



Morning Worship: Roster

	8 th March 2020	15 th March 2020
Leader	Rev David Russell	Rev John Blair
Music	Rosemary Akesson	Corinne Nicolson
Duty Elder	Stuart Edwards	Ursula Smith & Cecil Smith
Stewards	Colin & Margaret Manley	Joan & Royce Lovett
Reader	Joan Winwood	Joan Lovett
Pastoral Prayer	Stuart Edwards	Shirley McLennan
Morning Tea	Corinne Nicolson & Jeanette Osborne	Rae & Fred Stove
Projection	Tony Olinsky	Tony Olinsky
Lectionary	Genesis 12: 1-4a Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17 John 3: 1-17	Exodus 17: 1-7 Romans 5: 1-11 John 4: 5-42

Regular Activities

Morning Worship - 1st, 2nd, 4th, & 5th Sunday/month: - 10am

Holy Communion - 3rd Sunday/month - 10am and at Wyndham - 2:30pm & 3rd Wednesday/month - 2:00pm at Imlay House.

Tura Beach Op Shop - open Monday to Friday 9:00am to 4:00pm

Fellowship Group - 1st Monday/month at 1.30pm - contact Joan or Corinne

"Uniting Gardeners" - 1st & 3rd Friday, 3pm to 4pm at the church.

Uniting Church Tai Chi 108 Thursday 10-11am in the hall. Contact Shirley

Uniting Church Dance Group - Tuesdays 7:00pm; Fridays 9:00am - in the hall

Church Bring-and-Share Brunch - 2nd Sunday/month (Mar, Jun, Sep, Dec)

Birthdays this week:

Carole Criddle - 14th



Welcome to worship, especially those who are visiting with us. Please join us for a cuppa and a chat after the service. A hearing loop is available for your benefit.



A message from Presbytery is included for your information



World Day of Prayer for Zimbabwe. Thank you to all who helped with this service on Friday.

AGLOW MERIMBULA invites you to join them at their March meeting to hear popular and much loved guest speaker Mrs Alison Mellor. Alison resides in Sydney and has been President of Hornsby Aglow for nearly 30 years. She has been on prayer teams to many areas in NSW and also to Uluru. Her professional career was in education and included a role as Director of Berowra Christian Community School in Sydney. Alison's presentation this month will focus on the nation of Israel, and Aglow International's Convocation in Jerusalem in September 2019.

We invite all those interested in attending, to join us for an enjoyable time of morning tea, praise and worship, fellowship and Alison's special message. Aglow is a trans-denominational Christian organisation and welcomes all ladies and gentlemen to their fellowship meetings.

Next Meeting:	Thursday 12 March
Venue:	RSL Main St, Merimbula (lower level)
Morning Tea:	10am
Entry:	\$8
Further Enquiries:	Shanne 6495 2220



The shared lunch that was to be held today has been postponed and will now take place next Sunday after the church service

From Presbytery

Passing the peace, sharing the elements, greeting the minister

How do we pass the peace in a time when the COVID-19 virus (the corona virus) is spreading? What do we do to greet each other in worship (and, indeed, in everyday life) if shaking hands is not advised?

This was the topic of conversation at this week's Canberra ministers lectionary conversation. We gave this some serious consideration. How do we ensure the wellbeing (the good health) of the people in our community of faith?

One suggestion made is that, when it comes time to pass the peace, we face the other person, place our right hand over our own heart, and say, "peace be with you". That avoids direct physical contact, but incorporates a direct visual interaction.

The other place where shaking hands is common, is at the end of the worship service, when people who are present file out (usually in an orderly manner) and shake hands with the worship leader who is dutifully standing at the exit door, waiting to greet each of them personally.

The best way to handle this situation would be to explain, during worship, that we will not be shaking hands during or after the service, and make the suggestion that people can interact in the way suggested: face each other, place our right hand over our own heart, and greet one another.

Modes of distributing the elements during communion need also to be considered; is it wise to hold to the use of a common cup? It is a wonderful symbol, pointing to the unity that we share in Christ, but quite possibly it has become a significant health hazard in this time. A discussion of this matter with elders or church council would be a sensible way to proceed.

The use of hand sanitiser by the presiding person, prior to handling the elements, has been suggested for some time. Might it also be sensible to consider having sanitiser available to be used by others assisting in leading the service, and indeed by all as they arrive at worship? This is now the status quo in hospitals and medical centres, which provide a precedent for church gatherings.

This matter relates to the wellbeing of the communities we serve. How do we ensure that we keep a safe and healthy place for people to gather? I encourage you to consider these matters in the days ahead within the faith community or congregation where you currently gather for worship and fellowship.

For more information: <https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov#how-it-spreads>

John Squires

Presbytery Minister—Wellbeing