



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 2024 / JANUARY 2025 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 1st | 10.00am | Worship—Rev. Temukisa Amituana'i-Vaeluaga |
| Saturday 7th | 9.30am | Shared Community Garden |
| Sunday 8th | 10.00am | Worship—Rev. Temukisa Amituana'i-Vaeluaga BBQ lunch to follow |
| Wednesday 11th | 10.30am | Christmas Morning Tea with Community Partners |
| | 6.30pm | Neighbourhood Carol Singing |
| Sunday 15th | 10.00am | Worship—Rev. Temukisa Amituana'i-Vaeluaga Communion |
| Tuesday 17th | 6.30pm | Neighbourhood Carol Singing |
| Wednesday 18th | 6.30pm | Neighbourhood Carol Singing |
| Saturday 21st | 6.00pm | Community Carols |
| Sunday 22nd | 10:00am | Worship—Rev. Temukisa Amituana'i-Vaeluaga Lessons and Carols |
| Tuesday 24th | 11.30pm | "Welcoming Christmas...Quietly" |
| Wednesday 25th | 9.00am | Christmas Day—Rev. Temukisa Amituana'i-Vaeluaga |
| Sunday 29th | 10:00am | Worship—Rev. Bruce Waldron |

January at a Glance

| | | |
|-------------|---------|--|
| Sunday 5th | 10.00am | Worship—Rev. Temukisa Amituana'i-Vaeluaga |
| Sunday 12th | 10.00am | Worship—Rev. Temukisa Amituana'i-Vaeluaga |
| Sunday 19th | 10.00am | Worship—Rev. Temukisa Amituana'i-Vaeluaga Communion |
| Sunday 26th | 10.00am | Worship—Rev. Temukisa Amituana'i-Vaeluaga |

Church Office Hours & Staff Leave over December-January

The office will be closed from **Thursday 26th December** and re-open on **Friday 24th January 2024**.

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

Jan Grigg from Christmas until January 8th inclusive

There will be no pew sheet until **Sunday 26th January 2024** and the monthly newsletter for February will be available on **Sunday 26th January**.

Shared Community Garden News

The community garden provides an opportunity to engage with others in a relaxed atmosphere. Our vision is that the wider community will find a place of safety and support as we grow vegetables and relationships together.

NEXT WORKING BEE

SATURDAY 7th December 9.30 – 11AM

Come when you can, leave when you have to.

Refreshments provided

The **Community Garden Task group** meets regularly to develop further ideas for engaging the community, discuss tasks in the garden and plan future planting and harvesting.

BBQ Lunch

Sunday, 8 December, 2024, after church

All are invited to a bbq lunch immediately after church on Sunday, 8 December. Please bring a salad and/or slice to share. RSVP on sheet provided at the back of the church.

The Waiting Room

The notice at reception instructs:
Take a card, swipe its bar code.
Wait until your number is called.

My eyes patrol the crowded room.
A mother breast feeds her baby.
Workers in overalls tap cell phones.

An elderly man leans on his walking stick
as he shuffles into Room 4.
I gauge my turn by counting down the queue.

An overweight woman hunches in the corner.
Elastic socks, jacket hood over her head.
Eyes downcast, arm crutch parked beside.

202. That's my number.
I was expecting her before me.
She sits unmoved.

My blood fills two vials.
Band-aid on the needle point.
I'm done.

I don't wait around.
But what is she waiting for?
© John Howell

Uniting Christmas Gifts

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

Let's spread the Spirit of Christmas by placing an unwrapped gift under the Christmas tree. All generous contributions will be delivered to Uniting to assist those who are in need.



Final date for collection is **December 12th.**

Uniting

Marshall's for Bike Ride

2025 Cadel Evans Race:

29 January—2 February 2025

We are looking for volunteers for the Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Please talk to Bruce Rookes 0402 135 313 or sign up using volunteers@sparkeventgroup.com

Every volunteer enables us to receive a donation towards the resurfacing of the courts.

Christmas-time

@ Western Heights Uniting Church
31 Douglass St, Herne Hill 2018 Ph.5229 2681

Neighbourhood Carol Singing!

- 6.30pm to 7.30pm
- **Wednesday 11th**
 - **Tuesday 17th**
 - **Wednesday 18th**



Start at the church. Finish at the church.

Community Carols at Western Heights

- **Saturday 21st 6-7pm**
in front of the church
 - Bring a rug,
 - bring a picnic chair,
 - bring a drink/snacks.
 - Come and sing your favourite carols!



Christmas Eve: 11.30pm to midnight.

Quietly, reflectively,
welcoming in another Christmas.

Christmas Day 9.00 – 9.45am. Come and celebrate Christmas Day with your family.

ANY TIME: Walk the Labyrinth

(Located near the boat ramp at the end of West Fyans Street, and as you walk towards the Queens Park bridge.)

Feedback on the Life of the Church

Loving God: Growing Together, Partnering Community, Sharing Faith

As we come to the end of the calendar year, Church Council (on Wednesday, 20 November, 2024,) recommended that we invite all members of the congregation to provide feedback on the Life of the Church at Western Heights. As a Church Community, we are always looking for ways in which we can enhance our worship, our witness and our service in the name of Christ. The feedback survey will help us to articulate and formalise our Strategic Plan which will include the 3 Kite-Flying Goals. This will provide guidance in Loving God: Growing Together, Partnering Community, Sharing Faith and encouragement in leadership. The congregation is greatly encouraged to participate in this process so that 1. a collective reflection of our strengths is affirmed and 2. a collective vision for the future is formed. Forms for the feedback are available at the back of the church, next to the box for completed forms. Please feel free to use as many forms as you require. Forms will be available from today, 24 November, 2024 through to the end of December, 2024. Thanks.

Greater Geelong Steering Group meeting 20/10/2024

Attended by Glen Chidzey and Lynda Scott.

Each church took the opportunity to share news about what's going on in their congregations.

WHUC was able to share the news about our fair with regard to raising money, and the numbers of the public who came through our property.

Noble St are making the move to Wesley and their last service will be at the end of 2024 or thereabouts.

St Davids are finding their move to Geelong College very fruitful. Their numbers are healthy and the GC will be given first refusal on the purchase of the church property.

Grovedale are now working closely with Winchelsea UC.

They are also holding a very popular Makers Market once a month to help with their cash flow.

In table groups we discussed what the strategic plan might be for the UC in Greater Geelong.

Some suggestions were

• "increasing trust" in the UC faith which appears to be lacking

• actively welcoming members of the LGBTIQ+ (eg St Albans holding "Pride" carols this year)

• engage with the community more and leaving the boundaries of our churches

• advocating for chaplaincy at Deakin uni where there is currently no UC (or other religious?) presence

Linley will be collating all that we have talked about over the last few years and will present us with a plan for the consideration of Church Council in the New Year.

Our next meeting will be 25th Feb at St Lukes.

WESTERN HEIGHTS UNITING CHURCH

Community Morning Tea



**You are invited to our Community Morning Tea
On Wednesday 11 December at 10:30am**

**At
31 Douglass Street, Herne Hill.**

**RSVP by Saturday 7 December
Graeme Hardy 0408 630 391**

The Labyrinth



**You are invited to walk the Advent Labyrinth
down by the Barwon River.**

(Located near the boat ramp at the end of West Fyans Street, and as you walk towards the Queens Park bridge.)

**Perhaps you may walk it slowly and in a spirit
of quiet meditation, taking your time to notice
and appreciate the beautiful surroundings and
to maybe ponder what this time of year means
to you.**

Sponsored by Western Heights Uniting Church
31 Douglass St, Herne Hill 2018 Ph.5229 2681

Remember the “Kite Flying?”

It was earlier in 2024 that the congregation engaged in what we called “Kite Flying” or dreaming of what the ministry and mission of Western Heights could look like into the future. Three main areas to explore were voted for by the congregation.

Looking at how we could engage with refugees who live in and around Geelong.

Establishing a Playgroup.

Looking at how to expand interest in music exploring the talent that exists within the congregation and the tennis club and expanding that further into the community.

People interested in any of these three areas of ministry were listed on a sheet and we are all wondering “what’s happening?”

As so many have been away in this last quarter of the year, it has been difficult to get people together. However, with regard to the establishment of a Playgroup, a small task group has met (Bianca Brandt, Janet Pavlakis and Jan Taylor) and plans are well on the way to establishing a playgroup for disabled children beginning at the end of February.

This will be held each Friday morning in the Horizons room from 10-11am and will be led by Bianca and her friend. However, in order to support these two leaders there will need to be one or two other people present each week. It is envisaged that we will provide morning tea to the parents and carers of the children.

This will be a new challenge for Western Heights but, if we are able to establish this ministry, we will be filling a gap that exists for these families. As Bianca has said, most outings for these families are for medical reasons and the opportunity for being able to share together in a relaxed atmosphere would be great. Note that all people who work in any way with children must have a “Working with Children Check” and this can easily be arranged. This is an exciting and important step for Western Heights to be taking and we look forward to flying with this.

Early in the new year a meeting will be convened for those whose names are on the Refugee and Music sheets to begin to explore these areas of ministry.

We are being called onward – already the Community Garden is flourishing in many ways, with some interest now being shown by people in the community. Members of the congregation are busy in and supporting the Tennis Club, and the eco group doing is engaged in important work; there is much happening.

Please uphold the mission and ministry of our Western Heights congregation in prayer.

Summary of CC Minutes of 18 September 2024

Devotions by Rev. Temukisa. Sharing Faith.

The congregation is asked to uphold in prayer and in other ways, those members of the congregation who have recently lost family members.

As we come to the conclusion of the calendar year, CC decided that it would be useful and valuable to receive feedback from the congregation on the Life of the Church at Western Heights. Feedback forms will be made available soon.

It is with regret that CC accepted the resignation of Sharn Waldron from CC. We sincerely thank Sharn for her contribution.

CC will be recruiting new members to the Church Council. Please talk to a member of CC.

Due to excessive commitments, Bruce Waldron has resigned as our Presbytery Representative. We thank Bruce for his effort.

CC is seeking a lay member of the congregation as the Presbytery Rep. Meetings are quarterly on a Saturday and can be attended on zoom. Please talk to a member of CC.

CC thanks Jan Taylor for keeping the “Kite Flying Goals” alive through her follow-up work since her return from holidays.

Glenn Chidzey and Graeme Hardy will represent Western Heights at the Geelong Youth Engagement’s annual breakfast on the 6 December.

The Pastoral Care Team will continue having the afternoon Communion Services. The dates for 2025 are: 26 March, 25 June, 29 October.

Land Tax of \$5,000 for the manse for the years 2022, 2023 and 2024 will be paid in January.

CC and partners will finish the year with lunch at The Club House Bistro on 10 Dec, 2024.

Velma Oliver, Chair of Church Council.

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



Uniting Church
Queenscliff
Cnr Hesse & Stokes

Wed 11
December
6pm
 Festive Dinner

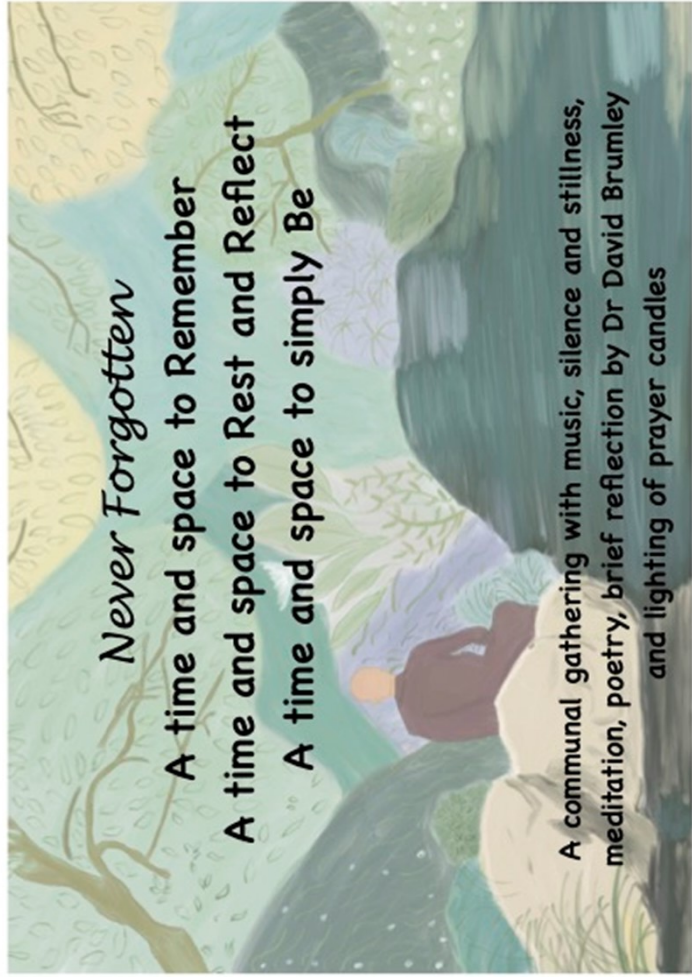
7.30pm
 Concert



Info & Bookings online or scan QR code
www.unitingqueenscliff.org.au



You are invited



Never Forgotten
 A time and space to Remember
 A time and space to Rest and Reflect
 A time and space to simply Be

A communal gathering with music, silence and stillness,
 meditation, poetry, brief reflection by Dr David Brumley
 and lighting of prayer candles

A time for those of us who live the experience of grief and loss,
 no matter if it was yesterday or many yesterdays ago....

Sunday 8th December 7pm, followed by Supper
 @ Uniting Queenscliff
 83 - 89 Hesse Street Queenscliff

Hosted by
 Compassionate Hearts on the Bellarine
 Uniting Queenscliff & Point Lonsdale



SUPPORT FOR LIVING, Dying, AND GRIEVING



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
velmaloliver2@gmail.com 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.

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.

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

Uniting Church Safe Church Policies

Access to key Safe Church policies is available on: safechurch.ucavictas.org.au