



Western Heights Uniting Church

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Loving God: Growing Together, Partnering Community, Sharing Faith

WESTERN HEIGHTS UNITING CHURCH

August 2019 Newsletter

SAFE CHURCH

Western Heights Uniting Church is committed to the safety, protection and well-being of all children and young people from all forms of abuse and neglect. We will make every effort to provide an environment of safety and support. All key leaders have completed a Working With Children Check. Western Heights UC has adopted the Synod "Keeping Children Safe" policy.

August at a Glance

| | | |
|----------------|---------|---|
| Sunday 4th | 10.00am | Café Church—Rev. Isabel Greenall Michele Hardy—St. Albans/St. Andrews |
| Friday 9th | 7.00pm | KFG—Movie Night |
| Sunday 11th | 10.00am | SMS (Super Music Sunday) Michele Hardy—St. Albans/St. Andrews |
| Tuesday 13th | 6.30pm | Tuesday Meditation |
| Friday 16th | 1.00pm | LAT |
| Sunday 18th | 10.00am | Worship—Rev. Jan Taylor & Janet Pavlakis —Communion 12.00pm Followed by Casserole Luncheon |
| Tuesday 20th | 6.30pm | Tuesday Friendship |
| Wednesday 21st | 7.00pm | Church Council Meeting |
| Sunday 25th | 10.00am | Worship—TBA |
| | 4.00pm | Messy Church |
| Tuesday 27th | 7.00pm | Tuesday Meditation |

Staff Annual Leave

Isabel will be on annual leave beginning on **Tuesday 13th August** and returning on **Tuesday 3rd September**.

Café Church—Intergenerational Pastoral Care

Next Sunday we will enjoy worship in the more informal setting of café church in the Horizons Room. Picking up the image of a fruit salad for being an intergenerational church community, we will eat "fruity things" with our cuppas. If you are able to bring something fruity on the day, please write your name on the list on the back table or let Jan in the office know by Friday. Some examples of "fruity things" are fresh fruit platters, raisin bread, fruit cake/loaf, etc.

KFG (Kids Friendship Group)

Movie Night

Friday 9th August, 2019

7pm—8.30pm

All year 3 to 9 are invited to come

**RSVP to Karen by
Wednesday 7th August 2019**

Karen.morgan1968@hotmail.com or 0404435261
or office@whuc.com.au

Casserole Luncheon

WHUC Fund-Raising Group

Casserole Luncheon

Sunday, 18 August, 2019 at 12:00

In the Horizon's Room

Leila and Gil Green have kindly volunteered to lend their expertise in running a casserole luncheon, here at Western Heights, after church, on

Sunday, 18 August, 2019.

The cost per adult will be \$10. Special rates for families with children.

Menu: A variety of casseroles, rice, bread sticks, tea, coffee with special treats to follow, fun and fellowship.

Members of the congregation are kindly asked to donate their favourite casserole, whether they are able to attend the luncheon or not.

Please add your name to the "Casserole Donations" List.

To assist with the catering, please fill in the "Luncheon Attendees" List, and give your money to Gil or Leila.

The Fund-Raising Group are greatly encouraged by Gil and Leila's gesture. We are hoping that others and other church groups will start taking the initiative to fund-raise.

Western Heights Mission Outreach 2018

Winter Recession

Contact

Dorothy Matthews—5278 9491

Val Bray—5221 3396

Super Music Sunday

The Worship Music Ministry Team is planning a special morning of music on **Sunday August 11th** and we are calling it SMS! (Super Music Sunday)

With guidance from Gary Ekkel and Melinda Bell it promises to be a memorable musical service!

We are hoping to assemble a diverse group of singers and musicians, so if you are interested in participating please let me know? If you can't take part we would love you to come along (and maybe bring a friend) on **Sunday August 11th** for a wonderful morning of music.

Lynda Scott

Tuesday Friendship

Tuesday 20th August 2019

Games Night—Hosted by Kerry

Meal: Soup & Baked Potatoes

Please bring a slice or sweet

All Ladies Welcome

Joan Murphy

Phone 0438 722 035



**Messy Church @
WHUC**

Sunday 25th August 4pm

Contact: Karen (0404435261) for more info or if you'd like to help!

Church & Music Rosters Unavailability Sept, Oct, Nov

The next Church and Music Rosters will be for the months of **September**, October, and November 2019. If you know of any Sunday/s on which you will be **UNAVAILABLE** for duty on the Music Roster and/or the Church Roster during those months, please find that particular Sunday in the unavailability book, enter your full name, then tick the roster/s for which you will be **UNAVAILABLE**. All unavailabilities need to be placed into the book no later than **Sunday morning, 11 August, 2019**. Thank you. Velma Oliver.

Have you heard the conversation about parking at church

Two people were talking at church one day.

Person 1: G'Day. Good to see you here at church today. You must have been one of the "Early Birds" this morning as I noticed your car in the front row of parking places.

Person 2: Yep, I had to be on duty this morning so I zipped into the "primo" parking position for once! Barely had to take two steps and I was in out of the cold.

Person 1: You know, you're still pretty young and fit compared to some people here at church. Did it occur to you that that "Primo" position might have been better left for member of the church less physically able than you?

Person 2: Oh, gee, no it didn't cross my mind to be honest. I was just on "auto pilot" I suppose. You know how it is – "see carpark, fill carpark". When I'm not early, I just grab whatever's available.

Person 1: Perhaps next time you arrive at church early, you might consider using one of the more distant car-parks, even one across the road, to allow those with mobility problems easier access to our building.

Person 2: Oh, OK, that makes a lot of sense, I'll do that. I guess that it will help make everyone happier at church. Those who are less physically able will feel more cared for and the rest of us will feel like we are doing one small thing to help others.

2019 / 2020 Entertainment Books

The 2019/2020 Entertainment Books can now be purchased from Helen Sleep. Still just \$60 giving you over \$20,000 worth of offers.

Offers of up to 50% off and 2 for 1 offers, from best restau-



Super Music Sunday

The Worship & Music Group is planning a special morning of music on **Sunday August 11th** and we are calling it SMS! (Super Music Sunday)

With guidance from Gary Ekkel and Melinda Bell it promises to be a memorable musical service!

There will be a special intergenerational choir and a diverse group of singers and musicians to lead it all. If you are interested in participating please let us know.

Planned Giving Report to 30th June 2019

| | <u>Actually Received</u> | <u>Budget</u> |
|-----------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| Envelopes | 20,260 | 19,430 |
| Direct Debits | <u>43,950</u> | <u>40,750</u> |
| Sub-total | 64,210 | 60,180 |
| Open Plate | <u>5,170</u> | <u>4,980</u> |
| Total Offerings | <u>69,380</u> | <u>65,160</u> |

Financial Situation to 30th June 2019

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Total Income | 105,530 |
| Total Expenses | 100,890 |
| Operating <u>Surplus</u> - | <u>4,640</u> |

Name Badges

We will soon be sending away an order for some new Uniting Church Name Badges.

There are two types available:

Pin on – cost \$7.50 each

Magnetic clip – cost \$10.00 each.

For enquiries, or to place an order, please see Jenice or Geoff Coots. Money is required to confirm the order.

Uniting Winter Appeal

Warm food and warm clothes are everyone's priority at this time of the year. Uniting Barwon has been busy distributing food and clothing to people feeling the cold and having to manage their winter bills whilst feeding their families.

You can help families by donating the following items:

- Soup, pasta sauces, long life milk, noodles, cooking oil, tinned vegetables, tuna and rice for the preparation of nutritious meals.
- Warm clothing such as children's track pants (sizes 8 to 12), girls leggings and men's track pants (M,L & XL).
- Material aid such as cutlery and saucepans are in demand for clients moving into what is often their first home.

ALL DONATIONS MOST WELCOME.

272 Torquay Rd Grovedale & 10 Wendover Ave Norlane.



Asylum Seeker Food Bank @ The Welcome Place

In order to provide support to people on Bridging Visas who have had their Status Resolution Support Service income support taken away, or who have Safe Haven Enterprise or Temporary Protection Visas and who do not have ongoing work, a food bank has been established at the Wesley Asylum Seeker Welcome Place. (This is in response to the Diversitat food bank closing due to funding ending.) You can support this new service, by making donations of the following items:

| | | |
|------------------------------------|---|---|
| Vouchers | Tea (bags or loose leaf - black, green or Earl Grey - not Dilmah brand for ethical reasons) | Jars of minced garlic |
| Supermarket vouchers | Sunflower oil or other vegetable oil | Jars of minced ginger |
| Myki cards with money loaded | Coffee | Jars of minced chilli |
| Food Items | Flour | |
| Chickpeas (dried or tinned) | Sugar | Toiletries and cleaning products |
| Lentils (dried or tinned) | Honey | Boxes of tissues |
| Red kidney beans (dried or tinned) | Packets of sweet biscuits | Soap |
| Basmati rice | Long life milk | Hand wash |
| Canned tuna (Sirena, in oil) | | Shampoo |
| Dried spaghetti noodles | Spices | Conditioner |
| Tins of chopped tomatoes (plain) | Garam Masala | Deodorant |
| Tomato paste | Cardamom (pods or ground) | Sanitary pads (not tampons) |
| Coconut milk | Coriander seed | Toothpaste |
| Sultanas | Cinnamon (ground or sticks) | Toilet paper |
| Dates | Dill | Laundry powder |
| Dried apricots (Turkish style) | Chilli (powder or dried chillies) | Dishwashing detergent |
| Raw almonds | | Disinfectant |
| | | Toilet/bathroom cleaner |
| | | Cleaning cloths and dishwashing sponges |

Please note: Opened or out-of-date items cannot be accepted.

Grocery items can be delivered to the Welcome Place:

- Between 2:30 and 6:00 pm on Fridays to The Wesley Centre, 218 Ryrie St Geelong (Set back in walkway between McDonalds and Mustafa's Kebabs – enter via garden gate)
- Other times only by arrangement (call Wesley Uniting Church - 5229 8866)

Vouchers and financial donations can be mailed to:

Wesley Asylum Seeker Welcome Place
C/- Wesley Uniting Church
100 Yarra St, Geelong 3220

Your support is greatly appreciated by people who came to Geelong to seek peace and safety. It is a wonderful way to say "Welcome!"



Summary of CC Minutes 24 July, 2019

1. Devotions by Geoff Coots: Growing Together. How do we grow people together? We listen to them, we get to know them, we do things with them, we become part of a small group, we communicate with them.
2. Sandra Neville has broken her leg. We wish her a speedy recovery.
3. A small sub-committee consisting of Graeme Hardy, Ralph Taylor and Roger Dingle has been formed to do an audit of the condition of the manse. The issues that arise from this audit will be addressed in the fullness of time.
4. The film night raised \$400. Thanks to all involved for a great effort.
5. A casserole luncheon is to be held at noon on Sunday, 18 August at a cost of \$10 per person. Special prices for families with children.
6. Janet Pavlakis and Peter Morgan facilitated a closer look by CC of a new 3-year Strategic Plan for 2020 to 2022. We thank them and Roger Dingle for working on this task.
7. Janet Pavlakis was co-opted onto the Leadership Advisory Team (LAT). Thank you Janet.
8. Next CC will be on Weds., 21 August, 2019. This is a Reporting Meeting.

Velma Oliver.

Being An Intergenerational Church

Every church can discover its intergenerational heart and soul. We at Western Heights have a great history upon which to continue to build that can take us deeper along this road benefiting us all and reflecting both the nature of God and the way the church was right back when it first began. It can be helpful to think of five essential components to church life and to then consider how we may grow intergenerationally in these areas. The five areas are caring, celebrating, learning, praying, and serving. They are at the heart of every Christian community. When a church community commits itself to building a culture of intergenerationality through these five elements, each element becomes a sign of and instrument for the full experience of the body of Christ by all ages and generations.

What do these five elements include?

- Caring - cultivating caring relationships across generations in the congregation and community, becoming a life-giving spiritual community of faith, hope, and love.
- Celebrating - worshipping God together through worship, rituals, sacraments, the liturgical seasons and cultural events that involve all of the ages and generations.
- Learning - engaging all ages and generations together in learning experiences that teach scripture and the Christian tradition, informing and forming disciples of all ages in Christian identity.
- Praying - nurturing the spiritual life of the whole community through the church's prayer ministries, rituals, and blessings throughout the year.
- Serving - involving all ages and generations in service and mission to the world, especially to the poor and vulnerable, and in the works of justice and advocacy.



"Generations Together" by Amedei, Merhaut and Roberto

Urgent need for funds for legal support

(The following case study contains changed names and details in order to protect privacy)



Pramesh and Aarini came from Sri Lanka by boat to seek safety in Australia in 2013. Pramesh's older brother was recruited by the Tamil Tigers as a teenager, in order to fight for the rights of the Tamil people. Aarini had attended some student activist rallies to protest the government's discrimination against Tamil people. For these reasons, they were each taken into custody a number of times by Sri Lankan military and security forces and interrogated. These interrogation sessions always involved serious harm and torture in an attempt to extract information from them, which they did not usually have. Fearing that their safety would always be at risk, they fled Sri Lanka.

As exit visas are required in order to leave Sri Lanka, and Pramesh and Aarini were both on the 'interest' list of the Sri Lankan government, it was not possible for them to leave via plane. The only way for them to leave undetected, was by boat. Pramesh explained, "Staying in Sri Lanka meant more torture and death. Getting on a boat gave us a chance to live."

When Pramesh and Aarini arrived in Australia, they were forced by the Government to wait more than three years to lodge their application for asylum. It was very difficult for them, especially for Aarini, to speak of their experiences. They wanted to talk to as few people as possible, and so chose a Migration Agent who spoke their language, eliminating the need for an interpreter. Unfortunately the Migration Agent did not have experience with protection visa applications, and their application was rejected.

Pramesh and Aarini decided to seek the assistance of an experienced refugee lawyer to provide a submission to the Immigration Assessment Authority (IAA). With only 21 days allowed for submissions, they had to act quickly. However, they did not have the available funds to pay for the legal work (free refugee legal services usually only assist with initial applications and not with IAA work or court work). The Combined Refugee Action Group, through donations received from the community, was able to pay \$1500 of their legal bill. They were then able access a refugee lawyer immediately, who assisted them to provide further detail and explanation of the claims they had already made.

If the original decision is upheld by the IAA, the only avenue for appeal is through the Federal Circuit Court (people subject to the new 'Fast Track' determination process do not have access to a Refugee Review Tribunal). This is very costly, and more funds will be needed if a court appeal is necessary. Pramesh and Aarini know that they will be handed directly to security forces if they are forced to return to Sri Lanka. They now have a three year old son. It is a matter of life and death for this lovely family.

Through generous donations from the Geelong community, CRAG has been able to assist people like Pramesh and Aarini with 17 different matters over the past 12 months, totalling over \$24,000. These matters have included lawyer attendance at interviews, post-interview submissions, IAA submissions, and Federal Circuit Court appeals. Several people assisted have made repayments to the CRAG Legal Fund to allow some funds to be re-used to assist others. In order to act with the necessary speed when a need arises, it is essential that CRAG maintains a reasonable float in the fund. People's lives may depend on this.

Can you assist by making a donation?

By Electronic Transfer: Combined Refugee Action Group Legal Fund
BSB: 033226 Account Number: 531593

By Cheque: Combined Refugee Action Group, C/- Geelong Trades Hall, 127 Myers St, Geelong.

Note: CRAG does not have charity status, so donations are unfortunately not tax-deductible

Contact Details

Leadership Advisory Team:

Minister: Rev. Isabel Greenall
minister@whuc.com.au 0419 602 006

Isabel's day off is **Monday** so please refrain from contacting her on this day.

LAT Administrator: Roger Dingle
roger.dingle@gmail.com 0407 528 533

Children & Families Co-ordinator: Karen Morgan
karen.morgan1968@hotmail.com
0404 435 261

Church Council Chair: Velma Oliver
lv.oliver@iinet.net.au 0421 271 946

Property Co-ordinator Graeme Hardy
graeme.c.hardy@gmail.com 0408 630 391

Communications

Administrator: Jan Grigg 5229 5889

Pastoral Care Referrals Group

Rhonda Dingle 0437245671
Isabel Greenall 0419602006
Graeme Willingham 0432864727

WHUC Office:

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Office hours: Wed: 1.30pm - 3.30pm
Fri : 9am – 1:00pm
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Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/Western-Heights-Uniting-Church/167518399975533

Postage stamps

Sammy Stamp is a part of the UCAF (Uniting Church Adult Fellowship) that collects postage stamps, sells them and then provides grants for small projects not covered in the Synod Budget. There is a box in the foyer for you to put your used stamps. If you could cut around your stamp leaving 5mm of paper that would be helpful.



Playgroups are held in the Horizons Room on: **Tuesday mornings and Friday mornings 9:30-11.30am.**

Light Globes & Batteries

Did you know that light globes and batteries of any sort can be recycled? There is a box in the foyer near the stamps where you can leave them.

Pew Sheet

If anyone wishes to receive the Pew Sheet information by email each week, please give your name and email address to Jan in the office.

Aluminium Foil

The Leprosy Mission is able to raise funds from the sale of aluminium cans and foil pie plates. Please assist this worthy cause by leaving your used foil in the appropriate box in the foyer.

Future Monthly Newsletters

To be included in the Monthly Newsletter, please ensure your notices are at the church office by the **20th of the preceding month**. They can be dropped in to the office in a clearly marked envelope, or emailed to the office, at **office@whuc.com.au**