



Staying Connected 24 September 2023

Office Details

Office Hours:

Mon - Thurs 08:30 to 14:00
Fri : 08:30 to 13:00

Address:

38 Jan Hofmeyr Road, Westville
PO Box 47, Westville, 3630

Phone:

031 266 5222

Email:

office@westvillemethodist.co.za

Website:

westvillemethodist.co.za

Sunday Service Times:

07:30
09:00
18:30

From the Minister's Desk

I heard an expression this week that was new to me but immediately made sense.

The phrase "friendship recession" is used to describe a clear trend today that sees

more and more adults (men particularly) finding that they have very few or no close friends. If this is true, it means that we have a diminished support structure to carry us through difficult times, and that loneliness is becoming a very real experience for more and more people.

The phenomenon may be attributed to our growing reliance on technology for connection, rather than spending significant time together in person.

One journalist even puts a number to the amount of time we need to spend with others, arguing that "friendship responds to the formula 11-3-6. That is, you need a minimum of 11 meetings of at least three hours in a period of six months to turn an acquaintance into a true friend."

In our sabbath course material this week, we heard about the practice of gathering people together weekly for a "sabbath feast" (and I heard one person share how she has been part of a circle of friends who have met weekly over the years to the point where those friends have become family). This takes some very intentional effort (especially in the beginning), but how life-giving! (and a practical way to reverse the friendship recession all around us) How about planning a sabbath feast this week?



Church Diary 2024

Westville Methodist Church is blessed with having many halls and rooms of various sizes. These venues are hired out on a regular basis, with the afternoon slots presently occupied by many community based activities. We currently have a few slots available to hire, on weekday mornings.

Please will all church groups and ministries also confirm their dates for using any rooms in the church complex for 2024, with Laura in the church office.

Communion : October

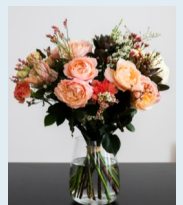
Please Note : There will be **NO** communion on 1 October. The date for Communion during October will be on Sunday 8 October, at all 3 services.

Sewing Group at WMC

The Sew 'n Sews meet in the church lounge every Monday morning to sew for the many projects that the church is involved with. If you would like to join them to sew, you are welcome to pop in to the church lounge on a Monday morning from 09:00 to 12:00 or contact the church office for further information.

Pastoral Care Flower Ministry

Each Monday morning a member of the Pastoral Care Flower Team arranges the flowers from Sunday into pastoral bowls. These flowers are delivered to our members as part of our pastoral care ministry. There is a need for helpers to assist with the arranging of these flowers on a Monday morning (once a month). If you would like to be a part of this very special ministry please contact the church office.



Contact Details

Minister

Michael Bishop 079 499 9139

Email : michael@westvillemethodist.co.za

Society Stewards

David Jordan 082 922 9385
Amanda Kenny 083 330 8780
Ashley Sellwood 083 650 7612
Dave Oldacre 082 784 6282
Jane Bainbridge 084 746 2004
Brandon Walker 084 912 8188
Brenda Siswana 079 485 4870
Natalie Moolman 073 438 8153
Louise Walker 084 580 3471

Bible Readings

24 to 30 September 2023

Sunday Matthew 20 : 1 - 16
Monday Psalm 119 : 97 - 104
Tuesday Romans 16 : 17 - 20
Wednesday Matthew 18 : 1 - 5
Thursday Isaiah 48 : 17 - 21
Friday Psalm 78 : 1 - 4
Saturday Mark 11 : 27 - 33



CONGRATULATIONS
ON YOUR

Engagement

**Congratulations to
Dave and Deanne Buckingham
on the engagement of their daughter,
Ashley
to
Gert Spies
on Saturday 9 September.**

PRAYER REQUESTS

Shirleen Prydderch	(Bipolar Treatment)
Ursula Rohrs Ameen	(Pancreatic Cancer)
Eileen Stubbs	(Very Frail)
Mike Hoole	(Frail)
Dorothy Foster	(Colon Cancer - Treatment)
Sané Ndlovu	(Endometriosis Treatment)
John Cave	(Cancer - Back pain)
Zayden Govender	(Kidney function - Has Improved)
Debbie Ivins	(Autoimmune Disease)
Shelley Reed	(Motor Neuron Disease / ALS)



The KZN Mental Health Advocacy Group and the South African Depression and Anxiety Group (SADAG) KZN office, will be hosting the 8th Annual **Mental Health Advocacy Walk and Wellness Fair** on Sunday 8 October at the Durban Beachfront Amphitheatre. For further information please see the advert on the notice board in the church foyer or contact SADAG on email : kznsadag@anxiety.org.za .




Ongoing Prayer

Stephen Adams, Lance Bainbridge, Lorraine Bekker, Rose Chislett, Florrie David-Sullivan, Janita Downing, Gwen King, Evelyn Kolbe, Linda Lodge, Megan Moody, Doff Ponsie, Nicky Proctor, Siswana Family, Steve Smith, St John Spoor, Sherwyn Sullivan, Marjorie Tarbett.



The following items can be placed in the black box outside the church office.

- Second hand clothes and shoes in good, clean condition
 - Small household items, in good, clean condition
 - Blankets / Linen / Towels
 - Wool / Off-cuts of Material
 - Non-perishable food items
 - Books in good condition / Stationery
 - Items for Winter Warmth
 - Small Bowls for Pastoral Flowers
- Thank you*



"On behalf of KidZAid I wish to thank you for your continued support of the Trust. Next year KidZAid will celebrate 20 years of service to under-privileged communities in the Highway area and during that time, we have been blessed by donations in both cash and kind from your church. For many years now we have been the recipients of your Winter Warmth collections for which we are truly grateful."

Helen Lee, KidZAid Trust Founder



Book Corner at WMC

Please visit the Book Corner in the church lounge. You can either leave a donation in the honesty box in the church office or swap your books. When swapping books please ensure the books you leave behind are in good condition. We are not able to take big encyclopedias or large study books.

Church Bank Details

Acc: Westville Methodist Church
Acc No: 58880668126
Bank: First National Bank
Branch: Westville **Br Code:** 223526



There are numerous Bible Study Groups that meet throughout the week in private homes and in the church building. Some groups meet in the evenings after work, but there are also quite a few that meet during the day. There is an opportunity and a time to suit everyone. For a full list of the current groups available, please see the leaflet in the church foyer or contact the church office for further information.