

LIVING JESUS' EXAMPLE

From The Pen of Pastor Judi

Sharing our stories

We live in a society where most of us are struggling with something but very few of us are willing to share our truth. We struggle between wanting to share our lives to not wanting to share anything at all; to sharing the good things and not the messy parts, the hard parts, the parts that twist your stomach into a million butterflies. Here are 6 reasons why we need to share our stories:

Connection – keeping things to ourselves build walls around us and we become isolated. When we start to share our stories, we find others who get us; hear us; see us for who we truly are. And we realize we all have imperfect parts and we can embrace imperfection together.

Depth – digging deeper into our story leads to courageous living. We can reflect and step outside of our comfort zones and grow.

Permission – When we share our stories about the struggles we are dealing with, we send out messages to others that we are a safe place where they can talk about their issues.

Authenticity – when we truly listen to one another and give them our undivided attention we are saying we see you, you are real and this goes both ways.

Awareness – Today we don't talk about our insecurities, struggles, lack of self-love in our lives or problems with relationships. We don't ask for help because we fear we will look weak. But we have to be brave enough to share our stories, in order to change and to be the example.

Community – When we find other people like us, we feel less alone and more connected. Like we belong and it feels like home. As a community, we can start inviting others in and share our stories with them. We can create a welcoming and warm community. One built on love, connection, authenticity and story-telling.

Life is an adventure with its ups and down, our highest of highs and lowest of lows, our deepest and darkest secrets, our lifelong dreams and desires. As story-tellers we can break shame cycles, change the direction in which our society is headed, make waves and rock a few boats.

If you do not let yourself be seen, you cannot see. (Vironkia Tugaleva)

Please have your mobile phone on silent



Sunday Services:

December 8th

2nd Sunday of Advent

Preacher: Judy

Readings: Isaiah 11:1-10 Val Matthew 3:1-12 Noel

Helpers: Val & Noel **Communion** Judi

December 15th

3rd Sunday of Advent

Preacher: Colin

Readings: Isaiah 35:1-10 Marg Luke 1:46-55 Leah

Helpers: Marg & Leah **Communion** Noel



PRAYER MEETING

Friday's at 10am for 1/2 hour. All are welcome

LADIES BIBLE STUDY:

Friday's 10:30am-11:30am

Followed by a cuppa in one of the local cafes when time permits. Don't forget ladies you can join in at anytime and all is confidential.



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Pastoral Care/

Pastor Judi is available
Monday 8am -3pm;
Wednesday 7am -1pm;
Friday 8am -12noon
Sunday 9am -12noon.

If you would like Pastoral Care please make a time with Judi to meet at her office or a home visit. Outside of these hours, you may contact Pastor Judi if it is an urgent situation.



Church Happenings

The Pastors Break:

During January, Pastor Judi will be taking some well-deserved rest. Prayer meeting and Bible study will be on hold and will resume 7th February.

Donation of Christmas Hampers:

Once again the Brighton Masonic Lodge have donated 10 Christmas hampers for our needy community.

Grease Trap Situation:

Thanks to all your prayers and action, South East Water have agreed to provide us with an exemption on having to install a very costly grease trap. This situation will be ongoing and monitored annually. We thank South East Water for their understanding of our situation.

Alpha to resume in February 2020:

In order to lock in a suitable day and time, please let Judi know ASAP if you are interested in attending. There are 12 sessions with 4 sessions suitable for a weekend midway through the course. Please select which would be more suitable to you. Pastor Judi is happy to run 2 separate courses with a possibility of 2 groups meeting for the weekend session.

Monday or Friday afternoons from 2-3.30pm. Monday or Friday evenings from 6-7.30pm. Sunday afternoons (**fortnightly only**) from 12-1.30pm. One weekend day, Saturday from 10-2pm or a Sunday from 12-4pm.

Use of the Annexe room (Men's Shed office):

From 2020 this room will be used as extra storage space for our Pantry food and to enable a hairdresser to offer free haircuts. These will be of a Wednesday, once a month.

Christmas Cards:

To cut down on postage there will be a table in Christmas cards on. name of the recipient is




cost as from this week the hall for you to put your Please make sure that the clear.

Jesus Is The Reason

In Bethlehem, God gave to us
The source of Christmas joy;
A star shown on a miracle:
The virgin birth of a boy.

He was born both God and man,
A Saviour for us all,
The way to get to our heavenly home,
If we just heed His call.

So as we shop and spend and wrap
And enjoy the Christmas season,
Let's keep in mind the sacred truth:
Jesus is the reason.

JESUS *is*
the *Reason*
for the  *Season.*