



# The VINES Uniting Church

152 Reynell Road Woodcroft SA 5162



Rev. David Prior

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THE GRAPVINE 20/11/2022

## **HERSTORY #3 “Sarah laughs” Genesis 18:12-13**

There is a saying I often use when I am confronted with something challenging and I want to make light of it:

**“I laugh in the face of disaster.”**

Now obviously it is meant to be a parody or a circuit break for something that is potentially awkward, uncomfortable, complex but not too sad. The truth for me is that when I am confronted by a disaster I will often go quiet, or say something while I scramble to find words or grasp this thing that has happened, often wading through the fog of shock.

Today’s reading captures Abraham and Sarah’s reaction to a promise that was 25 yrs in the making, originally made when Sarah was in her 60’s, now in her 90’s; the incongruence, disbelief, shock, even denial are evident as this promise once again raises its head.

Q. Does expressing our doubt, anger, fear, frustration, disbelief undermine our faith?

Or is it a natural response to something incredulous and difficult?

Having spent a great deal of time with people experiencing grief and loss (my own included), the issue is not so much our initial reaction, but rather what occurs once we get beyond the shock. Was Sarah in shock, was she overwhelmed, or had she become cynical and given up?

Interestingly the early Christian writers (Hebrews 11) looked back at Abraham and Sarah and called them heroes of the faith. Why would they do that if they laughed? Because they knew that faith is hard fought. Like the man pleading with Jesus to heal his child:

**“Lord I believe, help my unbelief.” Mk 9:23-25**

Isn’t that our prayer, when things get tough?

**Rev DJPrior**

❖ OUR VISION:

*To be a vibrant, growing community of Faith.*

❖ OUR MISSION:

*To reach out and reflect God's Love –  
connecting others to Christ.*

**FINANCE REPORT TO THE END OF OCTOBER.**

Offerings for October were \$9,916 which is above the monthly budget by \$1,206.

For the first 10 months of 2022 offerings are approximately \$1,000 below budget.

*Neil Satterley*

*Treasurer*

Hi Guys - our last meeting for 2022.

***We will meet at The Oldy, Old Noarlunga***

***38 Patapinda Road***

***for lunch on Tuesday December 6<sup>th</sup>***

***at 12 noon.***

**Please let us know by Sunday 4th December**

**Bob Stone 0439 817 613      Bob Manson 0499 001 883.**

**Hope you can make it, see you there.**

## **CHRISTMAS HAMPERS**

We are again supplying Christmas Hampers to needy families and local schools this year. To do this we need your help with donations of food. The collection boxes will be in the foyer from Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November until Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December. It would be greatly appreciated if you could provide food from the suggestions lists on the table in the church foyer, or a cash donation marked "***Christmas Hampers***".

Thank you and May God Bless you.

Reaching out  
in God's Love

## **FOOD PARCEL MINISTRY**

Thank you and may God bless you for your continued support for this ministry. Where has the time gone? We are already preparing for Christmas Hampers. This week we are in need of the following items.

Cereal

- Soup
- Pasta/Pasta Sauce
- 2 Minute Noodles
- Tea
- Toiletries or a Cash Donatio
- Cereal
- Tinned Fish
- Tinned Fruit
- Tinned Vegetables

Thank you again.

Leon and the Pastoral Team.

**Next week:**

**27<sup>th</sup> November**

**Naomi & Ruth Ruth 1:15-21**

**Rev. DJP, Marj and Kristen**

***Take time to phone a Friend***

***or meet with others and***

***CHOOSE LIFE***

***Share God's love.***



### **LIVE STREAMED WORSHIP SERVICES**

Each Sunday our worship services at the Vines can be accessed live at 9:30am via our YouTube channel. Please use the following link to access our services,

[https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=the+vines+uniting+church](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=the+vines+uniting+church)

After the livestream, each service will remain on our YouTube channel for watching later. They can be accessed using the same link.

### **Contacts at the VINES Uniting Church**

Rev. David Prior	<b>Minister</b>	0403 991 475
Colleen Farmer	Administrator	0430 646 844
Leon Magrin	Acting Church Council Chairperson	
	Mission & Outreach / Food Parcel Ministry	8322 3658
David McAvena	Worship Team	8322 7154
Neil Satterley	Church Treasurer	0404 028 827

**Please send Newsletter articles to Colleen Farmer**

by 12 noon Wednesday [poppy@adam.com.au](mailto:poppy@adam.com.au)