REACHING OUT

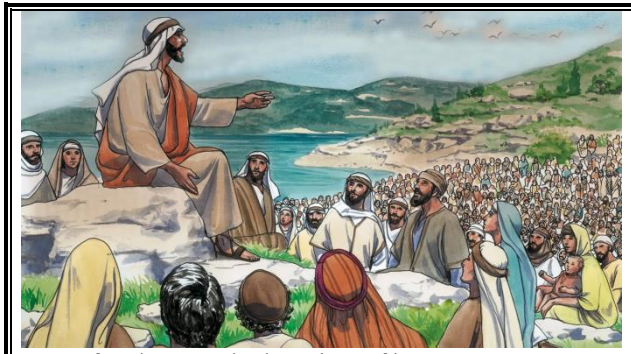
February 2, 2020

Weekly News for Wodonga West and Rural Uniting Churches

Epiphany 4

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

9:00am Emmanuel Anglican and Uniting Church
6:00pm Kergunyah Uniting Church
Micah 6:1-8, Psalm 15, 1 Corinthians 1:18-31, Matthew 5:1-12



When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:
'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Matthew 5:1-12

Emmanuel please note: On days declared **Code Red** fire danger, Church Council has resolved that Sunday services at Emmanuel will be not be held and all other church activities are to be cancelled.

COMING EVENTS

Wed	**5 Feb**	**9:00am**	**Emmanuel Grounds and Maintenance Group**
		7:30am	**Emmanuel Council meets at Emmanuel**
Mon	**10 Feb**	**9:30am**	**Prayer Group at Emmanuel**
Tue	**11 Feb**	**10:00am**	**Playgroup for children 0-5 years, parents and carers**
Wed	**12 Feb**	**9:00am**	**Emmanuel Grounds and Maintenance Group**
Sun	**16 Feb**	**10:30am**	**AGM Emmanuel Congregation**
Sun	**23 Feb**	**3:00pm**	**Installation of 11th Bishop of Wangaratta**

AGM OF EMMANUEL CONGREGATION

The Annual General Meeting of the Emmanuel Church will be held on **Sunday February 16, 2020**, commencing at 10:30am after worship. The AGM Report is now being prepared and reports from respective coordinators of church activities are now being accepted. Reports to be submitted to Harold Cover (hcover@bigpond.com) no later than Monday February 3 to allow time to complete editing and publishing prior to the AGM.

Nominations will be called for in coming weeks for Member of Church Council, Treasurer, Uniting Church Elder and Uniting Church representative to Presbytery. Please give prayerful consideration to an invitation to be nominated.

A NEW YEAR IN STEP WITH EACH OTHER

What a hot reception 2020 is receiving right round Australia as fires ravage our bush and towns large and small. This is following record high average temperatures and the longest droughts on record.
Though human loss of life has thankfully been low in contrast to previous conflagrations, the loss of stock, homes and other buildings as well as native wildlife and habitat is heartbreaking.
As an outcome it may well be that some dairy farming and other agriculture will be forever lost. Some tourist resorts may not also return as they were once known before the fires. What will be needed to rebuild, quite apart from the government funding, and very generous donations, is that fighting determination, which was named in another theatre of war, the Anzac spirit.
My 2020 "Friendship Book" of daily readings, on January 7, reminds me of an Arab proverb which declares: "All people are but the teeth of a comb." If the comb is strong enough, the head of tangled hair becomes untangled, the unruly is brought to order and each tooth of the comb has done its bit.
WE could liken the teeth of a comb to mean people standing side by side with their brothers and sisters to do a job that would be impossible for any of us to do on our own.

Reflection:
St. Paul in his first letter to the Greek city of Corinth, in Chapter 12, reminds about the different kinds of service and gifts, but the same Lord. Paul reminds us we are the body of Christ and each of us a part of it. All parts of the body are equal, and whatever the task, of equal importance. Throughout our land we are seeing this spirit which is needed now more than ever before.

By Geoff Serpell

Church rallies to help bushfire-devastated areas

Members of the Uniting Church in Australia continue to be actively involved in assisting communities ravaged by the current bushfires. Our Synod has a number of ministers who have been specially trained as members of the Victorian Council of Churches Emergencies Ministry and they have been busy supporting those in need almost from the moment the first fire materialised. Synod is also moving to expedite extra support for supply and relief ministry to spiritually and pastorally assist churches and their communities in bushfire-affected areas. The Synod of Victoria and Tasmania and its community services arm, Uniting VicTas, has been mobilising a whole-of-church effort to help communities deal with the immediate impacts and assist with the longer-term rebuilding of lives affected by the catastrophe.

Crisis support that has already been provided by Synod and Uniting staff, UCA volunteers and congregations includes:

- assisting with emergency accommodation, including motels, for those evacuated from fire zones
- sending three tonnes of replacement stock to the Sale op shop after it sold out of goods, with more resupply planned
- helping look for evacuees in Wodonga, at one point numbering about 180 people
- distributing fuel vouchers and non-perishable food.

As a partner with strong links to local Gippsland agencies, Uniting supports them by identifying and filling specific gaps in the help they provide (for example, at one stage there was a lack of children's underwear to give out). As these needs are constantly changing, the best way people can offer support is by donating money to the Uniting Bushfire Appeal (see below) and specify it is to buy urgently needed goods. Synod and Uniting will also put into place resources and programs to aid the longer-term recovery of individuals and communities affected by the bushfires, including the effects of PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder). These supports will include:

- ongoing support for children through services aimed at parents and early childhood educators through Uniting's childcare facilities
- psychological first aid and trauma counselling for both individuals and the broader community
- suicide prevention, drug and alcohol support offered through services such as Lifeline, Griefworks, ReGen
- financial counselling – offered in person where this is normally provided by Uniting and as phone counselling in other areas
- family services, with a focus on a domestic violence, noting that there was a 400 per cent spike in family violence after the Black Saturday bushfires.

Uniting Bushfire Appeal

www.vt.uniting.org/uniting-vic-tas-2020-bushfire-appeal

MINISTERS OF THE WORD & OTHER CONTACTS

UCA:

Anglican: **Fr Jacques Jefferies**
02 6024 2129 or 0434 063 069
stjohnsw@bigpond.net.au
[weekly RDO: Friday]

Emmanuel Pastoral Care: ***speak with an Elder or Warden***
Emmanuel Prayer Chain: ***give requests to Betty Saggers on 0427 761 044***

Address: PO Box 435, Wodonga 3689
Office Phone: Emmanuel Meeting Place: (02) 6059 5460
Office Open: Not staffed at present
Reaching Out: Items to Harold Cover 02 6024 7929 hcover@bigpond.com
or LouAnne Stabb 02 6059 2244 stabb@iinet.net.au by **Wednesday**.
Website: http://www.emmanuel.unitingchurch.org.au/index/htm

BIBLE READINGS *for* NEXT SUNDAY

Epiphany 5

Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12), Psalm 112:1-9 (10), 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16), Matthew 5:13-20

WORSHIP SERVICES *for* NEXT WEEK

9:00am Emmanuel Anglican and Uniting Church
11:00am Kergunyah Uniting Church

ON DUTY

	Sunday Feb 2 (Anglican)	***Sunday Feb 9 (Uniting)***
Readings	David Robinson	Carol Harris
Elders/Wardens	David Robinson	Carol Harris
	Ted Stabb	Karen Robinson
Organist	LouAnne Stabb	LouAnne Stabb
Prayers	LouAnne Stabb	Karen Robinson
Early Word	LouAnne Stabb	Carol Harris

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

World Council of Churches
Andorra, Italy, Malta, Portugal, San Marino, Spain, Vatican City
We pray for:

- the preservation of the fragile environments and shorelines in this region.
- an end to economic and political turmoil.
- stable governments that end corruption and serve the common good.
- policies that relieve disparities between those who are rich and poor.