

# WONGA PARK & MERNDA REFORMED CHURCH NEWSLETTER

*26 April 2026*



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

2 May: Working Bee 8:30am

5 May: Payer meeting at 7:30pm

17 May: Lord's Supper

20 June: Convention Fundraiser: Movie night



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dates for upcoming services:

26 April 4:00pm

10 May 4:00pm

24 May: NO SERVICE

7 June: 4:00pm

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## 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.

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## 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

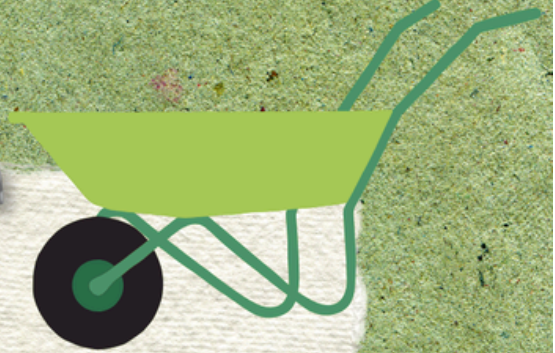
Wendy ladies group Thursdays 10am @ church

Chris and Sarah Wednesday fortnightly 8pm

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

Herman Linde: Monday nights, 8pm online.





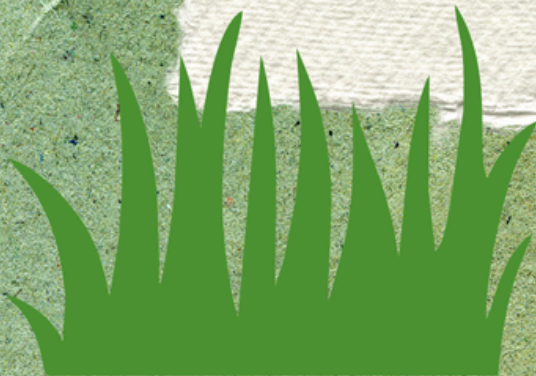
**2 MAY**

**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



<p><b>Date &amp; Time:</b> <b>29 April, 2026</b> AT 7:30PM</p> <p><b>BIBLESTUDY</b></p> <p>70-72 ENNISMORE CRESCENT, PARK ORHCARDS</p>	<p><b>Date &amp; Time:</b> <b>13 May, 2026</b> AT 7:30PM</p> <p><b>BIBLESTUDY</b></p> <p>70-72 ENNISMORE CRESCENT, PARK ORHCARDS</p>	<p><b>Date &amp; Time:</b> <b>27 May, 2026</b> AT 7:30PM</p> <p><b>BIBLESTUDY</b></p> <p>70-72 ENNISMORE CRESCENT, PARK ORHCARDS</p>	<p><b>Date &amp; Time:</b> <b>10 June, 2026</b> AT 7:30PM</p> <p><b>BIBLESTUDY</b></p> <p>70-72 ENNISMORE CRESCENT, PARK ORHCARDS</p>
<p><b>Date &amp; Time:</b> <b>20 June, 2026</b> AT 6:00PM</p> <p><b>CONVENTION FUNDRAISER</b></p> <p>@WONGA PARK CRC</p>	<p><b>Date &amp; Time:</b> <b>24 June, 2026</b> AT 7:30PM</p> <p><b>BIBLESTUDY</b></p> <p>70-72 ENNISMORE CRESCENT, PARK ORHCARDS</p>	<p><b>Date &amp; Time:</b> <b>28 June, 2026</b> AT 1:00PM</p> <p><b>SOCIAL</b></p> <p>LOCATION TBC</p>	<p><b>TWO WEEK BREAK!!</b></p>



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

9205 PER PERSON

# DEVOTIONAL

## *The Good Shepherd is the Lamb of God*

I was sitting at the dining table one morning in August 2023 after another sleepless night, spoon-feeding my twelve-month-old baby girl in her high chair. Weary and worn out after months of sleep deprivation and doing life with three little, somewhat spicy, humans under six, I turned to the Psalms seeking refreshment for my tired heart (not that I could read well through my puffy, blow fish eyes). I had read the words of Psalm 23 many times, but this morning, in God's kindness and in my desperate need, they had a particular effect on my heart.

Being a songwriter, singing is sometimes how I pray and process things, it's how I feel close to God and worship him. Thus, I began to sing the words of Psalm 23 into my iPhone voice memos. What came out became the song "The Lord is My Shepherd". It came as a prayer from the overflow of my heart—a heart longing for and revelling in the tender fatherly love and goodness of God. In spite of feeling as though I had nothing to give—precisely because I had nothing left to give—his loving care was so sweet and real to me. Such is his love and kindness that he doesn't crush us in our inadequacies, or ask us to harden up, or belittle our suffering. Instead, he lavishes his grace and love on us. I was humbled by the kindness of God. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, in light of God's wonderful revelation, I was able to perceive and experience this profound love in my heart and it was like a balm to my aching soul.

Upon reflection, what is most profound about the comfort I felt is that it is a window into the very comfort that Christ received from his heavenly Father who shepherded him through his earthly life. I began to draw connections to various theological metaphors used in Scripture connected to sheep, shepherds and lambs. Just as the Father shepherded his only begotten Son, so the Son now shepherds us—for Christ surely is our good and kind Shepherd, who protects, cares and knows what is best for his sheep (Jn 10:1-18). God the Father shepherds us through Christ, the incarnate son of God (see Ezek 34:21-24).

Yet how is this made possible? My mind goes to the garden in Gethsemane, where Christ prayed to his Father "not my will, but yours be done." I think of how agonising it must have been for Christ to lay down his life, and for the Father to willingly offer his Son. But what is so mysterious and profound is that God provided the Lamb that was to be sacrificed for the sins of his people. Jesus is both the Good Shepherd and the Lamb of God.

While it is true that we can say with David, and with Jesus, “The LORD is my Shepherd”, and that Jesus is our Good Shepherd, who lays his life down for his sheep; Jesus is not only our Good Shepherd but also our sacrificial lamb. In Revelation 7:17 these two descriptions are combined: he is the Lamb in whose blood the elect have “washed their robes and made them white” (verse 15), and as the Lamb, he will also “be their shepherd; ‘he will lead them to springs of living water’” (verse 17).

What makes Christ the perfect shepherd is that he was and is the sacrificial lamb, and thus able to truly empathise and identify with us in our weakness and suffering. Jesus knows intimately and truly what it is like to be a lamb—one that faced death alone (in anguish), so we would never have to face death alone, without a shepherd.

He is also the triumphant lamb on the throne who we read about in Revelation. One glorious day Christ will shepherd us into the kingdom of heaven, where his rule knows no end; we will know and experience the fullness of his goodness, mercy and love. Isn't God so gracious, generous and kind to have provided for all our needs through his precious Son? How comprehensive and sufficient is his salvation! Grace upon grace upon grace.

Do you know this Good Shepherd? The one who laid down his life for his sheep, only to take it up again? This spotless lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world? I don't want to face this life without him, and I rejoice that I can sing these words with confident hope and assurance: “I'll see the goodness of God when he carries me home.”

My experience testified to me that there is no valley so deep or dark that Christ can't meet me there, as he did that morning through his word. The sad reality of this life is that one day we will all pass through the deepest valley, the valley of our death. Yet we can know that even in that valley we are not alone, for we have already passed from death to life in Christ. What a wonderful and sufficient Shepherd we have in him!

When I woke that bleary-eyed morning, that is what I needed to see, what I needed to revel in, what God, by his Spirit, revealed to my heart and mind. He told me I wasn't alone, that he saw me, loved me, and was with me. He had gone before me, he would walk beside me, and he would carry me home. While I still felt tired and sleep deprived, and while I still have fears of the future, this makes all the difference. He makes all the difference. I pray this psalm serves as a reminder, and a prayer, as it did for me, that we can rest in and bask in the joy of his lavish mercy, his abundant grace, and unending love. We can trust his tender, abiding, gracious care. Even if/when we can't get enough of that elusive shut-eye.

This article was originally published [at Stories I'd Tell You at Dinner](#).

Written by Tenielle Nada

Tenielle Nada is a train driver and singer-songwriter from remote Western Australia. She is married to Daniel, a New Zealand-born cameraman and teacher. They have three precious young children. Tenielle has studied at Trinity Theological College in Perth, and hopes to continue her theological studies, amidst busy mum life and music creation.

# PRAYER POINTS

## *Personal prayer points*

Great are you Lord and greatly to be praised, as we pray, help us to give all glory to you.

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

For forgiveness of all our sins and shortcomings giving thanks for God's assurance that he does indeed remove our transgressions from us as far as the east is from the west.

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his faithful love toward those who fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. (Psalm 103:11-12 CSB)

Give thanks and praise to the Lord our God for his unfathomable love toward us who fear him.

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## *Congregational prayer points*

Please pray for Marie Nikolaou as she is still in hospital. Please pray for her healing and any decisions that may need to be made about her future.

Please continue to pray for Annemarie Van Zyl as she recovers from her surgery, pray that she will have a swift and complete recovery.

Please pray for Ben and Lauren Palmer as they are about to move house, pray that this will not be too unsettling for Ben and please continue to pray for his healing.

Please continue to bring Chris and Sarah Pretorius before the Lord in prayer, pray that the Lord will give them clear direction as they weigh up what to do.

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## *Local prayer points*

Please continue to pray for the governments of our nation, that the Lord will move them mightily to do that which is best for all according to his standards.

## *International prayer points*

Please continue to pray for people, especially Christians stuck in refugee camps, pray that they will find permanent homes so that they can rebuild their lives.

Please pray for our brothers and sisters in Syria.

In Syria, on Palm Sunday eve, a mob of young Muslim men on motorcycles stormed the predominantly Christian town of Suqaylabiyah. They rampaged through the streets – looting stores, smashing vehicles, destroying church property, and even toppling a revered statue of the Virgin Mary – leaving fear and devastation in their wake.

“The security forces, who are essentially government officials, showed up and, instead of de-escalating and helping protect the Christian women who were being harassed, they arrested the men who were defending the women and defending the town from outside incursion,” explained Young Voices NYC Debate Host, Hekmat Matthew Aboukhater. Aboukhater is a former Christian resident of Aleppo, Syria, who warns that Christians are leaving the country because they do not trust Ahmed al-Sharaa’s government to protect them. “The government, unfortunately, whether intentionally or because they are simply unwilling to control the pogroms that ensued, unable to stem the tide of violence, and we saw that with the Druze in this past summer, and we saw it with the Alawite coast, last March,” he said.

Since last year, Syria has seen horrific violence against its religious minorities, including: Over 1,400 Alawites slaughtered along the coast in March 2025, 25 Christians killed in a bombing at St. Elias Church in Damascus in June and as many as 2,000 Druze massacred in Suwayda in July.

Fifteen years ago, before the civil war, nearly 2.5 million Christians lived in Syria – one in every ten people. Today, that number has plummeted to roughly 300,000, just 1-2% of the population. Aboukhater warns that Syria’s Christian community may soon disappear entirely. “We need to be honest about what’s happening to this Christian community in the birthplace of Christianity, where Saul walked on the road to Damascus...Sharia is now officially the source of jurisprudence in the country,” he said. “Everyone that I know from my Syrian Christian community that has remained in Syria is now trying to find ways out into the West, whether that be to the U.S., to Canada, to France, etc.” Whether in Nigeria, Syria, or anywhere else, Todd Nettleton urges believers worldwide to raise awareness and fervently pray for persecuted Christians. “Let’s pray for God’s protection. But let’s also pray that they experience the presence of Christ. I pray that for myself. I pray that for my own church,” he explained. “Let’s pray for opportunities for our brothers and sisters to share the gospel, even sometimes with their persecutors.”

Source: Christian Post

Our next prayer meeting will be held on Tuesday the 5th of May at 7.30pm

# OUR GIVING, AN ACT OF WORSHIP

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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 Missionaries 1: van der Wels.

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.

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## SERMON DETAIL

*26 April 2026*

SERMON TOPIC: Laboring in Hope: Resting in the God who finishes His work.  
BIBLE TEXT: Philippians 1:3-11  
PREACHER: Xander Napoli  
ELDER ON DUTY: Kasha Schubert

OFFERINGS:  
1ST COLLECTION: The work of the Church  
2ND COLLECTION: Missionaries 1: van der Wels

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- In verses 3-5, Paul's joy stems from gospel partnership, not from comfort. How does that reshape the way we think about joy today, and where have you personally experienced joy through serving alongside others?
- Paul says he longs for the Philippians "with the affection of Christ Jesus." (vs 8) What does it look like for Christ's compassion to shape how we love people in our church?
- Paul prays for love to abound with "knowledge and discernment" (v. 9). What happens when a church prioritises love over discernment, or discernment over love?
- Verse 11 says the "fruit of righteousness" comes through Jesus, not our effort. How does this free us from trying to manufacture a perfect church community?
- In verses 10-11, Paul links our future purity to God's present work in us. How does knowing that Jesus will complete your transformation motivate you to pursue what is "excellent" now, rather than just waiting for His return?



# HELPING HANDS

	26 April	3 May	10 May
Preacher	Xander Napoli	Chris Pretorius	Chris Pretorius
Elder on Duty	Kasha	Peter W	Peter W
Prayer Leader	Kasha	Herman	Peter W
Music Leader	Mia	Brendina	Inge
Children's Talk	Sarah	Inge	tbc
Bible Reader	Salme	Brady	Armin
Welcoming	Joy	Ina	Marlene
Sound	Michael	Nina	Michael
Visuals	Ene	Michael	James
Broadcasting	James	Michael	Christo
Sunday School	TBC	Izelle & Lynette	Ilze & Nicky
Coffee	Donald Leo & Kylie Yau	Rob & Jenna Miller	Colin, Maggie & Lynette Pretorius



# BIRTHDAYS

Colin Pretorius	28 April
Ilze Kellerman	29 April
Kylie Yau	2 May
Lucy Pretorius	3 May
Sandra Stork	3 May
Corrie van der Walt	8 May
Rebekah Viljoen	9 May
Gerry Smedes	9 May



## Who Should I Contact?

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

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

