



February 2025 Newsletter

Helping the people of Pakenham find life in Jesus



Close to the Sun

Welcome to our February Newsletter!

One of the top news stories recently has been Nasa's Parker Solar Probe which has survived the closest ever approach to the sun. There is still so much we don't understand about the sun and scientists are hopeful that the data collected by the probe will provide answers. The closer they get, the more data is collected and the more they will discover and understand.

The more scientists discover about the extreme power and heat of the sun the more they realize how small we are and how little we know about the universe.

The sun is just one of billions of stars in the universe, imagine the extreme power and glory of the One who has created everything and is holding everything together!

As followers of Christ, we are called to draw near to Jesus, who is God the Son. The nearer we come to Him the more we discover and understand who He is. And unlike the sun, He is a living being who wants us to approach Him. To enter into a deep and vital relationship that changes us completely into the people we are created to be. To be fully alive, living the full life, for His glory.

May 2025 be a year of drawing ever nearer to Jesus, allowing Him to carry on His workmanship in us so that we can be the world-changers He calls us to be.

Pastor Richard Schoenmaker
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0416 204 797

2-1-2 Prayer Tool

1 Timothy 2:1-2



We all know at least two people close to us, that need Jesus. This tool helps us to pray for

2 people, every 1 day, for 2 minutes.

And as you do look for God-given opportunities to lead them to Jesus.

Sermon Series



This month we will begin a new Church calendar year where we will seek to understand more about the heart of God for Pakenham. We will begin a new sermon series called "Close to the Son" looking at King Jesus through the revelation the Apostle John received and wrote down. May we be filled with awe and wonder as we focus on the person and work of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

If you need a refresher, or to catch up on a sermon you missed, you will find all the messages on our YouTube Channel, via the website and on your favorite podcast channel.

2nd February 'Sharing Mercy' Ephesians 4:28-32
9th February 'Commission Sunday' Revelation 1:1-7
16th February 'See Your King' Revelation 1:8-20
23rd February 'Stewardship' Sean de Kretser TBA
2nd March 'Renewing Your First Love' Revelation 2:1-7

Upcoming Events



To all our PC3 Women,
You are invited to join us for our first event of the year. On **Friday 7th of February at 6pm**, our very own Coreen Spittel will be teaching us how to make an authentic Sri Lankan curry! Hosted at the van Rossen's, we would love to see you there.
Please bring along \$10 to cover the cost of expenses. Places are limited so if you would like to attend, please RSVP to Lucy.

PC3 invites you to join us on **Sunday February 9th for Commission Sunday!**

As we start a new year, we would like to reunite together in the vision to reach Pakenham for Christ and look forward into 2025. If you are a member, looking to join or new to PC3, we would love you to be part of this service. Starting at 10am at the SDA building, we will see you there!



Commission Sunday
Sunday February 9th, 2025

Join us as we embark on reaching Pakenham for Christ in 2025.



It is time to bring out the good old picnic basket from the back cupboard, grab some sandwiches and pack the drinks.
Next Picnic: Sunday 9th February
Following the Sunday service, we will be heading down to Oakland Way Playground for a picnic. Please bring your own lunch, BBQ facilities are available onsite. There are no toilets at the playground so please use the church toilets before heading down.

A Childsafe training session is being held in Dandenong for 2025.

Anyone who is looking to complete their Childsafe training in person is welcome to attend. The session will be at **Dandenong Reformed Church on Saturday 22nd of February**. 9am start from Team Member training and a 1pm start for Team Leader training.

Coffee and Tea will be provided. BYO lunch.

Please RSVP to Jenna by February 12th if you would like to attend.



PC3's Fundraising Fete

Save the date as we are excited to announce that PC3 is hosting it's first fundraising fete on **April 5th!**

There will be a car boot sale, baked goods stand, plants and crafts stand, BBQ, games and many more items on offer.

If you would like to contribute, volunteer or donate to the day, please speak to Jenna.

Little Peas Playgroup runs on **Thursday mornings** from **10am until 12pm** at our **new location Toun-Nun Family Centre (46 Fairweather Parade, Officer)**.

Please bring a water bottle and a gold coin donation along with you. Morning tea is provided. For further details, please speak to Jenna Gould.



Youth Collective runs on **Friday evenings** from **7pm** at **The Shed (450 Cardinia Road, Officer South)**.

If you are between the ages of 13 and 18, please join us for fun activities, studies and great company. Please keep an eye out for special events in our newsletter. For further details, please speak to Charis Ormesher.

If you find yourself needing a bit more notice or thrive with having a calendar on hand, jump onto the PC3 calendar to sync with your calendar app. Simply click on the following link:

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=pakenhamc3%40gmail.com&ctz=Australia%2FMelbourne>

PC3's Faithful Volunteers



Thank you to all our family who help out weekly with the setup, pack down and running of our Sunday service.

We could not do it without you!

If you would like to join our volunteer roster, please speak with Pastor Richard Schoenmaker or a member of our leadership team.

	2 nd February	9 th February	16 th February	23 rd February	2 nd March
Pastor	Ps Richard	Ps Richard	Sean	Ps Richard	Ps Richard
Call to Worship	Dan	Dave	Charis	Peter	Dan
Communion Set/Pack Up	Lucy	-	-	-	Renee + Justin
Second Offering	-	Reformed Theological College	-	Solomon Islands Workgroup	-
Sound	Andre	Malachi	Andre	Malachi	Andre
Media	John	Sean	Dave	Sean	John
Music Coordinator	Siska	Siska	Siska	Siska	Siska
Jam 1	Lynn	Leah	Renee	Charis	Lynn
Jam 2	Ansa	Janet	Anneke	Riley	Ansa
Greeter 1	Lesley	Peter	John	Youth	Vivi
Greeter 2	TBA	TBA	Chris		Marius
Set Up/Morning Tea	Schoenmaker	Bond	Madhavan & Ormesher	Van Rossen	De Haan
Pack Up	Bond	Madhavan & Ormesher	Van Rossen	De Haan	Gould
Notes	Lord's Supper				Lord's Supper

Church Council Update

Dear PC3 Church Family,

We pray you have had a joyous and refreshing Christmas/New Year season with family and friends and you are ready to begin a year of reaching Pakenham with for Christ.

- We are looking forward to our first Church Council meeting on the 12th of this month. We have much planning to do.
- We are thankful to have had good attendance at our services during the holidays.
- Our finances are still a reason for concern and prayer. Look out for an email update soon. And please prayerfully consider your level of giving.
- We are planning fundraising events to help meet our budget obligations.
- We are praying for our Commissioning Service and Church Picnic on the 9th of this month. With all our programs beginning again we know how dependent we are on God to move our hearts to serve. And PC3 needs us all using our God-given gifts to work on our vision to reach Pakenham for Christ.
- Please continue praying for us as we seek to serve you as faithful godly leaders.

Youth

January wasn't a quiet time for the youth, in fact it was a time of deep thinking about the meaning of life or maybe even how meaningless everything is without God at CRCA Convention 2025. We were definitely confronted, challenged, and somehow also encouraged by what Stephen McAlpine and others had to share from Ecclesiastes. The big stand out for me was how God's timing is perfect, but this isn't the same stand out for each young person who attended. If you've read this far, thanks for reading, but also take a couple minutes to talk to Malachi, Kristy, Ash, or Riley about what they learnt about God during their time at Convention.

With February here and school back it also means that Friday night youth kicks off! We will be meeting for the first time in 2025 on February 7th, 7pm, at 450 Cardinia Rd. This is open from anyone in Year 7 - Year 12. If you know anyone who'd be keen to join let me know! And as always please continue to pray for our young people, it seems so much easier to stray from God in this day and age with distractions coming from every direction, every second of each day pray that God will hold them fast and they won't stray from Him.

Blessings,
Charis

Life Groups

Our Life Groups are the main way we grow as disciples of Jesus together. We open God's Word together, pray together, support each other, and think creatively about how we can get involved in God's mission to reach Pakenham for Christ.

Sunday

JAM kids

Every Sunday during the service (except during school holidays)

Contact Lynn de Kretser

Life Group 5

Every 2nd and 4th Sunday evening each month.

Contact Dan van Rossen

Wednesday

Life Group 4

Fortnightly on Wednesday evening, 7:30-9pm

Contact Sean de Kretser

Thursday

Life Group 1

Fortnightly on Thursday evening, 7:30-9pm

Contact Richard Schoenmaker

Life Group 2

Fortnightly on Thursday evening, 7:30-9pm

Contact Lesley Schoenmaker

Friday

Life Group 3

Fortnightly on Friday evening, 7:30-9pm

Contact David Barrot

Soul Enrichment

The best news we could ever hear is the fact that the God of the universe is calling all people everywhere to repent and come to Him (Acts 17:30). We need to know that Jesus is standing at the door of our hearts knocking. He is inviting us to allow Him in - through repentance and faith. James puts it this way, "*Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.*" (James 4:8) The writer to the Hebrews challenges us to; "*Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.*" (Hebrews 4:16) Oh what joy awaits us when we humble ourselves before God and allow Him to lift us up. (James 4:10). Is this what you long for? Here are five ways to draw near to Jesus.

1. Repent and be cleansed

The nearer we come to Jesus the more we feel our weakness and dependence. Isaiah had this experience when he saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted and surrounded by huge, glorious angels worshipping Him. (Isaiah 6). Being that close to God made Isaiah look at himself and cry out; "Woe to me! I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips!" (Isaiah 6:5). But this painful revelation immediately turned into joy and peace as Isaiah experienced God's forgiveness and reconciliation. Only then was he ready to serve God with his whole heart.

This can be our experience as we enter God's presence through repentant prayer and receive the forgiveness and healing of our relationship with Him. Then, in His presence we will be cleansed of the hurts, habits and hang ups that hold us down and be ready to serve Him in gratitude.

2. Receive the Holy Spirit

In John 15 Jesus declared that He is the Vine and we are the branches. That He is the life giving stream that enables and empowers us to bare much fruit. Paul writes, *"God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us."* (Romans 5:5) and, *"He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior,"* (Titus 3:5) The fact is, without receiving His life in us we are spiritually dead. Prayer is not just a "good" thing to do, it is vital for receiving and keeping in step with the Holy Spirit.

3. Commit to Kingdom work

As soon as we give our lives to Jesus and receive new life in Him, we discover we are a part of a community that is a *"chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light."* (1 Peter 2:9) We are a part of the Body of Christ that is called to seek and save the lost by using whatever gift we have received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. (1 Peter 4:10). *"Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain."* (1 Corinthians 15:58)

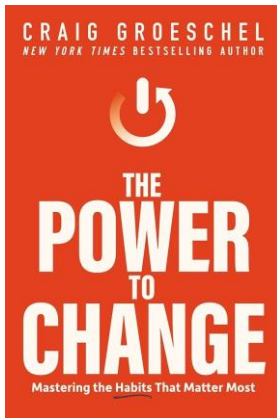
4. Obey the Word

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16-17). The more we study and apply the Word the more like Jesus we become. He is the Word become flesh, and we are to let the Word of Christ dwell in us richly.

5. Follow Jesus' Lead

All who have made the decision to believe in Jesus as their personal Lord and Saviour have heard His call to follow. *"May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."* (Romans 15:5)

This month's MUST READ:



The Power to Change!

Few things in life are more frustrating and demoralising than knowing you need to change, wanting to change, and trying to change, but not changing. In this book Craig Groeschel gives helpful steps, insights and scriptures to bring lasting change in relationships, habits and thought patterns.

CONTENTS

Part 1: Who. Not do

Part 2: Training. Not Trying

Part 3: Habits. Not Hope

Part 4: Sowing. Not Reaping

Part 5: God's Power. Not Willpower

Giving

Thank you to all those who generously give to our Gospel Work!

We believe regular, joyful, and sacrificial giving is our act of worship to a God who has so sacrificially given to us. As we give, we proclaim our faith to God as our Provider and the Lord of our lives. Your generous giving supports our mission to reach Pakenham with the Gospel.

If you would like to give, you can do so in the following ways:

General Fund

Bank: West Pac
BSB: 033-341
Account number:
505817
Account name:
Pakenham Christian
Community Church

Building Fund

Bank: West Pac
BSB: 033-126
Account number:
616792
Account name:
Building Fund

In Person

Donations can be made
in the offering bag
passed around during
the closing song.

