

Sunday 28 September 2025



SERMON TOPIC: Unity in the family of God
BIBLE TEXT: Ephesians 4:1-6
PREACHER: Chris Pretorius
ELDER ON DUTY: Peter Williams
OFFERINGS:
1st Collection: The work of the Church
2nd Collection: Ministry Formation

What is Baptism?

Baptism is one of the sacraments that Jesus gave to His church, alongside the Lord's Supper. We understand it to be a sign and seal of God's covenant promises. In baptism, God confirms His word to us in visible form: just as water washes the body, so Christ's blood and Spirit cleanse us from sin.

The Heidelberg Catechism asks, "How does holy baptism remind and assure you that Christ's one sacrifice on the cross benefits you?" The answer: through baptism, God assures us that He washes away our sins, as certainly as water washes dirt from the body. Baptism points us away from ourselves to Christ, who has done everything necessary for our salvation.

Why Do We Baptise Infants?

Some people wonder why Reformed churches baptise the children of believers. After all, the New Testament contains examples of adults being baptised upon their profession of faith. Should we not wait until children can make that same profession?

Here, it is important to remember that baptism in the larger story of God's covenant dealings with His people. In the Old Testament, God gave circumcision as the covenant sign, to be applied to infants as well as adults. This was not because infants have the capacity to understand what was happening, but because God's promises included them. When Peter preaches at Pentecost, he declares: "The promise is for you and your children" (Acts 2:39). Baptism, which replaces circumcision as the covenant sign, continues to include the children of believers.

Infant baptism does not presume that every baptised child is automatically regenerate or saved. Rather, it declares that they belong to the visible church, that God's promises are extended to them, and that they are to be raised in faith, looking to Christ alone. As they grow, they are called to embrace those promises personally through repentance and belief.

What Baptism Is Not

It is also important to be clear on what baptism is not. Baptism does not work automatically, as if the water itself saves. Theologically that is called "Baptismal Regeneration", but we don't believe in that. Faith is what saves, not water. So Baptism does not replace the need for faith. Someone once described it this way: Baptism without faith is like a sealed letter never opened. The promises are real, but they must be received.

Our Responsibility

When we present our children for baptism, we do so in faith, trusting God's covenant word. So parents and the church family also take on a responsibility. We are to teach these children the gospel, to pray for them, and to model the Christian life before them. Baptism reminds us not only of God's promises but also of our calling to nurture the next generation in the Lord.

So today as we baptise Rebekah we take part in something very special. It is a visible and physical sign and seal of God's grace. The church gives this sign to Rebekah to show that she is part of the visible church, that God has put her in the church family, and that he therefore has made a claim on her as a covenant child.

So let us as church family then treasure her baptism and commit to teaching her as a covenant child to know and love the God who first loved us.

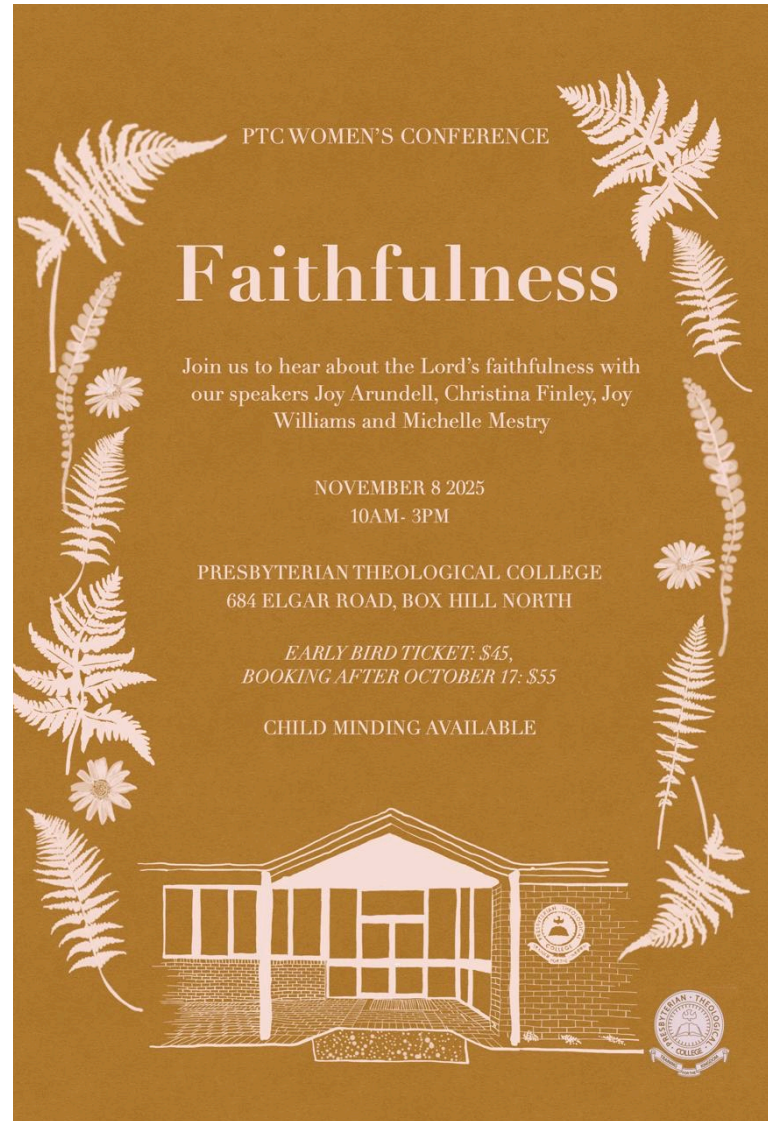
The PTC Women's Conference 2025, happening soon. I believe this event would interest a number of you, and it could be a wonderful opportunity for personal spiritual growth, reflection, and encouragement.

Why I think you might want to go:

1) It's always great to take dedicated time out to grow in understanding of God, of ourselves, and how we live out faith in everyday life. This will give you the space to do that with other likeminded women.

2) Joy Williams will be one of the key speakers. I know Joy personally, and she is a wonderful lady with a deep heart for the Lord. She is the wife of Martin Williams (lecturer at RTC), a strong Christian mother, and co-editor/author of the children's book John Calvin's Illustrated Institutes Book 1: Knowing God and Knowing Ourselves (Chapters 1-5).

3) It will be a great encouragement for the other women who attend as well.



Details

WHAT: PTC Women's Conference 2025

WHEN: Saturday 8th November from 10:00am - 3:00pm

WHERE: 684 Elgar Rd, Box Hill North, VIC 3129

FOR WHO: Women who desire growth, fellowship, encouragement

SPEAKERS:

Joy Arundell - God is faithful

Christina Finley - When God doesn't feel faithful

WORKSHOPS:

Faithfulness in the home with Joy Williams

Faithfulness in the workplace with Michelle Mestry

How to register: <https://ptc.edu.au/event/ptc-womens-conference-2025/>

Please also let Jenna know if you are want to go, because we would love to carpool together!

Podcast series: Neurodivergence and the Christian Life

Centre for Christian Living is an initiative of Moore Theological College, which has a theological basis very similar to CRCA. They've produced a well-researched series of 3 1-hour podcasts titled "Neurodivergence and the Christian Life". The aim is twofold: (i) to support neurodivergent Christians, and (ii) to give insight into neurodivergence to parents, friends, ministry leaders and others.

Neurodivergence is where a person processes information, learns or behaves differently to the general population. It includes autism spectrum, ADHD, dyslexia, etc, although the podcasts focus on autism and ADHD. Together these two affect up to 10% of children and between 3% and 6% of adults in Australia. So it's relevant to people in our church, in your workplace or school, and wherever you meet people.

The first podcast explores the experiences of a range of neurodiverse people, to give an understanding of the range of different ways it's experienced. Part 2 takes a Biblical perspective. And with that as a basis, Part 3 looks at how neurodivergence affects churches and lives and families as Christians.

Podcasts are on CCL's website <https://ccl.moore.edu.au/> and also on Spotify: search "Centre for Christian Living" and you'll see the 3 podcasts listed. For those who prefer to read than listen, Transcripts are here:

<https://ccl.moore.edu.au/resources/podcast-episode-143/>

<https://ccl.moore.edu.au/resources/podcast-episode-144/>

<https://ccl.moore.edu.au/resources/podcast-episode-145/>

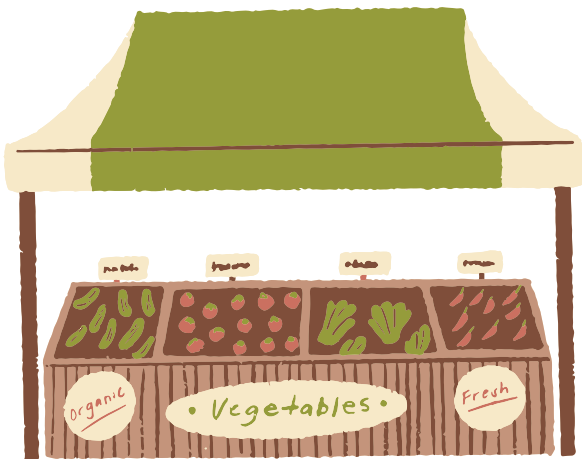


ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dining room mission **HOW TO HELP**

The next Dining room mission is Tuesday 23 September.

If you would like to contribute with a cooked meal or pantry staples
please contact Joy van Veen



An Organic Fruit and Veggie co op runs from
our church hall every second Thursday. You
are welcome to stop by to purchase fresh
fruits and veggies.

Next date: 25 September
9:30 - 12:30 & 16:00 - 18:00

What's happening in Kupang?

You are invited to join us in on **Sunday 28th Sept.** to **Timor-L**
learn more about our Kupang project.

Roger and Janette Fernando, who ran a seminar at the
school, will be sharing their amazing experience and
they will be joined by Daniel Bradbury, who teaches
Indonesian studies at MECS.

Come one, come all. RSVP to Harry on 0412 185 556 by
25th to confirm the number of chairs we need!

Where: 1028 Mt Dandenong Tourist Road, Montrose
Time: 7:00 pm

Please bring a plate to share
Harry and Johanna Vanderveen

TERM 4 **2025**

SUPERDASH

17 OCT	Q&A NIGHT 7: 30 PM @ PRETORIUS HOME
26 OCT	STATE YOUTH SERVICE 5 PM @ ONE HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH
31 OCT	NO SUPERDASH DUE TO MELBOURNE CUP HOLIDAY (4 TH OF NOV)
7 NOV	BIBLE STUDY: MARK 7: 30 PM @ WONGA PARK CRC
21 NOV	BIBLE STUDY: MARK 7: 30 PM @ WONGA PARK CRC
5 DEC	SOCIAL: CHURCH SLEEPOVER 7: 30 PM @ WONGA PARK CRC TIL 6 TH 12 PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION SPEAK TO YOUR YOUTH LEADERS

Update from one of the Missionaries we support



Partner Field Report

I am Ramesh Chandra Ahari from Udaipur district of Rajasthan State. I belong to the Bhil community and working among my own people.

Family:

My wife's name is Nirma Devi. God has blessed us with four children. Elder son Praveen is 13 years old, he is studying in 8th Standard; Second is my daughter Asha, she is 10 years old, studying in 5th Standard; Third is my son Deepak, he is 9 years old, studying in 4th Standard; Fourth is my daughter Payal, she is 5 years old, studying in 1st Standard. Please continue to pray for my family, good health and for children's education.



Impacts in my ministry:

Praise God! By the grace of our Lord, we have added 16 new believers in to our congregations, last year. I have two worship groups in Leeladi and Kakad Mala villages. There are more than 50 believers coming together for Sunday worship service in both the places. Also, I am taking care of two prayer groups in Upli Magri and Jamun villages.

Target for 2025

- I want to share the good news to 40 new people and to bring at least 25 to faith.
- I have plan for our congregation next year to organize women's meeting and family seminar for the spiritual growth of my congregation.

Prayer and Praising Points:

- The training for our elders was extremely beneficial for the congregation. Two of my committee members participated, and the teaching had a positive impact on their lives, enabling them to implement what they learned within the congregation.
- Persecution from other community people is more active in my outreach villages. Please pray that our Lord has to change the situation to preach the gospel without any hindrance.
- Please pray for my outreach villages to reach more souls and establish the kingdom of our Lord.

Your faithful prayers and financial support help me continue working in the Kingdom through IndiWay. Please know that I too pray for you, my partner. Thank you again for your partnership in the ministry in Rajasthan.



Ben Peletier

Publicity Officer

0400784323
indiway@crca.org.au



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 the Ministry Formation - our denomination's ministry development work.

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>

This week's **PRAYER POINTS**

Prayer can never be in excess. Charles Spurgeon

Personal **PRAYER POINTS**

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

That we will make every effort to honour our promise to the children in our church family and seek to encourage them as they grow in the Lord by loving them as Jesus did.

He took a child, had him stand among them, and taking him in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one little child such as this in my name welcomes me. And whoever welcomes me does not welcome me, but him who sent me." (Mark 9:36-37 CSB)

Give praise and thanks to the Lord our God for our children and his assurance that his promises are for them just as they are for us.

Let us rejoice with Pieter and Rachel Viljoen as we witness the baptism of little Rebecca.

Congregational PRAYER POINTS

Please continue to pray for Steve and Maralin Miller, pray that the Lord will grant them both healing from the devastating illnesses they suffer and that he will be their comfort.

Please pray for our children and young people as they enjoy their holidays before they start their last term for the year, pray especially for year twelve students that they will cope well with the pressures they face leading up to their VCE.

Please continue to pray for new elders, pray that the Lord will graciously reveal to us all those whom he chooses to take on this office.

Local & Global PRAYER POINTS

Please pray for our governments, especially those among our politicians who profess Jesus as Lord that they will be courageous in standing up for that which is right and pleasing in God's sight.

Pray for world leaders that they will seek to do what is right for all peoples and nations and not just their own agendas.

Please pray for our brothers and sisters in Syria.

Christians from six churches in Sweida, southern Syria, have been forced to flee in recent weeks as violence and shortages grip the governorate. Church minister Tony Boutros said his congregation is sheltering nearly 170 displaced people despite lacking water and electricity. "We are truly besieged, and people are struggling to secure their daily essentials," he warned.

Five churches were destroyed in July's clashes, leaving deep scars on the community. Amid heavy gunfire, even non-Christians sought refuge inside Saint Philip's Church, crying, "We are coming to Jesus, Father. We are leaving ourselves with you." Despite fatigue and fear, Boutros insists the plea of Syria's Christians remains the same: the restoration of dignity as the "image of God on Earth", reflecting both their humanity and divine calling.

A Barnabas Aid contact on the ground explained, "We must pray for a better future for our people, particularly for the Christians, and for believers specifically." Barnabas Aid's regional expert added, "As Syria's Christian communities continue to suffer persecution, displacement, and loss, their faith remains a source of strength. "The words of the psalmist speak powerfully into their struggle: 'God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble' (Psalm 46:1)."

The Sweida crisis is part of a wider pattern of targeted attacks against Syria's Christians. In southern Syria, a pastor was among at least 12 believers, possibly as many as 20, killed by Islamists loyal to the Damascus government in July 2025. That attack came amid a surge of sectarian violence that claimed more than 1,120 lives across Sweida province in just over a week. On 22 June, at least 25 worshippers were killed and more than 60 injured when an Islamist suicide bomber struck Mar Elias Church in Damascus during evening prayers. Just two days later, mourners gathered for funerals, voicing grief and anger at the authorities' failure to protect them. It was the deadliest assault on Christians since the new government, headed by interim president Ahmed al-Sharaa, took power in December 2024.

Al-Sharaa, also known as Abu Mohammad al-Jolani, is the leader of Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), a designated terrorist organisation that was formerly affiliated to Al Qaeda. More recently, al-Sharaa has sought to present himself as a moderate.

Our next prayer meeting will be held on Tuesday the 7th of October at 7.30pm.

NOTES

Bible passage: _____

Date: _____



Something
that shines
from the
passage



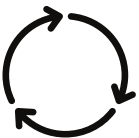
Anything
hard to
understand
or any
questions



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?

[illegible]

Discussion QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean to “walk worthy of the calling” we have received? How would you explain that in your own words?
2. Which of Paul’s three “how” qualities (humility/gentleness, patience/love, eagerness for unity) do you think is most challenging for us as a church?
3. Why does Paul root our unity in the one Spirit, one Lord, and one Father?
4. Paul urges rather than commands here. How does that shape the way we hear his words? Do you experience this more as encouragement or obligation?
5. How would you describe the difference between humility and gentleness? What would it look like if our church practiced these more consistently?
6. Why do you think patience and bearing with one another in love are necessary for unity in the church? Can you share an example where you’ve experienced this?
7. “Eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit” (v. 3) – what’s the difference between creating unity and maintaining unity? Why does that matter?
8. Verses 4–6 show unity grounded in the Trinity. How does seeing Father, Son, and Spirit together strengthen our motivation to preserve unity?
9. Baptism is part of the “one Lord, one faith, one baptism.” How does remembering your baptism, or witnessing one, encourage you to walk worthy of your calling?
10. Think about our church family: where are we most “walking worthy” of our calling, and where do we most need to grow?

Helping HANDS

	28 September	5 October	12 October
Preacher	Chris Pretorius	Herman Linde	Chris Pretorius
Elder on Duty	Peter W	Martin	Jacob
Prayer Leader	Herman D	Martin	Jacob
Music Leader	Mia	Brendina	Mia
Children's Talk	Roger	Inge	Janette
Bible Reader	Lynette	Mila	Lorensz
Sound	Nic	Nina	Cassie
Visuals	Ene	Salme	Isaac
Broadcasting	Pieter	Christo	James
Sunday School	No Sunday School	TBC	TBC
Coffee	Rob & Jenna Miller	Van Gent Family	Herman and Lynette Dyer

Upcoming BIRTHDAYS



**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

September

27 - Inge Theron
30 - Philip Nel

October

01 - Brady Miller
04 - Kasha Schubert
08 - Michael van der Merwe
15 - Peter Williams
20 - Ava Corney
22 - Adri Bennie
23 - Elise Bezuidenhout
24 - Teddy Pretorius
25 - Lariza Bergh

Who Should I Contact?

Pastor:	Chris Pretorius	0423 889 913	pastor@wpcrc.org.au
Chairman of Session:	Peter Williams	0431 500 006	session@wpcrc.org.au
Community Engagement	Jenna Miller	0403 650 398	jenna@wpcrc.org.au
Church Administrator:	Sarah Pretorius	0409 221 277	admin@wpcrc.org.au
Deacons:	Leana van Gent	0452 334 224	deacons@wpcrc.org.au
Music Ministry:	Mia Van Wyk	0420 817 800	
Sound & Visuals:	Cassie Van Veen	0499 230 872	
Children's Talk:	Sarah Pretorius	0409 221 277	
Sunday School:	Sarah Pretorius	0409 221 277	
Youth Group:	Kasha Schubert	0450 012 177	youth@wpcrc.org.au
Young Adults:	Michael van der Merwe	0456 960 424	
Growth Groups:	Chris Pretorius	0423 889 913	
Prayer Chain:	Herman Linde	0411 069 808	
Facilities & Maintenance:	Dale Reed	0412 216 300	deacons@wpcrc.org.au
Newsletter:	Leana van Gent	0452 334 224	newsletter@wpcrc.org.au

Kids coloring
CORNER

