

THE DECEPTIVE SIMPLICITY OF STORIES: JONAH & THE GOOD SAMARITAN

(by Rev'd Nathanael Thierry)

Stories can be deceptively simple and surprisingly profound. This is particularly true of two Bible stories with which I have been sitting over the last few weeks. The first of these is the story of Jonah. I have the privilege of kicking off our July this coming Sunday with the beloved story which is so familiar to many of us from Sunday School and RE.



Who doesn't know about Jonah, the storm and the giant fish. However, once you start to look closer the story no longer seems so cute but is even mildly disturbing! And what is it about anyway? The fish only gets a few passing verses. The story, in fact, deals with some very heady themes; including God's grace for the nations and indeed God's character, disobedience of God's people, repentance, forgiveness, judgment and mission. It is going to be a fun series for July!

The other story is the Good Samaritan which also has deep pockets of meaning and not just "Be kind to people"! The story is essential to how Jesus unpacks and explains the second of the two great Commandments "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, etc ... and Love your neighbour as yourself" (Luke 10:27). However, I'm not going to tell you more about that story as you will either have to come along to the Young Adults Winter Retreat ([LINK](#)) or ask a young adult about it after the retreat!





CHANGE4CHANGE: SUNDAY 5th JULY

Please bring your Change4Change jars on Sunday 5 July. Thank you for your generous contribution towards the Education Assistance Project (Mission of Truth Church, Surabaya). Alternately, you can also donate online with following details:

- Account: Glen Waverley Anglican Church, BSB: 033009, Account No: 108940
- Reference: change4change



Community Meal || First Friday Gathering

Join us for a relaxed Friday night Community Meal at GWAC as we gather around the table for good food and great conversations.

 **First Friday of the Month – 3rd July 2026**

 **6:00–7:00pm**

On the menu: burgers and chips – simple, hearty, and shared in good company. A \$5 donation helps support the ongoing work of Hope for Monash.

Register here for upcoming Community Meals this year:

<https://events.humanitix.com/community-dinner/tickets>

MIDWEEK FELLOWSHIP BRUNCH – UPDATED DATE

Please note that the Fellowship Brunch planned for the midweek congregation on **Wednesday 1 July** has been **postponed to Wednesday 8 July**.

- **Wednesday Service:** 10.00–11.00am
- **Brunch:** 11.00am–12.00pm

We look forward to celebrating July birthdays and enjoying an extended time of fellowship together on the 8th.





CHILDREN & YOUTH

CHILDREN & FAMILIES MINISTRY

Thank you for your support of the recent PIZZA & Movie Day, which had over 20 new kids from various schools attend. The vision is to hold another in the Spring break. If you'd like to be involved in the planning of this, please contact Anthony. Remember - these events also involve adults who enjoy chatting with the parents, encouraging wider connection. BUT if you'd like to be amongst the games with kids, now is the best time to begin paperwork to be 'Cleared for ministry' (Kooyoora).

Another helpful action would be to join our monthly ZOOM Prayer on MON 13th JULY 7:30pm. Your involvement in this, 30mins, is a great encouragement for us. As usual, our Sunday Kids and Playgroup sessions are taking a break for the school holidays and resume in Term 3. However, SUN 12th JULY - come to GLOW (Age 0-3 with a carer).

(Anthony Wheaton)

IGNITE (YOUTH MINISTRY)

IMPORTANT: Amanthi is on leave 3rd – 13th July.

Term 3 is going to be quite an exciting one for Ignite!

Term 3 Bible Teaching: Ignite will look at "The Gospel of John: So that you might believe." The first four chapters of John's Gospel will be our focus at Ignite this term. As we read through John's Gospel, we are challenged to consider if we believe that Jesus is the Son of God, our Saviour and Lord!

Term 3 Activities: We've got a jam-packed program this term! We will have our usual worship and community nights as well as a Winter Sleep out, Nerf War, our Senior Youth will take over Ignite and there will be a dress up and dance night too! Please be praying about those you'd like to invite to Ignite this term!

Ignite Youth Camp: We will be opening bookings for our Ignite Youth Camp which is for students in Grade six to Year 12. The camp will be at Don Bosco, Safety Beach from Monday 28th September- Thursday 1st October. Bookings will open shortly. This camp is not to be missed! There will be subsidies available for those who cannot afford to attend this camp so please reach out to Amanthi if this is you as we don't want anyone to miss out.





YOUNG ADULTS

YOUNG ADULTS RETREAT

10-12 JULY | UPCC

We're off to UPCC (Upper Plenty Conference Centre) for a weekend of great fellowship, good fun and growing in our faith as a Young Adults community at GWAC. Look forward to spending time in God's Word, being trained to serve and going on adventures.

- **Date:** Friday 10 July 2026 7:00 pm - Sunday 12 July 2026 2pm
- **Location:** (Upper Plenty Conference Centre, 45 Stokes Track, Upper Plenty VIC 3756
- **Register today:** <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1603543>

SPECIAL

BISHOP PAUL BARKER AT GWAC: OLD TESTAMENT TALKS ON THE CHARACTER OF GOD

Bishop Paul Barker will be preaching a three-week series exploring the character of God through the Old Testament.

- Theme- "The Lord: slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love"
- 🕒 Wednesdays at 7.30pm, July 22, July 29 & August 5
- Livestream: The service will also be livestreamed from <https://www.gwac.org.au/livestream/>



MUSIC MINISTRY NEEDS IPADS: CAN YOU HELP?

iPads wanted for GWAC music ministry (we need 7) - please bring your old / unwanted iPads and pass on to Roger as he can make good use of them in the music ministry; any iPad that can support iOS 16 or later is needed. Thanks.

JOIN THE 10.30AM MUSIC MINISTRY TEAM

We're looking for more musicians to join the 10.30am music ministry at GWAC. If you play an instrument, sing, or simply have a heart for helping lead God's people in worship, we'd love to hear from you. Whether you're experienced or just starting out, there's room to grow,





serve, and be part of a supportive team. If you're interested in joining or want to find out more, please get in touch with Roger, r.nicholson@gwac.org.au

WORKING BEE – UPDATED DATE

A quick reminder that our Working Bee date has changed. We'll now be gathering on:

📍 Saturday 15 August

🕒 8.30am–12.00pm

More details about the jobs and tasks will be shared closer to the day. It's a great chance to lend a hand, tidy up our spaces, and serve together. Hope you're available to help

BAPTISM & CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Baptism and Confirmation classes at GWAC will be held on Sundays **the 16th and 23rd of August**, over the two weeks leading up to the **Archbishop's visit on Sunday 30th August**.

For more details contact Nathanael, n.thierry@gwac.org.au.



DON'T MISS!

Mondays at 1.30pm (except public holidays): Easy Does It (EDI)

EDI runs at GWAC on Mondays, 1.30pm, in the Hall (stadium). The cost is \$5 with a cuppa included. It is run by a physio. All are welcome!

Train Your Brain (TYB)

Just a reminder that TYB is on Saturday 4th July (this Saturday), 9.30am - 12noon (registrations, 9am).

- Topic of the Month; "Resilience Project".
- Speaker: Neridah Peirce

Saturday 11th July: 'Crafts of Care' – Knit, Sew & Craft Afternoon

- 1.30 – 4pm. Meeting Rooms 1 & 2 at GWAC
- Includes creating knitted shawls, beanies and knee rugs and sewing pocket prayer quilts to support GWAC's Pastoral Care ministry. See church notice board for more details. All welcome!





Thursday 23rd July: Mother's Union & Friends

MU & Friends meets Thursday 23 July 1.30pm in Meeting Rooms 1&2. Please join us for a pleasant afternoon of **Travel Tales**, an overview of Lynn's recent vacation in US & Canada. Includes worship & afternoon tea - All welcome.

Contacts: Lynn 0403 053 079, Robin 0419 611 085

Friday Mornings: Prayer Meeting (With Breakfast)

Please join us on Fridays in Meeting room 1 & 2 from 7am for toast, muffins, hot drinks, and PRAYER. Come when you can and leave when you must.

Friday Night Craft Group: Term-3

- Next term: 2nd & 4th Fridays — 23rd July, 14th & 28th August, 25th September
- 7.00 pm until late, Fiona's place at 14 Clitus St, Glen Waverley
- Bring anything you'd like to work on — knitting, crochet, sewing, paper craft, etc. Looking forward to seeing you tonight - pop in whenever you are free for a cuppa and a piece of cake.

MANDARIN SPEAKING COMMUNITY

REGULAR MINISTRIES & FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

Let's Learn English (LLE) Class

Every Sunday: 12.30pm – 1.30pm, Meeting Room 1& 2

Brothers' Fellowship

Every Wednesday, 7pm–9pm, in Meeting Room-3 (closed during school term hols)

Contact: Sean Hsien, Anthony Zhao, Zhao Weidong

Sisters Online Living Water Fellowship

Every Thursday from 7pm to 8:30pm (closed during school term holidays)

Contact: Ginger Chen, g.chen@gwac.org.au

Brothers and Sisters Combined Fellowship

3rd Thursday of every month, 7–9 pm, Meeting Room-3 (closed during term holidays)

Contact: Ginger Chen, g.chen@gwac.org.au





LIFE CONNECTION GROUPS (closed during term holidays)

Joshua Group

2nd and 4th Sunday of each month, 11:45pm – 3pm, in Meeting Room-3 or Chapel

Samuel Group

2nd Sunday of each month, after the 10.30am Sunday Service, in the Fellowship Area

David Group

3rd Week of each month, after the 10.30am Sunday Service, in the Fellowship Area

Jacob Group

1st and 3rd Sunday of each month, 12:30pm – 2pm, in Meeting Room-3 or Chapel

SUNDAY PRE- SERVICE PRAYER MEETING

Sunday 9:45am–10:15am Meeting Room 3

Contact: Ginger Chen, g.chen@gwac.org.au

VOLUNTEER LEADERS TRAINING

Once every two months (to be notified separately)

Contact: Ginger Chen, g.chen@gwac.org.au

WORSHIP SERVICES IN JULY

Sunday Services

Jonah Sermon Series		
5 th July	Jonah 1: 1-16	Speaker: Nathanael Thierry
12 th July	Jonah 1: 17-2: 20	Speaker: Bre Wilkinson
19 th July	Jonah 3: 1-10	Speaker: Amanthi Lynch
26 th July	Jonah 4	Speaker: Maria Brand





Wednesday 10am Service: The Wednesday 10am Service's [Bible reading & sermon](#) are livestreamed weekly.

Winter Series: Prayers of Praise			
1 July	Romans 11:33-36	Praise	Speaker: John Harrower
8 July	1 Samuel 2: 1-10	Hannah's Prayer	Speaker: Nathanael Thierry
15 July	Psalms 150	Prayers for all Seasons	Speaker: Ian Nyholm
22 July	Psalms 34: 1-14	David's Praise	Speaker: John Harrower
29 July	Luke 1: 46-55	Mary's Magnificat	Speaker: Maria Brand
5 Aug	Ephesians 1: 3-14	Paul's Thanksgiving	Speaker: Amanthi Lynch

Blessings,

Nathanael Thierry | Associate Minister

