# WELCOME BELMONT UNITING CHURCH

5th September Weekly Newsletter 2021



# 'Season of Creation 2021- Theme: A Home for All -Renewing the 'Oikos' of God

The 2021 Season of Creation theme is A Home for All - Renewing the Oikos of God. This theme is in alignment with a global call to recognise that "the Earth is the Lord's and all that is in it." Oikos is the Greek word for home/household and by rooting our theme in the concept of oikos, we celebrate the interconnectedness of life and the integral web of relationships that sustain the holistic wellbeing of our Mother Earth.

An opportunity for our ecumenical partners around the world to stand united in solidarity to amplify our voices and take action as warriors custodians of the vanua (land) to care for our common home in an integral ecological sustainable manner. This means every creature belongs to the Earth community and the entire community belongs to the Creator and we are called custodians to care for our common home in an integral ecological sustainable manner.

In Genesis God set a dome over the Earth. The word "dome" is where we get words such as 'domicile' and 'domestic' — in other words, God puts us all in — all people, all life — under the same domed roof — we are all in the house, the oikos of God. God gave humans the ministry to take care and cultivate this oikos of God. The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and others have called the oikos of God "the Beloved Community"

"The season of creation is an invitation to look closely at creation, to see and know that all creation is part of the oikos, the household of God."

Rev Sharon Hollis Uniting Church President

a community in which all of life are equally members, though each has a different role.

The oikos is a home for all but it is now in danger because of greed, exploitation, disrespect, disconnection and systematic degradation. The whole creation is still crying out. Since the dawn of the Industrial Revolution the geography where we recognize God's creative power has continued to shrink. Today only scraps of the human consciousness recognize God acting to restore and heal the Earth. We have forgotten that we live in the household of God, the oikos, the Beloved Community. Our fundamental interconnectedness has been at best forgotten, at worst deliberately denied.

It is our hope and prayer that we can become again this beloved community of intentional discipleship. We hope to move beyond the programmatic and didactic aspects of life to the prophetic and spiritual life to the action and way of life, which is shaped by Jesus.

May we be the champions to renew life, the servant leaders of all life in the Beloved Community, the oikos of God.

In God's Grace,

(Excerpt taken from the Guide Season of Creation 2021)



Latest on our Sunday Worship Services - more details on page 3
Sunday 5th September - 10.00am online worship

# Worship At Home

### Acknowledgement of Country

Today, as we gather together, 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.

## Offering for reflection and prayer at home

#### **Planet Earth Sunday**

On this Sunday, we recognize not only the presence of the Creator Spirit in the planet (Romans 1:20) but also the amazing reality that this Creator Spirit, also called the Word, became an Earth being called Jesus (John 1:14).

Genesis 1:1–25 Many scholars believe this narrative, at least in its present form, took shape during the time the people of Judah were in exile in Babylon (586–539 BCE). In response to their captors, who insisted that their rulers held all the power, these exiles told a story about their God and God's relationship with Creation.

#### Biblical scholar Dr. Norman Habel writes:

The focus of the narrative of Genesis 1:1–25 is on Earth, her origin, her birth, her animation and her creation of living things. As Earth beings, it is time for us to celebrate the birth of our Mother and find better ways of caring for her.

In the womb, The account begins with Earth in a womb, the primordial waters of the Deep. Earth exists from the very beginning, a formless embryo – waiting to be born. The Creator hovers as a spirit – like a midwife – over the waters of the womb.

The waters burst On the third day, after separating the light from the darkness and the waters above from the waters below, Creator Spirit says, "Let the waters burst and the dry ground appear." The Spirit does not say "Let there be Earth," but "Let the dry ground appear!"

The birth of Earth And when the dry ground "appears," God names the baby "Earth." Baby Earth is a revelation from the Deep. The verb "appear" is frequently used to describe the revelation or appearance of God or an angel. The birth of Earth is a sacred moment, a revelation from the mysterious primordial Deep.

Baby Earth comes alive After the birth, Creator Spirit animates Earth so that she can bring forth vegetation of every species. Earth is explicitly transformed from a dry embryo to a living planet. The animation reveals Earth is blessed Earth is not only blessed with life but also with light! On the fifth Day, Creator Spirit places numerous lights in the sky. Why? To provide seasons and "light for Earth." As we now know, light is one of the pivotal elements that enable Mother Earth to flourish. Light means life.

**Earth becomes a Mother** On the fifth and sixth day, the waters around Earth and the sky above Earth become filled with living creatures. Earth becomes a co-creator of life, the Mother of all living.

Humans as Earth beings We might have expected that Earth would also have given birth to humans at this point in the creation narrative. Genesis 2 provides evidence for this, where the first human is made from the ground of Earth. A clearer portrayal of humans born of Earth is found in Psalm 139:15. "My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth."

#### For reflection:

The creation story in Genesis 1 was written to speak to a people in a time of exile and despair.

- What examples of exile or displacement exist in today's world due to the climate crisis?
- How might an image of Earth emerging from the depths and bringing forth every vegetation and species be an image of hope for people displaced through these things?
- What do you see in Creation that reassures you of Creator Spirit's presence, or God bursting forth with life?

Seasons of the Spirit SeasonsFusion Season of Creation • Pentecost 2 2021



Date	Time	Leader	Leader's Steward	Readers	<b>Greeters &amp; Ushers</b>	PowerPoint	PA Operator	<u>Organist</u>
<u>Sep 12</u>	10.00am	Rev. Ikani	B. Dickie	I. Goodwin	H. McCann	B. Vaitohi	R. Bunting	L. Rankin
					C. Schaller			
Sept 12	2 Com	munion	Flowers		Morning Tea			
	N	N/A	S. Jennings		S. & B. Jennings			
			•		M. Bullock			
Date	Time	Leader	Leader's Steward	Readers	<b>Greeters &amp; Ushers</b>	<b>PowerPoint</b>	PA Operator	<u>Organist</u>
<u>Sep 19</u>	10.00am	Rev. Ikani	L. Moss	R. Ferguson	R. Jeffers	B. Vaitohi	B. Jennings	C. Collins
				J. Ferguson	J. Jeffers		•	
<u>Sep 19</u>	Comn	nunion	Flowers	•	Morning Tea			
	N	N/A	K. Haas		A. & R. Bunting			
					E. Wood			
Date	Time	Leader	Leader's Steward	Readers	<b>Greeters &amp; Ushers</b>	<b>PowerPoint</b>	PA Operator	<u>Organist</u>
<u>Sep 26</u>	10.00am	n Rev. Ikani	L. Jackson	G. Allen	J. Ferguson	B. Vaitohi	M. Richards	L. Rankin
			-0-		L. Jackson			
<u>Sep 26</u>	Comn	nunion	Flowers		Morning Tea			
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					L. Moss			
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Thank you to these willing people for keeping our Church services going. If you need to swap please endeavour to do so or if finding it difficult phone Julie 0418996592

# Prayer Points For the Week

Our home belongs to you Loving God, Lord of heaven and earth, this earth, our home belongs to you.

Give us grace to love it as you do.

Give us courage to give ourselves, as you do, for the good of all people and all of your creation.

Strengthen us to stand, as you do, with the vulnerable poor.

Give us wisdom to know when we have enough, and the voice to say "enough" to all that harms creation and hurts the poorest.

This earth, our home, belongs to you.

## **Lectionary Readings**

Sept 5 - Pentecost 15	Sept 12 - Pentecost 16	Sept 19 - Pentecost 17	Sept 26 - Pentecost 18
Prv 22 8: 1 - 2, 8 - 9, 22 - 23	Prv 1: 20 - 33	Prv 31: 10 - 31	Est 7: 1 - 6, 9 - 10, 9: 20 - 22
Psalm 125	Psalm 19	Psalm 1	Psalm 124
Jas 2: 1 - 10, 11 - 17	Jas 3: 1 - 12	Jas 3: 13- 4: 3, 7 - 8	Jas 5: 13 - 20
Mark 7: 24 - 37	Mark 8: 27 - 38	Mark 9: 30 - 37	Mark 9: 38 - 50



There will be an online worship service for this Sunday September 5th. You are welcome to join together at the same time of 10.00 am and afterwards for a chat if you wish using this zoom link:

https://zoom.us/j/99984774012?pwd=Ky85NGtwbnZqblh2YzFGNDdDZEM1QT09 Meeting ID: 999 8477 4012 - Passcode: 1234

Online worship services will be available to be viewed via our website by 10.00am each Sunday. https://buc.unitingchurch.org.au

# Happy Father's & Grandfather's Day

**Church Council will** meet on Tuesday, 21st September at 7.30pm.

The meeting will be held via Zoom.

Reports and recommendations should be sent to the Secretary by Saturday, 11th September.

The Gifts of Creation

Susan Noyes Anderson How bless'd are we by all of God's creation! What miracles attend His outstretched hand! Adoring is our gaze across the mountains, Appreciative, our feet upon the land.

In reverence, we observe the sparkling waters, The creatures that adorn both sky and sea; In wonder, we embrace the lamb and lion...

And other living things, earthbound as we.

Our spirits thrill to hear the sounds of nature:

The babbling brook as crickets sing along...

The aspen leaves, aflutter in the treetops...

The soul-reviving glory of birdsong.

Who cannot hear the whisperings all around us?

Who fails to see the majesty of earth?

What heart must not o'erflow with sweet submission, Awestricken by the privileges of

birth?

When hearts wax cold, I would not be among them.

My own is small, beside His offering...

But ever is it His, in love and honor...

A gift to my Creator, Lord, and





For further information please contact Bill & Sue Jennings CHRISTMAS CARDS available in pkts of 5 for \$5.

\*at this time we are also receiving donations for the Bushikori Christmas Fund. Tax receipts provided for specific donations...

Photo taken by Pamela Ferrar on her visit to Bushikori, nativity hut built by Grace Wandendeya, models students at Bushikori, creative design by Layla Peacock, printed by Words With Heart



Bauble Card: insert May you sense His love and goodness in a very special way this Christmas season



Wreath Card: Insert May the blessing of peace, the joy of family, and the love of Jesus fill your Christmas season.

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace ISAIAH 9:6

Today in the town of David, a Saviour has been born to you, He is Christ the Lord" LUKE 2:11

Order requests via Email to sponsorship@bushikori.org.au Or enquiries can be made to Esther 0439388856



Adoring is our gaze across the mountains



The soul-reviving glory of birdsong.



The babbling brook as crickets sing along



In wonder, we embrace the lamb and lion

September 2021

# 'Intergenerational Ministry'

Lynne and I are taking part in an Intergenerational Ministry 'Huddle' with other interested UCA members from congregations across the Synod. One of the purposes of this intentional time together is to explore what Intergenerational Ministry may look like in our own context. It gives us the opportunity to share, learn and dream together with others in ministry. Please refer to the brochure below for more information on Intergenerational Ministry.

# EQUIPPING

for intergenerational ministry

# What is Intergenerational Ministry?



On any given Sunday we can look around our local church and see babies, children, young people and adults gathered to worship God. It is one of the only places in Western society where all generations are present. Each generation is a gift to the others. The young bring their energy and questions; the mature model wisdom and share their experience. All generations stand before Christ as equal recipients of God's grace.

Surprisingly in our congregations today, many young people never experience the gift of engaging with the older generations. Children and young people are often siloed into a ministry program with their peers. They have age-specific teaching and little engagement with the wider church community.





Lynne and I would be happy to provide more information on this topic or to answer any questions you may have.

# What is intergenerational ministry?

Intergenerational ministry is difficult to define because it is a philosophy of ministry rather than a program—a way of being rather than doing. Its goal is to strategically build significant and meaningful interactions between the generations within the structures of a congregation.

The key components of intergenerational ministry are interaction and intentionality. Intergenerational ministry is more than bringing the generations into proximity with one another.

Intergenerational ministry takes place when people from at least two generations intentionally gather for the same activity with one another in ways that reflect a shared experience.

'Intergenerational ministry occurs when a congregation intentionally brings the generations together in mutual serving, sharing or learning within the core activities of the church in order to live out being the body of Christ to each other and the greater community' Intergenerational Christian Formation - Allen and Ross.

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For anyone interested in this free forthcoming workshop (flyer above) titled 'Navigating the landscape- building intercultural communities' to be held on Nov 3rd. It is to nurture our Church/congregations to become more and more intercultural and offer awareness as to the diversity of our life as a Church.

This is a very good opportunity for anyone from our congregation who may be interested in this topic and to initiate conversations on being an intercultural congregation.



# ROOTS Activity sheet

# Mark 7.24-37

Jesus travels to Tyre and Sidon where he meets Gentiles, who are full of faith and ask to be healed.



Jesus crossed borders to bring his healing and love to everyone.



Unscramble the words to make the name of a place or group of people in the story.

age, colour, wealth or gender.

Jesus came for everyone, no matter their

Can you find all five people in this picture?

yerT ileaGle elieGnt eJw Snido



Jesus healed a deaf man from Sidon. Once you've completed the dot to dot, colour in the picture and make the man look really happy!





Write a thank you card to Jesus from the

Greek woman after he heals her daught

You

# Activity time 🥏



### Mark 7.24-37

The mother of a sick girl and the friends of a deaf man seek Jesus' help. He is amazed at their faith and heals both the daughter and the deaf man.



# Family time

Talk Who do we not notice around us, or ignore?

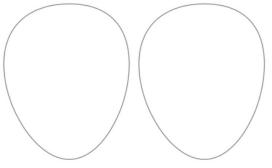
Put some money in a collection tin for those who are deaf or mentally ill.

#### Pray

Lord, thank you for the gift of faith. Open our eyes to notice those who feel left out or need our help. Give us the confidence to respond. Amen.



Draw the mother's face before and after Jesus heals her daughter.



		Th	ank

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Jesus to heal her d	aughter
	Jesus to heal her do

Jesus healed the girl because her mother's \_\_\_\_\_ was so strong.

The man was \_\_\_\_\_ and couldn't \_\_\_\_ properly.

Jesus put his fingers in the man's \_\_\_\_\_ and on his \_\_\_\_\_ to heal him.

# THE LEITCH CHRONICLES

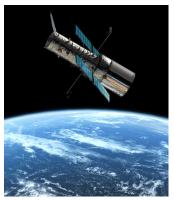
# With the theme of Creation, I thought that I would share this reflection on The Big Picture:

Most of us are so afraid of wasting time that we don't take the time to relish it. Sometimes it helps to look at the big picture. The really big picture. Scientists say that the universe is 15 billion years old. It took at least 5 billion years before galaxies formed. What's our hurry? One hundred thousand years ago our ancestors were roaming across the savannah. One hundred thousand years from now humans may not even be here.

Is that unfinished report really important? Remembering the really big picture can help us take our lives a little more lightly and feel the preciousness of our fleeting moment of existence. Life is short, but we're part of the wondrous unfolding history of the universe. Let's wonder at God's creation, and our place in it. It is a reminder that God is present in all creation - we just have to look for it as we regularly face transitions in our lives.

This beautiful work can be viewed by web searching the Hubble telescope. What does the night sky inspire in you?





I was at school yesterday, and was wondering about the church young people who may be sick of being at home. With Father's Day fast approaching here are a few simple craft ideas which may be of interest.

- Draw Dad's portrait
- Decorate a tin can pencil holder
- Movie night jar place Dad's favourite sweets in a jar decorated e.g. lined with coloured paper, painted.



- Create coupons for Dad e.g. movie nights, breakfast in bed, ice cream dates, free car wash
- Give Dad an artistic picture this year instead of the expected photo in a frame. Cut leftover paper in colours that match skin tone, hair, and eyes into small pieces. Have your child sketch an outline of himself or herself on heavy paper, then fill in the outline with the paper scraps for a colourful self-portrait mosaic gift.

#### String Art for Dad

Pick a short word or monogram and create this decorative string art for Father's Day. Cut letters from a paper in your desired size and place on a piece of painted plywood. Tap nails every 1/2 inch around the perimeter of each letter. Remove the paper letters. Using thin string or embroidery floss, tie a triple knot around one nail and begin weaving string diagonally from nail to nail to fill in centres of the letters. Knot at the end when finished.

#### Papier-Mache Bowl

Dad's keys just got a new storage spot. Create a handmade bowl by turning over a mixing bowl and covering it with plastic wrap (this will protect the bowl from glue). Make a mixture of equal parts white glue and water, then dip 1-inch-wide strips of paper in the mixture and form the strips around the bowl. Remember to lay strips facedown for the inner bowl, and face up for the outer shell. When you're done, remove the plastic wrap and bowl and let it dry.

Lorraine Leitch



As it is coming up to 40 years ago you may find this interesting. The papers are from my mother's files and I was re-reading them. It is about the process that took place from the old Parsonage to the new Manse at 26 Thomson St Belmont.

#### Belmont Uniting Church - Housing for the Minister's Family

The old impressive wood parsonage that stood at the corner of Regent and Thomson streets was built in 1915 for Mr French, Manager of the Oriental Timber Company. In Dec 1918 the Yarra St Methodist Circuit purchased it for 950 pounds to house Rev Alexander McKay and family. While Belmont was in that circuit 7 ministers and families took up residence. 1918-Rev McKay, 1922-Rev Jeffreys, 1925-Rev Smith, 1929 - Rev Long, 1933 - Rev Morris, 1937 - Rev Boundy and 1942 -Rev Wilson.

In 1946 the Belmont Circuit was formed with 7 preaching places. From here on the parsonage was occupied by the Circuit Superintendent Minister.

These were Rev Harold Freeman-1946, Rev Colin McRae-1951, Rev Geoffrey Vertigan-1957, Rev Dr John Renshaw-1965, Rev Graham Lehmann-1968, and Rev Cyril Germon -1975.

With the Uniting Church the name of all residences of its ministers became The Manse.

At 60 years old the old parsonage had served well but the Belmont Property Committee had to determine when it would be uneconomical to repair. Leaking tiles and rotting jarrah stumps were a major concern. In June 1979 the committee appointed a sub-committee to produce some proposals.

Three proposals were placed before an Annual Meeting of the Congregation on 26 Feb 1980. Proposal C -'To sell the manse for removal and erect a new manse on the existing site,' was chosen by the Congregation and on 12 March 1980 Parish Council authorised Belmont Property Committee to have plans drawn.

The Property Committee appointed Mr Keith Moore as Convenor of the New Manse Building Committee. After numerous consultations with the Synod Board of Property & Finance, the Presbytery Building Committee and the Presbytery Finance Committee and after going through several revisions, detailed plans were approved in Oct 1980. The cost was anticipated to be \$56,500.

The site was cleared in April 1981 and work began under Builders E.J. Lyons and Sons. (Rev Cyril & Elsie lived in my parents' property at 6 Hereford Dve while this building took place.)

<u>Funding</u> - Under the leadership of Reg Pearson the Appeal Committee had won a warm response. By end Sept 1981 \$12,545 had been contributed in donations and \$11,600 in loans. With \$11,000 from the sale of the Summit Ave block and \$5000 for the old manse only \$25,000 had to be borrowed from Synod Funds.

The Dedication and Opening of the New Manse took place on 22 November 1981 at 10 am with songs, psalms, prayers, an anthem and a sermon.

Act of Presentation - Mr Keith Moore - Convenor of the Manse Building Committee addressed the Chairman of Presbytery Rev Alex Peerman.

Act of Dedication - Rev Alex Peerman dedicated the building.

Prayer of Dedication - The Congregation Minister Rev Cyril Germon offered prayer.

Presentation of the Key from Supervising Builder Mr Kevin Lyons to Mrs Elsie Germon, wife of the Minister.

Mrs Elsie Germon received the key, moved to the front door, unlocked and opened it, then entered with the Chairman and his wife and the Minister Cyril Germon.

Official Representatives and Guests followed and then all present were invited to inspect the Manse.

Then all proceeded to the Church Hall for coffee.

Abridged by Julie Ferguson

Funny note -Due to this build Rev Cyril and Elsie Germon lived in all 3 homes during the one placement!





Easing of restrictions in Regional Victoria to be announced by Premier Andrews in the coming days.

#### The following restrictions continue to apply in Regional Victoria.

Note: Restriction changes effective at 11:59 on Thursday Sept 2 are shown in red.

- There are only 5 reasons to leave home:
  - Shopping (within 5km of home, unless nearest shop further than 5km)
  - Exercise (within 5km of home, up to two hours, with one other person plus dependants if they cannot be left unattended. The other person can be from another household)
  - Authorised work or Education
  - Caregiving & medical treatments
  - To get vaccinated

Additionally, you can leave home if there is an emergency. You can also leave home if there is family violence or violence by another person in the home, and you are at risk.

- Permitted Work: Only people whose work activities are listed at www.coronavirus.vic.gov. au/authorised-provider-and-authorised-workerlist-0 are permitted to attend a workplace. They must obtain a valid Permitted Worker Permit\* before attending any workplace. Everyone else must work only from home.
- \*Permitted Worker Permits are required for anyone who must attend the workplace for work, and whose work function appears on the above authorised worker list. This includes ministers, staff and volunteers involved in worship broadcasting. See page 2 for further detail.
- Masks must be worn (indoors and outside) unless at home or with a valid exemption.
- No visitors to the home, other than intimate partner. Anyone who lives alone may create a "bubble" with one other person.
- No public gatherings.

- Playgrounds open from Sept 3.
- Basketball courts, skate parks and outdoor exercise equipment closed.
- The removal of masks to consume alcohol outdoors is not permitted.
- Worship services Broadcast only.
  - 5 people max in broadcasting.
  - Must be the same 5 people each week (NOT a rotating roster).
  - Must all have a valid Permitted Worker Permit, submitted to Synod. See page 2 for further detail.
- Funerals maximum of 10 people plus those required to conduct the funeral.
- Weddings may not proceed. The only exceptions are for end-of-life or if deportation is pending.
- Schools closed except for vulnerable children or children of emergency workers. Masks are now recommended for children over 5.
- Adult education Online only.
- Childcare and Early Learning closed except for vulnerable children or children of emergency workers. A Permitted Worker Permit is required to access childcare or early learning (not required for children experiencing vulnerability). In-home childcare arrangements resume as of Sept 3.
- Restaurants/Cafes Open for takeaway or delivery services only.
- Libraries and Toy Libraries Click and Collect services only.
- Residential Aged Care No visitors, with very limited exceptions.
- Hospitals Visitors only for end-of-life, or one support person for childbirth.
- All entertainment, hospitality, accommodation and tourism to remain closed.
- Travel between Metro Melbourne and Regional Victoria is not allowed, unless for a permitted
- Residents of cross-border community local government areas will be required to obtain a permit to cross between Victoria and NSW from 6pm, Friday 13 August.

Continuted on page 2



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