



THE UNITING CHURCH
in Australia

ORMOND

Psalms 104:24 O LORD, how manifold are thy works!
in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches.



© MyBibleVerses.com

THE

PATHFINDER

MAY 2024

MINISTER'S LETTER

Who are we?

There are lots of ways we could answer that question.

For example, we could describe ourselves as a group of people basically over the age of 70 years.

OR we could describe ourselves as a group of people who comprise a Uniting Church in Australia Congregation.

OR we could describe ourselves as a gathering of basically white Anglo-Celtic citizens.

OR we could describe ourselves as Melburnians.

OR we could describe ourselves as a small group of worshippers.

And I am sure we could find a dozen other ways to describe ourselves.

But who are we really!? What are we 'on about?' What is it that is of the highest importance to us as a group? What is it that defines us as a group of people who do lots of things together and organise a lot of our lives associated with the life of this body of people? Let me share 2 possible 'answers!'

WE CARE!

During the last month or two of the Easter Season, we have had a course organised through the Learning HUB and several worship services that have emphasized that one of the marks of our identity as a group of people is CARE. Care for each other. CARE for those in our own community (think Pastoral Link Network), CARE for those who can't attend worship but retain a link with our congregation. CARE for each of our associated families, CARE for those beyond our congregation like Refugees and those who are needy, CARE for those stressed by loss of home, loss of health, loss of recognition, loss of life etc. Elsewhere in this edition of Pathfinder you will find a WORD MAP (or perhaps a couple) that represents some of our thinking about care. I won't attempt to describe a WORD MAP but when you see it (or them) you will understand what it is. PLEASE, spend some time looking at it, reflecting on and praying about your role as a carer in our community (remember we are all charged with the role of caring for each other as disciples of the Risen Lord.)

Besides being CARERS what else defines us?

Continued on page 3

People Page

Revd Bill Morgan who was minister at Ormond from 1964 until 1983 recently celebrated the 80th Anniversary of his ordination as a Minister in the Presbyterian Church. An extraordinary achievement. An invitation is extended to all to attend a Service of Celebration, followed by afternoon tea.



Date: Sunday 2nd June at 2.00 p.m.

Location: Glen Waverley Uniting Church (cnr Kingsway and Bogong Avenue, Glen Waverley)

RSVP: 9560 3580

ASRC Fundraising Lunch

The date we are working with at the moment is **Saturday 25 May at lunch time.**

We are looking to provide some meals of an international flavour for the people

Venue: This is still to be arranged and will be notified in the weekly news and notices.

Contact Heather for other information. (0487 429 748)

Continued from page 1

WE ARE LOVERS! Now, don't get carried away!!!!

LOVE is at the heart of EASTER (**IS** the heart of Easter!!) But not in some abstract touchy feely way, or at least, not only and not principally, but in real tangible ways which are always directed towards the good of the other. I have said the following before, but it bears repeating here. The root of the word 'Individual,' means undivided from - undivided from. Living in the friendship of Christ's disciples is not some abstract goal. AGAPE (Christ centred) love is not a feeling or emotion, rather it is being for the other person and acting accordingly. Let me share a little true story I came across that illustrates love in action.

'I lost my leg when I was 19. I was dating a girl at that time, and we were very much in love. After a while, she suddenly decided to move abroad, claiming that she wanted to earn some money for us. I wanted to believe her but was convinced that she was lying. I told her we needed to break up and that it would be better for her. One month later, my doorbell rang. I took my crutches, opened the door and there she was. I didn't even manage to get a word out before she slapped me, and I fell. She kneeled down beside me, hugged me and said, "You're an idiot! I didn't run away from you. We're going to the hospital tomorrow and there's a prosthesis waiting for you. I went abroad to earn money, so you'll be able to walk again - do you understand?" I was so overwhelmed with emotion that I couldn't utter a single word - I just hugged her tightly and cried.'

<https://brightside.me/articles/9-short-stories-about-true-love-429060/>

Remember who you are – children of the living, loving God – the God, whose Son loved us enough to die for us! That same Son, risen to new life, challenged us with a new law: 'A new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another, as I have loved you.'

Who are we? Jesus' Carers and Lovers!

I feel very blessed to be a part of a community in Ormond UC that looks out for me, cares for me and loves me! And each other!

Easter Blessings to you all

Christ is Risen, **He is Risen indeed!**

Ron

Project Control Group (PCG) Report

Meeting held on 1st May 2024

PCG met on Wednesday morning. Here's where things stand in relation to our project:

1. *Planning Permit:* We have received approval from the City of Glen Eira for our amended plans. The conditions for the amended Planning Permit have not changed, so there are no additional requirements we need to address beyond those already covered in the plans (e.g. water-sensitive design, car parking).
2. *Pre-demolition works:* The organ and the exposed organ pipes were removed (as planned) on Monday and Tuesday of this week, by Australian Pipe Organs, where they will be kept safe ready for re-installation on completion of the building works. Works to protect the windows and the organ room/remaining organ pipes will be undertaken in the remainder of this week. Flooring in the church will be removed next week, which will allow the builders to identify and undertake any remediation works needed to the dampcourse and sub-floor drainage to prevent rising damp. Any such works should be covered within the existing budget. The Honour Boards from the narthex will be removed and retained. These works can be undertaken prior to the granting of demolition and/or building permits.
3. *Simbuilt* have applied for a demolition permit and are expecting to have all the material needed to apply for a building permit within the next 3-4 weeks. Meanwhile, they are doing everything they can to progress the project (e.g. the church floor works) whilst awaiting the building permit. They anticipate being fully on-site and into construction mode within 6-8 weeks. They will be doing everything possible to meet the original timeline.

Mardie Townsend
1st May 2024



MUMS - Sunday 12th May is MOTHER's DAY:

At OUC Worship we will celebrate MUMS as one of the central themes. Can you help please!? We would like you to do several things.

1. Bring your Mother along!!! (if possible???)
2. Join us if you are a MUM.
3. And/or bring along something of personal significance about your Mum and what she meant/means to you, for example,
 - a. A photo
 - b. Some other memorabilia eg, jewellery, a watch, earrings....
 - c. A story or memory involving her.
 - d. A song she liked or a book or a poem.
 - e. A favourite Mum recipe!
 - f. One of Mum's coats – let me explain: I conducted a burial service for a Mum. All the women present (8-10) were wearing very distinguished coats (and it was a warm day!) She loved coats and had lots of them, so, to honour her, the ladies and a few of the men wore one of her coats!!!
4. Have a think about Mums in the Christian Story (Mums from the Bible – eg Sarah, Naomi, Esther, Mary (mother of Jesus) Elizabeth (mother of John the Baptist etc) – there would be NO Christianity as we know it, apart from Mums!

A NOTE: Sunday 12th May was to have been the LAUNCH of the GREEN FAITH (GF) project – but the International GF Organisers decided to postpone the launch until November. So, we (The OUC Climate Change Action Group (CCAG)) happily agreed to use this worship opportunity to highlight and honour MUMS!*

** Green Faith is an International ecumenical coalition of Churches and Christians around the world who are passionate about Climate Change and God's Creation. You will hear more about this as our CCAG implements various programs and projects in the future.*

Ron on behalf of the CCAG (Heather Baxter, Marg Davis, Lachlan Williams and Ron Townsend)

PASTORAL CARE FOLLOWUP:

Following on from the OLH Pastoral Care course and Ron's sermon about it, the feedback/responses have been put into word clouds to help us contemplate these questions further.

QUESTION 1. How do you currently offer pastoral care?



QUESTION 2. How do you expect to offer pastoral care in the future?



Little Free Pantry

The Home Group that organises the Little Free Pantry (LFP) was delighted with the number of "wonderings" expressed at the AGM of the congregation at the end of April.

At its meeting the Home Group discussed the various suggestions made at the AGM.

We committed again to idea that the LFP is an opportunity for the whole neighbourhood to be involved in "food security" for all. The OUC congregation is also welcome to contribute to the LFP. The LFP requires any non-perishable food - tins and packets of food that have a current use - by date.

The congregation of OUC currently supports the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre and the LFP team does not want to detract from this excellent endeavour. Therefore the LFP team will not be collecting for the pantry on any particular Sunday. Your goods can be left at the LFP when you are next passing by. Alternatively Gary and Dianne have offered to take any OUC Sunday donations to the pantry for you if you live in a different direction from the church.

Heather (for the LFP team)





ANNOUNCING LEARNING HUB'S NEXT PROGRAM.....

'Who do you say that I am?':

Understanding Jesus Christ

Exploring the question of who Jesus Christ was by looking to the bible, Christian tradition and our own experience.

Important details:

- Facilitator: Brad Denniston
- delivered on zoom.
- held on Thursday evenings, commencing 18 July.
- 8 sessions with a 1 week break between sessions 4 and 5.
- cost: \$80 (negotiable)
- registration details – see June Pathfinder
- like to know more: speak with Brad Denniston, Lisa Saffin or Dianne Richter

We are keen to advertise this course widely and encourage participation from people beyond the OUC congregation. If you have contacts in the community where we could advertise, please let us know. More detailed information about the course will be available in coming weeks.



Food donations for Asylum Seekers and Refugees

Thank you so much for all those who donated so generously last month – all food is valued and very much appreciated as are those 'special' treats. Everyone deserves special treats from time to time and I have no doubt that our last donation that included lots of honey, canned tuna in oil and basmati rice was very gratefully received by the asylum seekers that access the foodbank.

Our next collection will be on **Sunday 5th May**. Please bring any donations to the Church and we will deliver them to the Brigidine Sisters foodbank in South Melbourne on the following Wednesday.

Many thanks for your ongoing support
Brenda.



FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

Our next meeting will be at Jan & Graeme Davenport's house on
Wednesday 15th May at 1.30 p.m..

I hope you can join us for a chat & afternoon tea.

Take care

Jan Davenport

ph: 9578 1713

Published on 12/4/2024 on the UC Assembly's website a good news story about climate change. It begins as follows:-

In 2022, the 16th Assembly resolved “A call to action for climate justice: listening to First Peoples wisdom.” The resolution established a steering group that amongst other things, is tasked with sharing stories, expertise and learnings on effective strategies and resources to reduce emissions, prioritising the wisdom of First Peoples.



Towards Net Zero: Good News Stories is the culmination of this work. Over the next couple months, weekly good news stories from across the national Uniting Church will highlight possibilities and achievements in moving towards a sustainable future.

In week 2 of this new series, we hear from Queenscliff Uniting Church, who are learning to sustainably care for Wadawurrung Country, where their community worships.

Get the full story at:-

https://uniting.church/towards-net-zero-good-news-stories-week-2/?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR11fuydsqsw-rPX0mjlD5IVSHCr_sgdqv7wdfQwre40dy0D_PWD498_f4_aem_AdZQCxCunz71gkiFAPPIkKD7V2nw4ybgXgsKH-o5u7fEDmirnRf3kuPjHHodsTwfSAVZCPNdFhO1VynmiMi7hW0A and see also <https://uniting.church/towards-zero-2/>



Brief Overview of OUC Annual General Meeting

held on 28th April 2024

1. **Attendance and apologies:** 23 Congregational Members attended. 6 apologies received.
2. **Minutes of the 2023 AGM** were accepted with one minor alteration and no business arising.
3. **Reports for year 2023:**
 - **Church Council Report:** Mardie congratulated Robyn on the work she has done as CC Secretary and added that the Church Council is a vibrant, active and responsive group who work quickly and efficiently and are a pleasure to work with.
 - **Minister's Report:** No report due to vacancy, however there was a **Joint Nominating Committee (JNC) update:** Gary Richter reported that there is currently an extraordinary shortage of ministers and not much to report. However the JNC is being proactive in its communication with Presbytery and the Placements Committee, and thinking creatively about the best way forward. A full report is going to Church Council for its next meeting, and while much of the process needs to remain confidential, the congregation will be updated as is possible.
 - **Formation Group Report:** Heather Baxter briefly outlined the role of the Formation Group which has at its heart relationship and connection: connecting people within the congregation, connecting people with God and connecting the congregation with those presently outside the congregation. Heather highlighted our mission projects which support the ASRC and the local community who access the Little Free Pantry. She commended Brad Denniston for his leadership of the 3 learning Hub courses which were well researched and sensitively presented.
 - **Treasurer's Report:** Mardie Townsend (on behalf of Andrew Schwarz). Mardie highlighted 3 points from Andrew's report.
 - The Church is in a strong financial position with total assets of approx. \$540,000. In the last few weeks several donations have been received.

- Both Mardie and Andrew have taken this opportunity to thank Cate (our office manager), who has done a fantastic job in keeping track of the finances and maintaining the xero accounting system.
- Dennis Taylor (previous treasurer) was thanked for agreeing to be our Auditor this year. His audit report is included with the Annual Report.
- Project Control Group (PCG) Report: Mardie Townsend shared the good news that OUC now has the planning permit from the Council that was needed for building works to proceed. The PCG will be meeting with the builder on Wednesday and more details will be in Pathfinder.
- Little Free Pantry (LFP) Report: Dennis Taylor. The LFP has been open now for 4 years with more people accessing the food due to increased need. Dennis thanked the Tuesday home group for cleaning up the LFP twice a week and confirmed that it would continue to be open during the Church's construction phase. Lorraine has noticed much Face Book activity with community interest and support in supplying goods to the pantry. Dennis will discuss with home group if there is any further need for the congregation to support this project.
- Friendship Circle Report: Jan Davenport reported that approx. 10 people meet regularly once per month to catch up for a chat (plenty of this!) and a cuppa. Jan was thanked for hosting this group.

4. Proposal to accept the 2023 Annual Reports .

Proposed by Hans Tilstra, seconded by Ron Townsend - Carried.

- 5. Other Business:** It was confirmed that the positions of Congregational Chair and Secretary will be declared vacant before the 2025 AGM with an election to follow.

The meeting concluded with the Benediction at 5.35pm.

Hans Tilstra – Chairman

Brenda Grootendorst - Secretary

Lectionary Readings

May 5	Easter 6	Acts 10:44-48, Psalm 98, 1 John 5:1-6, John 15:9-17
May 9	Ascension	Acts 1:1-11, Psalm 47 or Psalm 93, Ephesians 1:15-23, Luke 24:44-53
May 12	Easter 7	John 15:9-17, Psalm 1, 1 John 5:9-13, John 17:6-19
May 19	Pentecost	Acts 2:1-21 or Ezekiel 37:1-14, Psalm 104:24-34, 35b, Romans 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21, John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15
May 26	Trinity Sunday	Isaiah 6:1-8, Psalm 29, Romans 8:12-17, John 3:1-17
June 2	Pentecost 2	1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20), Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18, 2 Corinthians 4:5-12, Mark 2:23-3:6
June 9	Pentecost 3	1 Samuel 8:4-20, (11:14-15), 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1, Mark 3:20-35

God help us to live slowly:
To move simply:
To look softly:
To allow emptiness:
To let the heart create for us.
Amen

Rosters

	Reading	Prayers	Communion	Welcoming
May 5 th	Gary R	Dianne R	Lorraine D Marg D	Mardie T Brenda G
May 12 th	Marg D	Heather B		Dianne R RobynM
May 19 th	Lisa S	Warwick B		<u>Hans T</u> <u>Warwick B</u>
May 26 th	Marg D	Heather B		Jan D Graeme D
June 2 nd	Karen R	Marg D	Gary R Heather B	Lynne P Nev P
June 9 th	Brenda G	David N		Warwick B Frank O

	Sound	Afternoon Tea	Resource Delivery
May 5 th	Lisa S	Nev P Ron T	Brenda G
May 12 th	Gary R	Nev P Brenda G	Gary R
May 19 th	Robyn M	Suzie F Brenda G	Lynne P
May 26 th	Nev P	Mardie T Ron T	Frank O
June 2 nd	Graeme D	Lorraine D Jan D	Marg D
June 9 th	Lisa S	Lynne P Nev P	Brenda G

Images

Cover: <http://mybibleverses.com>
<https://portlanddiocese.org/pentecost-sunday>
 others by OUC members

Diary Dates

Sunday 5 th May	4.00 p.m.	Worship - Rev Ron Townsend
Wednesday 8 th May	12.30 p.m.	Wednesday Home Group
Sunday 12 th May	4.00 p.m.	Worship - Climate Change Group
Wednesday 15 th May	1.30 p.m.	Friendship Circle
Sunday 19 th May	4.00 p.m.	Worship – Brad Denniston
Tuesday 21 st May	7.45 p.m.	Church Council
Saturday 25 th May	8.30 a.m.	Bob's Boys Breakfast ASRC fundraising lunch
Sunday 26 th May	4.00 p.m.	Worship
Sunday 3 rd June	4.00 p.m.	Worship
Sunday 10 th June	4.00 p.m.	Worship

