



## Western Heights Uniting Church

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Loving God: Growing Together, Partnering Community, Sharing Faith

WESTERN HEIGHTS UNITING CHURCH

# December 2022 / January 2023 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 / January at a Glance

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Sunday 4th	10.00am	Worship—Rev. Temukisa Amituana'i-Vaeluaga
Tuesday 6th	7.30pm	Community Vegetable Garden Information Night
Friday 9th	6.00pm	Friday Fun Night
Sunday 11th	10.00am	Worship—Rev. Temukisa Amituana'i-Vaeluaga
Tuesday 13th	12.00pm	Tuesday Friendship
Wednesday 14th	7.00pm	Church Council Meeting
Sunday 18th	10.00am	Worship—Rev. Temukisa Amituana'i-Vaeluaga Lessons and Carols Sunday
Saturday 24th	7.00pm	Carols for Everyone
	11.30pm	"Welcoming Christmas Quietly"
Sunday 25th	9.00am	Christmas Day—Rev. Temukisa Amituana'i-Vaeluaga
<b>January</b>		
Sunday 1st	10.00am	Worship—Rev. Temukisa Amituana'i-Vaeluaga
Sunday 8th	10.00am	Worship—Rev. Temukisa Amituana'i-Vaeluaga
Sunday 15th	10.00am	Worship—Rev. Temukisa Amituana'i-Vaeluaga
Tuesday 17th	6.00pm	Friendship Group
Sunday 22nd	10.00am	Worship—Rev. Temukisa Amituana'i-Vaeluaga
Sunday 29th	10.00am	Worship—Rev. Temukisa Amituana'i-Vaeluaga

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

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The office will be closed from **Monday 26th December** and re-open on **Friday 27th January 2022**.

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

Jan Grigg from Christmas until January 4<sup>th</sup>

There will be no pew sheet until **Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2022** and the monthly newsletter for February will be available on **Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January**.

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## Community Vegetable Garden

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As part of this church's Community focus the Church Council has committed to expanding the current vegetable patch next to the hall, which has been planted out several times and most recently in October 2021. There are still some edible plants to pick, so help yourself.

Building on this idea a small group of people have given some thought to the expansion of the garden for the church and wider community, with access for all abilities and ages.

If you would like to know more come along to an **information sharing time**

on **TUESDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER AT 7.30PM**

or **contact Joan Walker, Peter Morgan or Glenn Chidzey.**

## Tuesday Friendship

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**Tuesday 15th December 2022**

**Lunch 12.00 mid day**

**Christmas Celebration**

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**Tuesday 17th January 2023**

**Sphinx Hotel**

**6.00pm**

**All Ladies welcome.**

**Joan Murphy Phone 0438 722 035**

## Friday Fun Night

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**Friday 9th December 2022**

**Christmas Pot Luck**

**6.00pm in the Horizons Room**

**Please bring food of your choice to share**

**Come along and join the fellowship**



## Carols By Candlelight at Wesley

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Wesley Uniting Church Geelong warmly invites any members of Geelong churches who are not holding their own Carols By Candlelight services to join with us on **Sunday 11th December at 7.30pm.**

**Any singers and musical instrument players are welcome to join us** in forming a choir and expanded band for the occasion. Rev Amanda Nicholas will lead the choir, and Alan Thomas will lead the band. Rehearsals will be held at Wesley Uniting Church, 100 Yarra St, Geelong, on **Tuesday 29th November at 7.30pm**, and on **Tuesday 6th December, also 7.30pm.**

So that we can ensure there are enough copies of music for singers, and music transposed into suitable keys for musicians, **please contact Heather Cooney by email: [handpcooney@gmail.com](mailto:handpcooney@gmail.com)**

Please include your name and phone number and whether you want to sing, or the instrument you play.. All singers are welcome, and no prior experience singing in a choir is necessary..

## Advent Labyrinth

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Due to the current flooding of the Barwon River we are unable to mark the temporary Labyrinth, for the season of Advent.

After conversation with Silvanna from Corangamite Catchment Management Authority, we are still hoping to be able to mark it around mid-December.

However, this is now highly unlikely, due to the more recent rainfall.

We are sorry about this. We know that people in the community look forward to the labyrinth coming. It provides a place for quiet and intentional reflection leading into Christmas.

We still hope that the ground will dry out, but only time will tell.

## Cadel Evans Bike Ride Volunteers

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The Tennis club is seeking marshalls for **Sat 28th and Sun 29th of January** for the Cadel Evans Bike Ride. This is the major fundraiser for the club, and is looking for your assistance on one or both days.

For information on registering please contact Bruce Rookes on 0402135313

Thank You.

## Summary of Church Council Minutes 16th November 2022

### Advent 4 Lessons & Carols

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Advent 4: **Sunday 18th December 2022** will be Lessons and Carols Sunday.

An opportunity to sing our favourite carols and hear the story of Jesus.

All are welcome.

- Devotions by Sandra Neville: Psalm 121, At times of stress and worry, where do we go for help and sense of peace?
- Discussion on 4GR tenancy agreement
- Agreed to the following priority improvement actions in relation to accessibility to church buildings for people with a disability:
  - ◇ Additional disability only car park
  - ◇ Upgrade all non-levered opening doors
  - ◇ Change taps in Disability Toilet to levered style
  - ◇ Reduce tension on Horizons Room toilet entries.

### Hi from your eco group

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A couple of weeks ago, Bruce Waldron was asked to take on the role as coordinator from Chris Howard. This article is from Bruce, reprinted from the Geelong Zero Waste Facebook group. It has some good ideas.

I read the following comment in 'The Age' newspaper and it made me think of some other things we could do.

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"If you want to reduce using soft plastics stop using plastic sandwich bags for school lunches. Buy a lunch box, wrap sandwiches in paper, fill a reusable drinking bottle with water and add a piece of fruit that comes in its own wrapper. It's not rocket surgery". John Bailey, Canterbury  
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In light of the collapse of the single use plastic shopping bag recycling program here are a few other suggestions as well.

+ Instead of using the thin plastic shopping bags when buying fruit and vegetables, use our 'Fruit and Veg' bags.

+ Instead of putting your fresh produce in the fridge in plastic bags, store them in our 'Fresh Food Storage bags'.

+ Instead of cling wrap or plastic sandwich bags - use BeesWax Wraps.

We can show you how to make BeesWax Wraps but we also have the hand made, machine washable bags available for purchase at our next Repair Cafe Surf Coast event on December 4 at the Anglesea Memorial Hall.

A thoughtful and sustainable Christmas present for someone else, but a meaningful way to keep your own vegetables fresher for longer and reduce the number of trips to the shops.

If you are doing something a bit innovative in looking after the planet, do let Bruce know and he'll help find a way to share it.

# Uniting

Uniting Barwon are recruiting motivated, reliable volunteers to the following roles:

## Retail Assistants - mid-week and Saturdays

Indulge your LOVE of op shops and customer service, make friends and have fun!  
Regular mid-week shifts at Highton, Geelong West, Point Lonsdale or Norlane  
Weekly or monthly Saturday shifts at Highton, Geelong West or Point Lonsdale

## Logistics Head Volunteer - 3 mornings a week (e.g. M/W/F or T/Th/F)

Lead the maintenance and transport team (job share possible)  
Roster volunteers and schedule tasks (computer skills an advantage)  
Rewarding opportunity for a tradesperson transitioning to retirement

## Christmas Programs Head Volunteer – various shifts from now to end Dec

Proactively assist our Emergency Relief Co-ordinators with the co-ordination and running of the Uniting Barwon Christmas Appeal  
Use your highly developed interpersonal communication and rapport building skills to develop partnerships with key stakeholders (businesses, shops and schools)  
Co-ordinate team members to carry out admin tasks, pick up and sort donations (including food and toys) and assist our clients during the lead up to Christmas

## Other opportunities:

Sorting donations and food distribution  
Van crew drivers and jockeys  
Cleaning, grounds and maintenance team members  
Receptionists and interviewers  
15 hours volunteering per week available at various sites

Uniting Barwon is an emergency relief agency providing assistance to individuals and families in our local community who need practical support during times of financial and personal struggle. If you—or someone you know—would enjoy being part of a can-do volunteer team, even for a few hours a week, please contact Elizabeth Hopkin on **4210 1113** or email [Elizabeth.Hopkin@vt.uniting.org](mailto:Elizabeth.Hopkin@vt.uniting.org)

## Support vulnerable people in the community and help make a difference.

*Volunteer appointments are subject to satisfactory criminal history checks, reference checks and Working with Children Check prior to commencement.*

## Blister Packs

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The Eco-group are sorry to say that their outlet for medicinal blister packs recycling has ceased taking these items. We are looking for a solution but for the moment, please don't bring them to our recycling cabinet. They may be placed in your yellow bins at home.



## UnitingWorld Gift Catalogue

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If you are looking for that gift that can truly change lives, you will find on the table the UnitingWorld gift catalogue or go to the website <https://everythingincommon.com.au/>

## Thursday Social Tennis

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Come along to join in the fun.

Thursdays 10am at Western Height Tennis Club

We will be aiming to play some games, also there will be a chance just to come along and hit a few balls

All Ages and all abilities welcome

\$0 if you belong to the tennis club \$10 for others.

**Christmas Concert**  
 Featuring **David van Elst**  
**Making Harmony**  
**Sea of Ukres**  
 and a Carol Singalong



**Uniting Church  
 Queenscliff**  
 Cnr Hesse & Stokes

**Wed 14  
 December**

**6pm**  
 Christmas Roast Dinner

**7.30pm**  
 Concert

**Book online**  
[www.unitingqueenscliff.org.au](http://www.unitingqueenscliff.org.au)

**www.unitingqueenscliff.org.au**  
 contemplation creativity compassion

**Book sale.**



**Nothing over \$1.**

Join us at our monthly book sale.

Held the first Friday and Saturday of each month at Uniting Grovedale, the Uniting book sale raises much needed funds for local services.

272 Torquay Rd, Grovedale  
 (Corner Reserve and Torquay Roads)

**Friday 2 December  
 and  
 Saturday 3 December**  
 10am - 2pm

**Uniting**

**Christmas Bowl**

**“Love your neighbour as yourself.”**  
 Mark 12:31

THE CHRISTMAS BOWL SINCE 1949

Share God's love through the Christmas Bowl.

Please give today. 1800 025 101  
[www.actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl](http://www.actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl)

The Christmas Bowl is the Christmas appeal of Act for Peace, the international humanitarian agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. ANZ 91 610 970 181



# Contact Details

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## **Leadership Advisory Team:**

**Minister:** Rev. Temukisa Amituana'i – Vaeluaga  
0400 664 991

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** 0439 527 500

**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:**

Rev. Temukisa Amituana'i – Vaeluaga  
0400 664 991

## **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)

## **With Love To The World**

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With Love to the World booklets can be left in the marked drawer in the recycling material box in the foyer.

## **Light Globes & Batteries**

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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**

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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.

## **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.

## **Milk Bottle Tops**

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

## **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**