

MAY 2020 | ISSUE 4

# THE WALKERVILLE WRITE-UP

The official Covid-19 congregational news  
edition of Walkerville Uniting Church



## Having trouble sleeping?

**'You can go to bed without fear, you will lie down and sleep soundly.' Proverbs 3:24 NLT**

Insomnia is a miserable thing. At any given time it affects 30 to 50 per cent of the population. You dread bedtime, toss and tumble all night, and walk around exhausted the next day. And when it continues for weeks or even months, it can depress you and rob you of your joy.

Is that what's happening to you right now? Then let God help you. His Word says He 'gives rest to His loved ones.' (Psalm 127:2 NLT) His promise is, 'You can go to bed without fear; you will lie down and sleep soundly.' And if you're addicted to sleeping pills, the Great Physician can heal you.

Make this your prayer today: 'Father, shine Your light on the root cause of my sleeplessness. Whatever anxieties are stopping me from entering into a state of restorative slumber, I cast them all on You as instructed, knowing You care for me (see 1 Peter 5:7). Calm my racing thoughts and restless mind. Help me to be still and know You are my God (see Psalm 46:10). I submit to Your command not to worry about anything, but to pray about everything instead. I bring my needs to You, and thank You for all You have already done. Your Word assures me that if I do this I'll experience Your peace, which is more wonderful than the human mind can understand, and that it will guard my heart and my mind (see Philippians 4:6-7). By faith I will lie down tonight without fear or anxiety and enjoy pleasant dreams. Yes, I will lie down in peace and sleep because You, Lord, will keep me safe (see Psalm 4:8). In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

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## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

**Wednesday 13th May**  
**Prayer group 11.15am**  
**in Hall 2.** Meeting in person while maintaining a safe distance from each other (groups under 10)

- Thursday Playgroup online
- Sunday service online including Children's Conversation & Godly Play.



# REFLECTIONS ON GODLY PLAY

Noah's creative re-telling of the parable of the Pearl of Great Price made out of LEGO



If you would like to join Godly Play or invite a family member to, they can find all of the stories so far on our YouTube channel. Or [contact Kylie](#) for more information.

# THE HERO'S JOURNEY

If you remember studying literature at school, you may recollect the subject of 'story arcs.' Some of the best-known story arcs include scenarios such as, riches to rags then rags to riches; Cinderella for instance. Another famous arc is the 'man in a hole' sequence where the protagonist must overcome a great challenge; 'The Martian' or 'Castaway' being classic movie examples. There are at least ten great story arcs that cover the shape of every story you have ever read. One of the great story arcs is called, 'The Hero's Journey; 'Lord of the Rings' follows this arc. 'The Hero's Journey' requires the protagonist to be sent out to achieve a great purpose and then to return after that purpose has been completed. Usually this takes the form of venturing out from a happy and secure place into the realm of the unknown to fight against great evil, at great personal risk, before returning victorious with the spoils of the battle won. See the following diagram.



The life of Jesus closely tracks the arc of 'The Hero's Journey,' as Jesus leaves the security of the Father's side, then takes on human flesh, faces temptation and suffering as he overcomes the trials of human life, ultimately conquering Satan, sin and death in the abyss of the Cross, followed by the vindication of the resurrection after securing the liberation of humanity from death. Finally, Jesus returns to the Father in the ascension.

John mentions this arc many times in his rendition of Jesus' farewell discourse and the high priestly prayer. For instance, he writes, "Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God..." (John 13: 3). Incidentally, the entire story of Jesus washing his disciple's feet is a physical enactment of the first half of the arc. The full arc, however, requires a going out and a coming back. We often overlook the 'coming back' part of this story.

The 'coming back' part of the story is just as important as the 'going out' for it completes the circle of salvation. The coming back is the high priestly part of the story in which Jesus returns to the Father as a man for all humanity. Just as the high priest represented the people before God in the temple, now Jesus represents us before the Father on our behalf, and as one of us—as a full and perfect human being.

The Apostle Paul was able to grasp the meaning of this when he wrote, "And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus..." (Ephesians 2: 6). Like a diver descending to the depths to secure a rope to unseen riches, who then ascends to the surface to draw the prize to the boat, Jesus has descended into the darkness of human sin and death to reconnect us once more to God the Father and he is now ascended to complete the mission of drawing us back into the family of God. This is the greatest hero's journey of them all, and this story is no fantasy: it's real and it affects you.

In faith

David

**AND GOD RAISED US UP  
WITH CHRIST AND SEATED  
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HEAVENLY REALMS IN  
CHRIST JESUS**



## CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY

COVID-19 has provided amazing opportunities for the Church to be innovative at this time. Rev Felicity Amery, the General Secretary of the Synod of South Australia, has kept in regular contact with congregation leaders to inform us of the Synod's decisions and actions.

Whilst news of Government financial assistance packages has been gratefully received, the extent to which each UCA SA Congregation, Presbytery and the Synod will benefit from these is not yet clear. Nevertheless, Synod recognises that the financial impact of COVID-19 is widespread and is impacting many congregations substantially. The Resources Board has provided relief to those congregations who already have loans with the Uniting Church Loan Fund by offering the suspension of loan repayments for six months.

In addition, the Synod Standing Committee has resolved to reduce the Synod portion of the Mission and Service Fund congregation contribution rate from 6% to 3% for the period 1st April to 30th June 2020. The situation will be reviewed in June 2020. This reduction is in addition to the decision of each Presbytery to forego their additional 2% call on congregations for the same period.

This substantial reduction will provide congregations with a buffer in these uncertain times. Those of us who are in frequent contact with the Synod office appreciate these provisions immensely.

Everything will be different on the other side of this pandemic, and your church council is aware that our church may change in many ways we do not yet fully appreciate. It is very apparent, for example, how many of you have been blessed by the pastoral care phone calls—for both those making and receiving the calls.

We have all greatly enjoyed the online resources prepared by David, Kylie, Fiona and other helpers, and we see these continuing in some form, especially for those who are not able to worship with us on Sundays. And so, as many in our community have said, good things are coming out of this situation, and we need to take up the opportunities made available by this learning experience.

Letter from the General Secretary - Financial relief for Congregations, 1 May 2020.

Summarised and submitted by Sue Farrant.

## PRAYER POINTS

Published on the UC e-News.

This week we pray for:

- The staff and leaders of the Uniting Church's community service agencies, who are doing magnificent work in very difficult circumstances.
- The UAICC National Executive, Interim Chairperson Rev Mark Kickett and outgoing National President Rev Garry Dronfield.
- For those facing devastating hunger and poverty due to the fallout for COVID-19.
- For those on the fringes of our society who are currently excluded from Government's COVID-19 support.

## COVID-19 SAFE MOBILE APP

The government has made available a COVID-19 Safe Mobile app. While it is your personal decision whether or not to download the app on your phone, the UCSA synod are encouraging all staff, employees and members of the church to do so. This action will further support our commitment to keeping the community safe.

The COVIDSafe app speeds up the current manual process of finding people who have been in close contact with someone with COVID-19.





## PLAYGROUP @ HOME

Last week Term 2 started, which would usually mean Playgroup would be back on! But with restrictions still in place we're continuing to meet online for Playgroup@Home.

We spoke about writing letters to people we love, we read the book "Dear Zoo" and sang together. This week we have a special video planned for mother's day.



Below: Kylie practising her reading of next weeks story!



PLEASE SEND US YOUR STORIES AND PHOTOS FOR THE WRITE UP...

New week bags will be delivered for msg@5 at home!



### ALMOST ORGANIC...

Give away; What is left of Carolyn and Neil's almost organic quinces.

Phone: 0458 112998 or 0418 823633

[Click here for a quince paste recipe](#)



### THE GREAT REALISATION

Very insightful and clever - from Rhonda



[www.youtube.com/watch?v=DjKFrDpCnc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DjKFrDpCnc)



# MOTHER'S DAY



*thanks mum*



Recently, the United Kingdom, whilst in the rampant throes of COVID-19, celebrated a very restricted Mother's Day. It's now our turn as a nation on 10th May to acknowledge mothers.

I imagine it will be a Mother's Day like no other, as thousands of people continue to self-isolate and are forced to rethink plans with loved ones. 'Informed decisions' will be the order of the day, especially if there are vulnerable people in your family. With the usual lunches and afternoon teas possibly postponed (particularly if the mothers involved are of a certain age), or modified to accommodate social-distancing, what can people do instead to celebrate? Perhaps....

- a doorstep drop-off of favourite food
- a serenade outside her house by grandchildren
- a conversation on FaceTime, WhatsApp or Skype, or
- a sit-down meal at the same time but in different homes using the technology above
- a thank you letter (actually handwritten)
- family photos sent electronically or by mail
- a subscription to her favourite magazine - and there are always
- flowers or a plant (with non-contact delivery).

Mother's Day of course comes from Mothering Sunday when servants were given a day off to return to their homes to visit their mothers, and to worship at their 'mother' church.

So, I've been thinking of mothers a lot this week, especially my own, who passed away 35 years ago. I've been recalling how, as she grew older, there was a reversal in the care dynamic. And now I and many of my friends are seeing this ourselves, although it feels like this natural process has accelerated rapidly in the past few weeks. The protective instincts of adult children towards their parents and grandparents, which might otherwise have developed over years or even decades, have surged almost overnight. Some people in their 20s and 30s are coming to terms with their parents' mortality for the first time.

At the same time, many of these young families (my own included) are coping with stringent lock-downs, working from home and home-schooling children while trying to maintain a 'normal' family life.

Our young granddaughter is oblivious to the lock-down and just enjoying playing. Our grandsons are loving having mum and dad home. Though missing their friends and extra-curricular activities, they have adapted well to the new routine. The role of mothers has certainly changed during this time.

I'm wary of falling into the 'gender trap' when writing about mothers, but I suspect that in many homes at present the COVID-19 situation has launched many mothers into overdrive as children need to be home-schooled (in some states), entertained and fed. At the same time, they may be working from home, or providing emotional support for adult children worried about employment or finances. People don't stop needing emotional support when they cease to be a child - the act of mothering continues and becomes especially important in times of crisis.

Despite the myths that swirl around (and are printed on sugary Mother's Day cards), mothers are ultimately just people with children, performing a role that is sometimes under-appreciated, while fighting to maintain their own identities. Even in 2020 that remains a challenge.

Yes, this pandemic is forcing us apart physically, but it is also the crucible in which we are already forging new bonds of togetherness and altruism and sharing. So, this Mother's Day, let's all do everything we can to show our respect and love for all mothers.

Sue Farrant

## PERSONAL NOTICE

It is with sadness that we report the death on 1st May 2020 of Mrs. Zita Campbell. Zita was a long-time member of our congregation who spent countless hours providing pastoral care to the residents of the Walkerville Residential Care Centre (now Allity). The friendliness and faithfulness of Zita's visits no doubt lifted the spirits of residents who were, in many cases, a decade younger than her. Zita would have celebrated her 100th birthday in October this year.

As a congregation we missed her friendship when she moved to Yorketown in 2010 to be near her daughter, Mary. We extend our condolences to Zita's daughter and son-in-law, her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

