

WONGA PARK & MERNDA REFORMED CHURCH NEWSLETTER

19 April 2026



ANNOUNCEMENTS

2 May: Working Bee

17 May: Lord's Supper

20 June: State conference Fundraiser: Movie night



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dates for upcoming services:

26 April 4:00pm

10 May 4:00pm

24 May: NO SERVICE

7 June: 4:00pm

MERNDA CHURCH

Updates

It is such a wonderful gift to share this fellowship which is grounded in a shared faith in Jesus Christ.

It is a precious reminder of God's grace and blessings during this exciting time of setting up a new church plant!

We are very thankful that an ideal venue has been found, that meets our needs now and with plenty of room for future growth.



VISITING OR NEW TO WONGA PARK OR MERENDA 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.

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

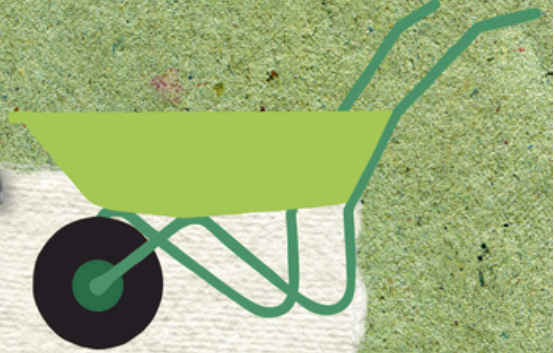
Wendy ladies group Thursdays 10am @ church

Chris and Sarah Wednesday fortnightly 8pm

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

Herman Linde: Monday nights, 8pm online.





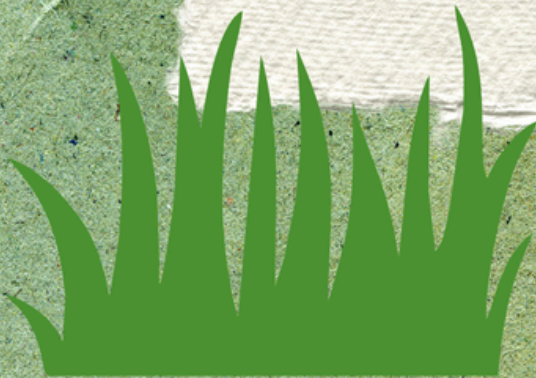
2 MAY

WORKING BEE @ WPCRC

**OUR WONGA PARK CHURCH GROUNDS
NEEDS SOME TLC!**

**JOIN US ON 2 MAY FROM 08:30AM TO
PRUNE BRANCHES, CUT GRASS AND
CLEAN OUR GROUNDS.**

**BRING YOUR RAKES, WHEELBARROWS,
WIPPER SNIPPERS, LAWNMOVERS AND
GLOVES TO HELP CLEAR BRANCHES,
DEAD LEAVES AND CLEAN OUR
PARKING AREAS.**



TERM 2 2026 SUPERDASH



SOCIAL NIGHT

7: 30 PM @ Oz Tenpin Chirnside Park



BIBLE STUDY

Juniors: Bible Timeline

Seniors: Book of Acts

7:30 PM @ Wonga Park CRC



STATE YOUTH SERVICE

4 PM @ Grace CRC (Langwarrin)

Sunday*



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



CONVENTION FUNDRAISER

MOVIE NIGHT

6 PM @ Wonga Park CRC

Saturday*



BIBLE STUDY

Juniors: Bible Timeline

Seniors: Book of Acts

7:30 PM @ Wonga Park CRC

FOR MORE INFORMATION SPEAK TO YOUR YOUTH LEADERS

WONGA PARK CRC PRESENTS

MOVIE NIGHT

FUNDRAISER



SATURDAY
20 JUNE

6 PM

AT WONGA PARK CRC

REGISTER HERE



PURPOSE

All funds raised will help support our youth and young adults attending the upcoming CRCA Convention in WA (Jan 2027).



EVENT SCHEDULE



Date & Time:
25 January, 2026
AT 1:00PM

SOCIAL

MEET AT WONGA PARK
CHRISTIAN REFORMED
CHURCH

Date & Time:
4 February, 2026
AT 7:30PM

BIBLESTUDY

70-72 ENNISMORE
CRESCENT, PARK ORHCARDS

Date & Time:
18 February, 2026
AT 7:30PM

BIBLESTUDY

70-72 ENNISMORE
CRESCENT, PARK ORHCARDS

Date & Time:
4 March, 2026
AT 7:30PM

BIBLESTUDY

70-72 ENNISMORE
CRESCENT, PARK ORHCARDS

Date & Time:
18 March, 2026
AT 7:30PM

BIBLESTUDY

70-72 ENNISMORE
CRESCENT, PARK ORHCARDS

Date & Time:
1 April, 2026
AT 7:30PM

BIBLESTUDY

70-72 ENNISMORE
CRESCENT, PARK ORHCARDS

Date & Time:
15 April, 2026
AT 7:30PM

BIBLESTUDY

70-72 ENNISMORE
CRESCENT, PARK ORHCARDS

Date & Time:
24 April, 2026
AT 7:30PM

SOCIAL

OZ TENPIN CHIRNSIDE PARK



IF YOU'D LIKE TO JOIN OUR YOUNG ADULTS GROUP OR COME ALONG TO ONE OF OUR SOCIAL EVENTS, WE'D LOVE TO HAVE YOU! SIMPLY CHAT TO INGE, MICHAEL, OR CASSIE AT CHURCH, OR SEND US A DM VIA OUR INSTAGRAM PAGE.



STATE YOUTH CAMP

FINDING OUR IDENTITY IN JESUS

*Real Faith
in a
Real World*

AGES 12 - 18

JULY 17-19, 2026
BURNSIDE CAMP, ANGLESEA

PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER

\$205 PER PERSON

CHURCH COUNCIL

Meeting minutes

- Leana provided a Deacons update to Church Council. Their care ministry is busy, supporting a number of people with meals, food parcels, cards and contact. A Working Bee is planned for 2nd May mainly for gardens and grass areas. A one-way window for the cry room is being investigated to improve privacy.
- Mernda. An ideal venue has been found, that meets our needs now and with plenty of room for future growth. Chris and Riaan inspected the venue. Maroondah Classis has funded 20 weeks' worth of rent to assist with starting up. Chris and Jacob will discuss with the Mernda church when they would like to start in the new venue, and we can then book it. Church Council decided we should continue with fortnightly meeting at Mernda in the new venue at first, then move to weekly when the church feels they are ready and logistics and staffing have been sorted out.
- Chris kept Church Council updated on the Calls he received and some feedback was offered.
- A welcoming team has been established for Wonga Park, with 5 people assisting Jenna with this on a rostered basis.
- Jenna's Community Engagement contract has been extended to the end of the year.
- Gas heating will be replaced by reverse cycle air conditioning in the worship area and the vestibule where coffee is served (so it's not freezing in winter). This work is funded by a grant from the Collier Charitable Fund.
- Kasha & Justin gave an update on the Young Adults program, and preparations and fund-raising for the CRCA Convention in Perth in January.
- Chris was able to meet with Simon van der Wel while he was in Melbourne briefly. Simon thanked Wonga Park for our financial and prayer support over the years.
- Chris has finished the work for his doctorate on "What factors contribute to the spiritual health of individuals in the CRCA". He thanks Wonga Park for supporting him through this work and seeing the value in it.

DEVOTIONAL

Worship is more than a playlist

Oh, how i wish I could sing. The more I've grown in the love for God, the more I long to express that love by belting out beautiful songs of praise. There's something truly magnificent about lifting your voice in workship.

Don't get me wrong - I happily sing loudly and freely but all the while hoping no one but God can hear!

Listening to a podcast this week highlighted that Worship is more than a playlist. The speaker Emily Jensen reminds us that worship is all of life - Our words, our work and our "why"- not just the songs we sing.

It's easy to think of worship as something we do only when we sing - on Sundays, in church, or with our favourite playlist playing in the background. But worship is so much more than music.

Worship is found in the quiet, ordinary moments of life. It's in the way we speak to our children, the care we put into our work, the kindness we choose when life feels hard.

We don't need a perfect voice to worship God. We don't need the right words or a beautiful melody. what God desires most is a heart that honours Him in all things.

Today, remember this: your life is your worship. Every small act done in love and obedience is a beautiful offering to Him.

"Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."

1 Corinthians 10:31

Prayer:

Lord, Help me to worship You not only with my words, but with my whole life. In everything I do, may it bring glory to You.

Amen.

~ Leana

PRAYER POINTS

Personal prayer points

May the thoughts of our minds and the words from our lips be acceptable to our holy God.

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

That the Holy Spirit will help us recognize the subtle temptations of the evil one and give us the strength and wisdom to resist him so that he will flee from us.

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (James 4:7 ESV)

Give praise and thanks to the Lord our God for his constant presence within us through his Holy Spirit.

Congregational prayer points

Please continue to pray for Annemarie Van Zyl as she recovers from her surgery, pray that the Lord will watch over her recovery.

Please continue to pray for Martin Vander Merwe and his family as they mourn the passing of his mother.

Please pray for our children as they start a new school term, that it may be a good and fruitful term for each of them and pray for their teachers and other school staff.

Please continue to pray for Chris Pretorius that the Lord will give him clear direction regarding his future.

Local prayer points

Pray for our governments in these turbulent times that they will be given wisdom to guide our nation.

Continue to pray for all those caught up in conflicts around the world, pray that God will use this to bring many more into a saving knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

International prayer points

Please continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in Nigeria.

Fulani terrorists killed 12 Christians in attacks on two worship services on Easter Sunday in Kaduna state, Nigeria, following the killing of 17 Christians in Benue state, sources said. The assailants raided predominantly Christian Ariko town, in Kachia County, in northern Nigeria's Kaduna state, and fired on Christians worshiping at an Evangelical Church Winning All site and at St. Augustine Catholic Church. Dozens of others were kidnapped, and both church buildings were damaged, area residents said. "The attackers, who have been identified as Fulani bandits, were in large numbers," Kachia Council Member Mark Bawa told Christian Daily International "They surrounded the community and attacked the churches as Christians were in worship services. Many Christians have been killed, while dozens of others were captured and taken away."

Resident Sam Bahago said at least eight Christians were killed and many others taken into the forest. "Ariko town, a peaceful community in Kachia Local Government Area, was tragically attacked on Easter Sunday by Fulani bandits," Bahago said. Army personnel who later arrived recovered more bodies, bringing the confirmed death toll to 12, according to Truth Nigeria.

Steven Kefas, another resident, texted a message to Christian Daily International during the assault. "Ariko community in Kachia Local Government Area of Kaduna state is under siege right now," Kefas stated. "No less than eight Christians are confirmed dead." Resident Gideon Michael also identified the assailants as Fulanis.

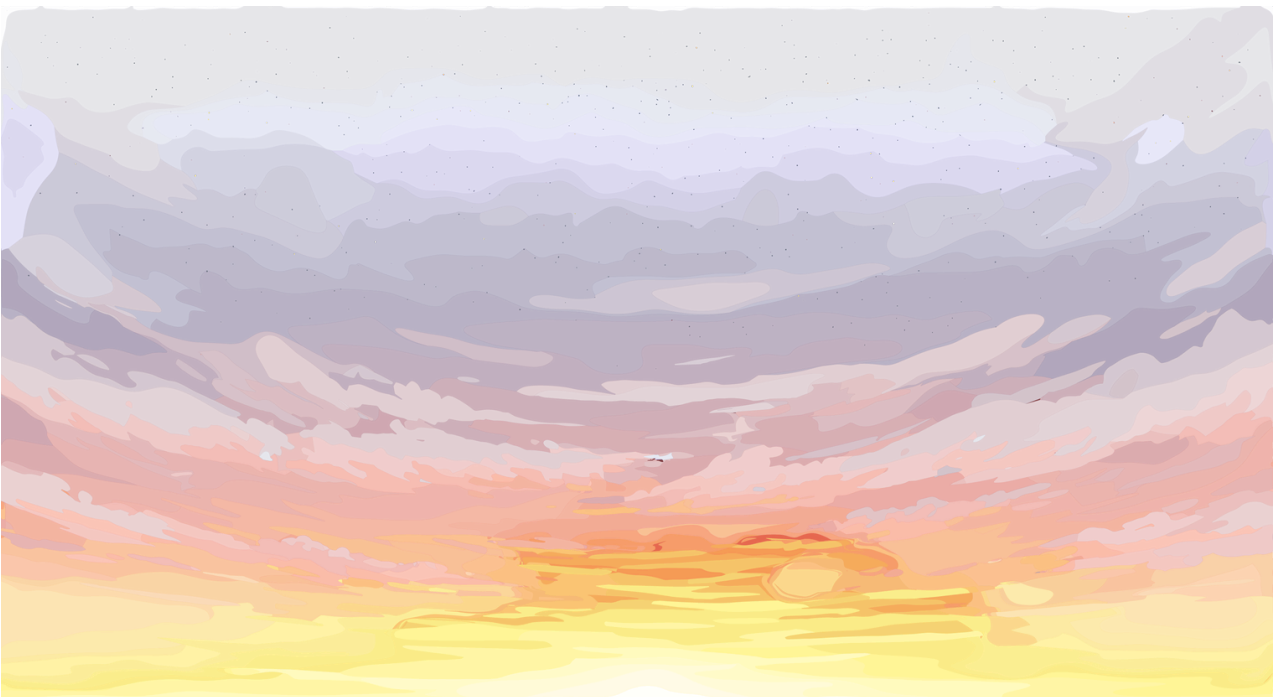
"There was an attack on Easter Sunday carried out by armed Fulani militia on Jande community of Mbalom, in Gwer East Local Government Area of Benue state," resident Tivta Samuel told Christian Daily International. Fidelis Atom, another resident, said the attack left 17 Christians dead. "Many other Christians are still missing and believed to have been taken away from their community," Atom said. "The attack has left the community devastated, with survivors displaced and properties worth millions of naira destroyed." Benue Gov. Hyacinth Alia in a press statement described the attack as "heinous" and unacceptable to his government. More Christians were killed in Nigeria than in any other country from Oct. 1, 2024, through Sept. 30, 2025, according to Open Doors' 2026 World Watch List.

Of the 4,849 Christians killed worldwide for their faith during that period, 3,490 (72%) were Nigerians, an increase from 3,100 the prior year. Nigeria ranked No. 7 on the WWL list of the 50 countries where it's most difficult to be a Christian. Numbering in the millions across Nigeria and the Sahel, predominantly Muslim Fulani comprise hundreds of clans of many different lineages who do not hold extremist views, but some Fulani do adhere to radical Islamist ideology, the United Kingdom's All-Party Parliamentary Group for International Freedom or Belief (APPG) noted in a 2020 report. "They adopt a comparable strategy to Boko Haram and ISWAP and demonstrate a clear intent to target Christians and potent symbols of Christian identity," the APPG report states.

Christian leaders in Nigeria have said they believe herdsmen attacks on Christian communities in Nigeria's Middle Belt are inspired by their desire to forcefully take over Christians' lands and impose Islam as desertification has made it difficult for them to sustain their herds. In the country's Northcentral zone, where Christians are more common than they are in the Northeast and Northwest, Islamic extremist Fulani militia attack farming communities, killing many hundreds, Christians above all, according to the report. Jihadist groups such as Boko Haram and the splinter group Islamic State in West Africa Province (ISWAP), among others, are also active in the country's northern states, where federal government control is scant and Christians and their communities continue to be the targets of raids, sexual violence and roadblock killings.

Abductions for ransom have increased considerably in recent years. The violence has spread to southern states, and a new jihadist terror group, Lakurawa, has emerged in the northwest, armed with advanced weaponry and a radical Islamist agenda, the WWL noted. Lakurawa is affiliated with the expansionist al-Qaeda insurgency Jama'a Nusrat ul-Islam wa al-Muslimin, or JNIM, originating in Mali.

Source: Christian Daily International



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 Diaconate.

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.

SERMON DETAIL

19 April 2026

SERMON TOPIC:	The trials of Poverty and Wealth
BIBLE TEXT:	Isaiah 40:6-8, Luke 12:13-21, James 1:9-12
PREACHER:	Colin Pretorius
ELDER ON DUTY:	Martin van der Merwe
OFFERINGS:	
1ST COLLECTION:	The work of the Church
2ND COLLECTION:	Diaconate

HELPING HANDS

	19 April	26 April	3 May
Preacher	Colin Pretorius	Xander Napoli	Chris Pretorius
Elder on Duty	Martin	Kasha	Peter W
Prayer Leader	Inge	Kasha	Herman
Music Leader	Neil	Mia	Brendina
Children's Talk	Janette	Sarah	Inge
Bible Reader	-	Salme	Brady
Welcoming	Jenna	Marlene	Ina
Sound	Nina	Michael	Nina
Visuals	Salme	Ene	Isaac
Broadcasting	Christo	James	Michael
Sunday School	No Sunday school	Tbc	Izelle & Lynette
Coffee	Ilze & Pieter Kellerman	Donald Leo & Kylie Yau	Rob & Jenna Miller



BIRTHDAYS

Braam vd Jagt	21 April
Leon de Beer	23 April
Colin Pretorius	28 April
Ilze Kellerman	29 April
Kylie Yau	2 May
Lucy Pretorius	3 May
Sandra Stork	3 May



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:	Riaan Bergh	deacons@wpcrc.org.au
Newsletter:	Leana van Gent	newsletter@wpcrc.org.au

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