

Southside Notices



29-03-2020

"Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life."

EZEKIEL 37:4-5

Communities

Holland Park
855 Logan Rd
Holland Park West

Mt Gravatt
Cnr Springwood &
Hicks Streets
Mt Gravatt

Tarragindi
24 Pope Street
Tarragindi

Yeronga
58 Kadumba St
Yeronga

Rev David Fender's Message

Q. What is the difference between COVID19 and Romeo and Juliet?

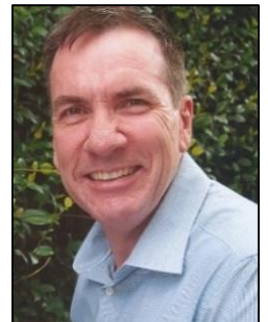
A. One is a corona virus and the other is a Verona Crisis.

This little (bad dad) joke that someone shared with me reminds me to keep this pandemic in perspective. In no way do I want to downplay the seriousness of this in terms of personal, financial and social loss. The daily news that speaks of increasing rates of infection and death and lengthening queues of unemployed workers breaks my heart. I am wrought with anxiety with the thought of medical professionals, teachers, shop assistants and others who are on the front line and have a higher chance of catching this virus. My heart goes out to their families who stand by helplessly.

I also see the best of humanity coming out. One business owner I know has been forced to stop offering some of his services and can now only offer his more exclusive services to his clients. Which he is doing at no extra cost to them. As he says, "now is not the time to make money." The mass applause of people in the UK, each standing in their own doorway and applauding the medical personnel. Members of our congregation who are stepping up in many ways to ensure that no one in our congregation is relationally isolated. In all that is happening there is so much good that is also happening. Please take some time each day to reflect on the good things that are happening all around you.

In my prayers this week I was drawn to the words of God in Exodus 3:7 "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering." These words remind me that we are not alone in this.

God hears our cries of anguish, our tears of lament. He knows our fears and insecurities. He stands alongside those on the front line, he mourns with those who have lost loved ones, he is in the ICU and hospitals with the sick. He is the companion to those self-isolating and socially distancing.



I invite you to offer up your lament to God. "Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you." 1 Peter 5:7. As you do also remember the faithfulness of God who delivered the slaves from Egypt and into the Promised Land. This pandemic is not the end. God will take us through and we will emerge on the other side. Someone said to me yesterday that we need to trust the unknown future into the hands of a known God.

Blessings
David Fender

Keeping in touch

Southside has a number of channels that will help us keep in touch with each other. My encouragement to you is to get connected through as many of these as possible, given your circumstances. Our commitment is that nobody in our congregation will be relationally isolated in this time of social distancing.

We will share the same information through each of our channels. We will do everything that is possible to ensure that no one is excluded because they do not have access to a form of communication (most frequently this will be internet access). However, there may be times where we are simply not able to share the same content with everybody. If this does happen, we will let you know and why this is and any possible alternatives.

Electronic distribution of information through email, app, website and Facebook is always the quickest, cheapest and simplest way for us to keep in contact. If you have access to these, this is how we will share information.

If you do not have internet access, we will provide hard copies of content. We may ask you to collect this from your church building, it may be hand delivered or at a last resort it may be posted.

Our communication channels are:

Website:	ssuc.org.au
App:	Go to your app store (Apple and Android) search for "Church Central" and download. Once installed search within the app for Southside Uniting Church and mark as a favourite and create an account
Facebook:	https://www.facebook.com/southsideuc/
Postal address:	58 Kadumba street, Yeronga, Qld, 4104

Please remember that all these forms of communication are two way. Feel free to post a comment, send a message, make a suggestion, give us feedback.

Ministry Team Update

Southside on Mission: Seeking expressions of interest!

We are looking for people from across the Southside Communities who are curious and passionate about being God's people on the Southside. We will be forming a small group of 6-8 people who will listen, learn, plan and experiment new missional initiatives. We want to try singing the Lord's song in a strange land in a way that will connect strongly with the local community. We are hopeful that God's Spirit will inspire faith in the hearts of others as we daringly engage with an experimental mindset.

What and who's involved?

- One meeting per month for two hours plus four hours per month outside of meetings (for reading, research, and/or reflection)
- As a guide we expect this to be a twelve month commitment.
- People who are passionate about being the people of God in the Southside area.
Rev. Jock Dunbar will be leading/facilitating the group.

What do I need to do to get involved?

1. Prepare an email or letter with your contact information.
 2. Tell us why would you like to be involved / What interests you?
 3. Share also what you hope these groups may achieve?
 4. Send this to jock.dunbar@ssuc.org.au or place a hard copy in the Communications Box of your Community foyer.
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5. Expressions of Interest close Thursday, 2nd April.
6. Keep these dates free: 17th April 7-9pm and 18th April 9am-3pm.
7. Jock will contact you after your expression of interest for a chat.

Outreach Team

How do we outreach in this new context we find ourselves in? If you want to be a part of our Outreach Team, please email Rev. Esteban - esteban.lievano@ssuc.org.au. We hope to have a Zoom conference in the next few weeks to see how we as a Congregation can respond in this time of crisis. Thanks to all those who have already expressed interest, you will receive an email about the Zoom conference soon. If you are not on email and would like to be part of the conversation, please contact Rev. Esteban by phone on 040 773 1950 and he will follow up with you.

Prayer

You are invited to share your prayer requests with the congregation.

Prayer requests can be shared through:

- The “Prayer Requests” feature on the Southside app
- Using the “Contact us” feature on the ssuc.org.au website and selecting “Prayer request”
- Emailing prayer@ssuc.org.au
- Telephoning a member of the ministry team and sharing your request with them.

Unless you request otherwise, prayer requests will be shared with our prayer team and listed each week in our worship sheet.



A PRAYER FOR COVID-19

The National Council of Churches in Australia is encouraging all churches across Australia to unite together and pray for the COVID-19 pandemic at this time. We are encouraging all people to join together from your homes at 7pm each night from now until Easter to pray this prayer:

Gracious God,

We give thanks anew for your providence and presence.

We prayerfully seek your grace, amidst COVID-19 here and overseas.

We pray for those in need of healing.

We pray for your peace with those who are anxious or grieving.

We pray you will continue to strengthen and sustain all those who are serving in response.

We pray for your Holy Spirit's discernment amidst the many choices and decisions facing our national, community and medical leaders.

We pray we each might see quickly what more we can do to help those who are vulnerable.

This prayer for our nation in the family of nations, with all that is on our hearts, we gather now and pray through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN.

News from our Regular Activities

Youth Activities

As we experience this new environment, we are doing some things to make sure we are connecting with young people and continuing their faith journey. Each week a worksheet to use during worship will be sent out. This will include some puzzles. It also includes some facts about the countries with the World Council of Churches encourages us to pray for that week. You might like to research more about those countries together. We will also send out a number of resources which you might like to use for your own Sunday School class. There are resources for preschool, primary school and high school age ranges.

Unite will be continuing to meet, although online. At the moment we are using the Unite Facebook group. This is a closed group so please contact me (richard.moors@ssuc.org.au) and I will arrange to add you to the

group. Unite meets from 3-5pm on Sunday at your place. We are currently trying to get some feedback from the young people if more regular activities during school holidays or any shutdown would be helpful. We will be holding a Sunday Morning program from 10-11am for the youth age. This is an open facebook group called "Southside Uniting Church Youth Sunday Morning Group." This will be a chance for us to discuss the reading for the week at a high school level.

We are still doing planning work for One Day Fun Day, and will make a decision closer to the date if this will go ahead. If you would like to be involved in any way please contact Richard. We hope that when the end of June comes we will be free to have two wonderful days with the children.

If there are other things which we can be doing, then please contact Richard, we are learning as we go, but we want to continue to provide ministry to our young people.

Information from Resources

Information for You

Please refer to the letter that was distributed last week for more detailed information with regards to the COVID-19 pandemic and Southside Uniting Church's response. If for any reason you have not received this letter, please contact our Resources Manager, Rachel Manton on rachel.manton@ssuc.org.au 0427 257 920 and she will provide you with a copy.

Attached with this newsletter is the Southside UC Worship On-line sheet that you can use during worship this Sunday. Our service will be able to be viewed on-line from 9am. To access the service, please go to our website at ssuc.org.au and click on the link on the home page. If you do not have internet access you would have received some material via mail which will allow you to worship from home using the sheet and sermon notes provided.

We have also attached this week the children's resources from Ps Richard Moors that you may like to do with your children or grandchildren, or even do the activities yourself.

There is also a devotion page, with some prompts for devotions for each day of the week.

May you experience the hope of Jesus Christ in your life at this time and know that you are not alone.

Blessings Rachel

Notices

For notices to be included in this newsletter please email notices@ssuc.org.au or place in the Communications Box. The next newsletter will be issued on 12th April.

Please have notices in by 9am Thursday 9th April.

Southside APP

The Southside Uniting Church APP is now live. To download go to Google Play or the App Store and download the Church Central App. Search for Southside Uniting Church and set this as your church.

Good News Story

If you have a good news story of God's transforming power within our Congregation and/or Community. Please email through to notices@ssuc.org.au so we can share the Good News!

Referral Services Relating to Family and Domestic Violence

Brisbane Domestic Violence Service

Phone: (07) 3217 2544

Email: bdvs@micahprojects.org.au

www.bdvs.org.au

Women's legal service

Phone: 1800 957 957

<https://wlsq.org.au/>

DV Connect Womensline:

Phone: 1800 811 811

www.dvconnect.org/

DV Connect Mensline:

Phone: 1800 600 636

www.dvconnect.org/

Lifeline:

Phone: 13 11 14

Contact Us:

General Enquiries

hello@ssuc.org.au // 07 3848 7093 // 58 Kadumba st, Yeronga
for notices notices@ssuc.org.au

Ministry Team:

Rev David Fender

Lead Minister and Minister for Spiritual Growth
david.fender@ssuc.org.au // 0413 314 995

Rev Jock Dunbar

Holland Park & Yeronga Community Minister and Minister for New Missions
jock.dunbar@ssuc.org.au // 0410 400 940

Rev Esteban Liévano

Mt Gravatt Community Minister and Minister for Outreach
esteban.lievano@ssuc.org.au // 0407 731 950

Rev David MacGregor

Tarragindi Community Minister and Minister for Worship & Pastoral Care
david.macgregor@ssuc.org.au // 0414 392 802

Ps Richard Moors

Children, Youth and Families Pastor
richard.moors@ssuc.org.au // 0408 446 281

Rachel Manton

Resources Manager
rachel.manton@ssuc.org.au // 0427 257 920

Church Council:

Chair

Craig Gibson
chair@ssuc.org.au // 0433 680 489

Treasurer

Dave Allen
treasurer@ssuc.org.au // 0407 742 555

Secretary

Gaye Pitman
secretary@ssuc.org.au // 0409 893 392

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BSB: 014-202
Account: 4736-88757