



HE LIVES!

Newsletter April 2026

St Columba's Presbyterian Church Mutare

A Word From The Pastors

Dear friends,

There are certain things that take place in our lives and we do not immediately see the spiritual meaning or direction that God is leading to until later. Jesus too went through events which only made sense to people later, yet they made sense to God as they were happening.

- On Palm Sunday, Jesus entered into Jerusalem: sometimes God makes you enter new chapters whose future is unclear. Trust Him.
- On Monday, Jesus then cleansed the temple: when you are going through times of confusion and disturbance, remember that God may be doing a process of cleansing you. Trust Him.
- On Tuesday, Jesus taught in the temple: you are required to preach God's word, whether in word or in deed and you need God to give you the words. Trust Him.
- On Wednesday, Judas agreed to betray Jesus: in life you will be betrayed and you will betray. Trust God to help you do the right thing.

Calendar highlights

25 Apr	10 am	Session Meeting
All Sundays	11 am	Shona Service
3 May	9 am	Communion Service Combined with Shona Service



- On Thursday, Jesus washed the disciples' feet and shared the Last Supper with them, thus modelling humility and service. Ask God to teach you these values.
- On Friday, Jesus was crucified on the cross: when you are persecuted on account of the Kingdom of God, trust God to see you through it.
- On Saturday, Jesus's dead body lay in the tomb: there will be times of darkness and hopelessness in life. Learn silence and reflection in those times.
- On Sunday, Jesus resurrected from the grave: live out the resurrection in all aspects of your life.

Therefore, when things are happening or not happening as you expected them, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding." Happy Easter!

Pastor Paul and Lydia

Acknowledgements

Pastors Paul and Lydia Neshangwe,
 Dr.J.Chakonda,
 Ann Ruthenburg,
 Fiona Botes,
 Sheona Mohamed,
 Iris Shiripinda,
 Rob van Steensel,
 Wietske Mushonga

all contributed to the production of this newsletter.



THE POWER OF SELF HONOUR – SELF AWARENESS TO SELF MANAGEMENT

Recently, I was invited to a book launch as a speaker. After preparing the speech I felt in my spirit I needed to share this presentation with fellow brethren in Christ.

According to the book entitled (**FIRST HONOUR THEN GLORY**) honour flows in two directions. There is the vertical and horizontal directions.

The vertical direction basically speaks about honouring God.

The horizontal direction speaks about our interpersonal relationships as people.

Philosophers remind us that when a society loses its core virtues, it does not merely evolve—it **unravels**.

One such virtue is honour.

And one such endangered institution is the **family**.

Aristotle, writing over two thousand years ago, argued that the family is the **fundamental unit of the polis**, the city-state. Before law, before politics, before economics—there was the household. When the household was ordered, society flourished. When it was disordered, the state flawed.

This insight remains painfully relevant. The family today is not collapsing with noise or rebellion. It is being *quietly eroded*—by moral relativism, by the separation of freedom from responsibility, and by the loss of shared meaning across generations.



Confucius, from a very different cultural world, reached the same conclusion. He taught that social harmony begins with **filial responsibility**—with honour between parent and child, elder and youth. For him, moral decay in society was not first a political problem, but a **family problem**. “When the family is in order,” he taught, “the state is at peace.”

We moderns often reverse this logic. We expect policies to fix what values have abandoned. This is why books matter.

Plato warned that societies are shaped not merely by laws, but by the stories they tell themselves. And stories endure when they are written, preserved, and taught. Books are not passive objects. They are repositories of moral memory. They carry what Alasdair MacIntyre famously called “the moral tradition”—the shared understanding of what is good, what is worthy, and what is honourable. When a society loses that tradition, MacIntyre said, people still use moral language, but it becomes hollow—detached from meaning, history, and obligation. That is exactly the crisis facing the modern family. Honour, at its core, is the bridge between character and community. It teaches us that:

- Our actions outlive our intentions
- Our choices affect those who come after us
- Our freedom is always exercised within relationship

Edmund Burke described society as a partnership “not only of the living, but of the dead and the unborn.” The family is where that partnership is first learned. When honour disappears from the family, continuity breaks. Generations stop speaking to one another. Wisdom is replaced by impulse. Legacy is replaced by consumption.



Hannah Arendt warned that when tradition collapses, individuals are left unanchored—free, but disoriented. What follows is not liberation, but **loneliness**, fragmentation, and instability. The family was once the primary institution that anchored meaning, identity, and moral formation. Its weakening is not progress—it is **amnesia**.

This is why a book on honour is not merely timely—it is necessary. To write a book is to resist cultural forgetfulness. It is to say: *This idea deserves to be remembered*. Books restore depth in an age of speed. They reward reflection in a culture of reaction. They rebuild institutions by rebuilding the **ideas** beneath them. If communities are to be transformed, institutions must be renewed. And institutions are renewed only when honour is restored. So today, as we celebrate this book, let us recognise its deeper task. It is calling us back—to responsibility, to continuity, to moral seriousness. It is reminding us that families do not survive on affection alone, but on **virtue, structure, and shared values**.

Let us read again.

Let us think again.

Let us teach again.

Because when honour returns to the family, the family stabilises the community, and the community safeguards the future.

To the author—thank you for contributing to our moral memory.

To the readers—thank you for choosing wisdom over noise.

And to all of us—may we not only admire honour in theory, but **practice it**, beginning at home.

By Dr J. Chakonda

Girls Brigade trip to Zambia

The Girls' brigade Zimbabwe and Malawi have been invited to a brigaders n junior camp to be held in Ndola Zambia from the 20th - 26th April 2026 and Captain Fiona Botes and brigader Tariro Chigonde have the opportunity of attending with other's from Harare the Mutare team are planning to travel by bus to Harare on the 18th if nothing changes n we will stay with a fellow officer in Harare then proceed to Zambia by bus, all travel expenses need to be raised by each person going and for the Mutare Company it's the 1st time anyone has travelled outside the country since we reopened in 2014. I am excited to be accompanying Tariro on this trip. (any questions please speak to the Captain)

I pray that God will go before us on this trip.



Called To Care Cosmetology Training Department & Salon

Following the establishment of the Called to Care Cosmetology Training Department, it became clear that there was a growing need to incorporate a practical, hands-on component into the training programme. This led to the creation of a fully functional, income-generating training salon.

The purpose of the salon is to:

Provide students with hands-on experience by working with real clients, not just mannequins

Equip students with practical business skills, including customer service and handling client feedback and concerns

In all its operations, the department is committed to ensuring that every activity aligns with the mission of the Church. Training and equipping individuals remains part of this mandate, as reflected in Hosea 4:6.

While the salon strives to offer the highest level of professionalism and excellence, clients are kindly reminded that its primary purpose is student training.

This exciting addition to the Cosmetology Department is guided by Pastors Paul and Lydia Neshangwe, who provide oversight and represent both Called to Care and Church interests.

Margaret Mlambo serves as Head of Cosmetology Skills Training, supported by Passionate. Ann Ruthenburg leads the Salon's Business and Operations Management.

The current Called to Care programme is scheduled to graduate in August 2026. A new group will start in September 2026.

Called To Care – Beauty with a Purpose

Thought for the month

YOUR BODY IS A TEMPLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

“Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you...?” — 1 Corinthians 6:19

In a world that often teaches us to disconnect from our bodies or treat them casually, God calls us to a higher understanding: your body is sacred. It is not just flesh and bone—it is a dwelling place for His Spirit.

This truth invites us into a life of intentional care and honor. How we treat our bodies matters to God. What we consume, how we rest, how we speak about ourselves, and even how we carry our emotions—all of it reflects our recognition of His presence within us.

To see your body as a temple is to walk in dignity. It means rejecting shame, embracing self-control, and choosing habits that bring life rather than harm. It means understanding that you carry God’s presence everywhere you go—into your home, your workplace, your relationships, and your community.

This is not about perfection. It is about awareness. It is about stewardship.

Today, take a moment to ask: Am I honoring God with my body? Am I caring for what He has entrusted to me?

May we learn to live in a way that reflects the holiness within us, being as authentic as we can—treating our bodies not as ordinary, but as sacred vessels, set apart for His glory. By Ann Ruthenburg

Prayer:

Lord, thank You for the gift of my body. Help me to honor You in how I live, care for myself, and carry Your presence daily. Teach me to see myself the way You see me—valuable, chosen, and set apart.

Amen.



Hair &

Beauty Salon

OUR SERVICES

- Makeup
- Braiding Hairstyles
- Alopecia covering
- Hair Colouring
- Artificial Nails
- Natural Nails
- Hair Relaxers
- Hot Oil Treatment
- Gift shop
- Problem Skin and Hair Consultation

BOOK US NOW!
0784112242 Ann
0772353263 Margaret



The Weight of the Wait!

Waiting on God is something that we as believers are all taught and admonished to do when we are anticipating a response to our prayers from God.

We are taught to persevere, to endure, and to wait. Nobody talks enough about the weight of the wait. Nobody emphasizes how, at times, waiting on God and trusting in Him can be more difficult on some days than others. Some days are weightier and heavier than others. There are days when all one can do is cry silently and hope in God. There are days when giving up seems so much easier than trusting in a God who goes silent during the wait on Him. There are days during the wait, where you can not even utter a prayer.

There are days when you see others get the answers to their prayers overnight, and yet you have been praying for years for God to just answer that one prayer that would turn your life around. There are days when people will laugh at you and say, "Where is your God? You pray so much, but you are struggling ", those days are so weighty and full of pressure from people telling you to quit going to church.

The wait on God is not easy.

Trusting in God to answer you is not easy, BUT one thing I can tell you is this, God does answer, and He answers in His time and when He answers He comes with just the best for you. He makes all things beautiful for you in His time. So when those days of waiting on Him are difficult and seem hopeless, hold on family. Hold on to God, Hold on to His word, Hold on to His promises, Hold on to everything you have been taught about Him, Hold onto your faith, Fight for your faith, Don't let the devil fill you with doubt and unbelief and fear because our God is a faithful God, who is full of mercy and grace and His love for you endures forever. He will answer just at the right time.



So, while you wait, praise Him.

While you wait, worship Him.

While you wait, read His word.

While you wait, always ask for strength to continue waiting on Him.

While you wait, serve others, and serve in His kingdom, get busy with the things that concern Him.

While you wait, build your faith by reading His word.

God will come through for you and answer!



Micah 7:7

*But as for me, I watch in hope for the Lord,
I wait for God my Saviour;
my God will hear me.*



Classic Chocolate Cake

A rich, moist chocolate cake made by the Called to Care catering class



Ingredients

- 2 eggs
- 2 cups flour
- 3 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon vanilla essence
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup cocoa powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup brewed coffee
- 1 cup milk
- 2 cups sugar
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup oil



Method

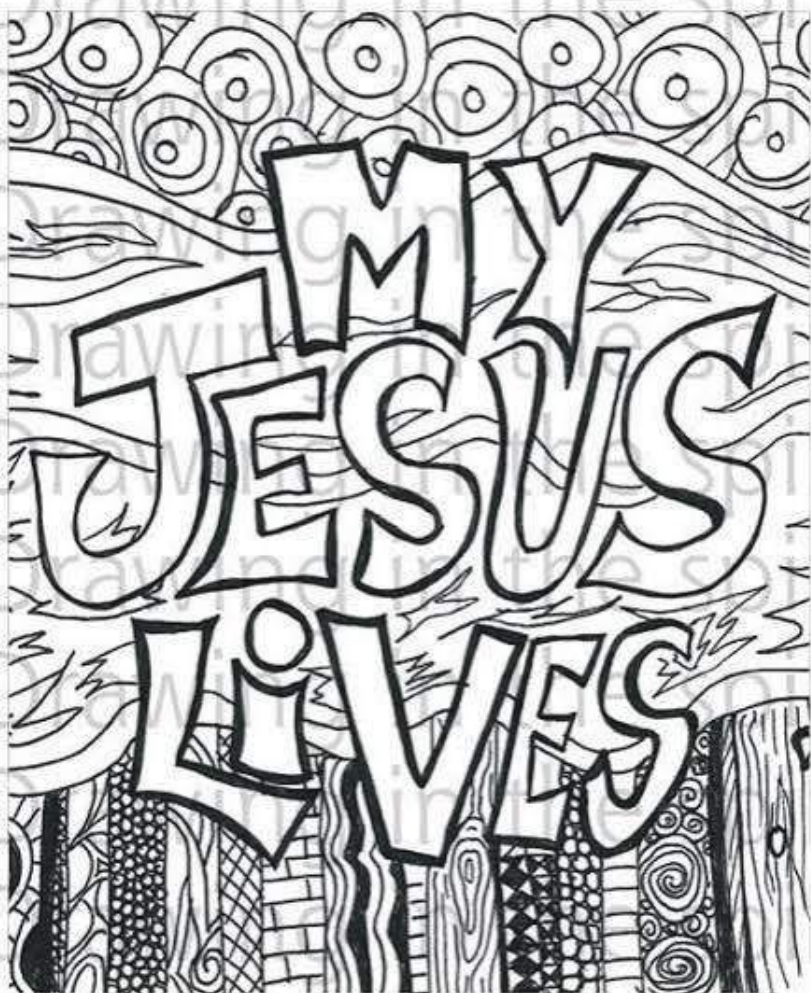
1. Preheat oven to 160°C. Grease and line two 8-inch cake tins and set aside.
2. In a large bowl, sift together all the dry ingredients (flour, baking powder, cocoa powder, salt, and sugar).
3. Make a well in the center of the dry ingredients.
4. Add eggs, milk, oil, and vanilla essence. Mix for about 2 minutes until smooth.
5. Add the brewed coffee and mix until well combined.
6. Divide the batter evenly between the prepared tins.
7. Bake for 40 minutes to 1 hour, or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.
8. Allow to cool before serving or decorating.



Variations

- Chocolate Banana Cake: Add 2 mashed bananas to the batter.
- Strawberry Chocolate Cake: Replace vanilla essence with strawberry essence.
- Orange Chocolate Cake: Add 2 tablespoons of orange zest and juice.
- Coconut Chocolate Cake: Add ½ cup desiccated coconut.
- Cupcakes: Use the same batter but reduce baking time to 30 minutes.





Drawing in the Spirit
Coloring pages created by Mandy L. Wheeler • Copyright 2020



List of Ministries

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

CARETAKER:

GODFREY MAGODHLO

Tel: 0772844273

CHURCH SECRETARY:

NORAH MACHIRI

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 other Sat, at the church, 12pm
- Leeroy Mashavave, Nicole Machigere
 - **MUSIC MINISTRY** Every Fri 4.30pm cntct Josphat Mususa
 - **YOUNG ADULTS** Every Sun 12 pm Kuda Musanu & Simba Mangore
 - **DECO TEAM** Contact Hlupe Kandiero or Ann Ruthenburg
 - **WISMOWS** Once a month in various venues - Norah Machiri
-

CHURCH BANKING DETAILS: STANBIC BANK

RTGS 914 000 2833 696

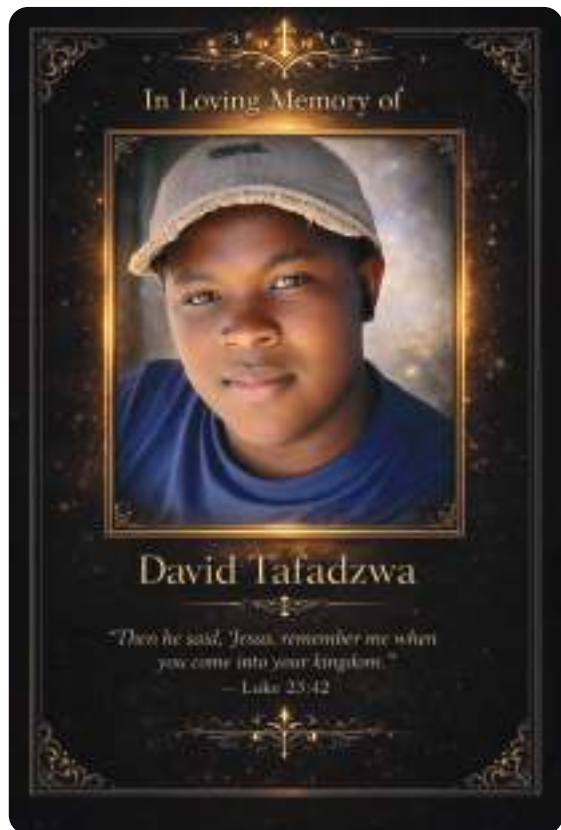
FCA 914 000 4484 346

ZB BANK

RTGS 4532 104335 200

FCA 4532 104335 405





**David Tafadzwa Shiripinda
went to be with the Lord
on 19 March 2026**

