



Western Heights Uniting Church

31 Douglass Street, Herne Hill, 3218.

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Loving God: Growing Together, Partnering Community, Sharing Faith

WESTERN HEIGHTS UNITING CHURCH

December 2021./ January 2022 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.

December at a Glance

| | | |
|----------------|---------|---|
| Sunday 5th | 10.00am | Worship—Gary Ekkel—Taizé Service |
| | 2.00pm | Intergenerational Concert |
| Sunday 12th | 10.00am | Worship—Rev. Robert Van Zetten |
| | 2.00pm | Temukisa's Induction |
| | | Michele Hardy—Aireys Inlet & Bellbrae |
| Tuesday 14th | 6.30pm | Tuesday Friendship |
| Wednesday 15th | 7.00pm | Church Council Meeting |
| Sunday 19th | 10.00am | Worship—Rev. Temukisa Amituana'i – Vaeluaga Communion |
| Friday 24th | 7.00pm | Carols for Everyone |
| | 11.30pm | Welcoming Quietly |
| Saturday 25th | 9.00am | Christmas Day Service—Rev. Temukisa Amituana'i – Vaeluaga |
| Sunday 26th | 10.00am | Worship—Rev. Temukisa Amituana'i – Vaeluaga |

January at a Glance

| | | |
|--------------|---------|--|
| Sunday 2nd | 10.00am | Worship—Rev. Temukisa Amituana'i – Vaeluaga |
| Sunday 9th | 10.00am | Worship—Rev. Temukisa Amituana'i – Vaeluaga |
| Sunday 16th | 10.00am | Worship—Rev. Temukisa Amituana'i – Vaeluaga Communion |
| Tuesday 18th | 6.30pm | Tuesday Friendship |
| Sunday 23rd | 10.00am | Worship—Rev. Temukisa Amituana'i – Vaeluaga |
| Sunday 30th | 10.00am | Worship—Rev. Temukisa Amituana'i – Vaeluaga |

Church Office Hours & Staff Leave over December-January

The office will be closed from **Sunday 26th December** and re-open on **Friday 28th January 2022**.

Taking into account time in lieu Jan will be away as follows:

Jan Grigg from Christmas until January 5th

There will be no pew sheet until **Sunday 30th January 2022** and the monthly newsletter for February will be available on **Sunday 30th January**.

Temukisa's Induction

Our newly called minister, Rev. Temukisa Amituana'i -Vaeluaga will be inducted at Western Heights on **Sunday afternoon, 12 December at 2:00 p.m.** All members of the congregation are cordially invited to attend. The service will be followed by an afternoon tea in the Horizons Room. The congregation is asked to bring a plate of small, individual, sweet treats such as slices, patty cakes, muffins, date/fruit scones etc. that will be served at the afternoon tea. Please see Heather Rookes if you can assist in the kitchen or bring a plate on the day. Thanks.

Christmas Carolling in the Neighbourhood

Church Council is looking for someone to organise a group of singers to sing some Christmas Carols in the neighbourhood on one night in the week starting **20 December**. Please see Velma if you are interested. Thanks.

Walking the Labyrinth

If you need to take time out from your busy schedule we encourage people to go and walk the labyrinth and to let others know that it is there for all to engage with, in a quiet reflective place.

It's now ready to walk at any time during the season of Advent through to December the 31st. The usual place by the Barwon River at the end of West Fyans Street (to the right when looking at the river).

Rhonda

(On behalf of all involved with the labyrinth)

Eco Tip—from you church Eco-group.

Lids4Kids—Western Victoria Group

You can now deposit any of the following at any of our collection points including 114b Aphrasia Street Newtown you just keep them separated. Thank you for your support.

-  Bread Tags
-  Used Pens or markers
-  Used Batteries
-  Medication Blisters
-  Aluminum Ring Pulls
-  Aluminum Bottle Tops
-  Wine Corks



Tuesday Friendship

Tuesday 14th December at 6.30pm

Shared Meal Christmas

Please note change of week



Tuesday 18th January 2022 at 6.30pm

First meeting for 2022

We will meet at the Sphinx Hotel 6.30pm

All Ladies welcome.

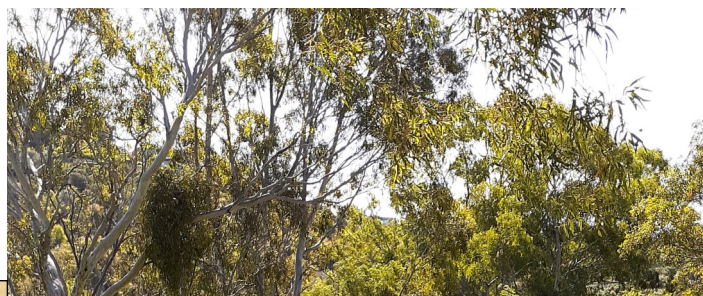
RSVP Sunday 16th January for booking

Joan Murphy

Phone 0438 722 035

Name Badges

As we enter the new year and our time working with Temukisa, it will be very helpful if everyone has a name badge, and wears it!!! If you don't have one, could you please contact Jenice or Geoff Coots. Orders are now being taken \$9.50.



With Intention Walking the Labyrinth



This temporary Cretan Labyrinth has been developed by a local meditation group which is part of the Western Heights Uniting Church. It has been created as apart of the Advent Season and is here for all to use and enjoy during the time leading up to Christmas.

As you journey through the Labyrinth you are invited to enter into a spirit of quiet meditation, walking slowly and quietly, appreciating the beautiful surroundings of the parkland and river.

For more information about this Labyrinth please phone 5229 2681 or scan this QR Code for a link to the web



As a public art project this initiative is supported by



INTERGENERATIONAL CONCERT

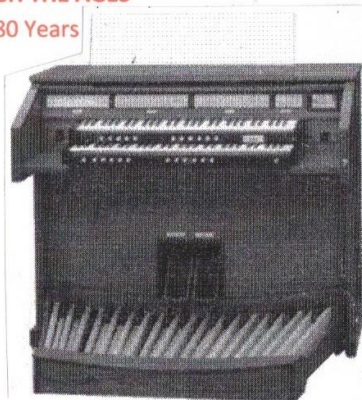
"MUSIC THROUGH THE AGES"

From 10 to 80 Years

A feast of music to celebrate and give thanks for our new

Allen organ

proudly supplied by
Prestige Pianos & Organs
102 Bell St Preston.



Local Artists:

Louisa Bell – piano
Cecelia Bell – organ
Melinda Bell – French Horn
Tom Morgan – Saxophone
Geoff Coots – Organ

Guest Artists:

Tongan Choir – Noble St U.C.
Leith Ewart – Theatre organist
John Bumford - Piano
Brad Treloar – Organist,
St Davids U.C.

Sunday 5th December 2021

2.00 PM at 31 Douglass St Herne Hill

Admission: \$20.00 each (Children under 16 free)
(includes a "cuppa" afterwards)

Proof of double vaccination is a requirement for entry.
(Masks recommended)

Proceeds for Western Heights Projects

**Opportunities for reflection this
Festive Season
with the Western Heights Uniting
Church community
All welcome!**

**"Walk the Labyrinth" anytime during December
Beside Barwon River, end of Craigie Rd, Newtown**

**Monday 20th December onwards
Carolling in the Neighbourhood
More information to come**

**Friday 24th December
7pm "Carols for Everyone"
Carols for all ages
11:30pm "Welcoming Christmas...Quietly"
A gentle candlelit service**

**Saturday 25th December
9am "Christmas Day Celebration"
A service for all ages**

Open Garden Day

Saturday 4 December,

10am - 5pm.

FIVE very different Gardens in Point Lonsdale and Queenscliff will open to the public, sharing their beauty and bounty with great hospitality.

There will also be Plant & Produce stalls, Devonshire Teas, Wine & Nibbles, Bird Watching, Raffles, and more!

Cost: \$8 per garden, \$30 for all five gardens.

Tickets available now <https://www.trybooking.com/BTPCQ>

Tickets will also be available to purchase at the garden gates on the day.

Please note, to ensure the Open Garden hosts' privacy we are waiting until later this month to publicise the addresses and other specific information for the day. Ticket holders will receive this information directly via email. In addition we will add the information to the ticket purchase page, and also on our website events page <https://unitingqueenscliff.org.au/events/>

A Word from Bruce

As we move into December, it is a time of new beginnings; Advent and Induction are both happening at that very time when our liturgical year impels us to think about new beginnings and the hope of our faith. Letting go of what has been, with thanksgiving because we know God has been in it, is a part of faith. God never leaves things as they were, God is always calling us on to new adventures. We are creative, in the image of God.

So we don't look back with longing nostalgia for what used to be. That's what God gave us then

We don't try and repeat and recreate what was. That was God's gift for that time.

We look forward with hope and faith, because in our faith we know that God is just as much in the now, and the future, as God was in the past.

It is a lack of faith in the God who is there each new morning, that inclines us to look back and say "I wish it was like then."

God is there in this new moment. Grab it with joy, expectation, hope and faith. God will be there to lead us on.

Thanks so much for this lovely 15 months as your supply minister. I've loved every moment of it. I'm so grateful I can now join with you in working with Temikusa, and I'm excited about what that will bring.

God bless and keep us. And Merry Christmas. It's not far away

Bruce

Summary of Church Council Minutes 17 November 2021

- Devotions by Velma Oliver: Working together leads to growing together.
- A report and presentation was received from representatives of the Western Heights Uniting Tennis Club in relation to their long term plans. Further consideration of the tennis club proposal will occur at the December meeting.
- WHUC to participate in the National Church Life Survey in February 2022.
- Fundraising concert confirmed for 5th December 2021 at 2pm.
- Services and office hours for the Christmas and new year period were confirmed.
- Approval given to set up an 'Essential Safety Maintenance Schedule' as required under the Building Act and Building Regulations, including surveying of out buildings by a licensed contractor, establishing and implementation of the ongoing Maintenance Schedule.
- Church Council thanked Rev. Bruce Waldron for the 15 months of Supply Ministry, noting his worship leadership, involvement in the breadth of church activities, his enthusiasm, care and visitation. A small gift was presented to Bruce.

Peter Morgan, Secretary of Church Council



Big News from Australia's Uniting Care Network

During the year UnitingCare VicTas had the opportunity to write a Tender for funding. Joanna Leece, Janet Pavlakis daughter, was the lead writer of this tender for funding from the Government.

In October 2021 UnitingCare Australia Nationally were selected to deliver a new program to help people escape family violence.

The Escaping Violence Payment program is funded by the Morrison Government as part of its \$1.1 billion commitment in the 2021 – 2022 Federal Budget to help end violence against women and children.

Uniting National Director, Ms Little said, "Every person has the right to live in safety, with dignity and free from all forms of violence, including domestic, family and sexual violence. This payment will provide vital assistance to help those people who need financial support to leave."

Nine service agencies from the Australian UnitingCare Network across the country will deliver the program.

UnitingVicTas are the lead agency with Joanna leading the establishment of this program with representatives from the National Uniting Network. The program commenced on 19th October 2021.

Janet Pavlakis For further information see: unitingvictas.org.au/escaping-payment

TAMIL WELCOME FEASTS

Queenscliff

Organised by Tamil refugees



-a social food project that is more than just a meal!

Saturday December 18th 2021. 7pm

@ Uniting Church, 85 Hesse Street, Queenscliff

(arrive from 6.30pm for a 7pm start)

\$40/person Bookings Essential <https://www.trybooking.com/BVQSL>



Experience an exciting three-course feast of colourful, aromatic, spicy & sweet Sri Lankan Tamil food, prepared by local Tamil refugees. Share in stories of lived experience and celebrate an evening of culture, community and fabulous food.



Book as a group of 4 up to 8 people.

Tickets for everyone at your table must be purchased in the one booking, with contact tracing details for each person provided. All people attending must be Covid-19 double vaccinated.

Bar available, No BYO

Set Menu Vegan & Vegetarian options available



Supported by Queenscliff Rural Australians for Refugees & Queenscliff Uniting Church
Further enquiries to Sue: 0418340155

-Breaking down barriers through food-

'QRcode' registration and proof of Covid-19 double vaccination is required at the hall entry



The Great Outback BBQ & Harvest Thanksgiving

That was held on Sunday 14th November was a huge success and raised \$634 for our Aussie Farmers to help rebuild after drought, bushfires, floods and mice plague. Our sincere thanks to everyone who made the day such a wonderfully happy occasion. Vanessa, Bruce, Jan



Contact Details

Leadership Advisory Team:

Minister: Rev. Temukisa Amituana'i – Vaeluaga

Temukisa'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:

Congregational Member Janet Pavlakis
angyjanet@bigpond.com 5275 1711

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

Graeme Willingham 0432864727

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

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.

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.

Milk Bottle Tops

We are now collecting plastic bottle tops with St. Joseph's College. You can leave your bottle tops in the bucket in the foyer for recycling.

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**