

Warragul Uniting Church

Keeping in Touch

No. 14, Tuesday 11th August 2020

Extracts from an earlier letter by the Moderator... *'For most of us, for the first time in living memory, our congregations are not able to worship together, because of a global catastrophe that is causing terrible suffering. In this time of distress, and disruption to many of the things we hold most dear, we look to Christ and the Christian community to sustain us and bring us through this difficult time.*

At this moment, we cannot gather together in our usual ways, because of the restrictions designed to stop the spread of the coronavirus, COVID-19, and keep vulnerable people safe. Congregations are faithfully working on ways of worshipping God and continuing to witness to the liberating Gospel of Christ and act for justice in the world.'

'There will be Uniting Church congregations and members, who choose ...to wait until they are able to physically meet together...Congregations may, for good pastoral and theological reasons, choose instead to 'fast' from Holy Communion for a period of time, or to use liturgies which do not replace the liturgy of Holy Communion, but provide a specific time within the service for the remembrance and celebration of the saving activity of God through Jesus Christ.'

From the Church Council and Extended Executive meetings last week...

Worshipping together in the Church...the Council agreed that with the current Covid 19 restrictions we will not be able to meet as groups in the church or in homes, which means that we will not be able to hold face to face meetings or Worship for the foreseeable future.

Services by Zoom...It was also agreed that we will have services by Zoom on the first and third Sundays of each month at 10am using the amended Shearwater service notes which will continue to be distributed. Zoom worship on the first Sunday in each month will include Holy Communion, it is not possible for us to celebrate Holy Communion any other way at present. The Church Council recognizes that not all Church Members have access to Zoom and others will prefer to wait until we can all meet together again.

The plan for the Zoom services for the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month is as follows:

August, Eric Smith... September, Des Parker...October, Eric Smith and November, Des Parker. The Rev Ian Brown will lead his first service on the third Sunday in November.

We are grateful to David Morison who looks after the technical side of the Zoom services.

This is our current planning and it depends upon changes in the restrictions that may apply over the next few months...watch this space!!!

NEXT SUNDAY...(16th August) 10am ...you are invited to join with others for worship using Zoom. David Morison will send you an invitation....all you need to do is to click on the invitation web address from about 10minutes to 10am on Sunday 16th.

CHANGES... a hand rail has been installed at the manse along the steep path from the laundry door to the back of the house. This has been a health and safety matter...Thanks to John Currie for organizing this work.

Please remember the members of 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.

Crosslight is available now ...it's on the Warragul Uniting Church web site now!

In the newspaper this week... *'We need Zorro and his sidekick...they knew how to wear masks ...and to defeat the enemy!' Masks to protect ourselves and others, and to assist with defeating the enemy which is Covid19.*

Peace and blessing,

Des Parker

On behalf of the Extended Executive of the Church Council:

Written on Tuesday 11th August 2020

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