

Warragul Uniting Church

## ***Keeping in Touch***

No. 13, Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Last Sunday 19 people meet on **Zoom**, and 11 met **in the church for worship and Holy Communion**.

Eric led the Zoom service and Des led the service in the church. Many people expressed their wish to be present in the Church but felt that the risk was too great and it was a sensible decision to stay at home or join the Zoom service. For those of us able to participate on Zoom or in the church it was a unique experience.

It was great to meet with each other again. We used the printed order of worship and made our responses together, listened to the hymns on YouTube during Zoom and maybe even singing along in homes. In the church we listened to the hymns being played on the organ and piano and read the words in time to the music. We shared Holy Communion differently and meaningfully, remembering that we are united in our faith in God, God's love for the whole of His creation and this connects us to each other.

**Worshipping together in the future???** It is clear that with the current Covid 19 restrictions we will not be able to meet as groups in the church or in homes for some time. We can continue to meet as a group on Zoom. The Church Council is discussing this at this afternoon's meeting...a Zoom meeting!

The UCA Synod of Victoria and Tasmania produces a Q & A document each week that explains how the Covid 19 restrictions apply to the church. This includes conducting worship, holding meetings, the use of buildings, cleaning of buildings (just to name a few) and the protocols that relate to them. It is this document that guides the thinking of the Church Council. The document can be found on the Synod web site. We will keep you informed about developments.

**Phone calls...**I am aware that many of you are keeping in touch via the phone. This is important. If you have a 'smart phone' you can see each other if you choose to.

**Emails...**there are also a number of email contacts being made...and some very funny attachments. E-cards of encouragement and thanks are also appreciated.

### ***Here's a challenge!!!***

We survived the '~~Toilet Roll hoarders~~' and looking at the supermarket shelves it seems that they have been replaced by the '~~Scavengers of meat~~'! Almost 'not a sausage'! Memories of Corporal Jones running around in a state of panic shouting out '~~don't panic~~', '~~don't panic~~'! All this when we are told that even with a reduced supply there is plenty of meat for our needs, maybe not for our wants...perhaps we want to keep the freezer full to overflowing...just in case! So there is no need to panic purchase. But a few people panic buying soon starts an avalanche!

**It's time!** Well at our place it's time to spray the plum tree...copper spray to avoid curly leaf. And the weeds...don't they ever rest!!! Seems to be early, but I have noticed signs of spring growth...maybe it's just wishful thinking?

**Please remember the members our congregation who are struggling with health matters** at the moment, waiting for test results, finding treatment difficult to cope with, feeling isolated if in hospital, home or care, working hard to adjust to the impact of illness and its aftermath on lifestyle, and for those who provide care and support.

**NEXT SUNDAY...**11am you are invited to join with others over Zoom for a chat and some fellowship...keeping in touch!

**In the newspaper this week...***'I'm looking forward to stage 7 restrictions...don't get out of bed!'*

Peace and blessing,

*Des Parker*

On behalf of the Extended Executive of the Church Council:

Written on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2020

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