

JUNE 2020 | ISSUE 8

THE WALKERVILLE WRITE-UP

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



A song for the weary

As I reflect on the story of Pentecost, I wonder what it may have felt like for the disciples, they were scared, alone and anxious about the future. They didn't know that Jesus was coming back, they may have even felt abandoned.

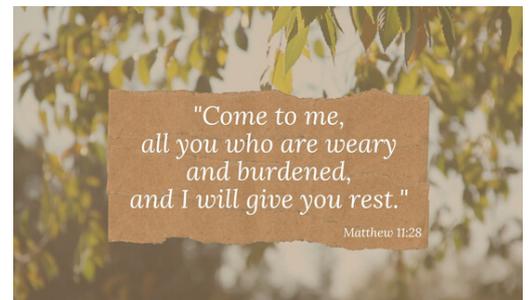
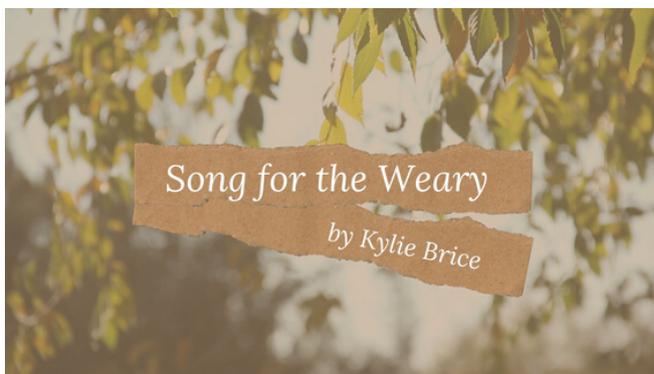
When Jesus shows up, what a shock that must have been! Not only had He defeated death.. but he offered the most amazing gift! The gift of the Holy Spirit! And now the disciples, and us, no longer need to feel alone, Jesus is with us now and always - especially when we feel alone.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28)

We were created for community. And this Pentecost, when we are unable to physically gather, let's remember that we weren't made to walk this life alone. Christ is with us, always.

In place of the Children's Conversation, I offer you my gifts, a song I wrote many years ago, a song for the weary.
Love Kylie

<https://youtu.be/M4tIZZ-XSAU>



WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

- **Sunday 7th June** service online with Communion
- **Wednesday 10th June** Bible Study 10am in Hall 2
- **Wednesday 10th June** Prayer group 11.15am in Hall 2. Meeting in person and via Zoom (contact David for info)
- **Friday 12th June** 4C's Craft Group from 9.30am

NOTE: Kylie is on leave from Wednesday 3rd of June until Wednesday 17th of June.

NOT SO PERFECT PETER

It is amazing to me that one of God's most prominent and self-designated titles in the Bible is: "the God of Jacob." (Exodus 3:6, 15, Matthew 22: 32 for instance). If you know anything about Jacob, you will know that he was not what you might call, "the best and fairest in the land." There is a reason for this; God wants the world to know that if he can be the God of someone like Jacob, then he can certainly be the God of someone like you and me—no matter who we are or what we have done. If anything, the choosing of Jacob was a way of showcasing the mercy of God with obvious clarity.

This is a consistent truth through the entire Bible as we discover that the kind of people God seems to choose for his purposes are usually way-less-than-perfect individuals. The reason for this is to draw attention to the graciousness of God and not to the so-called virtues of those who believe. What this means is that the grace of God levels the playing field, so that anyone and everyone can be part of the action in the kingdom of God. It is not reserved just for the lucky and the strong. We can take courage from the fact that we are not saved by our own goodness, but by the goodness of the one in whom we believe. That is something we can totally rely upon. As Paul has it in his first letter to the Corinthian church,

"Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him.

—1 Corinthians 1: 26-29.

Paul, of all people, knew exactly what he was talking about for he recognised that he was just such a person, declaring himself to be "least of the apostles" because he had "persecuted the church" (1 Corinthians 15: 10). Yet this did not stop God from using him as the most significant writer of the New Testament.

Yet sometimes God chooses people who are made of the right stuff. People who are dedicated and devout and get things done for the kingdom of God—the apostle Peter for instance. A natural leader, out-going, talented, passionate, and committed to the mission of Jesus. However, when we explore the story of Peter on the eve of Jesus' crucifixion, we come to see that even he was found wanting in the hour of Jesus' need. (John 18: 15-27). Indeed, Jesus warned Peter, and the other disciples, that they were about to be tested and that they would all fail the test and abandon him. (Matthew 26: 31-35). But Peter protested profusely saying, "Even if all the others fall away, I never will." To which Jesus comes back with, "Peter, before the next dawn you are going to deny me three times." Yet Peter defended his loyalty saying, "Even if I must face death for you, I would never disown you." Of course, we all know what happened a few short hours later as Peter emphatically betrayed Jesus with his three-times-denial. As John pointedly has it, "Again Peter denied it [i.e. – knowing Jesus], and at that moment a rooster began to crow." (John 18: 27).

The crowing of the rooster was an important moment in Peter's life and while it may seem like a failure, it was also a turning point in Peter's life. Sometimes an apparent breakdown can actually be a breakthrough, and for Peter this was the moment he discovered that service in the kingdom of God is not about what we do for God but what God can do through us, no matter who we are.

In faith

David Kowalick

WHERE TO FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2020?



WALKERVILLE UNITING CHURCH

Checking the dates of my computer files, I can see that back in late January the Walkerville congregation had appointed our Joint Nominating Committee to meet with prospective ministers to succeed David in July. After a pause during the initial stages of COVID-19, our church profile is now available for ministers to view, and we know that others will be interested; but at present those ministers in placement elsewhere are possibly in a similar situation, not wanting to disturb the status quo while we are living in such unpredictable times. David, of course, is not able to embark on his planned overseas travel or even undertake interstate travel while border closures are in force. Fortunately (for Walkerville) David has offered to amend his leaving date (which would have been the first week in July) and leave the situation open-ended. At our most recent meeting, the church council gratefully accepted David's offer to continue at Walkerville for the foreseeable future, until the way forward becomes clearer.



In preparation for the re-opening of our church, we have prepared a COVID-Safe Plan in accordance with State government guidelines (a \$5,000 fine can apply for not adhering to the regulations). Places of worship are now allowed to open to the public for religious gatherings, private worship, and small religious ceremonies, however attendee limits, social distancing and hygiene requirements must be adhered to. At Walkerville we would only be permitted to have 20 people within our church sanctuary – so, as you can imagine, there are many issues to be worked through.

ANNUAL REPORT

At this time of year, we would normally be preparing our annual report and preparing for our annual general meeting and election of officers. Obviously, we are not able to meet as a congregation. At our last church council meeting it was decided that we would approach the congregation to seek your approval for the current church council to continue until January 2021. This will give continuity in a rapidly changing situation and stability with the same personnel who have set in place our various COVID-19 requirements.



PLEASE NOTE:

As it is impractical to conduct an electronic vote (as some members of the congregation do not have the internet and others receive this newsletter hand-delivered or posted), I would therefore invite you to forward any questions, uncertainties or opposition that you may have to this arrangement, to Mr Peter Jackson by email, or phone to register your opinion. Peter will collate the responses for consideration by the church council. We will provide for you, before the end of June, a copy of the annual report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 30th December 2019.

Peter Jackson's contact details are: Email - petehelen@bigpond.com or phone 0417 025 557.



In addition, June/July is also the time of year when we examine our stewardship pledges to the church. Our recorder, Peter Hill, already has a supply of envelopes for the new stewardship year. Details of how we will deal with the practicalities of our stewardship program should be available next week.

Sue Farrant

Chairman of Congregation

THE SENSES

This week, as we are gradually coming out of our enforced isolation, I am aware that during this time we have been given the opportunity and time to sense a heightened awareness of the world around us. And, of course, we do this through our senses... touch, sight, hearing, taste and smell.

Touch is thought to be the first sense that humans develop, while sight is a complex process involving the cornea, iris and lens, and hearing works via the complex labyrinth that is the human ear. Taste is sensed in the taste buds, while it is said that humans can smell over one trillion scents. It has been reported that one of the symptoms of COVID-19 can be the loss of taste or smell – how distressing that would be?

But these thoughts of our senses drew my mind back to the time when we lived in the Adelaide Hills at Aldgate, some 40+ years ago. Just a few of my recollections that come to mind are:

Touch – the squelch of mud while gardening in the winter, the kiss of very occasional snow, the crunch of autumn leaves as you gather them (endlessly).

Sight – again, the glorious autumn colours, the golden wattle in August and the explosion of camellias, rhododendrons and azaleas in many gardens in winter and spring.

Hearing – the rustle of skinks in the undergrowth (and hoping that it is only a skink or a sleepy lizard and not something more sinister), the calls of the numerous native birds.

Taste – the deliciousness of home-grown fruit and vegetables, or the local produce purchased from stalls on the side of the road.

Smell – the tang of eucalyptus leaves, the cosy smell of wood fires in winter, and the dread of the smell of smoke in summer.



Somehow it seems that climates that enjoy four true seasons have a rural sensuality that lingers more strongly in our memory and gives us a heightened awareness.

All of this talk of senses reminds me of John's message in his first letter... (using the modern Message translation) when John is writing to the young churches of Asia Minor to give them confidence against false teachers; reminding them that Christianity is not a system of thought, but a person – Jesus Christ – who was historically validated, personally experienced, and authoritatively proclaimed by the apostles. And this is what John is saying ...

1 John 1: 1-4 The Message....

From the very first day, we were there, taking it all in – we heard it with our own ears, saw it with our own eyes, verified it with our own hands. The Word of Life appeared right before our eyes; we saw it happen! And now we're telling you in most sober prose that what we witnessed was, incredibly, this: The infinite Life of God himself took shape before us.

We saw it, we heard it, and now we're telling you so you can experience it along with us, this experience of communion with the Father and his Son, Jesus Christ. Our motive for writing is simply this. We want you to enjoy this too. Your joy will double our joy!

Sue Farrant

PRAYER POINTS

Published on the UC e-News.

This week we pray for:

- Our online worship leaders - and all who are responding to God's call to be the Church in this challenging time.
- The healing of racial tensions worldwide, including here in Australia, and an end to racial inequality and racist attitudes.
- Everyone who may be struggling to maintain their mental health in these times of isolation.

ROADMAP TO RE-OPEN CHURCHES

Released May 29 2020, this [roadmap](#) reflects the SA Government's steps and is contingent upon the movement through those stages. Churches are advised to take a cautious approach to reopening and only to proceed when all aspects are considered.

In regards to community around coffee and morning teas, the roadmap states: 'Because the government advice about serving morning tea after worship is not specific, we feel it is important to make a specific reference to this activity. The Crisis Management Team (CMT) of the SA Synod believes congregations cannot serve morning tea at this time. There may be further guidance on these matters in Step 3. We would therefore encourage congregations to continue to plan'.

PLAYGROUP ONLINE

Kylie and Sue C. will be in touch with playgroup families to connect with them and plan for term 3. If you haven't seen the Playgroup videos Kylie and the team have prepared, they are still all online for you to enjoy!

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL6RBhIPzLYgpahTnDg99K8u8duGuJz7da>



The Uniting Church in Australia
Synod of South Australia

Guiding principles of;

- physical distancing (1.5m between people),
- numbers of people gathered is dependent on your ability to have 4 square metres of space for each person,
- strict hygiene practices in place - cleaning before and after activities,
- documenting who is in your building - asking people to sign in and sign out,
- and extreme care and caution around the involvement of vulnerable people.

We ask that:

- you stay home if you have cold or flu symptoms
- wash hands and sanitise often
- vulnerable people to talk to their doctor about what is appropriate for them

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

We're missing our Big 'O' lunches - but we haven't forgotten! Watch this space!



CRAFT GROUP

Craft group are happy to be meeting again (right)



4C's Craft Group

FRIDAY 12TH JUNE
10AM
DOORS OPEN 9.30AM

If you need refreshments,
please BYO.

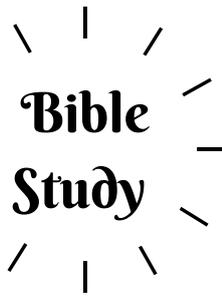
Any questions, please contact
Helen on 0407 830 640

The Craft Group is now meeting fortnightly! Beginning Friday 12th of June and then every 2nd and 4th Friday of the month.

Find them spread out in Hall 2 (carpeted room), where anyone of any age and ability is welcome to join in with their own craft project, or come to learn another skill.

Please bring your own refreshments and contact Helen if you have any questions 0407 830 640

BIBLE STUDY IS BACK!



With the change in restrictions now at Stage-2 for public gatherings it is now possible for us to meet for Bible Study. We will meet at 10am next Wednesday, June 10, 2020 for our first Bible-study since the lockdown.

We will comply with the rules concerning public gatherings, such as social distancing, registering attendance on arrival, hand-washing protocols and we will need to RSVP your intention to attend. If you would like to attend the Bible-study please RSVP me via this email: ministerwalkervilleuca@outlook.com



In addition, we would also like to consider how we might conduct communion services before we are able to resume our full worship gatherings at some time in the indefinite future. We are proposing to have an afternoon rolling communion service for a maximum of twelve people at a time in line with our State government COVID-19 plan.

We could schedule a series of gatherings at 1pm, 2pm, 3pm and 4pm on a Wednesday afternoon. If you are willing you could nominate which time slot would work best for you and we will take bookings until each time slot is fully allocated. If you have any other ideas, please feel free to share them with me.

David Kowalick

GENERATE WEBINARS

Generate is presenting a series of four free webinars around evangelism, discipleship, raising leaders and renewing/planting churches from this Thursday. All welcome. Totally free. Designed to bless and equip you.

Webinars will run every Thursday for the next four weeks from 7:30-8:30pm:

4th June- Evangelism

11th June- Discipleship

18th June- Raising Leaders

25th June- Renewing and Planting Churches

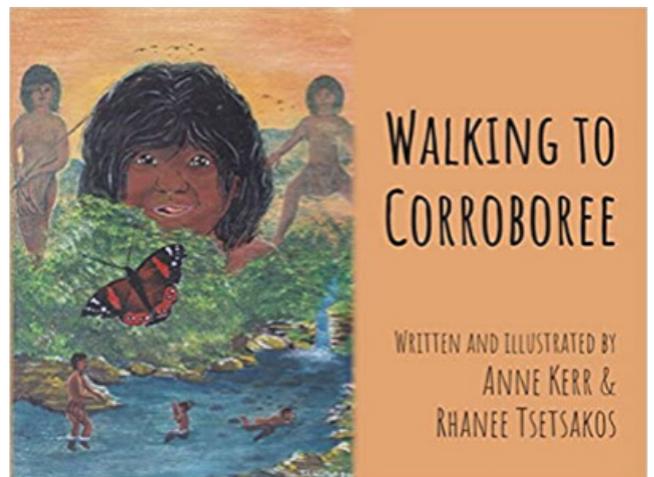
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88462997057> - use this link to join!



RECONCILIATION WEEK

Recognise Reconciliation Week by watching Kylie's childhood friend, Rhaneé Tsetsakos reading her children's book, *Walking to Corroboree*. Rhaneé is an Adnyamathanha woman and Christian leader.

<https://youtu.be/Z1OoJHtUKeY>



WALKERVILLE UNITING CHURCH

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