

M U C

Magazine

The News and Views of the
Murrumbeena Uniting Church



To make Christ known by preaching the
gospel in word and deed

CONTACT DETAILS

Church Office: 9568 8177

E-mail:

office@murrumbeenauniting.org.au

<http://murrumbeenauniting.org.au/>

117 Murrumbeena Road,

Murrumbeena, VIC 3163



The Uniting Church in Australia
MURRUMBEENA UNITING CHURCH

April – May 2023

MINISTRY TEAM

REV. JAY ROBINSON

Minister

jay@murrumbeenauniting.org.au

0410 465 836



CHURCH COUNCIL



CHAIR:

**Alison Campbell
Rate**

0438 569 690



TREASURER:

Greg Pressey



**Caroline
Kwong**

0447 054 243



Rachel Dart

Minutes
Secretary



**Margaret
Reid**



**Dave
Robinson**

Correspondence
Secretary

USEFUL LINKS ON THE INTERNET

As well as our own website at

<https://www.murrumbeenauniting.org.au/> you might find the following links of interest (if you haven't already).

Live stream of 10:00am Worship and Service:

facebook.com/murrumbeenauniting/

Recorded Service (view anytime on YouTube)

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-v0xIBPkGfZJcOl062yCjg/>

ORGANISATIONS AND GROUPS

Community Garden

Knitting and Craft Circle

Murrumbeena Connect

Adult Fellowship

Friendship Fellas (Men's Group)

LIFT (Women's Group)

THE CHURCH

Adult Bible Studies

Pastoral Care

Worship Band

Lending Library

YOUNG ADULTS (18-35)

Sonder Collective

Sunday Brunch

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Countdown to Christmas

FEAST (Families Eating And Sharing Together)

SHARON LEE

Culture of Safety contact person

9568 8177



Welcome to this edition of the *MUC MAG*. May the peace of the Lord be with you. This year seems to be flying by with unsurpassed haste. The Cafe Church experiment of January is still strong in our memory, but now it is April! So much has gone on during those first three months, and more activity is yet to happen, in respect of the Life and Witness programme being guided by Presbytery.

Thus I felt it timely to take a moment and remind ourselves of what the "Peace of the Lord" means, and why it is particularly important now. To me, God's Peace is not about tranquility and the absence of war. It is like an invisible cloak we can put on that shields us from the hustle and bustle and distractions the world throws in our way which would cause us to be ineffectual as Christians. Picture the Old Testament passage of Daniel in the lion's den. Despite the predicament that Daniel was in, the Peace of the Lord was with him, so he was able to remain calm and collected, and able to pray earnestly to the Lord. May you likewise remain calm and collected amid the turmoil that surrounds us, by sensing the Peace of the Lord.

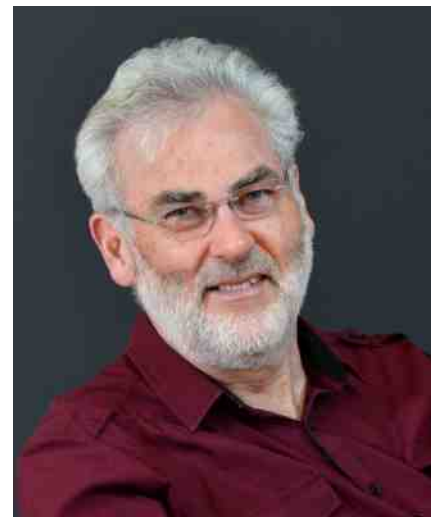
As always, I am eternally grateful to those who have taken the time to prepare and submit contributions for this edition of the *MUC MAG*. Christina has provided another puzzle for us to solve, Kay and Glynis have given us some insight into how Glen Eira council deals with green waste, and that some of it has been given to our Community Garden, and Geoff and Marg Edwards have provided photos of our recent Neighbour Day, and these are scattered amongst the pages as space permits. Jay has outlined what is happening regarding the Pastoral Partners Programme, and also progress with Murrumbena Connect.

This year marks the 20th Anniversary of the four congregations coming together as one and worshipping in this sanctuary we now call Murrumbena Uniting Church. If any of you have any memories (or memorabilia) of that time, even little tidbits or anecdotes, please take a few minutes to submit them for the next edition of the *MUC MAG*.

I hope you will find benefit in all that is in these pages. I would appreciate getting some suggestions regarding other material and information you would like to see in future editions.

Blessings,

Roger McCowan



Please e-mail articles to:
triumphguru@gmail.com, or
hand them to Roger on a
Sunday, preferably no later
than 14th May.

**DISCLAIMER: ALL PHOTOS
AND IMAGES SUBMITTED
FOR PUBLICATION IN THE
MUC MAG MUST BE
OWNED BY THE PERSON
SUBMITTING OR THEY MUST
HOLD COPYRIGHT
PERMISSION FOR THEIR USE.**



FROM THE MINISTER

Rev Jay Robinson

Easter is upon us again and our journey through Lent is completed.

For me, this has been a time of busyness and challenge. I miss the conversations with Kelly and the scheming we would do together as we planned and dreamed about our themes and worship. But other things have replaced those conversations and I look forward to welcoming Ann van Leerdam and exploring with her the possibilities of better connection and opportunities with the local community. I also look with hope to the outcomes of the Life and Witness consultation that the Presbytery is running.

As a community here this year continues to be a little uncertain, a little messy, but with the possibility of movement forward ever present. And with that movement forward there is a moment to sit and reflect on what has passed through the last couple of months.

I begin with January and our experiment of Café Church. I have heard some great feedback about this month and the conversations that took place. It took us a week or two to find our groove, but we did. Our musicians really appreciated the break from weekly commitments to play, and we were fortunate enough that the weather was never too hot for us to gather in the beautiful space that the foyer is.

There have been visits and conversation with the year 6 groups of Murrumbena Primary School. There has been the time spent in worship with the people at Regis Malvern where Marg Hicks began a worshipping community there, and the people at Victoria by the Park where Colin Williams began our connection.

There has been the openness and welcome of Neighbour Day (hopefully we'll get some photos of that in this edition). There has been the chance to gather at our inaugural Teddy Bear's Picnic day. There has been an amazing amount of time spent on getting the NBN finally connected to the church and all the networks and equipment talking to each other. All of that time has meant some of our IT costs will reduce as Synod is now paying for these.

Semester 1 for the University has begun. I have talked, met with and visited a number of our people. Our Elders and Pastoral Carers have met and begun the plans around the implementation of the Pastoral Partners Program (you'll find more of that elsewhere). There have been meetings around the Life and Witness Consultation, there have been meetings and conversations around the proposal to

employ a community development worker. We've hosted a streaming of the Northey Lecture, a first for us, we've continued our Thursday Bible study group, but this time in person at the church. Graham, Heeyoung and I have met to plan our combined services for this year as well as explore other possibilities to do things together. There has been a Presbytery in Council meeting to commence 2023 and there have been various Synod meetings - all part of the wider church work that I am expected to do.

For me, my graduation on Friday 24th March was a highlight, finally my Masters of Theology is completed.

Can't wait to see what April and May bring us all!



John and Alison providing music during Neighbour Day

READINGS FOR APRIL/MAY 2023

April sees us enter the season of Easter with the first week being our journey through Holy Week into Good Friday, some reflection time on Saturday and then into the celebration of Easter Sunday and the resurrection of Christ.

Throughout Lent we've been exploring what the Kingdom of Heaven is like and now we've had a taste of that we move into the season of Easter and look towards the directions to the Kingdom. This is more than just our gathering on a Sunday morning but can be seen in all that we do. This season of Easter takes us to Pentecost Sunday where the importance of taking the Good News to all creation is highlighted.

As is our usual pattern we will finish our gospel for this year at Easter. After Easter we keep on exploring the Acts of the Apostles as well as some of the letters, this year it is the letter to the Romans.

2 April	Turning the Tables - Palm Sunday	Matt 21:1-17
3-5 April	Holy Week Reflections	
6 April	Maundy Thursday - Bitter Betrayal	Matt 26:17-30
7 April	Good Friday - Forsaken	Matt 27:27-61
9 April	Easter Sunday - Abundant Life	Matt 28:1-10
16 April	Go Teach - Easter 2	Matt 28:16-20
23 April	Go Eat - Easter 3	Acts 10:1-17, 34-48
30 April	Go See - Easter 4	Acts 13:1-3; 14:8-18
7 May	Combined Service with Coatesville & Leighmoor	At Murrumbeena
14 May	Go God - Easter 6	Romans (3:28-30) 5:1-11
21 May	Go Live - Easter 7	Romans 6:1-14
28 May	Go Now - Pentecost Sunday	Acts 2:1-4

CONTACTS FOR GROUPS

On page 2 is the list of current organisations and groups, whilst on page 11 is the calendar of events, many of which involve these groups. Listed below are the contact details for the facilitators of each of these organisations and groups. Contact them if you would like to know more about the events.

Friendship Fellas

Roger McCowan
0439 711 381
Geoff Edwards
0409 568 206

F.E.A.S.T.

Jay Robinson
0410 465 836

LIFT

Mary-Lou Keur
0409 937 727
Roz Franklin
0403 762 695

Murrumbeena Community Garden

Kay Pentland
Glynis Ramsay
0407 506 662

Knitting and Craft Circle

Glynis Ramsay
0407 506 662

Murrumbeena Connect

Jay Robinson
0410 465 836

Lending Library

Anne Don
9578 4217

Murrumbeena Uniting Afternoon Fellowship Group

Anne Don
9578 4217

Women's Bible Study

Alison Campbell Rate
0438 569 690

Easter Services

Sunday 2 April - 10am Palm Sunday

**Mon - Wed 3-5 April- 7.30pm Holy Week
Reflections**

**Thursday 6 April - 7.30pm Maundy
Thursday Remembering**

**Friday 7 April - 9.30am Good Friday
Service**

Saturday 8 April - 3pm Reflection space

**Sunday 9 April - 10am Easter Sunday
Celebration**



Murrumbeena Uniting Church
117 Murrumbeena Road Murrumbeena



PASTORAL PARTNERS PROGRAM

Late in 2022 the opportunity to be part of some training for our Elders and Pastoral Carers in the Pastoral Partners Program was held. We had five of our leaders attend this training with some others from around the presbytery.

The Pastoral Partners Program give us a model to help us place pastoral care at the very heart of our congregational life. The program seeks to establish an ethos of care among the congregation by establishing and maintaining a network of pastoral care. The program offers training and support for those involved and help establish a team of partners who will ensure that everyone in the congregation will be connected and cared for.

Each Elder or Pastoral Carer will be allocated five individuals or families to connect with. They will keep an eye out to ensure that connections are kept up and those who need some extra care from time to time are known. The connection will be mainly through phone calls or texts, but each elder or pastoral carer has their own way of connecting with their people.

Over the next six weeks or so these groups will be finalised as we finalise our Elders and invite new pastoral carers to join the program. Once our groups are sorted everyone will be notified as to who their pastoral partner is. Many of you will have the same Elder or Pastoral Carer as previously, some will not.

As usual, any concerns please let Jay know.

MURRUMBEENA CONNECT

On 26th February, there was a congregational meeting to discuss:

MURRUMBEENA CONNECT

- » Receive the Report on Church Council's investigation into the Murrumbeen Connect proposal.
- » Final endorsement of the Murrumbeena Connect concept for mission outreach.

STRATEGY FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF MURRUMBEENA CONNECT

- » Presentation of employment proposal prepared by Ann Van Leerdam. In summary, the key features for Stage 1 (first 12 months) are:
 - The creation of a new position, a contract for 12 months for a Community Development Worker (2 days/week SCHADS award 6.1)
 - The purpose of the position being to:
 - o To research - through consultation and data collection what initiative/s the community needs and wants to thrive
 - o To construct - through the evidence collected, a sustainable model for the initiative/s for MUC (including governance structure, coordination role position description and business plan)
 - o To prepare - an action plan beyond 12 months for the initiative to start

This picture was taken by Geoff Edwards following the closure of the meeting.



TEDDY BEAR'S PICNIC



Monday the 13th March saw our first Teddy Bear's Picnic day. It was a glorious afternoon, no wind, plenty of sunshine but not too hot. The playground at Murrumbeena Park was filled with families all enjoying the weather and the opportunity to be out of doors.

We found a spot in the shade and spread out the rugs as we gathered together and our little ones explored either the ground, the picnic rugs, each other and the adults or all of the above! We were small in number but that didn't matter at all.

The Darts joined Bruce and me as did the other Robinsons with Maeve attending her first church event! Abigail brought her Teddy that she received at her baptism and had great fun playing with it. We did hear later that the Kwongs were all busy combating or recovering from gastro and so did not join us – probably a good thing!

It is great that the Knitting and Craft group have helped us connect a bit more to our baptismal families with the gift of a hand knitted teddy to present on their baptism day. We've also handed out a couple of Teddys to older siblings who may have missed out previously.

I think we'll add this event to the MUC calendar and so come next Labour Day we will gather for another Teddy Bear's Picnic.



WORDSEARCH PUZZLE – LIGHT

Find the following words, which may be horizontal (left to right and right to left), vertical (going down and going up), or diagonal. The leftover letters form a quotation from the Book of Psalms.

Y	E	R	A	L	F	O	U	D	A	Z	Z	L	I	N	G	T	B
L	O	T	E	L	O	I	V	A	R	T	L	U	R	A	D	H	L
P	H	O	T	O	N	S	K	H	C	R	O	T	E	C	E	G	U
T	N	I	L	G	E	N	I	H	S	N	U	S	I	S	P	I	B
M	R	Y	L	I	L	L	U	M	I	N	A	T	I	N	G	R	T
W	A	V	E	S	I	E	A	M	P	S	E	G	B	W	N	B	W
C	Y	U	T	B	S	N	R	N	P	N	L	I	N	A	I	G	I
I	M	I	E	I	Y	T	C	A	G	I	G	O	D	D	R	T	N
T	L	A	R	S	N	U	R	A	T	D	A	Y	B	R	E	A	K
A	M	N	R	A	U	K	M	T	N	M	A	E	L	G	M	C	L
M	U	N	I	S	S	O	E	M	H	D	R	Y	G	D	M	A	I
S	A	D	L	W	R	R	N	S	R	E	E	L	K	N	I	N	N
I	A	A	I	T	I	A	A	I	S	N	I	S	O	E	H	D	G
R	M	T	C	N	S	L	U	A	M	S	S	E	C	I	S	L	W
P	C	E	G	N	F	T	L	R	T	U	N	O	L	E	I	E	O
H	L	A	N	T	E	R	N	E	A	F	L	A	M	E	N	G	L
E	H	T	L	U	C	E	N	T	T	H	G	I	L	I	W	T	G

AFLAME
 AURA
 BEAM
 BRIGHT
 BULB
 CANDLE
 DAWN
 DAYBREAK
 DAZZLING
 ELECTROMAGNETIC
 FLARE
 FLASH
 GLEAM
 GLINT
 GLISTEN
 GLITTERING
 GLOW
 ILLUMINATING
 INCANDESCENCE
 LAMP
 LANTERN
 LASER
 LIT
 LUCENT
 LUMINOUS
 NEON
 PHOTONS
 PRISMATIC
 RADIANT
 RAY
 SCAN
 SHIMMERING
 SPARK
 SUNRISE
 SUNSHINE
 SWITCH
 TORCH
 TWILIGHT
 TWINKLING
 ULTRAVIOLET
 WAVES

THE WRITING ON THE WALL

'The writing on the wall' is a phrase which might suggest many things — these days, perhaps, the scribbles of graffiti or political slogans would spring most readily to mind. However, it owes its original, foreboding meaning, of an omen of imminent disaster, to an apparition, recorded in the fifth chapter of the Book of Daniel.

This passage tells how, at a sumptuous feast given by Belshazzar, the last ruler of Babylon, a mysterious, disembodied hand suddenly appeared, writing on the wall of the banqueting hall words that stunned the king and all present. Lost to make out their meaning, Belshazzar summoned the Chaldeans, the royal experts on occult lore, asking them to read and interpret the words. But they were unable to do so. Terrified, the king now sent for Daniel, a Jewish captive from the Holy Land, who was renowned for his wisdom. Daniel

immediately comprehended the message of the words. In the Aramaic tongue they read ***mene mene tekel ufarsin***, 'twice-numbered, weighed and divided'. They proclaimed that God had weighed Belshazzar and his kingdom and found them wanting. The words were, indeed, a prophecy of doom. They predicted the impending death of the king and the downfall of his kingdom. That same night Belshazzar was slain.

The dramatic scene has inspired many forms of art: poetry, music and painting. Handel's oratorio is one of the best-known.

As a phrase, 'the writing on the wall' has been adopted in almost every language, symbolising a forewarning, indicating a great change for the worse, if not the foretelling of disaster.

GREEN WASTE AT MUC

Glynis and Kay

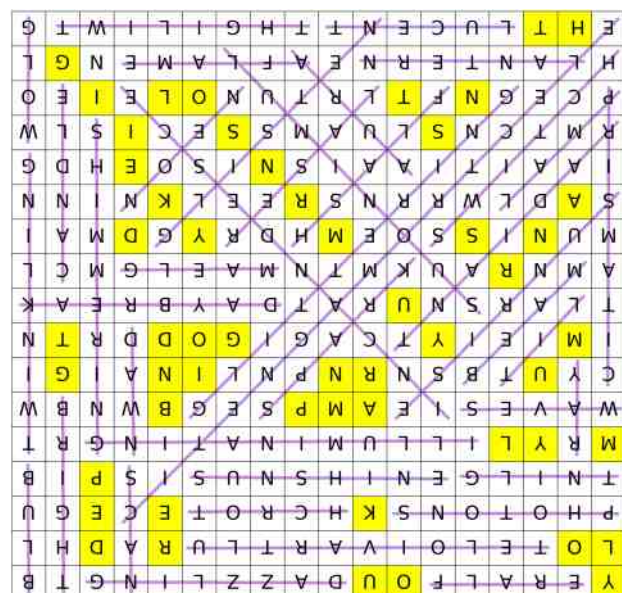
As you can imagine, our community garden plus the church garden produces a lot of green waste that needs to be disposed of. Some of it is put into our compost bins. The rest goes into the Glen Eira Council's green bins for collection.

Green bins are emptied weekly into the collection trucks and the green waste is taken to Veolia's Dandenong South composting facility and goes through a rapid composting process (6-10 days). The compost is used on farms and gardens around Victoria, returning the nutrients to soil and helping grow more food.

Here's a great video about the processing of the waste into compost and the benefits it provides to Victorian farmers - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zFTkT4cYKQw>. It includes a reminder not to put plastic and other contaminants into the green bin.

Amy from the Sustainability area of Glen Eira Council got in contact with us recently to see if we were interested in receiving a sample of the compost that is produced from the green waste. Of course we said yes. Two cubic metres was delivered to us and what hasn't been used yet is in the car park. Have a look and see what the end product looks like.

Thanks to Glen Eira Council for thinking of us. And thanks to Colin Junor for putting the bins on the nature strip each week.



PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

SEARCHWORD SOLUTION

Did you try the LIGHT Word Search on page 9 of this MUC MAG? You can check your answers here. Thanks to Christina for creating the puzzle.

The solution phrase is "You Lord keep my lamp burning. My God turns my darkness into light."

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

Date	Time	Event
Thu, 30 Mar	7:30pm - 9:00pm	Bible Study
Fri, 31 Mar	10:00am - 11:30am	Murrumbeena Connect Friday Program
Sat, 1 Apr	2:00pm - 5:00pm	Knitting and Craft Group
Sun, 2 Apr	Daylight Savings Ends 10:00am - 11:00am	Worship (Holy Communion)
Mon, 3 Apr	7:30pm - 8:15pm	Holy Week Reflections
Tue, 4 Apr	7:30pm - 8:15pm	Holy Week Reflections
Wed, 5 Apr	7:30pm - 8:15pm	Holy Week Reflections
Thu, 6 Apr	10:30am - 11:30am 7:30pm - 8:30pm	Worship Service at Regis Maundy Thursday Service
Fri, 7 Apr	9:30am - 10:30am 10:30am - 11:30am	Good Friday Service Hot Cross Bun Morning Tea
Sat, 8 Apr	3:00pm - 4:00pm	Reflection Space
Sun, 9 Apr	10:00am - 11:00am	Worship
Tue, 11 Apr	10:15am - 11:15am	Women's Bible Study
Wed, 12 Apr	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Church Council
Fri, 14 Apr	10:00am - 11:30am	Murrumbeena Connect Friday Program
Sat, 15 Apr	8:00am - 9:00am 10:00am - 4:00pm	Friendship Fellas' Breakfast Wedding of Sharon Lee
Sun, 16 Apr	10:00am - 11:00am	Worship
Fri, 21 Apr	10:30am - 11:30am	Murrumbeena Connect Friday Program
Sat, 22 Apr	9:00am - 10:30am	LIFT Women's Breakfast
Sun, 23 Apr	10:00am - 11:00am 11:15am - 12:00pm	Worship Library and Special Morning Tea
	ANZAC Day	
Tue, 25 Apr	10:15am - 11:15am 5:30pm - 7:00pm	Women's Bible Study Friendship Fellas' Dinner
Fri, 28 Apr	10:30am - 11:30am	Murrumbeena Connect Friday Program
Sun, 30 Apr	10:00am - 11:00am 11:00am - 12:00pm	Worship MUC Annual Congregational Meeting
Wed, 3 May	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Church Council
Thu, 4 May	10:30am - 11:30am 7:30pm - 9:00pm	Worship Service at Regis Bible Study
Fri, 5 May	10:30am - 11:30am	Murrumbeena Connect Friday Program
Sat, 6 May	2:00pm - 5:00pm	Knitting and Craft Group
Sun, 7 May	10:00am - 11:00am	Combined Worship with Leighmoor & Coatesville
Tue, 9 May	10:15am - 11:15am	Women's Bible Study
Wed, 10 May	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Church Council
Thu, 11 May	7:30pm - 9:00pm	Bible Study
Fri, 12 May	10:00am - 11:30am	Murrumbeena Connect Friday Program
Sat, 13 May	8:00am - 9:00am	Friendship Fellas' Breakfast
Sun, 14 May	10:00am - 11:00am	Worship
	Deadline for submission of articles for MUC Mag	
Thu, 18 May	7:30pm - 9:00pm	Bible Study
Fri, 19 May	10:30am - 11:30am	Murrumbeena Connect Friday Program
Sun, 21 May	10:00am - 11:00am	Worship
Tue, 23 May	10:15am - 11:15am 5:30pm - 7:00pm	Women's Bible Study Friendship Fellas' Dinner
Wed, 24 May	7:30pm - 8:30pm	Elders Meeting
Thu, 25 May	7:30pm - 9:00pm	Bible Study
Fri, 26 May	10:30am - 11:30am	Murrumbeena Connect Friday Program
Sat, 27 May	9:00am - 10:30am 2:00pm - 5:00pm	LIFT Women's Breakfast Knitting and Craft Group
Sun, 28 May	10:00am - 11:00am 11:15am - 12:00pm	Worship (Pentecost Sunday) Library and Special Morning Tea
Thu, 1 Jun	10:30am - 11:30am 7:30pm - 9:00pm	Worship Service at Regis Bible Study
Fri, 2 Jun	10:30am - 11:30am	Murrumbeena Connect Friday Program
Sat, 3 Jun	2:00pm - 5:00pm	Knitting and Craft Group
Sun, 4 Jun	10:00am - 11:00am	Worship (Holy Communion)

ROSTERS

APRIL 2023

Noticeboard: Pastoral Team

Vacuuming: Greg Pressey

Date	Duty Elder	Sound-Desk/ vMix	Welcomers/ Offering	Bible Reader	Communion Stewards	Count Offering	Morning Tea	Special Morning Tea
2		Peter B Bruce R	Geoff E	Anne D	Roger M Greg P	Greg P	Geoff E	N/A
6		Bruce R Roger M	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
7 Good Friday		Roger M Peter B	Marg E	Sharon L	N/A	N/A	Molly Hot Cross Buns	N/A
9	Peter B	Greg P Roger M	Doug F	Venora F	N/A	Colin J	Marg E	N/A
16	Bruce R	Bruce R Greg P	Carol F	Mary-Lou K	N/A	??	Carol F	N/A
23	Doug F	Peter B Bruce R	Doug F	Roger M	N/A	??	Mary-Lou K	N/A
30	Peter B	Raj Peter B	Geoff E	Geoff E	N/A	Colin J	Nirsa	Marg E Allison R

MAY 2023

Noticeboard: Pastoral Team

Vacuuming: Geoff Edwards

Date	Duty Elder	Sound-Desk/ vMix	Welcomers/ Offering	Bible Reader	Communion Stewards	Count Offering	Morning Tea	Special Morning Tea
7 Combined Service	??	Greg P Roger M	Doug F Carol F	Marg E	Doug F Bruce R	Greg P	Marg E Rachel D	N/A
14	Roger M	Bruce R Greg P	Peter B	Peter B	N/A	Roger M	Molly	N/A
21	Anne D	Peter B Bruce R	Carol F	Anne D	N/A	Doug F	Sharon L	N/A
28	??	Raj Peter B	Sharon L	Sharon L	N/A	Colin J	Venora F	Mary-Lou K Nirsa

NEIGHBOUR DAY AT MUC

