

# The Westerly



PPW & PWV Newsletter No.10 - 24th July 2021

### Wondering about Winter

Presbytery eLM Ministers

The presbytery eLM Ministers gathered earlier this month on-line. Our worship was led by Rev. Deacon Peter Batten who had us all wondering on winter as a season of... (we started posting in the chat) ... waiting, reflecting, hibernation, fallow, nurturing new seeds.

Our bible reading for this worship was: For six years you shall sow your land and gather in its yield; but the seventh year you shall let it rest and lie fallow, so that the poor of your people may eat; and what they leave the wild animals may eat. You shall do the same with your vineyard, and with your olive orchard. Six days you shall do your work, but on the seventh day you shall rest, so that your ox and your donkey may have relief, and your homeborn slave and the resident alien may be refreshed. [Exodus 23:10-12] What happens to you when you don't allow periods of fallowness in your life?



We were invited to stay with the questions throughout winter and not to seek answers too quickly. We reflected on this quote: "I would like to beg you dear Sir, as well as I can, to have patience with everything unresolved in your heart and to try to love the questions themselves as if they were locked rooms or books written in a very foreign language. Don't search for the answers, which could not be given to you now, because you would not be able to live them. And the point is to live everything. Live the questions now. Perhaps then, someday far in the future, you will gradually, without even noticing it, live your way into the answer." [Rainer Maria Rilke in Letters to a Young Poet] When you are in the midst of a time of darkness and midwinter, do you scramble to make meaning from the experience? - rather than live the questions into the answer.

In a COVID world we are all bearing some burdens. Where in your life right now do you need the healing renewal of the long winter nights? We are re-evaluating our work and life. Some people have chosen to retire early because life is too short. Knowing that they can now work from home some have chosen to sell their city residence and swap it for a home with a country view. There is so much to wonder about this winter! How might you honour the winter season in even the smallest of ways each day?

Winter Wonders



## The Prayer Tree by Michael Leunig

We give thanks for the blessing of winter: Season to cherish the heart.

To make warmth and quiet for the heart

To make soups and broths for the heart,

To cook for the heart and read for the heart.

To curl up softly and nestle with the heart

To sleep deeply and gently at one with the heart.

To dream with the heart

To spend time with the heart

A long, long time of peace with the heart

We give thanks for the blessing of winter:

Season to cherish the heart. Amen

# Praying with the Earth by John Phillip Newell

Peace where there is war

Healing where there is hurt

Memory where we have forgotten the other

Vision where there is violence

Light where there is madness

Sight where we have blinded each other.

Comfort where there is sorrow

Tears where there is hardness

Laughter where they have missed life's joy

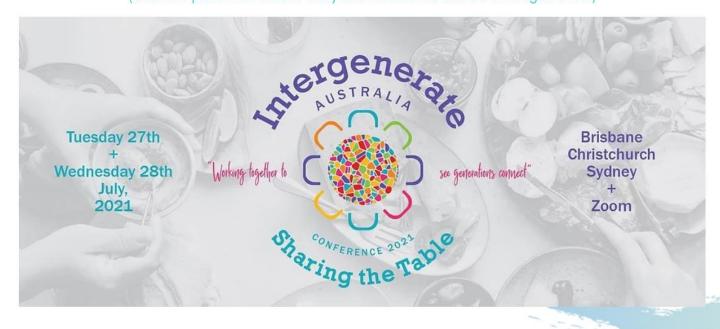
Laughter when we remember the joy.

Amen. [Canterbury Press 2011]



#### Intergenerate Conference 2021—Australia—Sharing the Table

(Click the picture for links to this years conference and on-line registration.)





### Joint Presbyteries Minister's Retreat

Sunday Sept 5 - Wednesday Sept 8,2021





Formal program will start from Monday Lunch and conclude after 3pm on Wednesday. Ministers can come from Sunday afternoon onwards – Sunday evening meal will not be catered for.

Where: UCA Campsite Norval House / Halls Gap

Who: Open to all ministry agents, chaplains and Pastors in placement, and retired ministers in long term supply.

What: The theme of the retreat will be Renewal - Psalm 119: 114

These three days will be a quiet time to reflect, share in conversation with colleagues, be stimulated by some input, spend time with God and be refreshed by the nature around us. We will be sharing in communion each day, times of worship, open space technology and also have fun together. Mrs Julie Perrin has been invited to lead us in some reflective sessions.

We would like all participants to bring with them a bible verse or story/song/poem/photo that represents renewal for them.

There will be significant periods of free time so please bring: books, musical instruments, art or craft materials... etc.

There will be opportunities for bush walking, volleyball.

It will be opt-in program so if you need to spend time on your own there will be opportunities for that.

Accommodation: share cabins – two people to a room

Cost: We have received in kind funding from Uniting Camping.

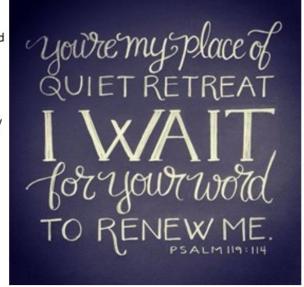
\$150 per person for three nights (i.e. come to camp on Sunday afternoon) \$120 per person for two nights (i.e. come to camp on Monday morning)

Meals included (except for Sunday evening)

Extra Costs: Linen hire \$18.20 - you can bring your own linen for free

Booking: Trybooking. https://www.trybooking.com/BQUHO Final payments and bookings Friday Aug 20, 2021

We look forward to sharing with you in this Retreat. Jeanne, Narelle and Trevor (Retreat Organisers)



# Education Events



6th July

9-4:30

Covenanting Together is a COVID World—Ecumenical

Catholic Theological College, East Melbourn

https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing?eid=734463&

NAIDOC Week

4th—11th July

22nd July

1:30 pm

27th & 28th July

**Messy Church Matters** 

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86523778374

zoom

**Intergenerate AUS** 

Brisbane, Sydney, NZ, Zoom

Make it Messy

Parkville, CTM

7th August



#### Vaccine campaign

The Synod Justice and International Mission Cluster is running a postcard campaign calling on the Federal Government to follow through on its promise to provide 20 million COVID-19 vaccine doses to developing countries. To order postcards to distribute in your congregation, email <a href="Tim Molineux">Tim Molineux</a> and indicate how many you want, or call Mark Zirnsak on 0409 166 915 to place your order.

#### Messy Church Matters

22nd July

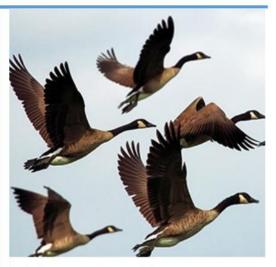
1:30 pm

Chris Barnett talks about

"All-Age"

aspect of Messy Church





#### **Formation Days**

Lay Preachers and Ministers are urged to pencil into their diaries a Formation Days event on October 23-24. It will include exploring the Code of Ethics, self-care, reflective practice, supervision, portfolios, and some time for retreat. Those training for Lay Preacher accreditation and in Ministry of Pastor roles are expected to attend.