11 FEBRUARY, 2024

Welcome

Welcome to worship, we hope you enjoy being with us.

Lectionary Readings

This week 11 February, 2024

2 Kings 2:1-12
Psalm 50:1-6
2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Mark 9:2-9

Next week 18 February, 2024

Genesis 9:8-17
Psalm 25:1-10
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:9-15

Family Breakfast Service: Sunday 25th February.

A casual relaxed service with lots of activities with time to chat and reflect with your table group. Please come hungry as a delicious breakfast/brunch will be served.

Offering Envelopes

The new Offering Envelopes for the year commencing 3 March, 2024 are now available on the back table, please take a box if you would like one.

Lenten Study Group:

Beginning Monday evening, the 19th February (first week of Lent) at 7.30pm till around 9pm. This study will be held via Zoom. Please see Rev. Gail or Lyn R for more information, tips on how to use Zoom and to have the Zoom link sent to your email inbox.

Hands & Feet Update

Thank you to those who have donated towards our Food Distribution program, in partnership with Hands & Feet Inc, which is supporting 45-50 families each week.

This will be an on-going cost as we now pay $3 per basket distributed per week, to assist Hands and Feet with the costs of collecting, sorting and distributing the food each week.

If you are interested in donating to this program, please put your donation in the bowl at morning tea or in an envelope in the offering bag or transfer your donation directly to our account:

BSB 112 879, account number 428 172 081, please put your name and HF in the reference if possible.

More information about Hands & Feet is in their newsletters on the back notice board, or on their webpage www.handsandfeet.com.au

One of the features of a healthy vital church is hospitality. This encompasses much more than simply offering someone a cup to tea or inviting them to dinner. Hospitality begins with a warm and genuine welcome.

Many of you have told me that when you first walked in to our church you felt at home because of the welcome you received. Someone last week reflected back to me that our partnership with Hands and Feet on Wednesday morning has also become a safe space where people find a welcoming congregation and group of volunteers.

Just in case we are all getting complacent at being a welcoming church, which can happen when you have been so good at it, below is an exert from Insights, the quarterly magazine of the Uniting Church.

Nine steps to becoming a welcoming congregation
(Article from Insights – February 2010)

1. You only get one chance to make that first impression. Make it a good one!

2. Treat visitors as honoured guests, newcomers are opportunities for us to express Christ's love.

3. Remember that the environment and the people are strange to newcomers. They may be feeling very apprehensive especially if they come to morning tea/supper after church.

4. Members must go out of their way to speak with visitors. Be prepared to chat with them for quite some time. Look after them, and introduce them around. The brief "Hello, nice to see you" is not enough. Don't leave them stranded.

5. Take the newcomer at their pace. Be warm but not pushy.

6. Wear your name tag – you might know everyone, but visitors don't.

7. Don't leave it all to someone else – the minister, the elders etc. If everyone leaves it to someone else, your visitor will be left unwelcomed.

8. The warm welcome is just the start. Make sure you continue on in days and weeks to come.

9. Remember that people visit churches for all sorts of reasons, but they stay mainly for one reason – relationships.

May you welcome the stranger because you see in them the face of Christ (Matthew 25:31-40). **Amen.**   **- Rev Gail**