

[View this email in your browser](#)



The Price of "Success"

With everything that's been going on lately, I haven't had time to prepare a reflection for this week.

However, I would encourage you to [read this article](#) from The Conversation. The piece, which centres around the "rise and fall" of the Hillsong megachurch and its charismatic leader, Brian Houston, asks us to consider why it is that scandals around repeated acts of misconduct or even criminality continue to occur within church circles. The article also asks us whether it is sufficient to point to individuals like Houston - labelling them a narcissist, an egomaniac, a control freak, etc - and consider whether or not it is also the failure of church communities themselves to care for their leaders that also contributes to these scandals.

Personally, I think this article also raises a number of interesting questions about the intersection between so-called "prosperity theology" (of which Hudson - who wrote a book called "God Wants You To Have More Money" - was a keen advocate) and the kind of neoliberal economic ideology that demonises the poor and results in welfare recipients being targeted for debt repayment when, in fact, they don't owe any money at all (as happened with the "robodebt" scandal). I also think it gives us pause for thought about the

origins of this theological/ideological mix in the mainstream "Protestant work ethic" culture that has been prominent in the 19th and 20th centuries.

In the lead up to Lent 3 and the reading from John's Gospel in which Jesus drives the money-changers and bird-sellers from the Temple, perhaps instead of looking smugly at the likes of Houston and thinking they have received their "come-uppance", we might all instead pause and think about the ways in which we try and make the Church what we want it to be rather than what it ought to be.

Worship This Sunday

This Sunday, worship will be led by Tapu Tonga. If you are able, please come along to HUC to support Tapu in her ministry.

Remember in Your Prayers

A funeral service to remember the life of our sister in Christ, Norma Filshie, will be held at Heathmont Uniting Church on **Wednesday 6th March, 2024**. The service will **commence at 1pm** and will be presided over by Rev. John Mann. Full details will be available on the Bethel Funerals website. Please remember Norma's family in your prayers at this sad time

Please continue to remember Judy and Ross Scholes-Robertson in your prayers as Judy continues her recovery from recent surgery.

AGM

Please note that the congregational AGM will take place after worship on **Sunday 17th March 2024**.

4U News

The next meeting of the 4U social group will be Monday March 11th at 2pm in the Fellowship Room at HUC. Gerry Robinson will detail some of the current projects tracing the history of the Heathmont district which the Heathmont History Group are undertaking. For full details, [click this link](#).

Pew Polishing

As mentioned at church recently, I will be making a start on polishing the pews on March 6th at 9.30 am and continue on through the month of March when hopefully we will have done all the wooden furniture we have in the worship space. Chair cleaning is also on the agenda and will be done during the School Holidays perhaps in early April when there are no CLC classes.

- Glenis McDonald

Salvation Army Staff Band

The Salvation Army Staff Band will be holding a Symphonic Sounds 2024 concert on Saturday 2nd March at 4pm. For full details, [please click this link](#).

Blessings,

Brendan



Copyright © 2024 Heathmont Uniting Church, All rights reserved.
You are receiving this email because you opted in via our website.

Our mailing address is:

Heathmont Uniting Church
89 Canterbury Road
Heathmont, Victoria 3135
Australia

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

