



# Western Heights Uniting Church

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Loving God: Growing Together, Partnering Community, Sharing Faith

WESTERN HEIGHTS UNITING CHURCH

## April 2017 Newsletter

### April at a Glance

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Sunday 2nd	8.45am	Traditional Worship
	10.15am	Worship
Wednesday 5th	1.30pm	Mission Outreach
Sunday 9th	10.00am	Worship
Thursday 13th	7.30pm	Holy Thursday ...a quiet service
Friday 14th	9.30am	Good Friday Morning Reflections
	3.00pm	Good Friday Afternoon Meditation
Saturday 15th	5.30pm	Saturday Meditation
Sunday 16th	10.00am	Easter Day Communion Celebration
Tuesday 18th	6.30pm	Tuesday Friendship
Wednesday 19th	7.00pm	Church Council Meeting
Saturday 22nd	7.30pm	Friendship Club
Sunday 23rd	10.00am	Worship
	4.00pm	Messy Church Easter for Families
Sunday 30th	10.00am	Worship
	2.00pm	Bike Ride / Walk and Afternoon Tea Fun

### April Preaching Plan

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#### Western Heights Services:

Sunday 2nd	8.45am Rev. Isabel Greenall	
	10.15am Rev. Isabel Greenall	
Sunday 9th	10.00am Rev. Isabel Greenall	
Thursday 13th	7.30pm Holy Thursday ... a quiet service	
Friday 14th	9.30am Good Friday Morning Reflections	
	3.00pm Good Friday Afternoon Meditation	Montpellier Park, Montpellier Drive, Highton
Saturday 15th	5.30pm Saturday Meditation	
Sunday 16th	10.00am Rev. Isabel Greenall	Easter Day Communion Celebration
Sunday 23rd	10.00am Rev. Isabel Greenall	
	4.00pm Messy Church Easter for Families	
Sunday 30th	10.00am Rev. Isabel Greenall	

#### Other Services:

Sunday 2nd	Michele Hardy	Rokewood/Warrion
Sunday 9th	Michele Hardy	McKellar Centre

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## Easter Services

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Thursday 13th	7.30-8pm	Holy Thursday...a quiet service
Friday 14th	9.30-10.15am	Good Friday Morning Reflections
	3-3.0pm	Good Friday Afternoon Meditation at Montpellier Park, Montpellier Drive, Highton
Saturday 15th	5.30-6pm	Saturday Meditation
Sunday 16th	10-11am	Easter Day Communion Celebration
Sunday 23rd	4-6pm	Messy Church Easter for Families

## Western Heights Mission Outreach 2017

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Easter Theme with Val Bray

Wednesday 5th April, 2017

1.30pm Horizons Room

All welcome

## KFG (Kids Friendship Group)

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An Eggstaordinary Event

Friday 21st, 2017

7pm—8.30pm

Years 3—7

\$3.00

RSVP to Karen by  
Wednesday, 2017

Karen.morgan1968@hotmail.com or 0404435261

or office@whuc.com.au

## Tuesday Friendship

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Tuesday 18th April, 2017

6.30pm

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

Cost \$15

All Ladies Welcome

Bookings to Joan Murphy 5241 5683

### For your diary

Tuesday 16th May, 6.30pm Shared Meal

"Teenage Memories"

All Ladies Welcome.

Joan Murphy 5241 5683

## Friendship Club

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A delightful DVD "Parrots of Australia" will be viewed on **22nd April, 2017, at 7.30pm** in the Horizon's Room. It is very interesting and shows Australia's birdlife at its very best—well worth coming to see. New members would be made very welcome indeed.

## Weekly Offerings

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Have you ever considered using Direct Debit to contribute your regular offerings? Over 30 of our congregation currently use this facility. If you would be interested in this, or would just like to find out how it works, please talk to Geoff Coots.

## Share a skill or develop a new one @ WHUC

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Each Sunday everyone contributes toward making our time together meaningful. It is time for hearing God's word to us, offering God worship, being nurtured and sometimes changed, growing in our relationships, building community and hearing the call of Jesus to be in the world. All of us participate in this and contribute in some way. Here are some of the roles that we need some more help with. Please consider if you could contribute in any of these ways – we'll even train you up!!

Vestry Steward: welcoming people to worship, sharing the notices, prepare & present the Prayers of the People, lead a brief prayer with the worship leader before the service.

Readers: read the bible reading in worship

Stewards: welcoming people as they arrive, taking up the offering, helping to count the offering after the service.

Kitchen: set up, serve and clean up morning tea (let's get some gender balance in the kitchen!)

Drummer: rehearsal on Thursday nights and service on Sun mornings. Play as often as would work for you!

Please register your interest on the sheet on the kitchenette bench at the back of the worship space in the next few weeks and the Worship & Music Ministry Team will follow you up.



## Messy Church @ WHUC

**Sunday 23rd April 4pm**

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

## Bike Ride /Walk/ Afternoon Tea Fun

Jump on your bike (lycra is optional) or put on your walking shoes or hop in your car, we're off to the Moorabool Valley Chocolate Café, **Sunday 30th April!**

Bike riders to meet at Western Heights at **2pm** or meet at the Moorabool Valley Chocolate Café at **3pm**.

Like to come? Please put your name on the sign up sheet (it's on the kitchenette bench).



## Wedding Gift

Thankyou so much for your generous wedding gift! We have been overwhelmed by your generosity, well wishes and prayers for us and are so glad that we were able to celebrate our marriage with you. Lots of people were involved in such a variety of ways making it a great day to remember. Thankyou! We have begun buying some things for our home in Wandana Heights which we'd like to tell you about. We have lots of plants that need cutting back so got ourselves a hedge trimmer. We're really keen to develop a "food forest" in the back yard, build some decks and a wood shed so thought a post hole digger would come in very handy. No more need to dig holes by hand to put in a fruit tree! And lastly, we needed a corner tv cabinet for our living area so found a lovely second-hand one at one of those big antique places in North Geelong. Thanks again for your generosity, we'll let you know of some other things that we purchase along the way as there's still a few dollars left!

## Some Thoughts for moving Forward

The last few months have been somewhat out of the ordinary for us here at Western Heights. The process for seeking a Ministerial Extension has prompted us to consider what is important for our future as a congregation and to share our opinions and discernment with each other in private and public. As with any organisation making an important decision, there has been much talk, listening and emotion involved. The decision by the congregation has been made and will be communicated to the Presbytery in May to assist in their discernment.

We are a community "loving God: growing together, partnering community and sharing faith" and so how we move forward together should reflect this. Following the way of Jesus involves caring for each other within the diversity of opinions and responses. It is not necessarily easy, but it is the way of Jesus.

Some questions/comments for us all to consider:

- ◆ How am I feeling now?
- ◆ Am I carrying any hurt, regret, anger, disappointment, guilt...?
- ◆ ...I beg you to live in a way that is worthy of the people God has chosen to be his own. Always be humble and gentle. Patiently put up with each other and love each other. Try your best to let God's Spirit keep your hearts united. Do this by living at peace. All of you are part of the same body (Ephesians 4:1-4a, CEV).
- ◆ True justice is not about taking sides, but about refusing to be enemies (Shane Claibourne).
- ◆ What can I do or need to do for the sake of my own health and well-being?
- ◆ What can I do to support the health and well-being of the congregation?

Let us pray that we can move forward with a spirit of respect, care, forgiveness and courage.

# Summary of Church Council Minutes of meeting held on 15 February 2017

## The formal minutes of this meeting still need to be approved at the next CC meeting on  
19 April, 2017.

## CC Purpose Statement

**“Church Council shall give priority in its life to building and supporting the church community in *Loving God, Growing Together, Partnering Community and Sharing Faith*. We will seek to sustain the church community and each other in hope and realise a fuller participation in Christ’s mission in the world through fostering a culture of empathy, purpose, conversation and learning.”**

1. Graeme Hardy took devotions. It was based on Deuteronomy 6:5 ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength’. Our love for God grows through prayer, reading his word, listening to his word.
2. 59 members of the congregation who require a WWCC because of the role/s that they fulfil at WHUC now have a valid WWCC and have been entered on the secure Synod database. CC commends the congregation for their cooperation in this matter.
3. A Child Safe Standards Task Group, as required by Synod, has been formed at WHUC. Karen Morgan, Gwyn Edwards, and Velma Oliver will be part of this Task Group.
4. A legacy of \$500 was left to Western Heights Uniting Church from the Coral Bourquin estate.
5. The Financial Report for the WHUC Fundraising a/c for the year ended 31 December, 2016, has been audited by Geoffrey Everett, as a fair representation.
6. The Year Two Strategic Plan has been adopted. This will be communicated in the monthly newsletter, the pew sheet and on the wall in the Horizons Room. The various MT’s and groups of the church will be informed of the actions for which they are responsible in this year’s plan. CC acknowledges and appreciates the amount of work done by Gwyn E, Peter M, Janet Pavlakis, Helen Sleep and Roger Dingle in formalising the Year 2 plan.
7. Adjustments have been made to the Congregational Roll and it is now up to date.
8. A Statement to the Congregation, in accordance with “Document 19 - Protocols, Policies and Guidelines for Placements Committee - Procedure for Extension of a Placement Beyond Ten Years” is being prepared by CC. This will be e-mailed or snail-mailed to all members of the congregation as soon as it is ready.
9. A “Welcome Statement” has been prepared for the use of all visiting worship leaders, i.e. persons other than Isabel G. The “Welcome” statement must be read at the start of each service at WHUC. This statement is in accordance with the UCA’s Vision and Mission Principles: “Following Christ, walking together as First and Second Peoples, seeking community, compassion and justice for all creation.” A copy will be left at the lectern.

Velma Oliver, CC Secretary.

## **Equal Voices**

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**Equal Voices**, a new, grass-roots and ecumenical movement of support for LGBTIQ+ fellow Australians has recently launched an online **national apology** to LGBTIQ+ fellow Australians.

Prayerfully consider adding your name to the apology, which, later this year, will be symbolically presented to representatives of LGBTIQ+ communities and organisations at the Federal Parliament in Canberra. To find out more about Equal Voices and its apology – and to sign up, if you become convinced to do so, go to: <https://equalvoices.org.au/apologise/>

There are copies of the apology at the back of the church for you to read and sign if that would be easiest. Please leave the filled in forms in the box and we will make sure that they are delivered.





OR



## Entertainment Book

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The 2017/2018 Entertainment Book will be released late March. These books make ideal gifts.

Still just \$60 giving you over \$20,000 worth of offers.

Offers of up to 50% off and 2 for 1 offers, from best restaurants, hotels, activities, travel and more.

WHUC gets 20% of sales for each book.

See Helen Sleep



## UCA Funds events—Blake Prize

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UCA Funds is sponsoring an exhibition of Australia's premier awards for spiritual art, the Blake Prize, at the Kinross Arts & Spirituality Centre at Toorak Uniting Church from 7 April to 26 April.

Tickets are also available for two related events: the Melbourne Premiere at 5pm on 7 April and an Afternoon with Artists on 27 April from 2pm. Register for an Afternoon with Artists [here](#).

Toorak Uniting Church is also offering two bursaries to regional Victorians to view the exhibition and attend the Australia & The Divine Image symposium from 11-13 May. The bursaries include travel to Melbourne, accommodation and registration costs. For more information please contact Rev Dr Christopher Page by emailing [cpage@netspace.net.au](mailto:cpage@netspace.net.au) or phoning 0417 506 338.



## Transforming Worship—UCA National Conference

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“Transforming Worship” is a national gathering for preachers, worship leaders, musicians, artists, poets, and others interested in exploring the deep place of worship in shaping and changing our lives and our world.

On 27-30 July 2017, Adelaide will host the first national worship conference for the Uniting Church in 30 years as part of the 40th anniversary of the UCA.

Overseas speakers include renowned hymnist and worship scholar Rev Dr Ruth Duck from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in the US, Rev Dr Stephen Burns from the UK, Lecturer in Liturgical and Pastoral Theology at Melbourne’s Trinity Theological College. Rev Mark Pierson from Rhythms of Grace Auckland, NZ will be curator-in-residence at the conference.

Australian speakers include President-Elect Dr Deidre Palmer, Rev Stu Cameron and NSW Moderator Rev Myung Hwa Park.

If you would like to go please let Isabel know as Western Heights would like to support you in whatever way it can. You can find out more and register [here](#) or contact Neryl McCallum for more information by emailing [admin@transformingworship.com.au](mailto:admin@transformingworship.com.au) or phoning 0409 096 809



Following Christ,  
walking together  
as First and Second Peoples,  
seeking community, compassion  
and justice for all creation

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## Synod Strategic Implementation News

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A 16-page booklet *Introducing the Vision and Mission Principles* has been released by the Synod. The booklet, containing information and exercises, is the first of a series that explains elements of the overall Strategic Framework adopted by the Synod. The Framework describes how we are striving to respond as life-giving communities of faithful people and as people who serve the mission of God. The booklet is designed for personal reflection or within a congregation or group environment. It invites discussion, provokes questions and gives an intentional focus for discerning the renewing work of the Spirit in our day. Printed copies of *Introducing the Vision and Mission Principles* will be distributed during March and it is available as a PDF here.

The Vision and Mission Principles and Statements of Intent are also being produced in languages other than English. This creates greater accessibility for conversations and discussions about the Strategic Framework and assists in fostering faith, deepening discipleship, partnerships and trust as we seek to act together across cultures.

Readers of March *Crosslight* should also have received a bookmark displaying the Vision and Mission Principles and Statements of Intent. This is yet another resource to help gathered communities become familiar with the Strategic Framework of our Synod. If you would like extras please contact the Implementation team by emailing [Strategic.ReviewImplementation@victas.uca.org.au](mailto:Strategic.ReviewImplementation@victas.uca.org.au)

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## Lentara's Asylum Seeker Program

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Lentara is a Uniting Church Agency. It's Asylum Seeker Program supports vulnerable asylum seekers by providing safe housing, a basic living allowance and material aid. It is not government funded and is wholly reliant on individual donations, grants and philanthropic funding. This year it faces a funding shortfall of \$40,000 and urgently needs financial help. To donate online please click [here](#). For other donation options, or for more information contact Mohammed Isah at Lentara Asylum Seeker Program on 03 9326 8343.

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## JIM Convention 2017

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**Sat 27 May 2017 - Register now!**

Come along to this year's Justice and International Mission Unit Convention  
*Time to Build Bridges not Walls*

Saturday 27 May

9.30am – 4.15pm

Centre for Theology and Ministry, 29 College Cres Parkville

\$30/\$20

Key note speaker: **Joe Camilleri**

Joseph Camilleri OAM is Emeritus Professor at La Trobe University, Melbourne and Executive Director of Alexandria Agenda, a new venture in ethical consulting. In 2005 he founded the La Trobe Centre for Dialogue. Under his leadership, the Centre quickly established a national and international reputation for research, training and policy development. He is an internationally acclaimed author, having written 20 books and over 100 book chapters and journal articles. His research has centred on: international political economy; religion and culture; security and peace studies; foreign policies of the great powers and the Asia-Pacific region. Over the past 10 years Camilleri has convened some 20 major international dialogues and conferences, and appeared before several parliamentary and government inquiries, most recently the parliamentary inquiry into the Racial Discrimination Act.

Download a registration form [here](#) or email for more info.:

[http://www.justact.org.au/jim\\_convention](http://www.justact.org.au/jim_convention)

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## About FACE

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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.

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## Synod in Solidarity Visit to the Philippines

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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](mailto:jill.ruzbacky@victas.uca.org.au) or phone 9251 5266.

## 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](mailto:tabart.ken.jill@iinet.net.au) or call on 0418 562 181. Nominations close on Friday 31 March 2017.

## 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.

# SacredEdge

*Spirituality in Diversity*



## Voices from the Edge

May 5-7 2017

over 30  
artists and  
presenters

Book online at:

[www.unitingqueenscliff.org.au](http://www.unitingqueenscliff.org.au)  
contemplation creativity compassion



Enquiries: Jan 5258 2854



[unitingqueenscliff@iinet.net.au](mailto:unitingqueenscliff@iinet.net.au)  
[www.facebook.com/sacrededgefestival](http://www.facebook.com/sacrededgefestival)



# Contact Details

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## 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

**WHUC Office:**  
Phone: 5229 2681  
Office hours: Wed: 1.30pm - 3.30pm  
Fri : 9am – 1:00pm  
Office email: **office@whuc.com.au**  
Website: **www.whuc.com.au**  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/pages/Western-Heights-Uniting-Church/167518399975533](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Western-Heights-Uniting-Church/167518399975533)



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

## **Pew Sheet**

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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**

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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**

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To be included in the Monthly Newsletter, please ensure your notices are at the church office by the **20<sup>th</sup> 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**