

Words From A Messy Desk

21st July, 2023

To my Noranda Uniting family,

I'm very pleased to announce that the congregation now has a new website. Our new address noranda.ucwa.org is so much easier to remember than the last one. There's also the opportunity to put these weekly letters to the congregation on there as well. That way, people who are browsing the site can get a bit more of a sense of who we are and what's going on. However, for the sake of confidentiality, I won't be using surnames at all anymore.

Having said all that, I should get on with it. I want to start by reminding people about tomorrow's session at 10am with **Julie Ridden**. Julie works for the Presbytery to help congregations with ministry with children, youth, and young families. She's going to share with us some of what be possible for us as we explore this area of ministry in our own context. Anyone who's interested in what might be possible for us in this area of ministry should come along.

Then on Sunday, we're continuing to explore the stories of Abraham's family. This week, we're with Abraham's grandkids and Jacob in particular. The readings for Sunday are Genesis 28:10-19 and Matthew 13:24-30.

Meanwhile, the congregation received a note from Gloria B on Sunday that I want to share again for the sake of those who weren't there. She wrote, "I would like to thank all who were involved in the service for Neil. All the ladies for the lovely morning tea and all of you for your prayers over many years & for your cards & for your support at this time. God bless you – Gloria."

I also need to pass on the news that Lillian R's husband, Harry, passed away last week. He died peacefully in his sleep which is a wonderful blessing. I would please ask that we pray for and support both Gloria and Lillian in their time of grief. Could you also please pray for others of our mob who are doing it a bit tough at the moment: especially for Jean C, for Amy & Ruben R, and for Denise B?

Those of you who were here last Sunday would have met our new formation student, Susan Sydney-Smith. Susan plans to be with us for the rest of this year. I hope you get a good chance to chat with Susan sometime soon.

On Wednesday night, we've got a **Church Council meeting**. If you've got anything that you think should be on our agenda, please make a note of it on the whiteboard in the hall, or have a chat with one of the elders.

Meanwhile, we've also got our **Pastoral Care Surveys** out at the moment. Ideally, we'd like these back by this Sunday so that we can look at the feedback on Wednesday night at the Church Council meeting. If you haven't yet received a survey form to fill in, you can grab one on Sunday at church.

I was glad to hear that the **High Tea** in August is now almost completely sold out, but also personally disappointed because I left it too late to get tickets for Michele and I. On Sunday, I was informed that there was only one seat left. The High Tea is a fundraiser for the Harry Perkins Institute and the Leukemia Foundation. If you're in the same boat as me, you can still make a donation. I have to confess that I've only made it to one of these (usually because I'm not quick enough to get a ticket) but they are wonderful events for a wonderful cause.

Before then, though, we have **Breakfast Church** happening in a week's time on Sunday 30th. This is something we tried at the beginning of the year and several members requested that we give it another go. It will be an informal, conversational church service around tables in the hall at 9am. Breakfast will be available from about 8:45ish and throughout the service. I'm grateful for the keenness of people to donate toward the food for this. I'm really looking forward to it.

I think that's all from me. Michele has been in isolation this week with Covid but she's now testing negative, which means I get to go home now and give her our first hug for a week. All week, our closest contact has been me leaving meals at the bedroom door and looking at her through the bedroom window (not in a creepy way, she's looking at me at the same time and we're talking). I know that many of you have been praying for Michele during this week, and I'm grateful.

God bless you all.

With love and hope,

Your minister,
your brother in Christ,
Ivan

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