: Ready and responsive Issue 36,
19-Nov-23	Kerry	Mandy	TBA	Pentecost 25	Matthew 25: 14-30	Don't hide your talents	STB: Money and Motivation, Issue 36, pp. 111-117
26-Nov-23	Gill	Alan J.	Ross	Christ the King	Matthew 25: 31-46	The pauper king	STB: Served and serving Issue 36, pp. 118-126

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

Date	Holy Communion	Notes	Children's Time	Band Leaders	Singers	Zoom	Sound
05-Nov-23	RP	Melbourne Cup long weekend		No band leaders	Valmai, ???	Meg	Robert
12-Nov-23			Irene	John	Alan & Bronwen M	Russell	Alan J.
19-Nov-23			Rowena	Russell	Tim, Valmai	Matthew	Alan J.
26-Nov-23			Irene	Mike	Mandy, Jenni	Matthew	Alan J.

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

Date	Welcome and Offering	Hospitality
05-Nov-23	Kate, Joy	???
12-Nov-23	Santhira, ??	Gill
19-Nov-23	Ley, Patti	Irene
26-Nov-23	Valmai, Glenise	Joy

Please keep these rosters handy and if you find yourself unavailable please organise a replacement rather than leave it to others.



High Street Uniting Church
*Christmas
Fete*

Saturday, 9th December
9:00am - 1:00pm

16 - 18 High Street, Frankston 3199

To book a stall, please email Marg at pcs@cogroup.com.au

Christmas raffle, handmade goods, morning tea
sausage sizzle, coffe van, books, cakes, condiments
Christmas gifts, children's activities,
Trash 'n' Treasure, and more!

All are welcome!

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 #