



Western Heights Uniting Church

31 Douglass Street, Herne Hill, 3218.

(03) 5229 2681

Email: office@whuc.com.au



Loving God: Growing Together, Partnering Community, Sharing Faith

WESTERN HEIGHTS UNITING CHURCH

December 2023 / January 2024 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

Friday 1st	6.30pm	Congregation BBQ
Sunday 3rd	10.00am	Taizé Service—Rev. Temukisa Amituana’i-Vaeluaga Rev. Robert Van Zetten—East Geelong
Tuesday 5th	12.00pm	Tuesday Friendship
Sunday 10th	10:00am	Worship—Rev. Temukisa Amituana’i-Vaeluaga
Wednesday 13th	7.00pm	Church Council Meeting
Sunday 17th	10:00am	Worship—Rev. Temukisa Amituana’i-Vaeluaga Lessons and Carols—Communion
Sunday 24th	10.00am	No Worship
	6.00pm	Pre Christmas Meal
	7.00pm	Carols for Everyone
	11.30pm	“Welcoming Christmas...Quietly” Michele Hardy—Bellbrae
Monday 25th	9.00am	Christmas Day—Rev. Temukisa Amituana’i-Vaeluaga Rev. Robert Van Zetten—East Geelong
Sunday 31st	10.00am	Worship—Rev. Bruce Waldron

January at a Glance

Sunday 7th	10.00am	Worship—Rev. Temukisa Amituana’i-Vaeluaga
Sunday 14th	10:00am	Worship—Rev. Jan Taylor & Rhonda Dingle
Tuesday 16th	12.00pm	Tuesday Friendship
Sunday 21st	10:00am	Worship— Communion Michele Hardy—St. Albans/St. Andrews
Sunday 28th	10.00am	Worship—Michele Hardy

Congregation BBQ

Friday December 1st 6.30 \$5 each

Come along to share a meal and hear about Chris Howard's trip.
RSVP to Maralann or on the sheet at the back of the church.

Church Office Hours & Staff Leave over December-January

The office will be closed from **Tuesday 26th December** and re-open on **Friday 26th January 2024**.

Temukisa on leave from Monday 8th January until Sunday 28th inclusive

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

Jan Grigg from Christmas until January 3rd inclusive

There will be no pew sheet until **Sunday 28th January 2024** and the monthly newsletter for February will be available on **Sunday 28th January**.

Tuesday Friendship

Tuesday 5th December 2023

Christmas Lunch

12.00pm

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Tuesday 16th January 2024

Luncheon

More details to follow

All Ladies welcome.

Joan Murphy Phone 0438 722 035

Safe Church Training

1. This is a friendly reminder that, if you are required to have a Working With Children Check for the task that you perform at Western Heights UC, you are also required to do the new Safe Church Training. Please see Velma, Bianca, Heather or Nathan for more information.
2. Thanks to all who have completed the training. Please show Jan Grigg your certificate when you have received it.

Safe Church Group.



Share God's love through the Christmas Bowl

Thank you for joining with churches across Australia as we share God's love through the Christmas Bowl.

Since 1949, the Christmas Bowl has brought together committed Australian Christians with dedicated local partners around the world to give hope to people uprooted by conflict and disaster. By sharing this tradition, you are helping build a world where all people have a safe place to belong. **Thank you.**

CALL: 1800 025 101 VISIT: christmasbowl.actforpeace.org.au

The Christmas appeal of Act for Peace, the international humanitarian agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. ABN 86 619 970 188

The Christmas Bowl have created a unique donation page for our church where you can give online.

Western Heights unique donation page is:
mycb.link/45639

Summary of Church Council Minutes 15th November 2023

- Devotions were led by Velma Oliver on the topic 'Room to Grow', with reference to Luke 2:49-52
- A list of upcoming events at Western Heights Uniting Church to be compiled for inclusion in the next edition of the Uniting Events Newsletter circulated to Greater Geelong Uniting Churches.
- Eco Group to complete an Assembly survey on Towards Zero Emissions on behalf of WHUC.
- Church Council approved no morning worship service on Sunday 24th December and instead gather for a pre-Christmas finger food meal at 6pm followed by the Carols for Everyone service as well as the reflective Christmas eve service at 11:30 pm.



PASTORAL CARE CONCERN BOX

Members are invited to write their pastoral concern on the sheets supplied and place it in the Pastoral Concerns box in the foyer.

The PCCT will empty the box regularly to ensure all the concerns are noted and followed up accordingly.

All concerns will be dealt with confidentially.

SEASON OF ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

We enter a new Season – ADVENT at the commencement of December.

We acknowledge our weariness – so how does a weary world rejoice? A poem by Rev Sarah (Are) Speed offers words of hope and encouragement.

Wading In

*Over time
wind and water
will sand down the edges of a stone.
For humans,
our wind and water
is the grief of the world.*

*Stay here long enough
and pieces of you
will be pressed upon
by life's never-ending stream.
It's enough to make you weary.
It's enough to make you question.
It's enough to make you quiet.
And yet, the stream continues.*

*So do not be afraid to stand in that water.
Wade in. Soak the hem of your jeans.
Drip wet footprints through every room in your house.
Let the water stains tell your story.
And when your body grows weary of swimming,
name the stream.
Acknowledge your weariness.
For eventually,
you will pick flowers from
the opposite bank.
And over and over again,
we'll tell this story.
And over and over again,
a weary world will rejoice.*

Worship Services for Advent & Christmas Season:

3rd December – Taize Service

10th December – Stations Service

17th December – Lessons & Carols; Holy Communion

24th December – No Sunday morning worship – instead

Gathering for a shared finger food Christmas dinner (6pm)

Carols for Everyone (7pm)

Welcoming Christmas quietly (11:30pm)

25th December – Christmas Day worship (9am)

31st December – Christmas 1 – worship leader (Rev Bruce Waldron)

7th January 24 – Naming of Jesus

14th January - Epiphany – worship leader (Rev Jan Taylor & Rhonda Dingle)

21st January - Epiphany & Holy Communion – worship leader (TBC)

28th January - Epiphany – worship leader (TBC)

Reflective Space

A quiet, gentle space for personal reflection has been put in place under the balcony. You are invited to use this space for a moment of peace and stillness, and to light a candle if you wish.

Please respect the privacy of those who choose to use this space.

WHUC Lay Presbytery Representative Vacancy

The position for a Lay Presbytery Representative to represent Western Heights is still Vacant. The meetings are held on zoom quarterly. If this is something you wish to offer your services or for more information please see Temukisa.

Community Garden Launch Saturday 28th October 2023



Join us at
the Uniting
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.

Friday 1st
December
and
Saturday 2nd
December
10am - 2pm

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

Uniting

Clean Up Australia

At 9am on Saturday 18th November, 20 people from Western Heights, Wesley and Belmont gathered at Balyang Sanctuary to participate in the Clean Up Australia programme.

Some of us went up along the roadway that travels past the Sanctuary; Sharn, Bruce, Roger, Logan and Alex and a few others went along the pathway at the bottom of the road.

The bush between the sanctuary and the road was packed with litter. The pile of rubbish you see in the picture was gathered in just over an hour.

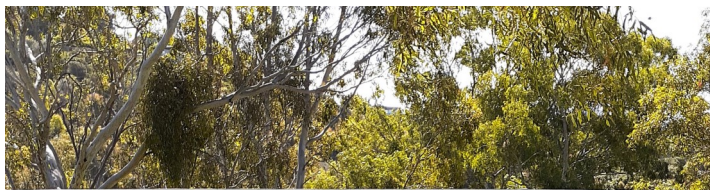
Little Alex, standing in the bush, surrounded by litter, shouted out at the traffic passing above "Stop! Please just stop!"

Logan said to me "Grandad, why do they do it? Why?"

Both of the children talked a lot about how awful it was for the animals.

Thanks to the three churches and people who came to help clean up a little bit more of our human made mess. God loves all of God's creation. We try to be good stewards of it and thanks to COGG who sent a truck along to pick up the rubbish less than an hour after we had finish. Thanks everyone.

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



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 part 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



Tickets for **May 3-5 2024** Sacrededge Festival "Diversity from the Heart" are on sale NOW!

What? Is it that time of year already? Oh, my! Where has all the time gone?

We are excited to announce our Early Bird tickets are available now until 31 December (unless sold out prior) in limited numbers, so get in quick!

You are invited to purchase your tickets now. Online booking is available [HERE](#)

You can check out the evolving Line Up [here](#)

Art Exhibition information and EOI [here](#)

Interested in Volunteering? We'd love to hear from you. Lots of info [here](#)

Keep up to date - follow Sacrededge on [Facebook](#)

Contact Details

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

Temukisa's day off is **Monday** so please refrain from contacting her on this day.

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

Parental/Guardian Permission

In order for Western Heights to be a Safe Church, we are seeking the permission of parents or guardians to photograph or video their children during church services and other church-related activities. Permission forms are available at the back of the church. Please hand completed forms to the duty steward of the day.

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.

Eco Group

The Eco Group has started an Eco Books library, in the entry foyer. Please borrow books and if you have good books on the subject, you would be willing to share, see Bruce W.

With Love To The World

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

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.

Milk Bottle Tops

We are collecting plastic bottle tops with St. Joseph's College. You can leave your bottle tops 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**