



**WESTERN HEIGHTS UNITING CHURCH**  
31 Douglass Street, Herne Hill  
Tel: 5229 2681 : Email: [office@whuc.com.au](mailto:office@whuc.com.au)  
Website: [www.whuc.com.au](http://www.whuc.com.au)

***Our Purpose***

**Loving God: Growing Together, Partnering Community, Sharing Faith**



***“Advent 4—Love”***

**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.

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 24 2023**

# Western Heights Uniting Church

Notice Sheet Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December – 10.00am Worship

## Please Pray for:

Safe Church Task group

<b>Birthdays:</b>	Ashley Payne	25 <sup>th</sup>	Graeme Willingham	9 <sup>th</sup>
	Jean Payne	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Albie James	13 <sup>th</sup>
	Daniel Payne	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Robyn Howard	16 <sup>th</sup>
	Sandra Neville	5 <sup>th</sup>		

*The congregation at Western Heights offers prayerful support of its members and others in a number of ways; because of privacy protocols, names are not included for prayer unless we have received your permission.*

## Uniting Barwon

Items that would be appreciated this week include: spreads, tinned fruit, tinned meat, DB blankets, men's t/pants.

## Thought for the week:

Remember this December that love weighs more than gold.

Joséphine Dodge Daskam Bacon

## Diary for This Week

<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00am	No service
	6.00pm	Pre Christmas Meal
	7.00pm	Carols for Everyone
	11.30pm	“Welcoming Christmas...Quietly” Reflective, by candlelight with beautiful music
<b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup></b>	9.00am	Christmas Day – Rev. Temukisa Amituana’i-Vaeluaga
<b>Thursday 28<sup>th</sup></b>	8.00pm	Musicians & Singers Music Practice

## Diary for Next Week & January

<b>Sunday 31<sup>st</sup></b>	10.00am	Worship – Rev. Bruce Waldron
<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00am	Worship – Rev. Temukisa Amituana’i-Vaeluaga
<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00am	Worship – Rev. Jan Taylor & Rhonda Dingle
<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup></b>	10.00am	Worship – Rev. Robert Van Zetten – Communion
<b>Sunday 31<sup>st</sup></b>	10.00am	Worship – Michele Hardy

## Office Hours

The office will close on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> December and re-open Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January. As Friday 26<sup>th</sup> is a public holiday there will be only the February Monthly Newsletter on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January.

## Church Directory 2024

During January you will be receiving a letter if you are a confirmed, baptised, or adherent member. At this time could you please check your details and update if need be and promptly return your slip to the office. Only members that have given permission to be included in the church directory will be issued with a directory for 2024.

## Lost Property

We have in the office keys and an iPad that have lost their owners. Please see Jan if they are yours.

## #UCADayofMourning

Since 2019 the Uniting Church has marked a Day of Mourning on the Sunday before 26 January to reflect on the dispossession of Australia's First Peoples and the ongoing injustices faced by First Nations people in this land.

Our worship service on Sunday 21 January 2024 will reflect on the effects of invasion, colonisation, and racism on First Peoples.

## Emergency [Funeral Services] Procedures

Call Jan G at the church office - she will forward the message for the emergency contact persons:  
Rev Jan Taylor - 8<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> Jan  
Rev Tupe Ioelu - 16<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> Jan

## Pastoral Care:


Contact your small group leaders  
Contact members of the Pastoral Care Coordinating Team: Jan T, Vanessa T, Helen S, Glenn C

## Thank You To All

A very special thank-you to everyone for their service to God and Western Heights during 2023. Thank you to the leaders and members of all the groups within the church, all who committed to rosters and who assisted at special church services including funerals. Thanks to all who contributed to the trading table, and to all the musicians and singers. Thank you to our minister, Temukisa. Also for anyone that was not mentioned, thank you. This is how we 'Love God: Grow Together, Partner the Community and Share our Faith. (Velma Oliver, on behalf of the Church Council)

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Showing Love to the most vulnerable



Sisters Srinidhi\* and Mahira\* are Sri Lankan refugees who have been living in refugee camps in India for decades and aren't able to access medical care outside the camps. OfERR, a refugee-run organisation supported by Act for Peace, has been providing crucial support in the camps for over 40 years. Through the Christmas Bowl you can help send health workers into the camps and provide medical care to those who need it. **Please give today.**

\*Names changed for safety reasons

CALL: 1800 025 101 VISIT: [christmasbowl.actforpeace.org.au](http://christmasbowl.actforpeace.org.au)

The Christmas appeal of Act for Peace, the international humanitarian agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. ABN 96 619 970 188

**Tasks people are doing Christmas Day.**

**25<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

**Vestry Steward:** Velma Oliver

**Reader:** Neil Douglas

**Stewards:** Colin Rookes, Neil Douglas

**Greeter:** Janet Pavlakis

**Musicians:** Daniel Payne, Geoff Coots,  
Dudley Holroyd, Les Oliver

**Singers:** Lynda Scott, Ashley Payne, Bev  
Hunt

**Data:** Tim Hunt / Allister Coots

**Tasks people are doing next week.**

**31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

**Vestry Steward:** Helen Sleep

**Reader:** Jenni Harper

**Stewards:** Geoff Everett, Bruce Rookes

**Greeter:** Joan Murphy

**Morning Tea:** Barbara Everett,  
Catherine Van Zetten

**Hall Cleaner:** Neil Douglas

**Musicians:** Les Oliver, Dudley Holroyd,  
Geoff Coots

**Singers:** Bev Hunt, Lynda Scott

**PA/Data:** Sharn Waldron / Allister Coots

## **CHRISTMAS MESSAGE**



What gifts are you unwrapping this Christmas?

May the Good News of the Angel's message to Zechariah, Mary, Joseph, and the Shepherds inspire you to be God's messenger today.

May the Wisdom of astronauts from the East with their significant gifts remind us of the spirit of gifting this Christmas.

May we too, rejoice with the multitude of animals in awe of what God is doing in the midst – offering means of transport, as well as comfort, and warmth in the stable, joining in the celebration.

As you gather with family and friends, neighbours, and strangers; sharing in the Good News of the birth of Jesus the Christ – enjoy the celebrations; be surprised by the gifting, be in awe and wonder of the beauty of the earth; and rejoice always in what God continues to do with us.

Wishing you all a fantastic and safe Christmas as well as a joyful New Year.

Shalom – Fa'afetai  
Rev Temukisa Amituana'i-Vaeluaga

**Minister & Pastoral**

Rev. Temukisa Amituana'i-  
Vaeluaga

0400 664 991

**On leave 8<sup>th</sup> January – 30 January**