



BELMONT UNITING CHURCH

20th June Weekly Newsletter 2021

2021 - THE YEAR OF HOPE

Living Hope

Our theme for this year, '2021 - a Year of Hope' invites us to an intentional engagement with what this word hope means and looks like to us both as individuals and a congregation. In 1 Peter 1:3, the Apostle Peter opens his letter with these words, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy, he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." Peter is often referred to as the apostle of hope. This passage explains why. For Peter, it is the fact that we are born anew through Jesus' death and resurrection. We, therefore, receive God's living hope. Living Hope is a gift from God through Jesus Christ, not that we have earned the right to receive this gift, but because of God's mercy and grace so that our salvation is assured.

For Peter, living hope is a hope that is alive. When the believer receives this gift of living hope, not only that he or she is alive because of it but lively as well. That kind of living hope energises and invigorates the soul of the believer to live life to the fullest because it is the hallmark of a resurrected life.

When Peter was writing his gospel, Christians were being persecuted and were subjected to terrible persecutions. His intention was to remind these faithful followers of Christ that they need not be discouraged, for their future is secured by the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Their hope is a living hope despite their present experience because nothing they face in this world would ever compare to the blessings that they will receive in the life to come in eternity.

For Peter, to endure living through the present struggles of life, one must have the living hope. People cannot survive long without this hope. It is this hope that keeps people going even though the future looks bleak. It is this hope that keeps people going through painful life experiences and fear of what the future may hold for them.

We each have our own story of hope. I have been blessed to witness some of those stories of hope in both our individual and corporate life. One of our former members is now living away from Geelong. On her birthday, a group of our members will travel the two hours round trip just to give her a bit of a lift and company.

What is your story of hope? You are invited to share your own story of hope, or perhaps you wish to suggest ideas for how we embody hope in the life of our congregation or community. You can forward your story or ideas to Ray and Julie to be shared with our congregation through our weekly newsletter.





Belmont Uniting Church June / July Roster 2021



Date	Time	Leader	Leader's Steward	Readers	Greeters & Ushers	PowerPoint	PA Operator	Organist
June 27	10.00am	Rev. Ikani	G. Coomber	N. Phillips	J. Ferguson C. Schaller	B. Vaitohi	D. Zucarro	C. Collins

Date	Communion	Flowers
June 27	N/A	E. Richards

Date	Time	Leader	Leader's Steward	Readers	Greeters & Ushers	PowerPoint	PA Operator	Organist
July 4	10.00am	Rev. Ikani	L. Jackson	G. Allen	D. Stephens R. Ferguson	L. McCann	B. Jones	L. Rankin

Date	Communion	Flowers
July 4	R & J Ferguson B & S Jennings	Silk Flowers

Date	Time	Leader	Leader's Steward	Readers	Greeters & Ushers	PowerPoint	PA Operator	Organist
July 11	10.00am	Rev. Ikani	J. Ferguson	L. Moss	E. Wood R. Bunting	L. McCann	G. Schneider	L. Rankin

Date	Communion	Flowers
July 11	N/A	Silk Flowers

If for any reason you are unable to attend your rostered duty, please endeavour to swap with anyone & contact the worship leader and the Newsletter Editor too.

Morning Tea Roster

June 27th
Aileen & Ray Bunting, Elizabeth Wood
July 4th
Nola & Peter Woods, Barbara Pink
July 11th
Heather McCann, Geoff & Janice Schneider

PLEASE NOTE

**There will be no Church this
Sunday morning 20th June. There
are further changes as set down by
the Victorian Government.
(Refer to page 5)**

Prayer Points For the Week

Dear Lord, we thank You for Your constant presence and constant love. Draw close to us this day and the days ahead with the confidence that You are ready to guide us. Help us as we interact with other people and share Your Good News.

Dear Heavenly Father, we pray for the people affected by the recent storms and floods. Many people have had their houses destroyed or affected severely by flood waters. Bless the S.E.S. and other organisations which are helping people with emergency accommodation, food, clothing and other essential goods.

Loving God, help us to know the importance of developing a healthy spiritual life whereby we meditate on Your word, spend time in prayer, seek the guidance of Your Holy Spirit and accept the loving grace of Jesus.

Peter Woods

BELMONT UNITING EVENING FELLOWSHIP

Our next meeting is June 23 for 12 noon lunch at Moorabool Valley Chocolates.

If you would like a lift please meet at Church at 11:20am to car pool. Some members have already organised their car pool and have let me know so if you do this too please let me know so we are not waiting at church for you. Will be great to be together for a nice lunch again.

Wednesday 28th July - Raye Pearson will speak on her many travels.

Lectionary Readings

June 20 - Pentecost 4 1 Sam 17: 32 - 49 Psalm 9: 9 - 20 2 Cor 6: 1 - 13 Mark 4: 35 - 41	June 22 - UCA Anniversary 2 Cor 30: 1 - 9 Psalm 127 Eph 2: 19 - 22 John 17: 1 - 11	June 27 - Pentecost 5 2 Sam 1: 1, 17 - 27 Psalm 130 2 Cor 8: 7 - 15 Mark 5: 21 - 43	July 4 - Pentecost 6 2 Sam 5: 1 - 5, 9 - 10 Psalm 48 2 Cor 12: 2 - 10 Mark 6: 1 - 13
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→ NOTICES ←

NEWS FROM THE MISSION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE

OUR WEEKLY COLLECTION OF FOOD FOR UNITING is cancelled this Sunday 20th June due to Covid restrictions and will re-commence when we return to Sunday worship in our church building.

OUR ANNUAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE will be held at 10 AM ON SUNDAY, 27th JUNE when we will dedicate handmade and purchased goods, food and clothing for various organisations. This service will also celebrate the Anniversary of the Uniting Church. Your donations will support:

COTTAGE BY THE SEA - beanies, winter clothes and pyjamas for girls and boys sizes 8-16, socks and undies all sizes, toys, card games, colouring pencils, roll-on deodorant.

GEELONG YOUNG MUMS - clothing for babies and toddlers.

KALKEE AND AGED CARE FACILITIES - quilts and rugs.

UNITING (at Grovedale) - track suit pants all sizes, disposable nappies.

Please note: all clothing is to be NEW.

Clothing and donations can be brought to the church on Saturday, 26th June from 10 am to 11 am, or prior to the service on Sunday, 27th June.

If you prefer, cash can be placed in the red buckets in church foyer on 27th June for Food Vouchers (not for cigarettes and alcohol) for distribution at Uniting, or clothing for Cottage by the Sea.

IF THERE IS A COVID LOCKDOWN in place on the weekend of 26th and 27th June, we will have a DRIVE-THRU on the Saturday, from 10 to 11 am, to receive your donations of clothing and cash.

Please only support in whatever way you wish. There is no pressure - you are simply being given the opportunity. The response is up to you!!!

THANK YOU!

Members of the Mission and Outreach Committee

Jean Murray Ph 52 43 4103

Faith Sharing Group

The Faith Sharing Group shut down a few weeks' ago because of Covid restrictions on meetings in the church buildings. The Group will not meet over the school holiday period. We hope to recommence after the school holidays, that is on Tuesday July 13 at our usual 10am time.

Thanksgiving Memorial Service for Una Mary Trigg who passed away in September 2020. This service will be held on Sunday June 27th @ 1:00pm at Brunswick Uniting Church, corner of Sydney Road & Merri Street Brunswick. The service will be streamed. Go to Brunswick Uniting Church Website, scroll to Youtube & search.

Geoff & Liz Aitken send their greetings to all. Ray & Julie popped in to see them on Friday on the way back from Sale and had a lovely cuppa & chat. More information on Geoff and Liz and their family and Liz's broken ankle in next week's newsletter.

Our Zoom Cuppa & Chat will be available @ 10:30am after St. Luke's service

Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/99984774012?pwd=Ky85NGtwbnZqb1h2YzFGNDdDZEMlQT09>

Meeting ID: 999 8477 4012 - Passcode: 1234

Death Notice - Our sympathy and prayers are with Bruce, Trevor and family on the passing of David Missen. A thanksgiving service will be held in our church on Friday 25th June @ 11:00am. Please check Tucker's website for further info.

Worship At Home

Acknowledgement of Country

Today, as we gather in our homes, we acknowledge the Wauthaurong Peoples, the first inhabitants of this place from time beyond remembering. We acknowledge that through this land, God nurtured and sustained the First Peoples of this country, the Aboriginal and Islander peoples.

Reading: Mark 4.35-41

Call to Worship

Jesus on the boat in the storm said: 'Peace! Be still!'...and there was a great calm. We come to God, just as we are. Sometimes at ease. Sometimes confused by life's storms. Let us trust God with our big questions, and listen for God's still small word to restore us to a sense of peace.

Opening Prayer

God of our ups and downs, we come together in your name with concerns in our hearts and questions in our minds, with troubles in our lives and fears for our world. We come trusting that you share our concerns and hear our questions, embrace our troubles and know our fears. We come trusting that you never give up on us, that you never abandon us, never dismiss us. For you are a God of love, of peace, of power – you are our God. Amen.

Sharing the Word

The Sea of Galilee is surrounded by hills, except for a valley dip at one end, which can act like a funnel for the wind. This means that the water can go from glassy calm to choppy white horses very quickly, as the wind whips up the water. As seasoned fishermen on this large freshwater lake, this will not have been the first time that the disciples have experienced this phenomenon, but this time it was particularly severe. Their complaint to Jesus is about the apparent mismatch between their peril and his continuing nap: they do not cry, 'Help!' or 'Do something!' They question whether he cares. This is not a theoretical argument about whether he could (or should) intervene miraculously; it is not like the moment when the synagogue leaders stand at the sidelines to see whether he will heal someone on the sabbath. This is not a theoretical question about power at all. It is a cry from the heart, an exasperated rebuke from friends who feel abandoned: 'Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?' Perhaps all they expect is another pair of hands to join in bailing out water from the boat. Instead, Jesus changes the vast space of the inland sea simply by speaking. Jesus' questions to them – 'Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?' – underlines that they still only have a sketchy picture of who he is. The miracle affects the disciples more than the storm did.



Prayers of intercession

The response after each bidding is: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We open our hearts to the needs of the world and cry with the tears of the sorrowful.
We mourn with the grieving souls of the world and feel their loss and share their pain.
We share our love with the lonely and loveless and feel the pulse of their life.
We offer our touch to the untouchable folk who are shunned by a passing throng.
We catch the whisper of the unspoken truths that burden the lives of so many.
We decipher the cries of a traumatised world for whom peace is an impossible dream.
Hear our prayers, Lord, and let us be the servants you would have us be. Amen.

Go in peace. May the whisper of God's wisdom go with you today into all your relationships. Amen.



NEWS FLASH

As you are aware, the Church Council is constantly monitoring the Covid 19 situation and receives advice on current lockdown restrictions from both the government health advisors and Synod. The latest update on the restrictions as of 11.59 pm June 17.

Religious gatherings and ceremonies are allowed with a maximum of 300 people per venue (indoors and outdoors) and a requirement of 1 person per 4 sqm.

Face masks must be carried at all times and must be worn indoors. You do not need to wear a mask in your own home or if a lawful exemption applies.

As Ikani is on Study leave this week, you are invited to join our friends from St Luke's Highton for their **9.30 am** online service. Rev Paul Stephens and the people of St Luke's congregation will welcome you for worship and fellowship.

Sunday 20th June

St Luke's Highton Sunday Service: Live streaming on this link -

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJAL8289CyXTVBd-Y8dvT6Q>



Upon Ikani's return on the 22nd of June, our normal worship service in person at church will resume on the 27th of June.

Thank you for your patience and continued care and support for each other in this fast-changing ministry context.

News Desk

Minister's Study Leave: Tuesday 15th - Monday 21st of June

Some of you may not have been aware that not only have I gone back to school to study for a graduate course in Executive Leadership, I have also been studying through our periods of lockdown as well. The last couple of years has been a very interesting time juggling assignments, lockdown, passing of my parents and ministry. So, I am so looking forward to handing in my final assignment which is due in late July. Depending of course if I pass the course or not, when the opportunity presents, I wish to share with you some of the things I have learnt from this course.

Please note that I will be away on Study Leave but I am contactable by the phone for any emergency matters. I look forward to seeing you next week.

Rev. Ikani Vaitohi
