



# Western Heights Uniting Church

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(03) 5229 2681  
Email: office@whuc.com.au  
Website: www.whuc.com.au  
ABN: 50 871 893 057



Loving God: Growing Together, Partnering Community, Sharing Faith

## 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.

## December at a Glance

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Sunday 3rd	8.45am	Traditional Worship (last time)
	10.15am	Worship
Tuesday 5th	8.00pm	Taize Advent Service
Wednesday 6th	1.30pm	Senior Retirees & Mission Group Christmas Breakup
Friday 8th	12.30pm	WHISH Christmas Lunch
	7.00pm	KFG—Christmas Scavenger Hunt
Sunday 10th	10.00am	Worship
Tuesday 12th	8.00pm	Taize Advent Service
Thursday 14th	7.00pm	Church Council Meeting
Sunday 17th	10.00am	Worship & Christmas Lunch
	4.00pm	Messy Church
Monday 18th	7.00pm	Service of Hope
Tuesday 19th	8.00pm	Taize Advent Service
Sunday 24th	10.00am	<b>No Worship</b>
	7.00pm	Carols for Everyone
	11.30pm	Welcoming Christmas Quietly
Monday 25th	9.00am	Christmas Day Service
Sunday 31st	10.00am	Worship

## December Preaching Plan

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### Western Heights Services:

Sunday 3rd	8.45am Rev. Peter Greenwood	Final Service
	10.15am Rev. Peter Greenwood	
Sunday 10th	10.00am Rev. Isabel Greenall	
Sunday 17th	10.00am Rev. Isabel Greenall	All Together & Communion
	4.00pm Messy Church	
Monday 18th	Audrey Kateena	Service of Hope
Sunday 24th	10.00am <b>No Service</b>	
	7.00pm Carols for Everyone	
	11.30pm Welcoming Christmas Quietly	
Monday 25th	9.00am Rev. Isabel Greenall	Christmas Day Service
Sunday 31st	10.00am Church Council	

### Other Services:

Sunday 17th	Michele Hardy	Birregurra
Sunday 24th	Audrey Kateena	mecwacare Elstoft House (1.30pm)

## Advent/Christmas Celebrations

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### **“Walk the Labyrinth” anytime during December**

Beside Barwon River, end of Craigie rd, Newtown

### **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December**

#### **4-6pm “Messy Church Christmas”**

Activities, celebration and dinner for families

### **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December**

#### **7pm “Service of Hope”**

A service for when hearts are hurting

### **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December**

With Christmas Eve falling on a Sunday, our services will be in the evening. There will be no service at 10am that day.

#### **7pm “Carols for Everyone”**

#### **11:30pm “Welcoming Christmas...Quietly”**

A gentle candlelit service

### **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December**

#### **9am “Christmas Day Celebration”**

A service for all ages

## Early Service Review

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Thanks to everyone for participating in the conversation about the Early Service and considering together how best to respond to the associated issues. All of the feedback was given to the Church Council at its October meeting and the decision was taken that from **7<sup>th</sup> January 2018**, the Early Service and 10:15am service begin worshipping together at 10am, with the inclusion of generally two hymns within the service. This means that the final Early Service will be on the **3<sup>rd</sup> December 2017**. The Early Service has been an important part of our worshipping life for many years and we give thanks for it and for the people who have been involved in the leadership and attended. We wait on God to see how our worshipping life may continue to evolve.

## Tuesday Night Taize

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The Tuesday Night Meditation group will be running a Taize Advent Service on the **5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> December, 7-8pm**. This will be a meditative service with time for quiet and reflection in this busy season. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please see Sue Ekkel, Michelle Eastwood, Ahmed Mawat, or Maralann Damiano for more details.

## Senior Retirees and Mission Outreach

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On **Wednesday December 6<sup>th</sup> at 1.30pm** the Mission Outreach will host the Senior Retirees for our Christmas celebrations.

The feature of the afternoon will be the performance of the Belmont Rhythmic Singers. Bring your singing voices and try to wear some festive garb for a fun afternoon. Any further details contact Dorothy Matthews 5278 9491 or Graeme Hardy 0408 630 391.

## KFG (Kids Friendship Group)

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### **Christmas Scavenger Hunt**

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2017**

**7pm—8.30pm**

**All invited to come**

**RSVP to Karen by  
Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2017**

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

## Christmas Lunch

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**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2017**

**After the 10am worship service.**

An extended time to catch with everyone and celebrate 2017 over some yummy lunch.

Bring a plate of food to share.



**Messy Church @  
WHUC**

## Christmas Messy Church

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**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December 4pm**

### **Christmas Carolling Fun**

Contact: Karen (0404435261) for more info.

## January at a Glance

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Sunday 7th	10.00am	Worship (Note: not 10.15am)
Sunday 14th	10.00am	Worship
Tuesday 16th	6.30pm	Tuesday Friendship— Sphinx Hotel
Sunday 21st	10.00am	Worship
Sunday 28th	10.00am	Worship

## January Preaching Plan

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### **Western Heights Services:**

Sunday 7th	10.00am	Rev. Isabel Greenall	Not 10.15am
Sunday 14th	10.00am	Rev. Isabel Greenall	
Sunday 21st	10.00am	Rev. Isabel Greenall	All Together & Communion
Sunday 28th	10.00am	Rev. Isabel Greenall	

### **Other Services:**

Sunday 7th	Rev. Jan Taylor	St. Albans/St. Andrews
Sunday 21st	Michele Hardy	Birregurra
Sunday 28th	Michele Hardy	McKellar Centre

## Church Office Hours & Staff Leave over December-January

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The office will be closed from **Saturday 23rd December** and re-open on **Wednesday 24th January 2018**.

Taking into account annual leave, time in lieu and public holidays, staff members will be away as follows:

Karen Morgan from Christmas until January 4th

Jan Grigg from Christmas until January 4th

Audrey Kateena from Christmas until February 5th

There will be no pew sheet until **Sunday 28th January 2018** and the monthly newsletter for February will be available on **Sunday 28th January**. Please make sure all notices are in before the **20th January 2018**.

## Church Picnic

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**Sunday 11th February 2018**

**Church Picnic**

**12-2pm**

Venue to be advised. BYO lunch.

Fun, games and activities!

## Tuesday Night Meditation

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The Tuesday night meditation group will be taking a break throughout December and January. You are welcome to join us when we reconvene in February, every Tuesday night at 7pm, at the church.

## Tuesday Friendship

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**Tuesday 16th January 2018**

**Members & friends will meet at Sphinx Hotel**

**6.30pm**

**All ladies welcome**

**RSVP 14th January**

**Phone 0438 722 035**

**5241 5683**

**Joan Murphy**

## Big Gathering for Small Groups

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An invitation is extended to all members of Small Groups to attend an afternoon of sharing with some new ideas on studies related to our everyday life of faith.

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> Feb 2018 3pm – 4.30pm**

Please bring a small plate of food to share for afternoon tea.

We also invite any members of the congregation who would like to hear and learn about Small Groups.

We look forward to seeing **you** there.

Isabel Greenall, Roger Dingle, Janet Pavlakis.

# Summary of Church Council Minutes

of meeting held on 18 October 2017

## The formal minutes of this meeting still need to be approved at the next CC meeting on 18 October, 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. Sharing Faith by Velma Oliver referred to the sharing of faith that occurs in small groups.
2. Karen Morgan has trained to be a Safe Church Trainer.
3. The WHUC “Flow Chart for Responding to and Reporting Disclosures and Allegations of Child Abuse” will be presented to the congregation and a large copy will be displayed in the church in the near future.
4. A WHUC Directory has been compiled and most members, who are in the directory, have received a copy. Thanks to Audrey Kateena and LAT. Copies are available from Audrey.
5. Rev. Isabel Greenall will be on leave until 5 December.
6. The Communion Chalice has been replated.
7. The position of Church Administrator is still vacant.
8. **Ministry Team Review:** MT’s and small groups will be asked to document their team’s / group’s role as they perceive it at the present. Velma O. will contact each MT and group.
9. Karen M., Audrey K. and Jan G. will receive time-in-lieu from 26 Dec. 2017 to 4 Jan. 2018.
10. Audrey K. will be on annual leave from 5 Jan. to 2 Feb., 2018.
11. There will be **NO 10:00 a.m. service** on Sunday, 24 December, as there are 2 services later that day.
12. Jan Taylor has resigned as Communion Steward as of 1 Jan., 2018. We thank Jan for her great effort as Communion Steward, a task that she carried out graciously.
13. The final early service will be on 3 December 2017.
14. The Year 2 Strategic Plan will finish at the end of June, 2018.
15. CC acknowledges the work done by Heather and Bruce Rookes, and others, in providing tennis coaching for a group of refugee children from Diversitat during the September school holidays.

Next CC Meeting will be held on **Thursday 14th December, 2017.**

Velma Oliver, CC Secretary.

**Uniting** Each year Uniting Bar-won provides approximately 300 food hampers to our clients in need of extra assistance for the Christmas Break. This is thanks to the wonderful support of our local churches and community groups.

In recent years we have seen a greater need for staple foods rather than the traditional Christmas and snack foods. We are seeking assistance to fill the hampers with essential food items such as-

Tinned vegetables  
Tinned fruit  
Cooking oil  
Coffee  
Tea  
Long life milk  
Pasta sauce  
Cereal  
Rice  
Tinned meat  
Tinned salmon or Tuna

**CAN YOU HELP?**

*Thank you for your support*

**Sunday 10th December will be the last day for collection.**



**Sid McGibbon celebrating his 100th birthday at a Special Morning Tea**

## Entertainment Book

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The 2017/2018 Entertainment Book has been released. 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

## Positions Vacant Board

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It takes a community of people to be a healthy church! In the Horizons Room there is a positions vacant board listing a variety of roles/tasks in our church community that are currently vacant. Some are quick and easy, some take a little more time, some require a bit of thought. There is something there for everybody whatever the age! Have a look and see what you might be able to do. Or, have a look and think about others you know in the church who might be suitable for particular roles and ask them if they'd consider taking up the challenge. People have already taken up the opportunity to contribute in new ways. Thanks to Lynda for looking after the stamps and aluminium foil drop-offs, thanks to Maralann for sorting out the photo board. It is being updated regularly so please check for changes. If you think that an ad is missing from the board or are aware of a position being filled, do let Isabel know.

## Piano Required

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If you have a piano you are no longer using please consider donating it for a new life to a newly arrived family to teach others on.

Please ring Bruce Rookes 0402 135 313

## Bikes for Refugee's

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Any old pre loved bikes (push) can be donated to Refugee families.

Please ring Bruce Rookes 0402 135 313

## UCA Working With Children Checks

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All UCA congregations are required by law to ensure that the following members of the congregation have current Working With Children Checks (WWCC).

These include and is not limited to: Ministers, Lay Ministry Workers, Lay Preachers, Church Councillors, Worship Leaders, Music Leaders, Organists, Pianists, anyone commissioned by the Church Council to perform a leadership role, Bible Study Leaders, volunteers at Messy Church, those in leadership at Congregational Meetings. Volunteers at the Western Heights Secondary College Breakfast Program are also included.

Copies of the UCA letter from the General Secretary are available to all members of our congregation who are affected by this requirement. It is important that, if you are affected by this requirement, you get a WWCC or update your details immediately. Attached to this letter is a step-by-step procedure to guide those:

- (a) needing to make application for a WWCC for the first time, and
- (b) members of the congregation who are holders of current WWCC's and need to update their details.

Copies of the letter and the attached step-by-step guide are available from Karen Morgan.

The WWCC Regulations require Cardholders to update their details on the Dept. of Justice website. All locations where the person volunteers or is employed need to be recorded. Please update your details at <http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/home/cardholders/update+your+details/index.html>. You must notify the Department of Justice and Regulation within 21 days of any changes to your personal, contact and organisation's details.

A very special thank-you to all our members who have already applied for and received a valid WWCC. These have now been entered onto the secure Synod database. Again, thank you. Karen Morgan

## ORGANS OF THE BALLARAT GOLDFIELDS

### The 23rd Annual Festival:

Friday, 12 January to Sunday, 21 January 2018

A Festival of Fine Music in historic venues which includes

- 24 recitals in Ballarat and the region
- Demonstrations on heritage church organs
- Visits to historic and tourist sites
- Social functions and dinners

For information regarding the programme, venues, accommodation and tour costs see

[www.ballarat.com/organs](http://www.ballarat.com/organs)

For booking queries phone M: 0429 327 097



## Western Heights Directory

The first edition of our Directory is now available for collection. The overall purpose of the directory is to facilitate 'growing together' as a church community. It is provided to be used solely by those included in the Directory: confirmed members, baptized members, members in association and adherents of our congregation along with other members of their households. Contact Jan at the office or Audrey on 0435 064 088 for your copy

## ELF AND SAFETY AT CHRISTMAS!

Are you prepared to celebrate in safety?



Uniting Church in Australia  
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA



### Candles

Take care with open flames and hot wax.  
Keep a fire extinguisher on standby.



### Christmas Lights

Tag and test lights, provide safety switches  
and don't overburden power boards.



### Working at Heights

Be mindful of safe climbing habits and never  
work at height alone.



### Insurances and Permits

Check requirements for additional permits or  
insurance for Christmas events.



### Safe Parking

Organise a parking plan and arrange for parking  
valets wearing hi-vis vests and torches.



### Stewards

Have a designated First Aid Steward, First  
Response Team, and carry out a Safety  
Equipment and Procedures check.



### Exits

Ensure exits are sign-posted and clear of  
clutter.



### Evacuation Plans

Plan for organised and calm movement of  
individuals during peak periods.  
Have an Evacuation Procedure in place.



For help or more information contact Cameron Walker, Synod Safety Officer on  
P:03 9251 5430 | M: 0429 474 091 | E: [cameron.walker@victas.uca.org.au](mailto:cameron.walker@victas.uca.org.au)  
or see the OH&S Resources at [www.victas.uca.org.au](http://www.victas.uca.org.au)

## **Pas *T*oral Care**



Celebrating the birth of the Prince of Peace thousands of years after the event can be a bittersweet experience. So much war; so many seeking a safe place to live; all those struggling for equality; people battling to make ends meet;

Whilst people experience loneliness, heartache, discord in the midst of togetherness, celebration and harmony, they often feel pressured not to express 'bad' or 'sad' feelings, only those of happiness and joy.

### **So how can we care for each other pastorally at Christmas?**

The new Western Heights Directory provides options for touching base with members of our congregation, especially those we don't catch up during our various activities, those we haven't seen for a while. The Christmas season is a good time to catch up on all those unfinished "I must get in touch with ..." from the past year.

Wishing people the blessings of Christmas, rather than a Happy or Merry Christmas, and open questions like, "what are your plans for Christmas...?", provides space for people to more easily experience any negative emotions triggered at Christmas. LISTEN to for is not said as well as what is said.

Asking someone what their memories of Christmas are gives people the space to share both their joyful and their painful experiences of Christmas, experiences that may be colouring their expectations of this Christmas Season. People's support networks often shrink at this time as family, friend and others are on holidays. Help them think about alternatives they might turn to.

If Christmas is or has been hard for you personally, it may be helpful to share that fact, enabling others to be honest with the feelings they experience around Christmas.

As Christians we are called to remember that our neighbour is not only the one to whom we are naturally drawn but anyone travelling on the road of life with us. Be mindful of those who need extra help or support, giving them your care and attention.

Rather than focusing on the romantic picture of the Holy family in the picturesque stable, it may be helpful to focus on other aspects of the Christmas story:

The journeys of Mary and Joseph, initially away from home to Bethlehem where they struggled to find a somewhere for Mary to give birth and later as they fled to Egypt seeking safety for Jesus.

Those who first met Jesus were not the leaders of society but shepherds, people on the fringes. God comes to us whatever our status in society.

Through Jesus's story we are aware that He knows only too well the feelings of fear, isolation and sorrow. Jesus came to bring light and life to a dark world. For Christians, the wonder of Christmas is the message of hope, grace and peace that reassures people that they are loved and held in the arms of God. We pray that this may help to bring strength and support to those suffering at Christmas.

Based on an article by Ron Bushranger  
downloaded from [http://www.mindandsoul.info/Articles/423701/Mind\\_and\\_Soul/Resources/Leaders/Pastoral\\_Care\\_at.aspx](http://www.mindandsoul.info/Articles/423701/Mind_and_Soul/Resources/Leaders/Pastoral_Care_at.aspx)

# 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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## **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.

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## **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.



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

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## **Ring Pulls from Cans**

You can collect your ring pulls from cans to be used for prosthetics. If you would like to help Rings for Limbs you can send your ring pulls to Mark Jewell, PO Box 1128, Horsham, Vic, 3402

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## **Future Monthly Newsletters**

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**