



Newsletter November 2025

St Columba's Presbyterian Church Mutare

Prayers: Our Lifeline to God

Prayer is not just a ritual, it's our lifeline. It's how we breathe spiritually, how we speak to God, and how we listen. In quiet moments or loud cries, prayer connects us to the heart of heaven. At St. Columbus, we are called to be a prayerful people. Not just on Sundays, but every day. In our homes, our streets, our hearts.

When we pray, we reflect. We pause. We remember who God is and who we are becoming.

The Bible says, "*Pray without ceasing*" (1 Thessalonians 5:17). That means prayer is not occasional—it's constant.

Let's rise, St. Columbus. Let's be a church that prays. That reflects. That listens. That moves. We encourage you to join our Church prayer group to intercede as you feel Led by the spirit.

Calendar highlights

Sun	2 Nov	9 am	Communion Service - @Handfull of Rice
		11 am	Shona Service
	14 - 15 Nov		Presbytery Council Meeting hosted by St Columba's
	28 - 30 Nov		Ladies' Retreat Small Bridge



A Word From The Pastors

Dear friends,

A rubber band is made for a purpose. Its purpose is to stretch and hold things in order to fulfil specific needs. A rubber band is pretty useless unless it is stretched. It will never really fulfil its potential or its purpose until it is stretched. And that's how it is for us as people. God made us for a purpose, and our purpose is often fulfilled when we are stretched in some way. When life stretches us through discomfort or challenges, that's when we grow and find out what our strengths really are. That's when we discover our fullest potential rather than just remaining limited. That's when we fulfil our callings which are sleeping.

Know that God uses your being stretched for good to enable you to achieve your God-given purpose. Do you have a vision that God has put in your heart – you need to be stretched to fulfil it. Do you have leadership inbuilt in you – you need to be stretched to fulfil that gifting. Do you have a dream that God has put on your heart – you need to be stretched to achieve that dream. Do you have a ministry that God has placed on your heart – stretch yourself to make it happen. Do you have a criticism about something – get down from the terraces and stretch yourself by offering of your talents.

The stretching will manifest in discomfort, tension, uncertainty, hard decision making, or feelings of inadequacy. You've got to either step out and stretch yourself, or allow yourself to be stretched. Like the rubber band, you've got to allow some tension between where you are now and where you need to be, in order to fulfil God's purposes for you.



If you never stretch yourself, you'll just stay small not allowing yourself to be grown and used by God. You'll stay unfulfilled because our greatest satisfaction comes from fulfilling the purpose that God made you for. You will remain in your comfort zone, but you will envy those who are doing great things for the Lord. A rubber band is made to stretch, it is not made for decoration.

Ephesians 2:10 reminds us that *"We are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."*

Acknowledgements

Pastors Paul and Lydia Neshangwe,
Pastor Chris Muzodziwa,
Colin Brandt,
Sheona Mohamed,
Iris Shiripinda,
Rob van Steensel,
Wietske Mushonga

all contributed to the production of this newsletter.



Men's Retreat Small Bridge 2025 .

Our Men's Retreat this year was once again awesome. To be out there with a diverse group of men and enjoy God's creation was very special. Many of the men were meeting up for the first time and yet we all bonded.

'What happened at Small Bridge stays at Small Bridge'.

Our program was intense but amazing, to give just a few highlights; Our theme was 'Restoring the broken' Jeremiah 30:17

- **Session 1:**

Why is there evil and suffering in the world?

Genesis 37:1-11 to 40:1-23 the story of Joseph and his brothers.

- **Session 2:**

Wounded hearts/ emotional pain.

- **Session 3:**

Bringing our pain to the cross.

- **Session 4:**

Forgiveness.

As we discussed and shared in the group hurts and emotional pains were stirred up. The men were able to share their personal struggles over the year. It got emotional at times and each story was different and unique. I think the healing process began right there and then. God's hand was at work in a profound way. Hearts lightened and emotional burdens began to ease up.



What we witnessed in the forgiveness session' can only be God's hand working in us. The process of restoration was evident to see. With God nothing is impossible. I was in awe.

During our free time we played volleyball, some paddled and swam others played pool and chess. It was a very relaxing time. We had Starlink services unlimited 24/7.

As we drew towards the end of our retreat everyone had formed meaningful relationships. We pledged to continue keeping in touch with each other to encourage and support.

Thanks to Mercy and her team for preparing great meals. We give thanks to God for our protection and all provisions. Amen.

Enjoy the pictures.





Prayer Retreat in the Vumba on 18 October

On the 18th of October I had the opportunity to attend the Elders Prayer Retreat which was organized by Pastor Paul and Pastor Lydia. The retreat was made open to all Ministry leaders alongside the Elders. Most of the Ministry leaders were able to attend this retreat.

We gathered to do something that is very important to every believer and that is to PRAY. We had the opportunity to pray for one another as leaders and elders. Our scriptures for the day were taken from Philippians 4:4-7 and 1st Peter 5: 7.

Pastor Paul, admonished us not to be anxious about anything , but to go to God in prayer and supplication with thanksgiving and let our requests be made known unto God. In addition, Pastor Lydia gave us a teaching from 2nd Timothy 1 : 7 and admonished us not to walk in fear. Personally, I had to look into my life and take note of areas in my life where fear and anxiety had taken over and I had to cast those areas into Gods hands. So often when we are afraid, the devil makes us forget that God has given us a spirit of power, and of love and of a sound mind. We must apply this word to our lives and cast fear out of our lives.

We also had the opportunity to pray for the different ministries currently running in the church and we prayed for various members of our church. It was such a blessing to spend quality time in prayer and cast all our cares upon the Father in Heaven just as His word instructs us to in 1st Peter 5 : 7.

Peace Within

May today there be peace within.

May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be.

May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith.

May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you

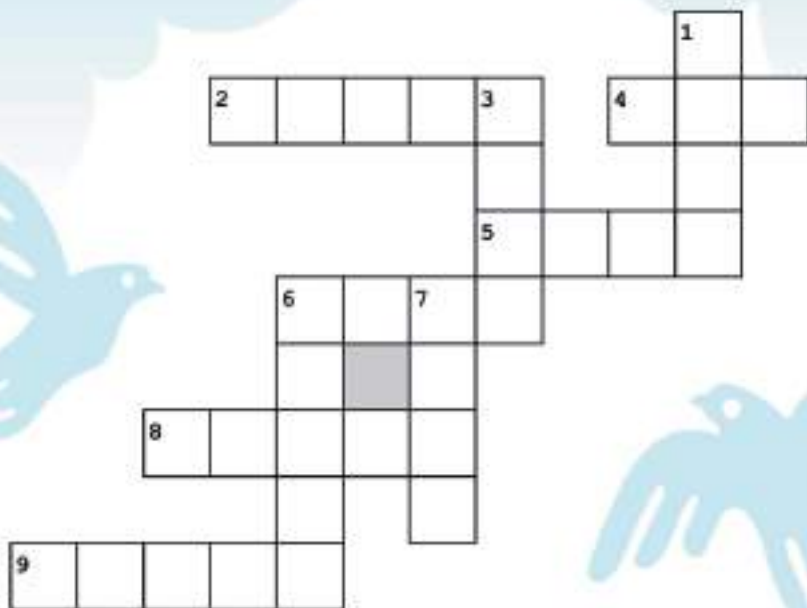
May you be confident knowing you are a child of God.

Let this presence settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love.

It is there for each and every one of us.



Prayer Crossword Puzzle



Across

2. – Believing in God even when we cannot see Him.
4. – Who we pray to.
5. – What God shows to everyone.
6. – Talking to God.
8. – God's free gift of kindness to us.
9. – The holy book that tells us about God.

Down

1. – What keeps us trusting in God's plan.
3. – A word that means pure and special for God.
6. – A calm and happy heart that comes from prayer.
7. – The word we say at the end of a prayer.



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

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SESSION CLERK:

MARIE SACCONI

CHURCH SECRETARY:

NORAH MACHIRI

CARETAKER:

GODFREY MAGODHLO

Tel: 0772844273

SERVICES:

Sunday: English Service 9 am, Shona Service 11 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)** Every Wed and Thu cntct Rev Lydia
- **GILLS (Growing In Love Ladies)** Last Sat of the Month 9am cntct Jean Brandt
- **FELLOWSHIP OF WOMEN** Every 2nd Sun after Church cntct Esther Mususa
- **MEN'S MINISTRY** Every Sat, 7am - Colin Brandt
- **BOYS' & GIRLS' BRIGADES** Every Sat at the church, 2pm - Fiona Botes
- **YOUTH MINISTRY** Every Sat, at the church, 2pm - Munya Kamunda
- **MUSIC MINISTRY** Every Fri 4.30pm cntct Josphat Mususa
- **YOUNG ADULTS** Monthly, cntct Kuda Musanu & Simba Mangore
- **DECO TEAM** Contact Hlupe Kandiero

CHURCH BANKING DETAILS: STANBIC BANK RTGS 914 000 2833 696

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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.



