



BELMONT UNITING CHURCH

23rd May Weekly Newsletter 2021

2021 - THE YEAR OF HOPE

Dear Friends,

This Sunday is Pentecost Sunday, one of my favourite celebrations of the church calendar. It is not just because this celebration marked the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the church that I love, but also because I think this day marks a special day that demonstrates the kind of unity and peace God longs for. What resonates most with me about Pentecost is that the crowds that gathered in Jerusalem that day didn't all speak the same language or in unknown tongues. Most importantly, they understood each other in their own languages across the barriers of culture and race (Acts 2:8). Pentecost speaks to me of God's desire for global unity and understanding to be demonstrated through the lives of those who call themselves followers of Jesus. It is a peace that we very desperately need to see demonstrated today.



Instead, the opposite is true. Tensions between nations have spilled over to an all-out conflict. Governments around the world concern themselves foremost with policies that protect their own. Whether it is vaccines availability, climate change, or border restrictions which, unfortunately, amplify the 'us against them' mentality on a global scale.

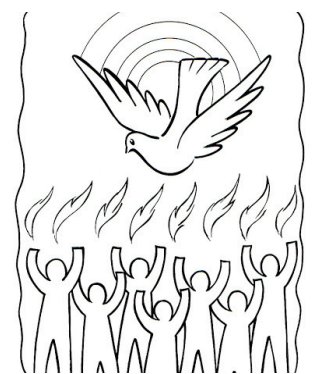
Pentecost is also a global movement. Beginning this Sunday is the season of Pentecost, which gives us the opportunity in an intentional way to say no to divisions and say yes to unity. Opportunity to say no to violence and welcome peace and hope to our community and our world.

As we continue to live as a community of hope this year, I challenge us all to consider ways that we could work for peace across barriers of race and culture. What is one practice you could institute over the next few weeks that could increase your understanding of other cultures and help you achieve the peace and unity that God desires for all of us? We can start small even by learning words of other languages, like good morning. Pay a visit to Narana Aboriginal Culture Centre and get to know the staff and the various cultural activities that take place there.

Friends may this coming Pentecost season be an opportunity for us to make this a better world of hope, peace, unity, and understanding.

Blessings to you this week,

Ikani





Belmont Uniting Church May/June Roster 2021



Date	Time	Leader	Leader's Steward	Readers	Greeters & Ushers	PowerPoint	PA Operator	Organist
May 23	10.00am	Rev. Ikani	Ros Buckwell	D. Zucarro	B. Couper R. Bunting	R. Ferguson	B. Vaitohi	C. Collins

Date	Communion	Flowers
May 23	N/A	C. Collins

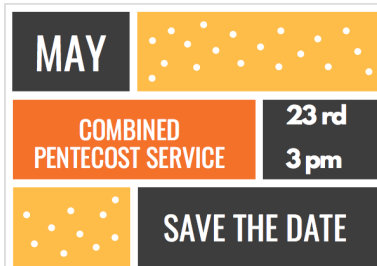
Date	Time	Leader	Leader's Steward	Readers	Greeters & Ushers	PowerPoint	PA Operator	Organist
May 30	10.00am	Rev. Ikani	J. Ferguson	R. Ferguson J. Ferguson	E. Wood C. Schaller	R. Ferguson	B. Vaitohi	A. Ingles

Date	Communion	Flowers
May 30	N/A	C. Collins

Date	Time	Leader	Leader's Steward	Readers	Greeters & Ushers	PowerPoint	PA Operator	Organist
June 6	10.00am	Rev. Ikani	R. Pearson	A. Merritt	R. Bunting B. Couper	B. Vaitohi	G. Schneider	C. Collins

Date	Communion	Flowers
June 6	Heather McCann	T. Yates
	Loris Jackson	
	Doreen Stephens	
	John Stephens	

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.



If anyone is attending and would like to assist in welcoming people could you let Ikani know.

Morning Tea Roster

May 23rd

Lorraine & Cliff Rankin, Alwynne Merritt

May 30th

Glen Coomber, Raye Pearson, Liz Moss

June 6th

Nola and Peter Woods, Barbara Pink



**There will be Morning Tea from our kitchen after the service this Sunday
May 23rd**

Social distancing still applies at our church service.

Face Masks are still required to be worn during hymn singing.

Prayer Points For the Week

Dear Heavenly Father, we pray that You may bring peace to Israel and cease the hatred and warfare that will see the destruction of many buildings and death of many innocent people.

Dear Lord, help us to place our hope in You. If we become discouraged, guide us to turn to You, to trust You in every aspect of our lives.

Loving God, You have loved us eternally and cared for us faithfully. Just as You have lifted us up, let us also lift up others in a spirit of encouragement, optimism and hope. Today and every day may we share Your healing message in order to encourage others in their daily journey with You.

Peter Woods



Wind and Fire

Have you ever heard the story about the day of Pentecost when God sent down His Glory to bring conviction to the lost.

Men gathered in an upper room all praying in one accord for Jesus promised that He'd soon send the Spirit of the Lord.

Suddenly came a mighty sound of wind and tongues of flame, the Holy Spirit had come down to make man His domain.

The promise is for everyone as many as God will call on all that ask of Christ the Son will God's Wind and Fire fall.

(anon)

Lectionary Readings

May 23 - Pentecost

Acts 2: 1 - 21 or Ezek 37: 1 - 14

Psalm 104: 24 - 34, 35b

Rom 8: 22 - 27 or Acts 2: 1 - 21

Jn 15: 26 - 27, 16: 4b - 15

May 30 - Trinity Sunday

Is 6: 1 - 8

Psalm 29

Rom 8: 12 - 17

Jn 3: 1 - 17

June 6 - Pentecost 2

1 Sam 8: 4 - 11

Psalm 138

2 Cor 4: 13 - 5:1

Mark 3: 20 - 35

June 13 - Pentecost 3

1 Sam 15: 34 - 16:13

Psalm 20

2 Cor 5: 6 - 10

Mark 4: 26 - 34

→ *Canva* → **NOTICES** ← *Canva* ←

Accommodation Project

The Accommodation Project continues. We are supporting one family at present and are about to take on another family. We work with Kelli from the Salvation Army. Kelli is a worker with their Young Parent Outreach Program. The young women they work with have experienced homelessness. The Salvation Army place the families in transitional housing while they await a Department of Housing long term rental house/unit. We offer nine small fortnightly payments to help with bills and a larger single payment when the family move into long term accommodation to help with moving cost and rent in advance.

This is all funded by donations from our congregation. If you would like to support this project financially could you place a donation in an envelope and mark it Accommodation Project and put it in the collection plate. The families we support are very appreciative of our support.

If you would like more information please speak to me or one of the committee members. They are, Fay Costin, Bev and Barrie Dickie, Liz Main, Norma Phillips, Susan Rossiter, Thelma Yates.

Jill Jeffers Convenor

Mission & Outreach

A THANKSGIVING SERVICE is being planned by the Mission and Outreach Committee (date still to be determined) when we will receive and dedicate rugs, quilts, beanies and other clothing for distribution to those in need. You are invited to get those knitting needles clicking, if you wish to be involved. Further details will be published in following weeks. *Jean Murray*

Church Council Meeting

Church Council will meet on Tuesday, June 8th, at 7.30pm.

Reports and agenda items should be with the Secretary by Sunday, May 30th.

Secretary Glen Coomber

Thank You

The Jones and Strong family gratefully thank the members of Belmont Uniting who supported us so well for the service to commemorate Claire's life. We especially thank Ray and Julie Ferguson, Lorraine Rankin, the ushers and the very patient helpers in the kitchen. Again our heartfelt thanks to all. *Ann Jones*

Morning Tea 30th May

Morning tea on the 30th May will be scones, jam and cream etc. This will be a fundraising effort to support the work of the Alola Foundation (East Timor). Alola Australia Ltd is seeking financial support for the women and children of East Timor, especially those affected by the recent severe floods and Covid 19.

If you care to make a donation in exchange for your morning tea that will be appreciated.

However, all can participate!

Serving of food will be in the Covid safe style. *Raye Pearson*

Belmont Uniting Evening Fellowship



Everyone is invited!!
Glen Coomber - Guest Speaker

7:30pm Wednesday May 26th

"Calligraphy & Candles" (All Welcome)



Glen will explain Calligraphy and the amazing art work he does on our Church candles.



Thank You



Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

It is with sincere gratitude and deep appreciation that we extend to you all our love and thanks for the expression of support, care, and prayers in the passing of my father, father-in-law, grandfather and great-grandfather, Mr Fehoko Tu'avao Vaitohi. Your messages of comfort and encouragement expressed via texts, cards, phone calls, emails, flowers, and food over the last few weeks have all helped, strengthened and sustained us through this difficult time.

As we acknowledge your care and support, I am also mindful of other members of our Church family that grief and loss also visited their household in my absence. To Hazel Breguet's family and Ann Jones and her family in the sad loss of her daughter Claire, may I extend to you my sincere and heartfelt condolences.

My late mother, 'Ana, loved gardening. Before she passed away, she had planted some sunflower plants in the manse's front garden. The recent heavy showers were beaten down on them, and I noticed a flower that I had admired for its beauty dropped its head as if all its glory was gone. Although I was disappointed somewhat, I knew that I must wait for the next season for this flower to show its beauty again.

That night passed, and morning came; the sun shone again, and the morning brought strength to the flower. The light looked at it, and the flower looked at the light. There was contact, and some sort of chemistry took place, and power passed into the flower. It held up its head, opened its petals, regained its glory, and seemed more beautiful than before. I wondered how it took place—this delicate thing resting overnight before coming into contact with the sun and gaining strength!

Saying goodbye to both my parents in a relatively short time was tough. Likewise, I cannot imagine what it was like for Ann, as a mother having to say goodbye to her daughter Claire.

In our recent loss, we have learnt and again been reminded of our unbreakable communion with God and each other by the love and care we receive from HIM and each other. We cannot tell how that we were able to find strength and power to do and to bear through the pain of grief, but we did. It is my hope and prayers that, both Ann and Hazel's family also experienced God's strength and comforting presence in their loss.

As Christians, we are convinced that God knows we can stand whatever trial is before us if we have faith in HIM; He would not allow adversities to come our way if we could not cope or possess the resources to help us through. Indeed, God knows our strength, and He measures it to the last inch.

For that, we are very grateful for his grace is sufficient, his love abundant to help us up again when we are down, raising our gaze to see his glory and be thankful.

