

THE WALKERVILLE WRITE-UP

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



Wait, wait

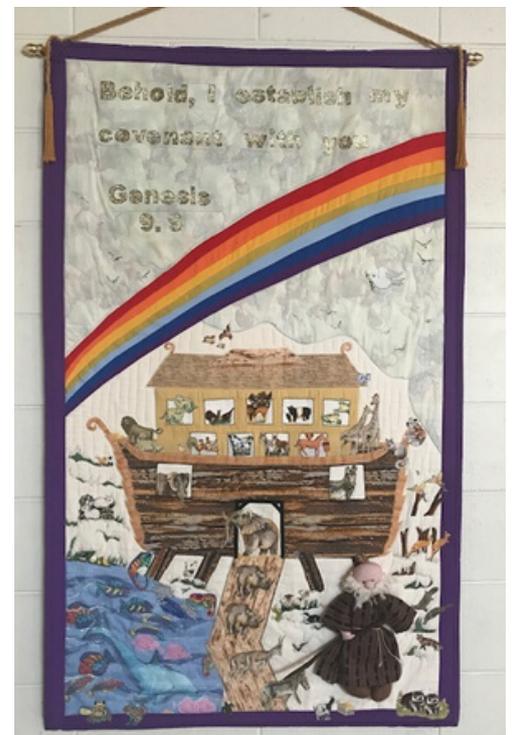
READ Psalm 40

I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear the Lord and put their trust in him. Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, who does not look to the proud, to those who turn aside to false gods. Many, Lord my God, are the wonders you have done, the things you planned for us. None can compare with you; were I to speak and tell of your deeds, they would be too many to declare.

WAIT, WAIT. Most translations of verse 1 say "I waited patiently," but the Hebrew literally says "I waited-waited." In Hebrew the doubling of a term conveys intensification and magnitude. This means not passivity but great concentration. Servants waiting on a great lord are not twiddling their thumbs but watching every expression and gesture to discern their master's will. Waiting on God, then, is to be busy in service to God and to others, all in full acceptance of his wisdom and timing. That kind of waiting may indeed be long and excruciating, as Psalms 37 through 39 have shown us. But finally it leads to a new song of praise to God (verse 3) and joy (verse 4).

Prayer: Lord, I remember with deep gratitude some of those slimy pits you lifted me from and those firm rocks you put me upon. And that helps me wait for you again now. Amen.

A devotion from "My Rock My Refuge: A year of daily devotions in the Psalms" by Timothy & Kathy Keller. March 23.



WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

- **Sunday 31st May** service online
- **Wednesday 3rd June**
Prayer group 11.15am in Hall 2 Meeting in person and via Zoom (contact David for info)
- **Thursday 4th June** [Playgroup online](#)

HISTORY SNIPPETS WITH JIM

WALKERVILLE WESLEYAN CEMETERY, SMITH STREET, WALKERVILLE

On the 8th May 1849 the Trustees of the Wesleyan Church in Smith Street purchased Acre 49 from James Pitcher for twelve pounds to be used as a cemetery. The early burials included the following children. William Millstead aged 2 years on the 25th of May and on the 14th August, Robert Borne aged 1 year. Of the 3785 recorded burials up to 1973 many were young children with one family's grave the burial place of six children with ages ranging from 4 months to 3 years.

Although the majority of burials were of people from the Wesleyan Church, a number from the local German community are buried in the cemetery. The records indicate that 388 burials were from this community and reflects the early settler society of the surrounding areas. The cemetery was vested in the Town of Walkerville in 1972 with the last burial in May 1973. In 2004 the Council set aside an area on the Gawler Terrace boundary for the placement of cremated remains.

Whilst most of those buried in the cemetery lived in Walkerville, Prospect, North Adelaide and Klemzig, some families came from places such as Beaumont and were pioneers of the Colony/State.

In the Jubilee 150 year the Council undertook some restoration work and a volunteer group "The Friends of the Walkerville Wesleyan Cemetery" was formed. Over the ensuing years this group has raised funds, and with the assistance of the Council, restored damaged memorials. As part of its works program over several years the Council has restored the original stone boundary walls. In 2018 a new group was established including elected members to advise the Council on the future care of the cemetery which is listed as a "Local Heritage Place" in the Town of Walkerville Development Plan.



The church from the cemetery. Photo taken by Uta.

In conjunction with the Council the Friends produced a history booklet which enabled people to undertake a self guided walk of the grounds. This currently is being reprinted. The "Friends" also conduct tours during 'History Month'.

James Everett. Chairman, Friends of Walkerville Wesleyan Cemetery.

This article was originally printed in the Journal of the Pioneers Association of South Australia Inc.

PRAYER POINTS

Published on the UC e-News.

This week we pray for:

- Australia's First Peoples and members of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress as we all continue to seek to reconcile the wrongs of the past
- Christians in Australia and around the world. May we show each other (and be blessed with) unusual kindness in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

PENTECOST – A TASTE OF THINGS TO COME

Christianity has significantly shaped Western culture and furnished it with such benefits as the notion of human rights, democratic government, freedom of speech and philosophical liberalism. However, with every benefit there is also a detriment. The belief in the inalienable human rights of every individual has also produced in us an egocentricity in our spirituality that tends toward thinking in terms of self-fulfilment. Consequently so much of pulpit preaching in the West tends to appeal to our mercenary desires by indicating how trusting in Christ will benefit us at an individual level with things such as peace of mind, a happy life, escape from judgement and a sense of meaning. Thus, we talk of having a personal relationship with God, having our personal sins forgiven and personal salvation. This is all well and good, but we miss the bigger, cosmic picture of salvation of which our 'personal' experience is the tiniest little piece. This is particularly pertinent at Pentecost.

The Apostle Paul had a lot to say about the Holy Spirit in the famous eighth chapter of his letter to the Romans. In it he does speak of us individually encountering God at a profound personal level saying, "For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship and by Him we cry out "Abba, Father!" The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children." (Romans 8: 15-16). However, he then goes on to connect our adoption into the family of God to the broader context of the restoration of all creation writing, "The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glory and liberty of the children of God." (Romans 8: 19-2)

God's idea of salvation and renewal does not only concern human beings, but concerns the whole of creation. However, for creation to be fully restored it is first necessary to reverse the curse of the fall. Just as all of creation was implicated in our fall, it will also be gloriously implicated in our restoration.

The creation, as it is now, is amazing and wonderful, yet in its current form it is only a shadow of what it will be when we are fully reinstated as children of God and therefore have restored to us all the rights and capacity to govern the creation appropriately. At the moment we are attempting to force an adverse creation to bow to our demands and the subsequent abuse we have heaped on her has resulted in enmity and discord between us and the earth. The fault for the resultant extinctions, pollution, disease, disaster, and famine lies squarely at our feet. But God has always had a plan for restoration.

One of the great early church theologians, Irenaeus, coined the idea of Christ recapitulating humanity in his perfect life. Recapitulating literally means to 'recap,' i.e. – to put a new head on humanity in himself. Humanity cannot be fully human unless we relate to God the Father as children. Jesus has come to share his authentic humanity as the Son of God with us and he enables us to encounter this authentic sonship by sharing his Spirit with us. When we receive the Holy Spirit, we therefore get a taste of the firstfruits of the New Creation. On the Day of Pentecost, the 120 men and women in the upper room saw the first signs of the New Creation in the reversal of the curse of confused languages at the tower of Babel (Genesis 11: 5-9). Their reconciliation with God led to reconciliation between the nations and would ultimately lead to reconciliation with creation.

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PENTECOST – A TASTE OF THINGS TO COME CONT.

All this was anticipated in the Old Testament in wonderful metaphoric images of wild creatures feeding serenely together with domestic animals and of children and snakes cohabiting in peace (Isaiah 11: 6-9, 65: 25). These tantalising prophecies find their goal in the coming of the true Messiah, the rightful 'head' for humanity.

Now by the Holy Spirit we can taste the reality of the restoration of all our proper relationships—to God, to one another and creation. That is the broader picture of salvation we must embrace at Pentecost.

In faith
David Kowalick

THANKFULNESS

This week, as restrictions are continuing to be lifted in South Australia, I thought it time to pause and reflect on our thankfulness over these past few months. And so I've prepared my own personal list of 'Thankfulness' – perhaps you'd like to do the same. Sue Farrant.

For the security of our home, when many are homeless or insecure about mortgages or leases

For government assistance, for individuals, employers and businesses

For food on table, and the ability to purchase it safely

For the capability and availability of our health system, medical practitioners and tele-health online consultations

For confidence in the governance of our country – Federal, State, and local

For the stability and goodwill of our society

For the general common sense of our people

For delivery systems – supermarkets, local shops, pharmacies, restaurants

For our church staff, and their ability and willingness to try new systems

For church volunteers who help behind the scenes in so many ways

That we live on an island, by which we can control our borders

That we live in a world of internet connectivity for information

That communication is so simple, even if just by telephone

For emailed and messaged photos

For electronic business connections

That I can talk to our daughter and son every day and see our grandchildren on WhatsApp.

That our daughter and son-in-law are able to work from home in Melbourne and home-school and 'home kindergarten' our grandsons

That our son, daughter-in-law and granddaughter in Spain are fortunate to live in a rural area in one of the least affected provinces of Spain (though still far more impacted than Australia)

That God holds us in the palm of his hand



TENANTS RETURNING JUNE

The South Australian government is easing Covid-19 restrictions from Monday June 1. This means that some of our tenants will be able to return to running their activities following this date and we have had inquiries to this end. They will be expected to comply with the requirement of 1 person per four square metres and ensure adequate cleaning of their own equipment.

WALKERVILLE CHURCH HIKERS

The hikers met at the Preston's on Sunday 24th of May. Due to the weather we didn't do Wild Dog Glen and so missed Ro and John who went there - hopefully they enjoyed their hike too!

We walked from Paradise (the Preston's) to the Riverpark - past Silkes Road and then about another 2k up the river. Was a cool but nice day. Here are some photos of the day - the river park - near Athelstone.

Sue Clark



PLAYGROUP @ HOME

Playgroup shared in the National Simultaneous Storytime (NSS) held annually where and Australian author and illustrator, is read simultaneously in libraries, schools, pre-schools, childcare centres, family homes, bookshops and many other places around the country. This year the book was "Whitney and Britney Chicken Divas!" (you can find out more here: <https://www.alia.org.au/nss>)

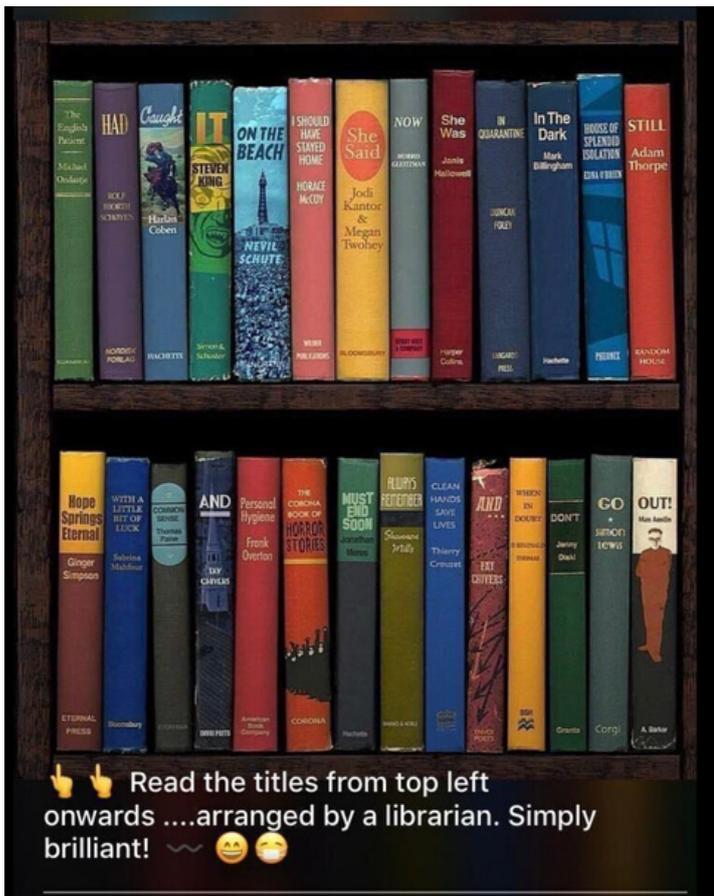


Lisa Preston was our special guest, and we met our Playgroup team's pets, including Trish's dogs and one of Elanora's chickens, 'Pepper'.



CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE COUCH

The following photo was sent to John Magee from his sister, Una who lives in the Isle of Man, UK. Text of all the book titles is included should the photo be too small to be easily read. Most of the books are still in print. Perhaps we could add one more book to the bookshelf detailing our own journey through the current pandemic of Covid-19 for future generations to read. The children of tomorrow may be surprised to learn to what extent our lives have changed and our faith renewed/restored.



List of the book titles should the photo prove to be too small to read. Please read titles down the page.

- The English Patient**, Michael Ondaatje
 - Had**, Rolf Hiorth-Schoyen
 - Caught**, Harlan Coben
 - It**, Steven King
 - On The Beach**, Neville Schute
 - I Should Have Stayed At Home**, Horace McCoy
 - She Said**, Jodie Kantor & Megan Twohey
 - Now**, Morris Gleitzman
 - She Was**, Janis Halliwell
 - In Quarantine**, Duncan Foley
 - In The Dark**, Mark Bellingham
 - House of Splendid Isolation**, Edna O'Brien
 - Still**, Adam Thorpe
 - Hope Springs Eternal**, Ginger Simpson
 - With A Little Bit Of Luck**, Sabrina Mahfouz
 - Common Sense**, Thomas Paine
 - And**, Fay Chivers
 - Personal Hygiene**, Frank Overton
 - The Corona Book of Horror Stories**, edited by Lewis Williams
 - Must End Soon**, Jonathan Meres
 - Always Remember**, Shannon Mills
 - Clean Hands Saves Lives**, Thierry Crouzet
 - And**, Fay Chivers
 - When In Doubt**, D. Reginald Thomas
 - Don't**, Jenny Diski
 - Go**, Simon Lewis
 - Out**, Max Austin
- ***

This Sunday we celebrate **PENTECOST**, when we remember the gift of the Holy Spirit, and celebrate the birthday of the church.

Do you know how to speak another language? Why not learn a greeting or a blessing in another language this Pentecost to remember the disciples being gifted with speaking in different languages!



WALKERVILLE UNITING CHURCH

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