

Church Contact Details: PO Box 205, Wollongong 2520;
Phone: 4226 1750

Website: www.wollongongcongregationchurch.org

Facebook: Wollongong Congregational Church

Rev Con Despinidic 42713235. Mob. 0427431709
cdespini@gmail.com

Elders:

Wendy 42292483 / mobile 0407936981

Leonie 42713235 / mobile 0428180355

Annette 42716763 / mobile 0401089938

Church notices: Email Annette; ameldrum@ozemail.com.au

Church Finances

Please continue to support our church finances as some running costs will continue despite our closure. Direct Debit can be set up using account details below. Cheques can be posted to PO Box 205 Wollongong 2520. Otherwise simply put your tithe aside until we re-open.

Congregational Church Wollongong

BSB: 032695

Account No: 494743

Your prayer intercession could be the only spiritual protection your wider family have, so pray daily for the grace and mercy of God to be downloaded into their hearts.

Father God, we come before You today to ask for your protection over our families. Let no trouble fall on them today. Keep them away from accidents. Allow no evil to influence their hearts. Cover them with the precious blood of [Christ](#). Take charge over them so that they do not face danger.

We can't be with our families at this time, but I trust that You, Lord, are always with them. Keep them safe today and allow them to give glory to You. Give them peace of mind so that they may not worry about unnecessary things. Guard their hearts so that they may only display love instead of hate, anger, or bitterness. Amen



Wollongong Congregational Church

19th April 2020

Dear Church family, greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour. We trust that everyone is keeping safe and in touch with others for friendship, prayer and support as needed. May God bless us each one and our church, give us wisdom and keep us all in good health.

Con is recording videoed devotions each week which can be viewed from our website each Sunday

www.wollongongcongregationchurch.org **JUST CLICK THIS LINK!**

Tune in to **Con's radio program** on Pulse 94.1 FM. Sunday Worship 7-10am. Repeated Tues night 10pm. Morning devotions 6-7am daily.

Tuesday Bible Study at 10am using Zoom Meeting software.

Contact George if you would like to join us.

Our Church Prayer Chain

We encourage everyone to join our prayer chain as a means of communicating more widely while we're in lockdown. If you would like to join or if you have a prayer need or praise point, ring or text Leonie 0428180355. The Prayer Chain works in 2 ways: choose to receive a call then ring the next person on the list OR simply go on the list to receive the texts as prayer points are received. OR send Annette your news for publication in this newsletter. I am sure that we all crave news of each other at this time.



Wendy was thrilled to see this writing in the sky near her home on Easter Sunday!

This past couple of weeks I have prepared and presented three video sermons. I was intrigued to see that one of the messages had over 130 hits on the internet. Times have dictated that we do things differently for a season. I was speaking to another pastor this week and he tells me that a number of his congregation have come back to the fold, strange because like us they are no longer able to hold church services. All that they do has been done online, some pre-recorded and some live streamed. I struggled with the dilemma, to do or not to do? There is so much out there, some of it is exceptional both in presentation and in teaching. After much thought and prayer, I concluded that we too should be out there. I already do a radio programme so how hard would it be to do a video presentation? Much harder actually, what a learning curve!

It has been a good discipline and if I am able, I will endeavour to keep up the effort. Again, I ask myself why? Is it ego? Is it about the preacher and the preaching? No, it is not! I am stirred by my personal walk with the Lord and for me what I do is an element of my personal devotions. My prayer is that it will be of benefit to others and a blessing to the overall ministry of the Wollongong Congregational Church.

Years ago I read, 'Practicing the presence of God' and was challenged by the authors walk with the Lord. Brother Lawrence was a poor dishwasher and cook in a 17th-century French monastery. During his 40 years as a monk, he came to a deep understanding of what it meant to practice the presence of God. He wrote that he came to the point of always "keeping [his] mind in His holy presence, and when tempted to change his thoughts he would come back to this thought. God is always present.

I know that we are not monks living in the 17th Century nor do we live in a monastery. We inhabit the 21st Century and have different vocations, although at present many are in social isolation. So whether working from home or forced to spend time with family, we can 'practice the presence of God' in our lives.

Ponder on these ongoing practices—not as over-and-done actions.

Abide (John 15:4–5)

Love God and neighbour (Matthew 22:37–40)

Set your mind (Romans 8:5–6)

Walk /keep in step with the Spirit (Galatians 5:16, 25)

Set your heart (Colossians 3:1–2)

Rejoice always (1 Thessalonians 5:16)

Pray continually (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

Give thanks in all circumstances (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

Run with endurance/perseverance (Hebrews 12:1–2)

Submit/offer yourself up (Romans 12:1–2)

Press on (Philippians 3:12–14)

Dwell on (Philippians 4:6–8)

Remember God's faithfulness and provision (Deuteronomy 8:2–3)

God's richest blessings to you all.

Con

Prayer Points

Please pray for:

- ◇ Our church family
- ◇ Those In Care: Ron Ratcliffe; Hugh Kirk; Joan Weber & Dawn Coleshill
- ◇ Janice and her son Steve. Pray also for Janice for relief from pain
- ◇ Gail and Ray (Hong Kong) and for children & families in all 3 schools
- ◇ Jenny and Dave Rowe in USA: Adam and the Togo Group
- ◇ FCC Churches: *Narellan Congregational Church*
- ◇ Church family members: *Joan Weber*
- ◇ God's leading and authority over decisions concerning our church
- ◇ God's leading concerning our need for Elders, Deacons, Assistant Pastor
- ◇ Romani Evangelical Congregational Church in Macedonia and their Pastor
- ◇ Pulse 94.1 FM and the effectiveness of Con's radio program
- ◇ Wisdom and opportunity to reach our community with the Gospel
- ◇ Persecuted Christians in *Saudi Arabia*
- ◇ Gods intervention to enable doctors to make wise diagnoses for patients
- ◇ Con and Leonie for strength and improved health
- ◇ Ralph, Dennis, Roger, Jennifer and John Facey for continued recovery
- ◇ Margaret, Dianne, Wendie and family for God's peace and sustaining
- ◇ Those suffering with Coronavirus and for eradication of the virus
- ◇ For those experiencing loneliness due to self isolation
- ◇ Fasiu for adjustment to his new prostheses
- ◇ Dawn who is struggling with her health and isolation from her daughters

Please set aside a few minutes each Sunday around 10am to unitedly pray through the prayer points in this newsletter and give thanks for God's blessings.

National call to prayer, daily at 7:00pm. "Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be faithful in prayer." Rom 12:12. Pray that many would experience God as their refuge and help at this time.

We encourage everyone to continue to support our church financially. Details provided on the back page of this newsletter.

NEWS!!!!!!

Do you have any news to share with your church friends?

Please phone or email Annette with the details for inclusion here next week. I will make room for them all, I promise! Contact details, back page.