

Monthly Prayer Gathering of Ringwood Church of Christ May 2020

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Hello again, lovely church. The time has come again for our monthly community prayer.

And, yes, you are the church! We are not members of the church, like members of some club, holding a ticket, but we are members, like parts of the body, belonging, being held together through a very different means.

For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.
Romans 12:4,5

Recently, we have been learning how to 'be a body' with little to no physical evidence (no church service, Bible study, youth group, life group, etc. in person) and we have been taking the opportunity, as a church, to try to understand *what* is actually important to us in terms of gathering together, and *why* these things are important to us. Please continue to pray into this.

I think it would be good at this time, whilst praying for the elders and ministry team, to be grateful to God in prayer for the wonderful way we have been led by them. They have managed these changes phenomenally well. Also, to be grateful to the church body itself – we are showing our love and connection to each other in many different and unusual ways.

It would be good to be in prayer for those who are feeling less connected, and for those who carry the oversight of the extra pastoral care, especially Debbie Brewster and Matthew Moore, who have taken on this capacity specifically for this time.

Also, the church administration and operations area has needed to adapt to a lot of new and different ways of being, technologically – and from home instead of at the church office - so please hold them in prayer.

We don't know how this time of COVID-19 will affect our future. I think that, in many ways, the world has come to the same space as we, as a church, have decided to be in – one of transition, waiting for change, not sure what it will look like. But we have an amazing hope that God is with us in this change we are expecting and hoping for, so my encouragement is to keep praying into what our church will look like after our own transition, as well as immediately after the transition we share with the world because of COVID-19.

What are the things that remain important to you/us as a church?

What is no longer relevant?

Are there new things that have become relevant to us and our community that we haven't been aware of or addressing before?

How can we do the important things in ways that are relevant both to us and to the community around us?

What will need to change for us to keep the old important things and introduce the new, equally important ones?

As always, if you have any particular insights for the church, please pass them on to the elders or the ministry team. Don't let this opportunity be wasted. As we pray together, looking at our past ways of being, how we are in our present time, and how we may be into our future, let's be asking God to make each step clear as we walk it. Let us continue as a community of prayer.