



Western Heights Uniting Church

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Loving God: Growing Together, Partnering Community, Sharing Faith

WESTERN HEIGHTS UNITING CHURCH

March 2017 Newsletter

March at a Glance

Wednesday 1st	1.30pm	Mission Outreach
Saturday 4th	8.30pm	Working Bee
Sunday 5th	8.45am	Traditional Worship
	10.15am	Worship
Tuesday 7th	1.00pm	Senior Retirees Outing
Friday 10th	12.30pm	WHISH
	7.00pm	KFG—Green Night
Sunday 12th	10.00am	Worship
Wednesday 15th	7.00pm	Ministry Teams Meeting
Sunday 19th	10.00am	Worship & Congregation Meeting
Tuesday 21st	6.30pm	Tuesday Friendship
Saturday 25th	7.30pm	Friendship Club
Sunday 26th	10.00am	Worship
	4.00pm	Messy Church

March Preaching Plan

Western Heights Services:

Wednesday 1st	7.30pm	Ash Wednesday Meditation	
Sunday 5th	8.45am	Rev. Isabel Greenall	In the Horizons Room
	10.15am	Rev. Isabel Greenall	Taize service beginning Lent
Sunday 12th	10.00am	Rev. Isabel Greenall	
Sunday 19th	10.00am	TBA	All Together & Communion
Sunday 26th	10.00am	Rev. Isabel Greenall	
	4.00pm	Messy Church	

Other Services:

Thursday 23rd	Audrey Kateena	Nangattaa & Murray (Kalkee)
Tuesday 28th	Audrey Kateena	mecwacare Elstoft House (3.00pm)

Western Heights Mission Outreach 2017

Wednesday 1st March, 2017

1.30pm Horizons Room

Fridge Magnets with Bettine James

All welcome

Contact: Di Edwards—5241 7073

KFG (Kids Friendship Group)

Green Night

Friday 10th March, 2017

7pm—8.30pm

Years 3—7

\$3.00

RSVP to Karen by
Wednesday 8th March, 2017

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

Tuesday Friendship

Tuesday 21st March, 2017

6.30pm for Shared Meal

It'll still be Lent so instead of an Easter Bonnet, it's a night to wear your hat depicting a song, movie or book!

All Ladies Welcome

Joan Murphy 5241 5683

For your diary

Tuesday 18th April, 6.30pm

We'll be joining with Soroptimist International Geelong for a "Cause Celebre" at St. Mary's Theatre, Yarra Street, Geelong.

All Ladies Welcome.

For further details and bookings for the movie contact, Joan Murphy 5241 5683



Messy Church @
WHUC

Sunday 26th March 4pm

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

Friendship Club

What's Your Hobby?

Friendship Club Members are invited to talk &/or display their hobbies at the Meeting held at 7.30 pm on 25th March, 2017, in the Horizons Room.

Please Note: Football Excluded !!!

Opportunities to....

Love God, Grow Together, Partner Community and Share Faith at Western Heights

1. Playgroup

Members of the congregation are invited to casually support the Playgroup by volunteering (this could be once a fortnight or once a month or even once a term). Tasks for volunteers may include setting up, cutting fruit, interacting with parents/children, playing, holding babies and general helping out.

The Playgroup runs each Tuesday and Friday during the school term, 9:30-11:30am.

2. Messy Church

All small groups, Ministry Teams and other groups are invited to take a turn as the kitchen team at Messy Church this year. The role includes purchasing, preparing, serving, and clearing up. The meal itself is a simple affair for around forty people. The cost of ingredients will be reimbursed and the kitchen team is invited to sit down and share the meal with the Messy Church congregation. The task probably only needs 3-4 people from your group and there are extra helpers available if you are short.

There are also opportunities each month at Messy Church to facilitate an activity, play in the Messy Church band and lead the celebration time.

Please be aware that all volunteers are required to have a current working with children check.

Please contact Karen for more info on 0404435261 or karen.morgan1968@hotmail.com or place your name on the roster, situated on the noticeboard next to the office.

Wedding Gift Contributions

Thank you to all those folk who contributed a total of \$1,085 toward a wedding gift for Steve and Isabel. They will choose a gift in due course, and you will be advised of their selection.



Western Heights Uniting Church – Strategic Plan – Year 2 actions

With God's help we will be a Church that:		Actions	Responsible people/team (to oversee, facilitate)
Is Intergenerational		Explore and develop mentoring program across generations – sharing life, faith, care	LAT
		Review and implement process for welcoming newcomers to Sunday morning worship	Worship & music team
Is welcoming, warm and inclusive		Develop and make available a "church directory"	LAT
		Provide 3 occasions for informal lunches in people's homes, cafés	LAT to coordinate
Encourages and supports exploring, sharing and growing in faith		Provide 2 activities outside the WH facilities	LAT to coordinate
		Ongoing support for parents in family faith development.	Children & Families Lay Ministry Worker, Messy Church Team
		Facilitate one short term interest/action based small groups eg faith in action.	Small Group Coordinators
		Stop Footsteps, begin small group for families including young children	Small Group Coordinators
		Ongoing reporting/sharing of small groups with WH community.	Small Group Coordinators
		Host the BIG event that brings together faith & culture issues.	BIG event team
		Support the work of one overseas and two Australian mission organisations through prayer, education and provision of resources.	Outreach Ministry Team
		Continue implementing Messy Church strategy	Messy Church Team
		Continue to develop "With Intention" contemplative community	"With Intention" group
		Consult midweek community and early service community about needs for traditional worship	Music and Worship Ministry team
Provides a variety of worship styles		Intentionally connect with Aged Care Facility residents for shared worship and fellowship	Pastoral Care Ministry Team
		Develop process for responding to justice & environmental issues in a timely manner.	LAT
Initiates and/or supports community action in areas of social justice & environmental sustainability		Gather a group to identify an issue or cause once or twice in the year, link with a local community group, provide education & action across all of WH, including Facebook. Different leadership group each time.	LAT
		Review Ministry Teams model and change/develop as needed to support the strategic plan	Church Council & LAT
		Develop new approach to pastoral care that is more diverse and engages members/groups in this ministry	Pastoral Care, Small Group Coordinators
Cares for and responds to community and/or individual needs		Roll-out new approach, including education & facilitation of process for groups	Church Council
		Intentionally further develop relationship with Diversitat and Western Heights Secondary College	Pastoral Care Co-ord., Pastoral Care Ministry Team & Co-ord.s of Senior Retirees ministry
		Further develop Senior Retirees ministry eg intentional connection with Aged Care Facilities	Pastoral Care Ministry Team
		Develop process for responding to wider community needs in a timely manner	Resources Ministry Team
		Continue to foster/nourish/build relationships with user groups of WH facilities eg Festival, Community Development Worker.	Children & Families Lay Ministry Worker
		Explore possibilities of involvement/connection for high school age young people with the involvement and input of young people and their families.	

The
Welcome
Dinner Project



The Welcome Dinner Project - now in Geelong

connecting newly arrived
people with locals

What is a Welcome Dinner?

A Welcome Dinner is a gathering of newly arrived people and local people who come together in someone's home to share a meal. Newly arrived people include refugees, migrants and international students. Facilitators are at the dinner to make sure everyone feels comfortable sharing a meal, making connections and learning about different cultures. Over 300 Welcome Dinners have been held around Australia since the program was established in Sydney in 2013.

Would you like to participate?

You can participate in a number of ways. You can attend as a '**local**' at a Welcome Dinner in your area, or you can **host** a dinner in your home and invite a group of friends. You can also do some training to become a **Facilitator** and help run other Welcome Dinners in the Geelong region. **To find out more or register your interest, visit www.joiningthedots.org or email geelong@joiningthedots.org**

STOP PRESS! WDP Facilitator training will be run at Western Heights Uniting Church in March - date TBC. Email geelong@joiningthedots.org to register your interest.



Announcing: The Western Heights Uniting Church Community Welcome Dinner /BIG EVENT

Our community is partnering with the Welcome Dinner Project and Diversitat to run a BIG EVENT in Refugee Week in June. Stay tuned for more details!

The BIG EVENT team: Bruce Rookes 0402 135 313; Joan Walker 0437 878 187;
Richard Worland 0411 899 457 [REDACTED]

Pas Toral Care – Soulistry

How often have we heard Jesus commandment to “love your neighbour as yourself”? How often do you pause to hear the “as yourself”? If we are not caring for ourselves in mind, body and spirit, then we are diminishing our ability to care for others. Reading is an important part of many people’s self-care. A resource I’ve found very helpful is Rev. Dr. June Maffin’s blog “[Soulistry-Artistry of the Soul: Creative Ways to Nurture Your Spirituality](#)” The following is a random selection. Contact Audrey for further information.

Thinking of you

Here’s what I believe
... the “thinking of you” expression
may seem to be trite
or inconsequential
but saying / writing
“thinking of you”
is
a thought.
And a thought
is
a prayer.
And a prayer
is
a gift.
And a gift
is
an expression of love
timeless
endless
unconditional.
When I read or hear the words
“thinking of you”
I am grateful
humbled
and receive them
welcome them
as
meaningful ‘thought’
gentle ‘prayer’
loving ‘gift.’

©<http://www.soulistry.com/a-thought-is>

We are connected

We are connected
one to the other.

Like it
or not.

Whether our connection is as family
... by blood, adoption, marriage
as friend, colleague or stranger
we are co-sojourners on this fragile planet called Earth,
and so we are connected.

Even though we may speak different languages,
have different coloured skin,
worship in different ways,
have differing political beliefs,
live out our lives as straight or LGBTQ,
are similar or different in other ways,
we are connected.

Like it
or not.

To lose sight of that connection-reality
is to forego our common humanity.

How we treat those with whom we share this planet
How we support those for whom paralysing fear engulfs
How we love those with whom we have opposing views
How we respect others who voice their concerns and protest
... hopefully in peaceful ways
could culminate in the determination of the future of our world.
We are connected.

Like it.
Or not.

©. <http://www.soulistry.com/we-are-connected-like-it-or-not>



Have you ever wondered how to make a wise decision?

how to know which direction to go when faced with more than one possibility?

how to discern the will of God?

how to determine the way to go re:

medical decision? possible move? job? vote? finances? relationship? health issue?...

...Like everyone, I’ve found myself in situations seeking wisdom, hoping to discern wisely.

Whether the situations have been simple or complex, each time, here’s what I’ve learned.

‘Listening’ is the key.

Listening to my body; listening to my mind; listening to spirit – that “still, small voice within.”

The next time you are faced with a decision,

checking things out – with your body, mind and soul – could provide the answer...

... a good road to take... a gentle path to journey...a wise decision to make. <http://www.soulistry.com/is-it-a-yes>

Nominations for next Moderator

Is there a person you identify as a leader in this synod? The Nominating Committee for the next Moderator of the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania invites nominations from members of the Uniting Church. Both lay and ordained members of the Uniting Church are eligible to serve as Moderator for a full three-year full-time term from May 2019. A statement on the role of Moderator is available here and you can download nomination forms here. For more information email Dr Jill Tabart at tabart.ken.jill@iinet.net.au or call on 0418 562 181. Nominations close on Friday 31 March 2017.

Synod Strategic Implementation News

The Strategic Review Implementation Team started the year with a second workshop to discuss the formation of the new Mission & Capacity Building Unit. Approximately 60 people attended including presbytery representatives, CALD representatives, staff of Centre for Theology as well as Ministry and Commission for Mission, representatives of their respective boards, members of the Placements Committee and the Board of Mission and Resourcing. The new unit is expected to be launched in the second half of 2017. This month the Synod Standing Committee will receive information on the proposed structure and take time to explore these proposals. Please keep an eye out for the release of a booklet to assist those keen to explore the Vision and Mission Principles in their own context. Translations of the Vision and Mission Principles in languages other than English will be soon available.

Palm Sunday Walk and NCCA day of prayer

UCA people will join thousands of others again on Palm Sunday this year to Walk for Justice for Refugees. The Melbourne event kicks off on Sunday 9 April from 1.30pm at the State Library of Victoria with music and then formally at 2pm. You'll find a group of us there with the Synod banner. Please feel free to bring along your own congregational banners and/or placards with refugee support messages. The National Council of Churches in Australia has named the first Sunday of Lent, 5 March 2017, as a day of prayer and fasting for refugees and people seeking asylum. The NCCA has put together resources to assist with reflection, prayer, reading and study. You can find those resources here. Other events being held across the synod in the lead-up to Palm Sunday will be listed on the Vic/Tas Uniting for Refugees Network newsletters and the JIM Facebook page. If you would like to join the network and receive the newsletters, email Jill on jill.ruzbacky@victas.uca.org.au.

Working Bee

The Resources Ministry Team invites all members of our congregation to a working bee at the church on **Saturday 4th March 8.30—12.00pm** (or any time you can give). There are jobs for all—to help to continue to keep our grounds/buildings “ship-shape”. (Morning tea included).

Senior Retirees Outing

The first outing this year will be an afternoon on the Torquay foreshore. Please note that this will be the first Tuesday of the month on the **7th March, 2017**. Graeme & Michele Hardy

About FACE

About FACE stands for Faith and Cultural Exchange. It is run in partnership with the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC) and celebrates the covenant relationship between the UCA and the UAICC.

The next program is from 24 June – 8 July 2017 and is open to anyone over 18 years of age to attend. It will include a period living in Congress communities. For more information, visit the website and sign up to the About FACE mailing list to receive program updates. If you would like multiple copies of the promotional postcard for the 2017 program please email Jill at info@aboutface.org.au and let her know how many you can use.

Synod in Solidarity Visit to the Philippines

In October this year the JIM Unit will run a 12-day visit to our partner churches in the Philippines. It is open to anyone from across the synod to join. If you'd like to find out more please email jill.ruzbacky@victas.uca.org.au or phone 9251 5266.

Assembly restructure

Assembly will implement a collaborative, project-based way of working in 2017. General Secretary Colleen Geyer has notified Assembly staff of an organisational restructure. A three-year strategic plan to come into place in July 2017 will see staff from three areas reorganised into two units.

PLEASE JOIN US TO CELEBRATE:



☆☆☆☆
**8th
MARCH**

**INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S DAY**

**At the Soroptimist International of Geelong's
Annual IWD Breakfast**

at

**Capri Receptions
55-57 Separation Street,
North Geelong VIC 3215**

**7.00am for 7.30am
Cost \$25 per person**



REG. NO. AUSTRALIA
A001 - 00 739 010 004

GUEST SPEAKER 2017 - KRISTI VAN ES



Kristi Van Es is from "Offspring" a Geelong-based not-for-profit organization responding to the injustices of human trafficking in Kolkata, India. In 2013 Kristi Van Es, founder & CEO, resigned from her full time job as a teacher at Christian College Geelong and began the adventurous and challenging journey of living in India!

Her vision of helping employ, educate and empower sex trafficked survivors stemmed out of seeing first hand the need to restore young women who have been bought, sold, traded and stripped of the most basic of human rights.

In its short existence Offspring has made real progress, a testament to the many people who have shown much encouragement and support. Kristi has a heart to educate, inspire and challenge people right across the globe in their response to seeing change amongst those most vulnerable and marginalised.

"Nothing you read in an article, or see on the news, is as hard as being in a room with someone who is sharing her personal experience of being trafficked...they're not just statistics - they're real human beings" - Kristi

Bookings via Try Booking:

Trybooking - <https://www.trybooking.com/OSHK>

Inquiries to Janice at janart46@optusnet.com.au

0431 435 276

Or Karen 5256 3570

Bookings close 3 March 2017



Contact Details

Leadership 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.

Church Administrator:

Children & Families Co-ordinator: Karen Morgan **karen.morgan1968@hotmail.com** 5276 1042

Pastoral Care Co-ordinator: Audrey Kateena **Pastoral.Carer@gmail.com** 0435 064 088

Church Council Chair: Rodger Marsden **eagles@pipeline.com.au** 0419 717 774

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

Communications

Administrator: Jan Grigg 5229 5889

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



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

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**