



Newsletter April 2025

St Columba's Presbyterian Church Mutare

An Invitation to St. Columbas' Easter Celebration

This Easter, St. Columbus warmly invites all members to join our special Easter services as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Let us gather in faith, gratitude, and unity to honor this significant occasion.

We encourage each of you to take this opportunity to invite someone—a friend, neighbor, or loved one—who might need to hear the message of hope and love this Easter season. Let's share the joy of Christ's resurrection and bring the light of His grace into our community.

Come and be part of this blessed celebration. Together, let's rejoice in the promise of new life and the power of God's redeeming love. We look forward to welcoming you and your guests this Easter!

Calendar highlights

Sun 6 Apr	9 am	Communion Service - Handfull of Rice - GILLS Bake Sale to fundraise for church (anyone to bring goodies to sell)
Thu 17 Apr		Tennebrae Evening Service
Fri 18 Apr		Good Friday Service
Sun 20 Apr	9 am	Easter Service



A Word From The Pastors

The story is told of two friends who were hanging out together - a newly moulded clay pot named Clay and a newly made wax candle named Wax. The sun came out and greeted them with a big smile and said, "May I hang out with you?" Clay and Wax said, "Sure, you can join us."

The sun joyfully joined them. The sun's heat rose and rose to its highest temperatures for the day. As a result Clay began to harden, and Wax began to melt. The clay hardened and hardened, and became stronger and stronger. The wax melted and melted. It lost its shape and began to fall apart. It became a hot and formless liquid. It stopped being a candle that gave light. It lost its function; it lost its purpose.

The same heat that hardened the clay, melted the wax - same heat but different results. Because of what the item was made from. Now in this life we as believers face heat 'left right and centre.' Relational heat, economic heat, cultural heat, legal heat, political trouble or even spiritual dips.

The question is what are you made of? Are you made of faith and trust in God so that trouble makes you stronger? Or are you made of fear and doubt and poor self-esteem so that trouble melts you and makes you fall apart? You suddenly forget who you are in Christ. The heat makes you lose your identity. And you lose your God given purpose. You forget the vision that God has given you. You forget the role that only you can play because there is only one you.



Jesus said something that is true for everyone: “In this world you WILL have trouble” (John 16:33b). Jesus did not say you “might” or “may” or “possibly” or “could” have trouble. It is definite – you “will” have trouble, because we live in a fallen world. This means when you experience trouble, hardship or suffering, this is nothing unusual or uncommon or surprising. Even if you are Christian, you will find yourself in hardships, betrayed, treated unfairly, or suffer the consequences of your bad choices. Trouble is common to all.

But Jesus doesn’t leave it there. He goes on to say, “But take heart, I have overcome the world” (v.33c). In other words, be like the clay. It feels the heat yes, but it is perfected by the heat. May we, as we face situations of heat, allow God to perfect us and make us usable for kingdom purposes in our church and in the society where God has placed us.

Acknowledgements

Pastors Paul and Lydia Neshangwe,
Pastor Chris Muzodziwa
Hillary Chakonda,
Mercy Kurewa,
Iris Shiripinda,
Rob van Steensel,
Wietske Mushonga

all contributed to the production of this newsletter.



Fellowship of Women (FOW) Mubatanidzwa.

St.Columbas hosted Mubatanidzwa on the 29th of March 2025. The event was well attended; 48 women came. We were blessed by the attendance of the women from Lamour church in Old Mutare, Mai Mufundisi Fereira of Sakubva Presbyterian church and our own pastor Lydia Neshangwe.

There was singing and dancing, praising and worshiping God. Some women gave testimonies on how God is working in their lives. Before the sermon there was a lesson (chidzidzo) on women and self respect. This was taken from the book of Esther 1: 10-12 and 15-18.

The sermon 'Take a walk in my shoes' was given by pastor Lydia Neshangwe. The scripture was read from Philippians 4: 12-13.

After the sermon we had fellowship and snacks. We had a very blessed time.



The NGO of a lasting Relationship

Welcome once again to Part 3 in our 4-part series of Building Healthy Relationships. We would like to call our discussion this time: the NGO of a Lasting Relationship. There are so many aspects that we can incorporate into our relationships for them to last. Longevity of our relationship is one aspect that is of paramount importance. Everyone wants their relationship to stand the test of time. As much as longevity can represent a lasting relationship, we should not only emphasize how many years we have been in a relationship, the quality of that relationship is also very crucial. We can be in a relationship for a long time but find ourselves cringing at the thought of the person we are living with. Relationship satisfaction should be our yard stick. So how then can we make our relationship last?

N stands for Novelty.

Routine and familiarity can drain energy out of a relationship. Over a few years the spark is gone. We should always find ways and means to make our relationships electrifying. Novelty keeps the relationship fresh, exciting and spontaneous. One good way to do this is planning a mystery date. Surprise each other by doing new things, try new restaurants, movie nights at home or buying a new game that both of you can enjoy. The list is endless. How often these activities are done depends on your preferences.

G is for Growth.

One of the worst killers of relationships is stagnation. Lack of growth in a relationship can cause disconnection especially when one partner is growing, and the other one is stagnant. Personal growth or self-improvement is encouraged even in a relationship. Study or start a new hobby together. These activities will rejuvenate a dying relationship.



O is Open-minded.

Relationships are made up of people with different opinions, different habits, some with differences that can drive someone up the wall. Open-mindedness means that both parties are willing to see things from each partner's perspective. Flexibility and embracing these differences can result in lasting relationships. Rigidity on the other end only causes resentment.

In conclusion, let's all remember the NGO of a Lasting relationship. The more we practice the aspects mentioned above, the more we will move towards lasting and healthy relationships.

H.T Chakonda.


The Significance of Easter: A Message of Hope and Redemption

Easter is a cornerstone of Christian faith, commemorating the resurrection of Jesus Christ. For believers, it represents the triumph of life over death and the fulfillment of God's promise of eternal salvation. It is a season of hope, renewal, and a profound reminder of God's unconditional love and grace.

The journey begins with Good Friday, reflecting on Christ's ultimate sacrifice for humanity. Easter Sunday then brings the joyous celebration of His victory over death, affirming the truth of the Gospel and strengthening the faith of believers. This sacred time invites personal reflection, gratitude, and the embrace of God's promise of forgiveness and new life.

Easter is more than a historical event—it is an invitation to experience God's transformative power, to renew one's faith, and to extend the joy and hope of Christ's resurrection to others.





*For God so
loved the world
that He gave
His only
begotten Son,
that whosoever
believes in Him
should not
perish but have
everlasting life.*

JOHN 3:16

Liz Barry



A hand-drawn style illustration for an Easter camp. It features silhouettes of five children playing basketball in front of a colorful sunset background. To the left is a campfire, and to the right is a tent. The entire scene is framed by a blue rope-like border. A black banner at the bottom of the illustration contains the text 'EASTER CAMP SEE LIFE BETTER'.

**EASTER CAMP
SEE LIFE BETTER**

Inviting all Kidz who are part of the Konnect
Easter Sunday 20 April till Tuesday 22 April...
YES 2 nights!!
Drop off at Church at 2pm on Sunday (sharp)
Collect at Church at 5pm on Tuesday
We will be camping at Hycroft/Hivu, Bvumba

COST \$10(ten) per person (for the 2 days)

Loads of fun and games and forest adventures
Camp fires, food and stories

RSVP:0772 77 66 55 and for any queries





EASTER CAMP

THINGS TO BRING

Bible, note book + pen/pencil

Plate + mug (plastic/metal)

Fork, knife + spoon

Juice bottle

Torch

Toiletries, soap + toilet paper

Towel

Bedding—sleeping bag + pillow

Roll up mattress + blanket

Camp clothes—will get dirty,

Wet + cold

Tracksuit + swimming costume

Pyjamas

Good walking shoes

Please Label Everything

Snacks to share

For example:

Biscuits

Crisps

Popcorn

Peanuts

Marshmallows

juice



List of Ministeries

MINISTERS:

REVs PAUL AND LYDIA NESHANGWE

Email: paneshangwe@gmail.com, lydianeshangwe@yahoo.co.uk

Tel: 0717 654008, 0782 964362

CHURCH OFFICE:

Mon – Fri 8am – 12:30pm

Tel: 02020 60628, 0717 459312

Email: mupresby@gmail.com

SESSION CLERK:

MARIE SACCONI

CHURCH SECRETARY:

KATIE BOWEN

SERVICES:

Sunday Service 9 am

Communion Service and 'Handful of Rice' - 1st Sunday of the month

Kids Church - Sunday 9 am

BIBLE STUDIES:

Ladies Bible Study

Mon 10-11am, Jenny Paterson, Cntct Wietske Mushonga or Jenny

Homegroup men&women

Mon 5.30-6.30pm, Liffy Gorton, Contact Gavin&Sue Young

Bible Study

Tue 2-3pm, Liffy Gorton

Alpha Course

Tue 6pm, Simon & Katie Bowen

Homegroup

Wed 6.30pm, Mark and Jenny Paterson

Homegroup men&women

Wed 6-7pm, Albert Masvongo and Colin Brandt

Ladies Bible Study

Every 2nd Thu, 10-12am, Marie Sacconi

CHURCH MINISTRIES:

- **CALLED 2 CARE (Skills Training Outreach)** Daily, Onie & Wendy Mususa
- **GILLS (Growing In Love Ladies)** *Last Saturday of the Month, 9am – Lys Sheiky*
- **FELLOWSHIP OF WOMEN** Every 2nd Sunday after Church
- **MEN'S MINISTRY** Every Saturday, 7am - Colin Brandt
- **BOYS' & GIRLS' BRIGADES** Every Saturday at the church, 2pm - Fiona Botes
- **YOUTH MINISTRY** Every Saturday, at the church, 2pm - Munya Kamunda and Ashley Mususa
- **MUSIC MINISTRY** Every Friday 4.30 PM Contact Josphat Mususa
- **YOUNG ADULTS** Monthly, cntct Kuda Musanu & Simba Mangore

CHURCH BANKING DETAILS: STANBIC BANK

RTGS 914 000 2833 696

FCA 914 000 4484 346

ZB BANK

RTGS 4532 104335 200

FCA 4532 104335 405





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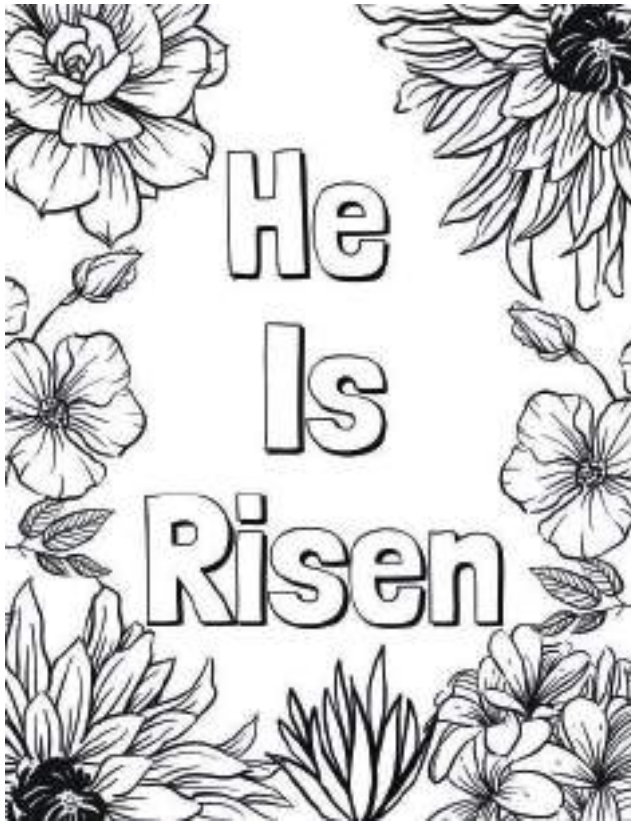
Weddings

Private functions

Partys

Events

Contact Hanzi: 0773 482070



Greetings, friends.

The Newsletter Team is appealing to all who would like to advertise their businesses, practices and trades in the monthly church newsletter.

You can take a full page, half page or a quarter page for a small fee.

We want to know about and support your "hustle."

Contact Wietske or any member of the Newsletter Team.

