

## Excerpt from September Update from Smethurst Ministries

Dear Friends at the Wagin Uniting Church,

We trust you are well and being kept by God's power. We do appreciate your friendship and partnership in the gospel. Our apologies for being a little late with this newsletter. After the surgeries Margurita had early this year, she had to have further surgery to her left foot, and then a back injury necessitated her being in hospital. She is recuperating well. We've been able to keep our focus on the needs of people far worse than ours, in the horrific war situation in Ukraine.



Thank you so much for your prayers that have enabled us to keep meeting those horrific needs of the Orphans and Homeless Kids, and the broken families that are coming to our House of Hope in Odessa and asking to be evacuated to safety. Please help us, at this time, if you are able. Finances are running low due to the huge amounts we've had to outlay in providing thousands of food and medicine packs and Bibles, to so many poor devastated families in the flooded and war damaged

areas, and then make provision to evacuate many more to safety.

### Evacuations from Ukraine increase

More and more families asking to be evacuated. Here is a Family - Vitaly, Ekaterina, and little Arina, who have asked for help to be evacuated to Norway. Up to now families have chosen to stay in Ukraine in the face of the bombings because of husbands and sons in the Ukrainian army. But now things are so bad, the men are telling their wives and children to leave for a safe refuge, and they will track them down if they survive. Imagine leaving a father or son, not knowing if you'll ever see them or hear from them again. That breaks my heart.



### Marina Comes Home

You'll remember that we asked for prayer for young Marina's release from the Polish orphanage, where the director demanded \$5,000 USD for her release. Thank you for your diligent and patient praying. For Marina, it was like being in two different worlds - one in the Polish orphanage (which wasn't good at all) and another released into Esther's care (our House of Hope Mother in Germany), leaving Poland for the House of Hope in Odessa, and ultimately into Germany with the other House of Hope Children.

We appreciate your friendship and partnership in the Gospel immensely. Please continue to stand with us in prayer and support for these crucial needs.

Yours in the Spirit of Rescue,

*Dave & Margurita Smethurst*

*"The love of Christ compels us"*

## UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

### Wagin Group

CONGREGATIONS OF  
DARKAN, DUMBLEYUNG AND WAGIN



## OUR VISION

*To honour God through purposeful loving.*

**Pentecost 17**  
**24 September 2023**

Members of



### OUR MISSION

*To be a prayerful,  
Spirit-filled people,  
encouraging one another  
to Christ-like maturity,  
reaching out and  
affirming all people  
with the love of God.*



Live  
your  
life  
in a manner  
worthy  
of the  
gospel  
of  
Christ.

Philippians 1.27

**Sunday, 24 September 2023**

Waratah 9.15 am  
Wagin 10.15 am

**Pentecost 17**

Liz Pederick  
Music Team

**Bible Readings**

Exodus 16:2-15  
Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45  
Philippians 1:21-30  
Matthew 20:1-16

**Sunday, 1 October 2023**

Darkan 9.00 am  
Wagin 10.15 am

**Pentecost 18**

Neil Vagg  
Graham & Ann-Britt Wasley

Exodus 17:1-7  
Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16  
Philippians 2:1-13  
Matthew 21:23-32

**Sunday, 8 October 2023**

Waratah 9.15 am  
Wagin 10.15 am  
Dumbleyung 11.00 am

**Pentecost 19**

Arthur Pederick  
Arthur Pederick  
Wendy Pederick

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20  
Psalm 19  
Philippians 3:4b-14  
Matthew 21:33-46

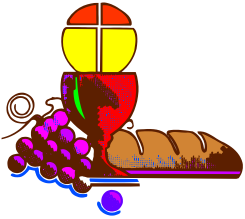
**Sunday, 15 October 2023**

Darkan 9.00 am  
Wagin 10.15 am

**Pentecost 20**

Wendy Pederick  
Robyn Willey

Exodus 32: 1-14  
Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23  
Philippians 4:1-9  
Matthew 22:1-14

**Communion**

Wagin 24 September 2023  
Dumbleyung 8 October 2023  
Darkan 15 October 2023

**Darkan Flower Roster**

1 October 2023 A Hart  
15 October 2023 S Blake

**THIS WEEK'S WAGIN ROSTERS**

Door: Joan Johansson  
Morning Tea: Biscuits  
Reader: Music Team  
Worship: Liz Pederick

**NEXT WEEK**

Ian Pederick  
Joan Johansson  
Nena Bell  
Graham & Ann-Britt

Complaining and materialism were escalating around the house so Dad sat his children down for a talk.

He said, "Kids, you don't realize how good you have it. When I was a boy, I had to get up before daylight to deliver newspapers.



I walked to school in the rain and snow, then worked at a grocery store after school. Even then, we didn't always have enough to eat."

The three children's silence made him feel as though the needed message had gotten through until his little four-year-old said,

"Boy, Dad, I bet you're glad you live with us now."

**DATES, MEETINGS, INFORMATION:**

Wagin Congregation meeting will be after the service on Sunday 22 October, 2023. Please bring reports.

The next Church Council Meeting will be Saturday 28 October, 2023, 8.30 for 9.00 am at the back of Wagin Church.

CommuniTEA Hub, Wesley Hall, Ranford Street, Wagin. Every Thursday, 10 am to 1 pm. A place for a cuppa, chat and connection. For more information contact Wendy Pederick on 0429 171 676, Ann-Britt & Graham Wasley on 9861 1724.

*I have learned  
that faith means  
trusting in advance  
what will only make sense in reverse.*

*Philip Yancey*

**WAGIN REGULAR FELLOWSHIP MEETINGS**

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP GROUP** meets every Wednesday at 7 pm at Ian and Liz's place, studying The God Who is For Us, Life, liberty and righteousness in Romans, by Reg Piper. Contact Liz Pederick on 0429087733

**FRIDAY MORNING CELL GROUP** meets Friday at 10.00 am at the back of Wagin church. Contact Graham & Ann-Britt Wasley on 98611724.

**The FRIDAY PRAYER MEETING** is at 12 noon at the back of Wagin Church. Contact Graham & Ann-Britt on 98611724

**CHURCH COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON**

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