



WONGA PARK & MERNDA REFORMED CHURCH NEWSLETTER

26 July 2026



This Week's Service:

Preacher:

Chris Pretorius

Elder on duty:

Peter Williams

Prayer Leader:

Herman Linde

Bible text:

Jonah 2

Sermon Topic:

Finding God at the
bottom

Bible Reader:

Mila

Children's Talk:

Sarah

Coffee:

van Gent Family

Giving

Today's

Second Offering:
World Transform

Year to June Budgeted
giving:

\$216,310

Actual (June):

\$218,410

Last week I had the privilege of being away at the State Youth Camp, where I was preaching through the book of Ephesians. It was a wonderful event, made even more significant by the fact that it was the first youth camp of its kind in our state for more than 25 years.

It was a great joy to see young people coming together from churches all around the state.

Many of them had not met before, yet over the course of the camp they were able to worship together, learn together, and build friendships with others who share their faith. It was especially encouraging to see the Chinese Reformed Church leading the way in being involved in the life of our denomination. Their participation was a real blessing to the camp and a reminder of the richness of Christ's church.

The camp was held at the Baptist camp in Anglesea. It was not a particularly large venue, but that actually helped create a well-connected atmosphere. Everyone was able to spend time together, and there was a strong sense of community throughout the weekend. God willing, this state camp will continue to take place every two years, in the alternate year to the National Youth Convention.

Events like these provide a wonderful opportunity for people to connect with one another, but they also give us an opportunity to reconnect with God.

We live in a very busy time. Our weeks quickly fill up with work, family responsibilities, school, sport, appointments, meetings, and the many other things that demand our attention. Even good things can leave us feeling tired and distracted. Before long, time with God can become something that is squeezed into the edges of our lives rather than sitting at the centre.

A retreat or camp allows us to step away from the normal routine for a little while. It gives us dedicated time to listen to God's Word, to pray, to worship, and to speak with others who are also seeking to follow Christ. That is a big privilege. Of course, not all of us are able to regularly attend camps or retreats. But perhaps events like these should encourage all of us to think about how we can intentionally make space to be with God. This may mean setting aside an hour, an afternoon, or even a day. It may mean turning off the phone, stepping away from our usual responsibilities, opening God's Word, and taking time to pray. Jesus Himself regularly withdrew from the crowds to pray. If our Lord saw the importance of stepping away from the busyness around Him, then surely we should recognise our own need to do the same.

There is also another important event taking place this week. On Saturday the 25th (so yesterday if you are picking this letter up from church), Sana Raja will sit his final classis examination. Sana has been completing his vicariate, the final placement year in our training for ministry, at our sister church One Hope in Scoresby. We thank God for raising up another minister to serve within our denomination. The church needs faithful people who are willing to proclaim God's Word, care for His people, and serve wherever He sends them. We pray that Sana's examination will go well and that the Lord will bless him as he continues in ministry.

Sana's journey is also an opportunity for each of us to consider where God may be calling us to serve Him. Not everyone is called to ordained ministry, but every Christian is called to serve. God has given each of us gifts, opportunities, relationships, and places in which we can honour Him. Perhaps this week is a good time to step back from the busyness, spend time with God, and ask a simple question: "Lord, where are You calling me to serve?"

THINGS TO PUT IN YOUR CALENDAR



Dates for upcoming services:

2 Aug:

4:00pm - Worship Service

16 Aug:

4:00pm - Worship Service

30 Aug:

4:00pm - Worship Service

VISITING OR NEW TO WONGA PARK OR MERNDA REFORMED CHURCH?

Jenna, our community engagement worker, would love to meet you and answer any questions you have about our Wonga Park church community.

Feel free to contact her on
0403650398.

BOTH CHURCHES

26 July: Baptism of Brendan Ting

4 August: Prayer Meeting

@7:30pm

9 August: Selah evening

29 August: Trivia Night



You are warmly invited to the Women's Morning tea that we are hosting right here at Wonga Park.

The theme for the day is:
"You can make a difference!"

We are excited that we can have Shirley Patterson as our guest speaker.

Saturday 8th of August 10-12

Please scan the below QR code to register:



UPCOMING *Events* JULY



15

**Young Adults Bible
Study**

7:30-9:30PM



29

**Young Adults Bible
Study**

7:30-9:30PM

AUGUST



9

After Church Social

12:00-1:00PM



12

**Young Adults Bible
Study**

7:30-9:30PM



26

**Young Adults Bible
Study**

7:30-9:30PM

TERM 3

SUPERDASH

2026



STATE YOUTH CAMP



Sunday*

STATE YOUTH SERVICE

4 PM @ Location TBC



BIBLE STUDY

Juniors: Bible Timeline

Seniors: Book of Acts

7:30 PM @ Wonga Park CRC



BIBLE STUDY

Juniors: Bible Timeline

Seniors: Book of Acts

7:30 PM @ Wonga Park CRC



Saturday*

CONVENTION FUNDRAISER TRIVIA NIGHT

5:30 PM @ Wonga Park CRC



BIBLE STUDY

Juniors: Bible Timeline

Seniors: Book of Acts

7:30 PM @ Wonga Park CRC



BIBLE STUDY

Juniors: Bible Timeline

Seniors: Book of Acts

7:30 PM @ Wonga Park CRC

FOR MORE INFORMATION SPEAK TO YOUR YOUTH LEADERS

TRIVIA NIGHT

Bring your friends and your brain power
for an unforgettable night of trivia.

FOOD | FELLOWSHIP | FUN

29 AUG, 2026 | 5:30 PM

Wonga Park CRC

FOOD, DRINKS & DESSERTS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT
A SILENT AUCTION WILL ALSO BE HELD DURING THE EVENT

SAUSAGE SIZZLE & BOEREWORS STARTS AT 5:45 PM
TRIVIA STARTS AT 6:45 PM

Register Here



PRAYER POINTS

Personal prayer points

Father, please look upon us with favour as we, your children, come before your holy throne in prayer.

As we go into the coming week let us daily pray;

That the Lord will keep us from words and thoughts that are not pleasing to him but instead bring him joy.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer. (Psalm 19:14 NRSV)

Give praise and thanks to the Lord our God for rejoicing in his people who genuinely seek to walk in obedience to him.

Congregational prayer points

Please pray for Charnice (Michelle's daughter, Gretchen and Chris' granddaughter) that she can find work after her return to South Africa and that she feels the Lord's comfort during this new time of change.

Please continue to pray for Steve and Maralin Miller, especially Maralin as she is struggling with the effects of her illness and the treatment for it.

Please continue to pray for the leadership of our church and that more men may be moved to take up leadership roles.

Please continue to pray for our nation especially those struggling with health, relationship or financial issues, pray that they will turn to the Lord for their answers.

Please pray that the Lord will intervene in world affairs and bring about an awakening so that those with power will seek the good of humanity as determined by God.

International prayer points

Please pray for our brothers and sisters in Egypt.

Egyptian police arrested four Christian men who had been assaulted by a mob during an attack on a Coptic place of worship in Egypt and freed them two days later once they abandoned the complaint they lodged against those who beat them. The attack took place in the Upper Egyptian village of Tal Al-Quiblya in Minya Province, according to the United Kingdom-based religious freedom advocacy group Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW), citing the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (EIPR). A crowd of Muslim residents, most of them women, children and teenagers, reportedly pelted the building with stones while chanting sectarian abuse.

Several Christians suffered injuries. Witnesses on the ground say that the structure and the priest's car had been damaged. Officers arrived rapidly and restored order, though only after taking the four Christian men into custody. Their release came on Friday, conditioned on the withdrawal of their complaint against the attackers. An unknown number of Muslim residents were also arrested.

No permanent church had existed in the village for many years. Believers gathered for prayers and Sunday services in one another's houses in rotation, an arrangement that left some unable to attend regularly because of the travel involved. They eventually converted a building among their homes into a place of worship, doing so with the awareness of security officials as well as their Muslim neighbours. The parish priest, Fr. Pavlos Kamal, warned security officials of incitement and harassment at earlier services, according to CSW, which said no preventive action followed before the violence erupted.

CSW President Mervyn Thomas said his organization is deeply troubled by the newest assault on believers in the region and by the recurring reluctance of officers to intervene before crowds turned violent. "The fact that four victims of violence were detained and were only released upon withdrawing their complaint against their assailants is a lamentable indication of an abiding inequality before the law," Thomas said.

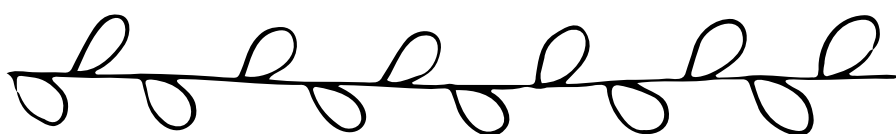
"We call on local and state authorities to ensure that justice is served and urge the Egyptian government to increase efforts to crack down on those responsible for the dangerous rhetoric and hate speech that emboldens extremists and mob groups to attack Christians with impunity." Christians routinely face legal and social pressure in Egypt. Earlier this year, an Egyptian court dismissed a bid to designate Easter as a national holiday. Judges rejected the request on procedural grounds, ruling that the matter lay with the prime minister and not the courts, and left its substance unaddressed.

Sunday counts as a normal workday in Egypt, so believers who take leave for Easter risk forfeiting wages and meeting hostility at their jobs. Pupils and students who skip lessons for the occasion can be penalized academically, according to religious freedom advocacy organization ADF International, which supported the bid.

Last December, the Ministry of Labor allowed Christian employees in the private sector to take Easter leave, while excluding those on the public payroll. That same ruling handed Coptic Christians a larger allocation of paid days than it gave Evangelicals or Catholics. Christians constitute close to a tenth of Egypt's population. The Coptic Church traces its origins to St. Mark's ministry in Alexandria in the first century. The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom has urged that Egypt be added to the State Department's Special Watch List, which marks states that have carried out or tolerated grave abuses of religious freedom. Prosecutors have used the country's blasphemy statutes against people for voicing or defending their beliefs, imposing anything from fines to jail. In January, Augustinos Samaan, a Coptic Christian YouTuber and researcher, was sentenced to five years with hard labour over videos in which he defended his faith. Dozens of comparable prosecutions are before the courts.

Source: CBNNews

Our next prayer meeting will be held on Tuesday the 4th of August at 7.30pm.



OUR GIVING, 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 is for World Transform.

If you would like to support the work of you can do so by in Church giving - simply add your offering to the bag at the back of Church or by bank transfer -

BSB 063-167. A/C 1015-8356

If using bank transfer please indicate whether it is for the first offering "Sun1" or second offering "Sun 2" in the reference line. Or you can give online via our Church app.

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



Another way to make payments is by scanning this QR code.

Growth Groups

If you would like to join one of these groups or find out more, please see either Jenna or Chris.

Rob and Jenna - Tuesday nights 8pm online

Wendy ladies group Thursdays 10am @ church

Chris and Sarah Wednesday fortnightly 8pm

Adri and Alister: Wednesday nights 7:30pm. in person

Herman Linde: Monday nights, 8pm online.



SERMON NOTES

Bible passage:

Date:



Something
that shines
from the
passage



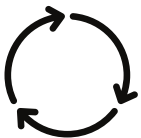
Anything
hard to
understand
or any
questions



Personal
application
for your life



Theme of
passage



How does it
fit with other
passages in
the Bible



Who will you
tell about
what you have
learnt?

GROWTH GROUP QUESTIONS

Growth Group Discussion Questions: Jonah 2:1-10

Read Jonah 2:1-10 together. What words, images, or repeated ideas stand out to you in Jonah's prayer?

1. Jonah describes himself as going down into the deep, surrounded by waters and close to death. What does this language reveal about both his physical situation and his spiritual condition?
2. Jonah says to God, "You cast me into the deep," while also recognising that his own disobedience brought him there. How can we hold together personal responsibility for our sin and confidence in God's sovereign control?
3. Jonah only begins to pray after he has reached the lowest point of his life. Why do people often wait until they are in crisis before turning seriously to God? In what areas might God be calling you to listen before reaching that point?
4. In verse 7 Jonah says, "When my life was fainting away, I remembered the Lord." What do you think it means to "remember the Lord"? What truths about God are especially important to remember during suffering or distress?
5. Jonah's prayer is surprisingly full of thanksgiving, even though he is still inside the fish. How is it possible to thank and worship God before our circumstances have improved?
6. Verse 8 warns that those who cling to "vain idols" forsake the steadfast love available to them. What are some modern idols that can take God's place in our lives? How do these idols promise salvation but ultimately fail us?
7. Jonah acknowledges his sin without blaming the sailors, the storm, or his circumstances. What makes honest confession difficult for us? What is the difference between genuine repentance and simply regretting the consequences of our choices?
8. Jonah declares, "Salvation belongs to the Lord!" How does Jonah's rescue point us toward Jesus' death and resurrection? In what ways is the salvation Jesus gives greater than Jonah's rescue from the sea?
9. Jonah responds to God's mercy by recommitting himself to worship and obedience. Is there a particular sin to confess, idol to abandon, act of obedience to take up, or area of service to which God may be calling you this week?

HELPING HANDS

	26 July	2 Aug	Aug
Preacher	Chris Pretorius	Chris Pretorius	Crosby de Kretser
Elder on Duty	Peter W	Peter W	Kasha
Prayer Leader	Herman L	Peter W	Inge
Music Leader	Nelleke	Inge	Brendina
Children's Talk	Sarah	Joseph	Inge
Bible Reader	Mila	Mari	Armin
Welcoming	Marlene	Wendy	Joy
Sound	Justin	Justin	Nina
Visuals	Isaac	Ene	Salme
Broadcasting	James	Michael	Christo
Coffee	van Gent Family	Martiens & Retha van Staden	Hennie & Mia van Wyk



BIRTHDAYS

Suzanne Theron	30 July
Lynette Dyer	31 July
Josh Organtzoglou	1 Aug
Neil Bester	8 Aug
Anne Keegal	11 Aug
Telise Steenkamp	11 Aug



Who Should I Contact?

Pastor:	Chris Pretorius	pastor@wpcrc.org.au
Chairman of Session:	Peter Williams	session@wpcrc.org.au
Community Engagement:	Jenna Miller	jenna@wpcrc.org.au
Church Administration:	Chris Pretorius	admin@wpcrc.org.au
Deacons:	Leana van Gent	deacons@wpcrc.org.au
Music Ministry:	Mia van Wyk	miavwyk@gmail.com
Sound & Visuals:	Michael van der Merwe	vdmichael02@gmail.com
Children's Talk:	Janette Fernando	janettefernando@iprimus.com.au
Sunday School:	Ilze Kellerman	admin@wpcrc.org.au
Youth Group:	Kasha Schubert	youth@wpcrc.org.au
Young Adults:	Michael van der Merwe	vdmichael02@gmail.com
Growth Groups:	Chris Pretorius	pastor@wpcrc.org.au
Prayer Chain:	Herman Linde	herman.linde@live.com.au
Facilities & Maintenance:		deacons@wpcrc.org.au
Newsletter:	Leana van Gent	newsletter@wpcrc.org.au

* To contact telephonically please refer to the directory in the Church app