



church news

APR 2025



EASTER IS HOPE THAT CAN NEVER BE LOST

We are in a season of remembrance and reflection, as we prepare to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus.

His victory over sin and death is also our victory. No matter what challenges we face, His love, grace, and power are always with us.

Easter is a reminder that hope is never lost. As Kimmie Macdonald shared last week, light will always overcome darkness, in fact light and darkness cannot exist together.

God's promises are always fulfilled.

"He is not here; He has risen, just as He said." — Matthew 28:6

During this season allow Holy Spirit to strengthen and renew our faith, fill our hearts with joy, and remind us of the incredible love that Jesus has for everyone.

Everyday challenges can test our trust in God, and fear and worry can occupy too much room in our hearts and minds.

We are assured in the word that God has a plan and he knows us better than we know ourselves.

Proverbs 3:6 says *In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.*

Psalms 28:7 says *the Lord is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him.*

This season walk in His grace, and share His light with a world that is lost and waiting for an answer. We know how the story ends, Jesus is triumphant over all! †

Blessings, Bec Fortunatow



Sundays for everyone

...it's our priority and joy to see another generation drawing close to Jesus (Luke 18:16)



CRECHE SPACE & MUMSBUBS SPACE

You are welcome to make use of our creche space as you care for your toddler. The creche faces into the auditorium and can be found in the main passageway. Our MumsBubs space is reserved for mums and bubs, and is just at the rear of the auditorium, near the Creche'

PRIMARY SCHOOL

During the service, we invite primary school aged children to check in and learn about Jesus and His love. Kids Church meets in our Kids Space. Kids Church meets each week except the first Sunday of the month



HIGH SCHOOL & UP

10:40 group is a high school discussion group that meets during the service. The space is designed to promote questions, prayer and walking in close fellowship with Jesus. 10:40 are invited to head out during notices.

miracles point us to Jesus

2025 Family Service Series



One of the ways we express family is through our gatherings. Like any family, there are a variety of gatherings, and children get to enjoy, experience and learn what it means to be in a family. While it is expected of adults to 'endure', children also get to learn 'endurance'.

Endure does not imply bad or negative, rather an expression of maturity to 'dig' in the moment selflessly, to realise that it's not about 'me' but more about 'another', and to create family memorial stones. A Family Service aims to deliver a shorter service whose form may be more specific for children, however the content is for all ages, which as Jesus says, 'whoever has ears, let them hear'...the Spirit speaking. As we build memorial stones called Family Services – and may the miracles of scripture point us all to believe in Jesus!

pancake sunday



Miracles point to Jesus
2025 Family Service Series

Sunday 6 April
Pancake Morning Tea

Join after the service
and be part of belong

After the service, please join us for 'shrove-ish' pancakes. Shrove Tuesday marks the day before Lent commences. Some congregations enjoy pancakes as a way of feasting together before fasting during Lent. For us, Pancake Sunday is a way to fellowship and talk about Jesus and His love, while enjoying a sweet pancake. A big thankyou to Anita and the pancake team for helping us to belong, and share pancakes together.



ONE MAN'S JOURNEY TO SOLVE THE BIGGEST MYSTERY OF ALL TIME

PURE FLIX PRESENTS
A FILM BY JON GUNN

THE CASE FOR CHRIST



27.04.2025

Doors open at 6.00p

Night

Church Movie

**2 Avenue Road
STIRLING**

free entry, invite someone - movie starts at 6.15p sharp
milo & popcorn gonation snacks open before the movie starts
bring your deck chair or bean bag, wear your oodie and ugs make
your own gold class

OPPORTUNITIES TO GATHER IN
CIRCLES

(see church calendar for dates)

formation

Enkindle Littlehampton
Tue Weekly 7.30p
Jim Varsos

discipleship

MMS30 Stirling
Sun F/N after service
Barry Mitchell

life groups

Beerenberg (Women)
Thu F/N 10.00a
Jan Adcock

Crafers
Wed F/N 7.00p
Peter & Bec

Nairne (Mens)
Wed F/N 7.00p
Luan Cronje

Mt Barker Flourish
(Women)
Wed F/N 7.30p
April Felvie Gadsden

fellowship groups

Mens Coffee
Beerenberg
Thu F/N 10.00a
John Adcock

MSG Craft (Women)
Mt Barker
Fri F/N 7.00p
Wendy & Sam

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

**MOST FRIDAY NIGHTS FROM 7.00P
CHECK CHURCH CALENDAR OR
REBRANDED INSTA FOR DETAILS**

REBRANDED.

ALL THINGS MADE NEW

**YYADS FAM & SOCIAL NIGHTS
& DISCIPLESHIP COMMUNITY**

SEE MIA FOR DETAILS

18 & 20 APRIL > INVITATION TO EASTER

Paul says: *“But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain” (1Cor15:13-14).* Four in ten Australians say they would go to an Easter service if invited by a close friend or family member. It’s one of the findings of an Australian Community Survey, conducted by NCLS Research. For the sake of all, and for the 4 who will say yes, Easter is a worthy opportunity for invitation because our faith is not in vain!

This Easter Series, we are exploring what happens when new creation takes hold as a result of resurrection life, that Jesus paid for with His own life, and rose again from the dead. The practice of remembering Jesus creates space for something transformative to take place in us, by the Holy Spirit, in the renewing our minds. Our lives look more and more like a living sacrifice; or perhaps we might describe this as a living witness of Jesus, humanity clothed in Christ, a new creation who cannot BUT live out ‘what we have seen, heard, experienced and come to know!’

Maybe a way to express this is to personally invite someone to Church on Easter Weekend; to come and remember Jesus on Friday, and see the risen Saviour on Sunday! The phrase “come and see” as an invitation might be observed three times in the Old Testament (Ps46:8, Ps66:5, Isaiah66:18), and in the New Testament: John 1:46 - *“Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?” Nathanael asked. “Come and see,” said Philip.* And in John 11:34 - *“Where have you laid him?” he asked. “Come and see, Lord,” they replied.* And one from a witness in Matthew 28:6 - *He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.* Ask the Lord who you might invite this Easter Weekend.

Our two Easter Weekend services, Good Friday at 9.30a and Resurrection Sunday at 10.00a are ‘invite’ services. This means people who attend Stirling Family Church for the first time will experience ‘intentional welcome’ as we focus on Jesus. Good Friday Service runs for around 60 minutes, and is more tactile as we focus on the cross and death of Jesus. Resurrection Sunday is the only Sunday morning where sharing communion is paused, as we give way to resurrection, new creation and the victory of Jesus Christ over sin and death.

**EASTER SUNDAY
10A SUN 20 APR
PR BARRY & ROSALIE**



RESURRECTION LIFE



**Witness
& REMEMBER**

Easter Series March & April 2025

BROKENNESS & JESUS – BY PR BARRY SILVERBACK

"Brokenness" signifies a deep sense of humility and repentance before God, acknowledging one's flaws and need for forgiveness. Brokenness in our lives echoes humility, gentleness, teachableness, and a certain measure of repentance and remorsefulness/sorrow. It is when we come to the end of ourselves that Jesus responds to us.

Often our weaknesses, humanity, vulnerability may repulse us and cause us to dislike ourselves and so we continue to struggle wishing that we were different or better etc. But God is not repulsed by brokenness, in fact the opposite, He is drawn to us in love and compassion. Brokenness is when we are no longer feeling self-sufficient and saying, "I'll make it on my own". It is our hopelessness and helplessness that Jesus is attracted to.

Psalm 34:18 declares that *the Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit*. Psalm 51:17 says *the sacrifice pleasing to God is a broken spirit. God, you will not despise a broken and humbled heart*. Psalms 147:3 says *He heals the broken hearted and binds up their wounds*. Psalm 51:17 says *the sacrifice God wants is a broken spirit. God, you will not reject a heart that is broken and sorry for sin*. John 6:37 says...*the one who comes to me I will most certainly not cast out [I will never, no never, reject one of them who comes to me]*. Jesus was a friend of tax collectors, sinners and outcasts of society! (Matt 11:19). God anointed Jesus to heal the broken hearted says Luke 4:18 *the spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the broken hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised*. Jesus is not repulsed by the brokenness of people's lives – rather He is attracted to them.

John 4 records the Samaritan women at the well showing that Jesus was not repulsed by brokenness, He did not reject her or disassociate Himself from her. It was her broken state of life that attracted Him and He saved and forgave her. Jesus said "if you only knew what a wonderful gift God has for you (John 4:10,16-17), *"go and get your husband," Jesus told her. "But I'm not married," the woman replied. "all too true!" Jesus said. "for you have had five husbands, and you aren't even married to the man you're living with now."*

A woman taken in adultery was about to be publicly stoned to death. John 8:4,7-11 records *"Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. "if any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her." At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. Jesus straightened up and asked her, "woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" "No one, sir," she said. "then neither do I condemn you."*

Jesus did not "wink his eye", or condone adultery but it was in her brokenness and vulnerability that attracted Jesus to show kindness and forgiveness. Jesus shows mercy to the sinner, to those who are broken and 'messed up' in life. Matt 9:11-13 records Jesus saying *"Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do." Then he added, "Now go and learn the meaning of this Scripture: 'I want you to show mercy, not offer sacrifices.'*

Jesus is calling us also to how mercy, just as we have received His mercy.



Giving by EFT

bsb: 035039 acc: 587611

ref: Giving or Missions

**YOU WILL ALWAYS HAVE EVERYTHING YOU NEED AND
PLENTY LEFT OVER TO SHARE WITH OTHERS (2 COR 9:8)**



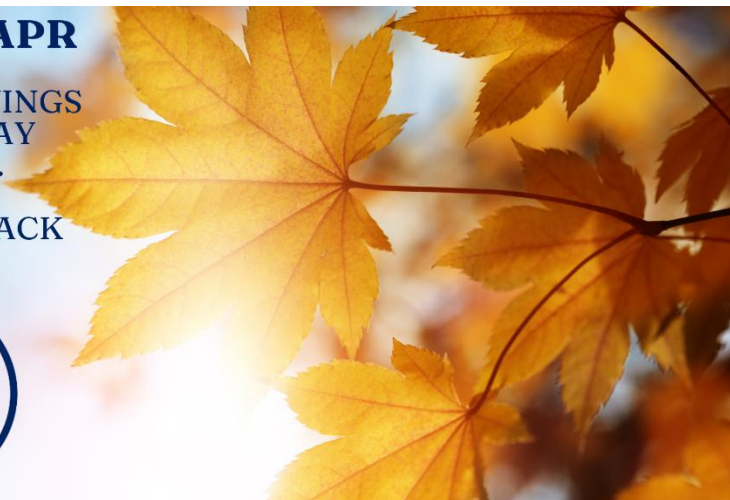
Happy Birthday's in April

11 - Jackie 22 - Marloe
12 - Anna 23 - April G
14 - April C 26 - Charlotte
14 - Judy K

SUNDAY 6 APR

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS
ENDS SUNDAY
MORNING.

CLOCKS GO BACK
1 HOUR





17/1/25

FRUIT IN ABIDING

Time is such an interesting concept and in the face of Eternity and our walk with the Lord even more so. God's word advises us to use our time wisely because we do not know what tomorrow holds.

[Read More](#)

Visit our Church Blog page, which we will be using more this year, not only as a way to encourage one another, but also as a way to position ourselves on the internet. The shared blog receives a lot of 'hits' because there is a world of people out there who are thirsty and hungry, and while they may not walk into Church straight away, they are searching for hope, truth and love! May Jesus be found at Stirling Family Church dot au.

13 APRIL AFTER THE SERVICE - ELVANTO HELP SESSION



Do you need help with Elvanto? A password reset? Need help to get the App working or the browser working? Can't remember your log in details? Want to know how to subscribe the church calendar? Have some questions? After the service on Sunday 13 April, please meet near the auditorium stage area and we will do our best to help!

FIRST AID TRAINED & AED INSTALLATION



The Church will shortly commence procuring an AED Unit and in the process, refresh our First Aid setup.

All places of worship are required to have AEDs fitted by the end of the 2025.

A key need for our gatherings is to ensure we have a First Aid trained person present when we gather.

We will move to ensure that this is systematic however it may require some training for volunteers to ensure Stirling Family Church can meet our obligations under Work Health Safety requirements. If you are currently First Aid trained, and would like to be part of our First Aid Team, would you please let Ben know via email admin@stirlingfamilychurch.au and we can collate this information to understand where our gatherings have First Aid gaps.

Thank you so much for sharing your gifts and skills, and helping us look after one another!

8 MAY > PCS NIGHT

PRAYER

communication &

SHARE NIGHT

7.00-9.00P
THU 8 MAY

COME ALONG FOR AN
IMPORTANT NIGHT OF SHARING

We will be sharing about a number of wonderful initiatives and changes around ministry staffing at Stirling, changes to our property and facility, including the Old Manse, updates across department and lead pastor role, our prayer and fasting and personal invitations, and the development of our church site. We also look forward to be encouraged in our faith and trust in the Lord, as we pursue His leading, with boldness and courage.

CHURCH WEBSITE

Church Calendar?
Church Blog?
Church News?
Audio Recordings?
Elvanto (ChMS)?

[Sunday](#) [About](#) [Connect](#) [Partnerships](#) [Resources](#) [Contact](#)

[Next Steps](#)

[Audio](#)

[Shared Blog](#)

[Alpha](#)

[United in Prayer](#)

[Church Calendar](#)

[Elvanto News](#)

[Elvanto Login](#)

www.stirlingfamilychurch.au

GO-NATIONS COFFEE



In 2024, \$3,207 was donated via Go-Nations Coffee for the wonderful coffee brewed by our faith GoNations Coffee team. Anna and Mia with Dot and Ev, and Ava and Allegra serve faithfully to make coffee for us! Firstly, a BIG thankyou to our GoNations Coffee Team! And secondly, thank you for your kind giving. A cup of coffee under \$5 is rare these days, but your donation for your Mission Coffee goes to the Nations, and makes a difference!

CANS ON A MISSION



CANS ON A MISSION

You are welcome to bring your empty and de-lidded 10c deposit cans/containers to the Church, we have a Bin behind the kitchen marked for Cans on a Mission. Penton kindly coordinates the return of these cans and monies raised go to Sri Lanka. This bin has a blue lid and no wheels – but Penton makes sure the cans are recycled. Thank you for making the effort for something that seems small and minor, yet in the hands of the Lord, cans add up, and that was over \$400 in 2024!

A HOUSE OF PRAYER – WHO GATHER TO PRAY

Praying is not our final option, but our first response. Praying is not an action of reaction, but taking the initiative in faith. Matthew 6:5-8 records Jesus saying the phrase three times: **“When you pray...”** **Not if you pray, but when you pray.**

The assumption or implication here is that we all should pray. Prayer is powerful. When we need something, we pray! Healing – pray! Help – pray! Peace – pray! Jesus said in Matthew 6 to **“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For**

everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.”

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 reminds us that it is God’s will in Christ Jesus that we rejoice always, pray continually, and give thanks in all circumstances! In Acts 16, Paul went looking for a place of prayer, we also need to take the initiative in prayer. May Stirling Family Church be a House of Prayer, because its people have committed to pray, and delight in praying to the Lord! Check Church Calendar for opportunities!

OPPORTUNITIES TO GATHER TOGETHER FOR PRAYER



EP NIGHT
Acts 12:5-12
...but the church was earnestly praying to God...
6.00-7.00P | SUNDAY 6 APR



PRAYER & FASTING
www.stirlingfamilychurch.au/unitedinprayer
GATHERED PRAYER EVENING
7.00-8.00P MON
14 APRIL

HILLS COMBINED CHURCHES PRAYER
5.00-6.00P FRIDAY 2 MAY
INTERCEDING FOR OUR COMMUNITY AND
CHURCHES ACROSS THE HILLS
SUNSET ROCK CHURCH 40 SPENCER STREET

PRAYER & FASTING

A wooden cross stands prominently in the center of the image, set against a backdrop of rugged, snow-capped mountains. The cross is made of light-colored wood and is positioned on a rocky outcrop. The entire scene is overlaid with a semi-transparent green filter.

MONDAY FORTNIGHTS

see church calendar for dates
www.stirlingfamilychurch.au/unitedinprayer

pickup a booklet from the Foyer Info Table

united in prayer in 2025



...gathering since 1958

about us and who we are

Christ-centered, Spirit led, People focused
- is how we describe Stirling Family Church.

We see a church living in His Power and Presence
- is who we are, expressed as vision.

We are a church who Make a Difference everyday in every generation in the name of Jesus
- is what we do, expressed as mission.

church contact

we gather each Sunday at 10.00a
2 Avenue Road Stirling 5152
admin@stirlingfamilychurch.au
www.stirlingfamilychurch.au
(08) 8339 2121

online giving

Westpac Branch
BSB - 035039
Acc - 587611
Ref - Giving or missions

our eldership team

Ben Bonython
Bec Bonython
Peter Fortunatow
Bernie Glaser
Jim Varsos