

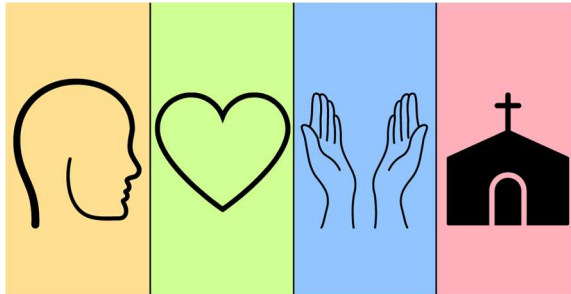


Helping people take the next step toward Jesus

Welcome

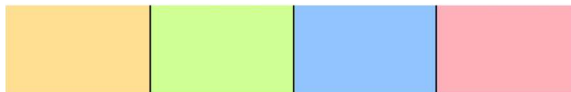
GATHERED WORSHIP BOOKLET

Sunday 21st May 2023



HEAD, HEART, HANDS &
HOLY WORSHIP

2023



Partnering in the Gospel

Luke 21: 1-4, Genesis 14 : 18-20, Leviticus 27:30-32

wpcrc.org.au

We're so glad you are with us today!

Wonga Park CRC is a church that is committed to helping people grow in their faith, one step at a time. We believe people do this by encountering God in His living word, through prayer, and in community with other believers.

During our service, most weeks, we share in a discussion time after the Sermon. This is one way we can allow the message to penetrate our hearts and encourage one another with what we have heard. Please feel free to just listen to the discussion in your group should you feel uncomfortable to share.

We encourage you to take notes in the place provided, to reflect on what God has been saying to you, and to discuss it with your family, friends and children.

We have a cry room off to the side of the church for parents with infants and a designated colouring-in space for young children at the rear of the auditorium. During School term we also run a Sunday School for primary school aged children.

We would love to meet and connect with you, so please fill in your details on the back of this booklet, place it in the offering bag and one of our team will contact you.

Please stay after the service and join us for coffee and fellowship.

Prayer

We have several places in our worship service where we pray. If you have a prayer request, please fill in your request with your details (if you would like us to contact you) on the last page of this booklet, and place it in the offering bag. Our prayer team will pray for your request.

Order of service

Call to Worship - Welcome

Song - Mighty to Save—ccli4591782

Lord's Supper

Song - Behold the Lamb—ccli5003372

Church strategy update

Children's Talk - JD Steenkamp

Offerings - Harry Berends

Reflection Song during offerings - Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing—ccli108389

Prayer over Offerings- Harry Berends

Children go to Sunday School

Announcements - Harry Berends

Congregational Prayer - Harry Berends

Song - Show me your ways—ccli1675024

Scripture Reading - Stephen Saul

Scripture: Luke 21:1-4, Genesis 14:18-20, Leviticus 27:30-32 (CSB)

Sermon - Partnering in the Gospel

Sermon Discussion / Reflection time

Close of service – Invitation

Benediction

Song - Holy Spirit—ccli 4779872

Today Pastor Chris Pretorius will be preaching.

Duty Elder : Harry Berends

Sermon Title : His Love Endures Forever

**Readings : Luke 21:1-4, Genesis 14:18-20, Leviticus 27:30
-32(CSB)**

Sermon Notes -

Discussion Questions

1. In Genesis 14:18-20, what motivated Abraham to give a tenth of his plunder to Melchizedek? What can we learn from his example?
2. In Luke 21:1-4, why did Jesus commend the widow's offering above all the others, even though it was the smallest amount given? How does this challenge our views of generosity and sacrifice?
3. How can we encourage each other as a congregation in the practice of biblical tithing and generosity? Are there specific steps we can take as a community?
4. How did the practice of tithing support the Levites and the temple in the Old Testament? What role does tithing play in supporting the church and its ministries today?
5. How does understanding the biblical foundation of tithing and giving impact your personal approach to stewardship?
6. How can we cultivate a spirit of generosity, not just in our finances, but in our time and talents as well?
7. How does giving out of our poverty, like the widow in Luke 21, differ from giving out of our wealth? What might this look like in a modern context?
8. Discuss the principle of "firstfruits" in the Old Testament. How does this apply to our giving today?
9. How can the act of giving deepen our relationship with God and our faith in His provision?
10. In what ways does generous and sacrificial giving contribute to the mission and vision of our church?

“Let us never forget to pray. God lives. He is near. He is real. He is not only aware of us but cares for us. He is our Father. He is accessible to all who will seek Him.”

Gordon B. Hinckley

As we go into the coming week let us daily pray;
That the Lord will be our comfort even through our darkest
times knowing that his love never fails.

May Your faithful love comfort me as You promised Your servant. (Psalm 119:76 HCSB)

Give praise and thanks to our heavenly Father whose loving hand is always there to pick us up when we fall, to comfort us when we grieve and to support us when we feel too weak to stand.

Please continue to uphold Johann and the Schachtner family before the Lord in their time of deep grief and mourning.

Give thanks to our heavenly Father that Heather Linde is now cancer free and that she is improving every day.

Pray for our congregation that the Lord will provide us with all we need to fulfil the tasks he asks of us so that we may bring glory to his holy Name.

Please pray for our nation that the sinful practices now enshrined in law will not be forced on our children but that God will protect them.

Please pray for our brothers and sisters in India:

“The violence that is taking place in front of our eyes is unexplainable. We cannot stop crying. May the LORD save His people.” – Richard*, Meitei believer.

On May 3, the tensions between the Kuki tribe (who are majority Christian) and the majority-Hindu Meitei people in Manipur State, Northeast India, escalated into violence.

The community-wide rioting led to the burning of more than 230 churches and the deaths of more than 60 believers.

Tensions have been brewing between these two groups for decades. But the catalyst for the most recent violence was Manipur's pro-Hindu government deciding to give the Meitei people additional land and benefits, coupled with the eviction of the Christian Kuki's from their ancestral land.

Since the fighting escalated, believers have been beaten, threatened, visited by extremists, and forced to renounce their faith. Now, thousands of believers have been displaced and young men are being prepared to fight—the ethnic tensions have been used by Hindu extremists to further their pro-Hindu agenda, and Open Doors local partners say Northeast India is “on the brink of civil war.”

Christians from both the Meitei and Kuki side have left their homes and are being forced to renounce their faith and accept Hinduism. Even two weeks after the burning of churches on May 3, Open Doors local partners report that the Arambai Tenggol extremist group is actively searching for Christian leaders and pastors. Local believers say the Arambai Tenggol are seeking to kill the leaders. Many Christians from the majority Hindu Meitei group are being forced to reconvert to Hinduism. Though some of the Kuki have been able to return to their tribal land, the believers among the Meitei are still facing attacks.

Due to the sensitive situation, even Open Doors local partners have faced tremendous loss and are themselves seeking shelter in refugee camps. Many believers are also still hiding in hill areas and border areas.

"Meitei Christians have been affected more during the riot. Our believer brothers have stood strong even though we are facing this ongoing situation. Many churches were burned in front of us, and it has been very difficult to see this unfold before us. We want to be strong. Pray that God helps us." - Viren*, Meitei believer

"It is very hard to explain the situation of our land. I believe God is protecting us and will protect. Most believers are in trauma. We need churches' prayers. Please pray for us. Pray for the situation and pray for believers here." - Kuber*, Kuki believer

Open Doors



NEXT PRAYER MEETING

Tuesday 23rd May–7.30 pm at Church



PLEASE JOIN US FOR A
CELEBRATION OF LIFE
IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Martie Schachtner



TUESDAY, 23 MAY | 2PM

WE WILL BE GATHERING TO SHARE OUR FAVOURITE MEMORIES
OF OUR DEAREST WIFE, MUM AND GRANDMOTHER

Wonga Park Christian Reformed Church
251 Yarra Rd, Wonga Park VIC 3115



Giving– Our giving is an act of Worship

In our church we have two offerings every Sunday. The first goes toward the ministry of this congregation.

The second offering goes toward various Christian causes. This week our second offering will go towards the work of our Deacons.

If you would like to support this work you can do so by in Church giving–Simply add your offering to the bag or by bank transfer - details

BSB 063 167 ACC 1015 8356

If using bank transfer please indicate whether it is for the first offering "Sun 1" or second offering "Sun 2" in the reference line. Or you can give online via our Church app:

<https://wpcrc.org.au/give>

SECOND OFFERING–DEACONS

Our Deacons help to serve our church and the wider community both practically and financially. Financial gifts for the Deacons are always appreciated and will go towards supporting people in and outside of our congregation such as The Dining Room Mission.

Our Deacons also contributed \$500.00 towards the Solomon Islands Work Group Mission's request for Bibles earlier this year.

Check out the recent update from SWIM and photos on the noticeboard next to the kitchen window.

Church Council Abridged Minutes

May 2023

Meeting on 9 May 2023 at 8.00pm

<p>Attendance and Apologies Attending: Chris, Harry, Neil, Peter. Apologies: Herman, Martin & Michelle</p>
<p>Pastor Chris opened the meeting with Scripture – Matthew 5 “do not worry about...” Pastor Chris led all in a brief time of prayer</p>
<p>Important and/or Pressing Topics</p>
<p>Worship committee to be formed to review the Order of Service on a regular basis. Electrical switchboard Session approved the Facilities Management Committee’s request to proceed with the urgent electrical / switchboard work for safety purposes. The outside lighting will also be investigated.</p>
<p>Time was spent praying for each other</p>
<p>Church Administration</p>
<p>Chris will be meeting a new family this next month. From the Classis minutes, Chris has been asked to lead the ordination service for Andy at One Hope on 4th June at 3pm.</p>
<p>CHILD SAFE - No Child safe issues have occurred or been brought to our attention this past month</p>
<p>Selah Lords Supper table was marked by candles – Isaac has been asked to fix the damage to the table. Martie attended via campervan. One or two newish couples attended.</p>
<p>Engaging Online reach continues to be surprisingly good. We receive 100+ non-bot visits to our sites daily, and quite a number of people subscribe to our sermons.</p>
<p>Ministry Portfolios</p>
<p>Deacons Annemarie will take a lead role on the more administrative side. Thankful for the church’s support for the biscuit bake. Annemarie & Dale will do Lord’s Supper in May.</p>
<p>Finances: General Discussion was had regarding Church finances. Session will present to the congregation an updated finance report in the near future</p>
<p>A time of Prayer was had at the conclusion of the meeting for things discussed.</p>

FINANCES

Overview

3rd Quarter Financial Update - April

Income

Since January we have seen some improvement in income received from first collection and offerings, however the variance against the approved budget income remains significant (avg. - \$7,200 per month)

Expenses

Our expenses within the 3rd quarter remained in-line with our approved budget and notable expenses were our quarterly ministry share to the CRCA of \$2979 and ATO fees of \$3109.

General

Our income have stabilised at around \$40,000 per quarter, however our budgeted expenses, approved by members, averages at \$50,600 per quarter. This variance has resulted in a year-to-date deficit of \$37,800. This deficit has eroded our provisions to critically low levels (\$20,000) and if the income deficit against budgeted expenses continues, our cashflow will be overdrawn in September this year.

We completed the FY22 financial review with the auditors in March and the draft will be shared with members.

If you have concerns about your budget please have a look at the CAP site <https://capaust.org/get-help/budget-help/> or reach out to Neil Bester or myself to run you through CAP's budgeting tools.

Members are encourage to visit the Victorian Energy Compare website to receive \$250.
<https://compare.energy.vic.gov.au/>

Profit and Loss

Christian Reformed Church of Wonga Park For the 10 months ended 30 April 2023

JUL 2022-APR 2023

Trading Income

Hall Rental	3,059
Offerings & Pledges	104,223
Other Income	13,628
Sunday Collections	33,488
Total Trading Income	154,398

Gross Profit

154,398

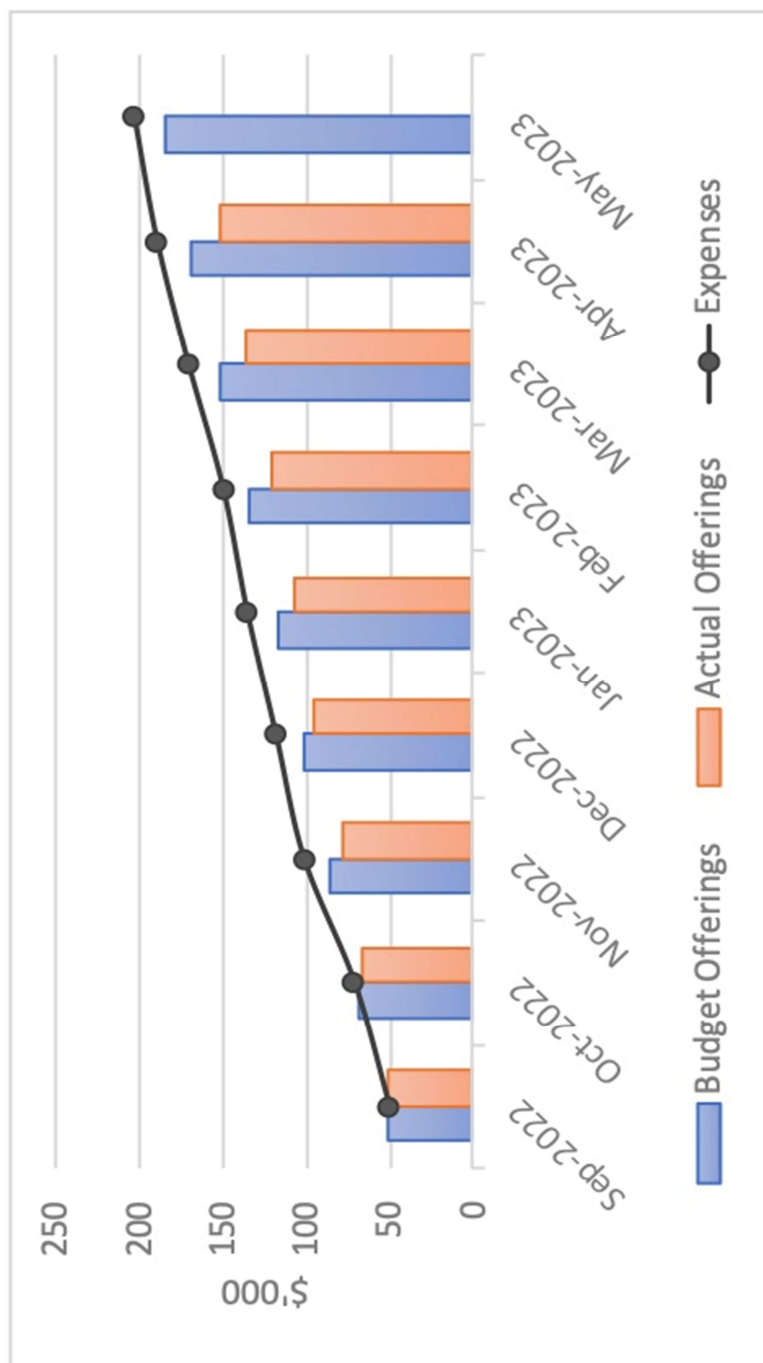
Operating Expenses

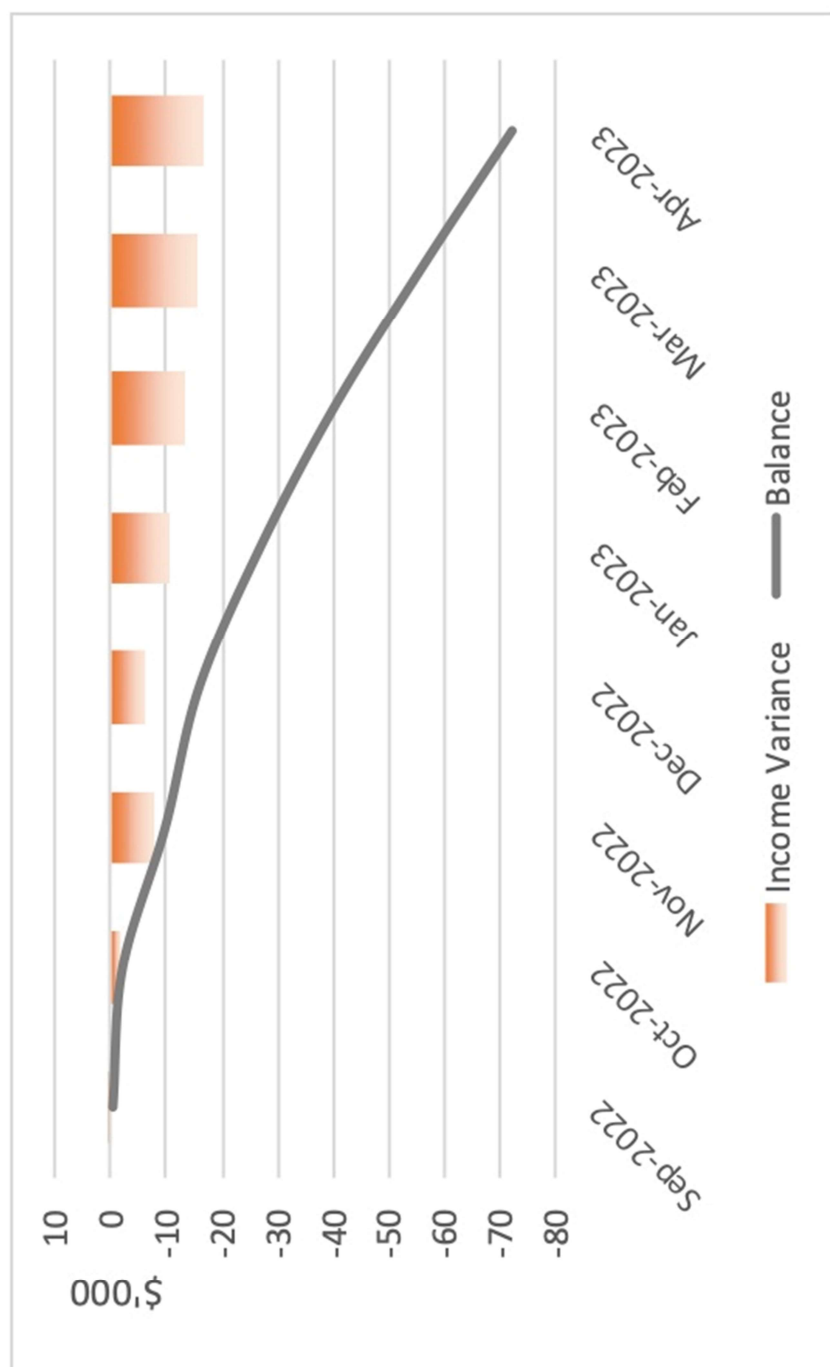
Audit Fees	7,690
Bank Fees & Charges	44
Cleaning & Cleaning Supplies	300
Computer Services & Website	2,293
Consulting & Accounting	719
Electricity & Power	3,130
Entertainment & Catering	1,309
Gifts, Books & Flowers	102
Income Tax Expense	7,532
Insurance	13,129
Ministry - Kids Hope	663
Ministry - Sunday School Jnr	37
Ministry - Young Adults	632
Ministry - Youth	143
Ministry Groups	1,058
Ministry Share	5,958
Music & Sound	1,734
Postage, Printing and Stationary	3,518
Repairs and Maintenance	1,532
Rates & Land Taxes	731
Salaries and Wages	113,176
Seminars, conferences & PD	564
Subscriptions	252
Sundry Expenses	9,442
Superannuation	10,201
Telephone	130
Vine Project	2,400
Water Charges	943
Workcover	463
Total Operating Expenses	189,825

Net Profit

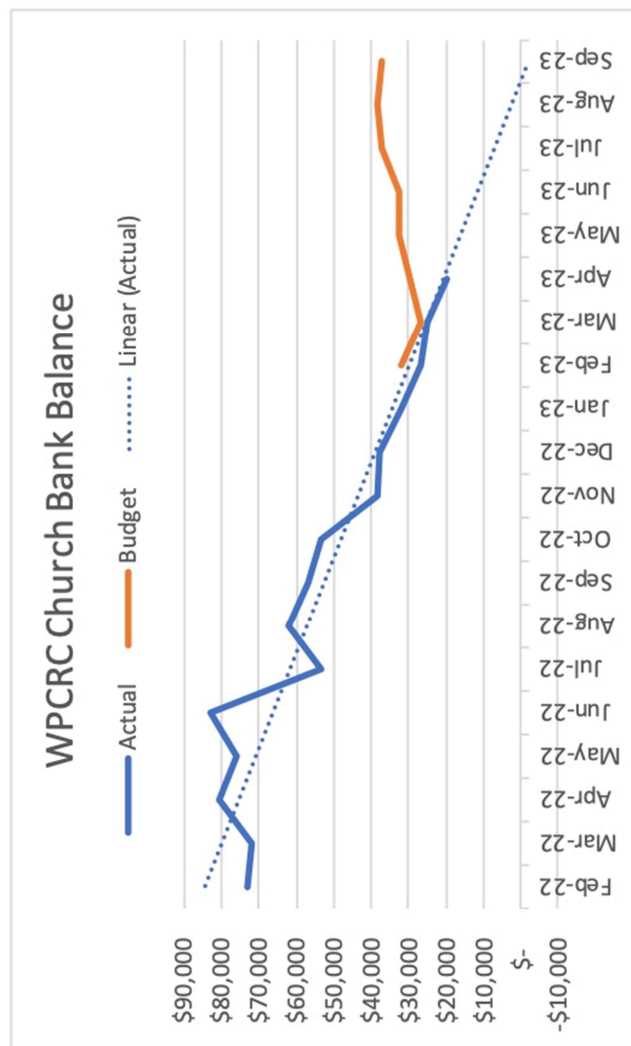
(35,426)

Cumulative Income and Expenses with Monthly Variance and Running Balance





Cash Position



Orange line is/was projected bank balance if we are to achieve budget for the remainder of the year
Dotted line a linear progression of actual bank balance

AGM Cost Summary

The cost summary below presented at the last AGM provided an indication of the costs to run a worship service, based on the budget that was approved by members and an assumption of 100 members contributing.

Year to date the average received remains at \$30.60, similar to FY21/23 levels.

 AVERAGE COSTS / OFFERINGS TO ACHIEVE BUDGET		
	FY21/22	FY22/23
Average Cost per Worship Service (assuming 54)	\$3,618	\$3,764
Average Cost per Service per 100 members	\$36.18	\$37.65
Actuals Average Offerings per Service per 100 members	\$30.63	
Difference to Balance Cost	\$5.55	\$7.02



MAY/JUNE

22nd May - Ruan Bester	23rd May - Danie Uys
27th May - Herman Linde	29th May - Hannes van der Walt
3rd June - Chris Fourie	8th June - Rommie Chapman
11th June - Thinus du Plessis	14th June - Pieter Viljoen
15th June - Annemarie Van Zyl	16th June - Martin Van Zyl
17th June - Rhoda Barnard	24th June -Tanya Organtzoglou



Coffee Roster

Today : Herman Linde & Nelleke Arnold
Sunday 28th May– Isaac & Michelle O

Contact

If you would like further information about our Church or anything you have heard today please contact

Pastor Chris Pretorius 0423 889 913 or our

Youth Worker (Intern) - Lauren Devenish 0488 453 834 or our
Church Administrator–Michelle 0488 777 517

You can find a full list of Contacts , Growth Group information as well as news and information about what's happening in our Church community posted on our Bulletin Board in the Church Foyer.

What's Happening at Church



Sunday 21st May

Worship Service 10am (in person and online)



Friday 26th May

Super Dash Youth/Parents Group - 7.30pm



Tuesday 23rd May

Prayer meeting - 7.30 pm at Church



Sunday 28th May

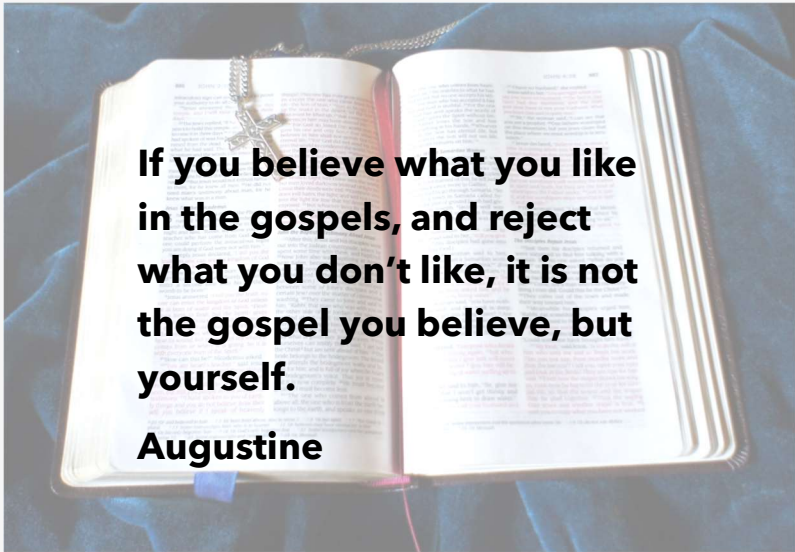
Worship Service 10am (in person and online)

The Dining Room Mission

The Deacons are very thankful for our faithful cooks and servers at the Dining Room Mission every month. Our next opportunity to cook and serve is on Tuesday the 23rd May . If you would like to be involved in any way this month, please have a chat with Joy van Veen



Thank you for joining us today



**If you believe what you like
in the gospels, and reject
what you don't like, it is not
the gospel you believe, but
yourself.**

Augustine

Connect with us

Your name :

Contact number :

Contact email :

Prayer Requests :