



WESTERN HEIGHTS UNITING CHURCH
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Website: www.whuc.com.au

Our Purpose

Loving God: Growing Together, Partnering Community, Sharing Faith



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 22 DECEMBER 2024

Western Heights Uniting Church

Notice Sheet Sunday 22nd December 2024– 10.00am Worship

Please Pray for:

Exploring Music Opportunities Task Group

Birthdays:	Ashley Payne	25 th	
	Jean Payne	2 nd	
	Sandra Neville	5 th	(70)
	Graeme Willingham	9 th	
	Robyn Howard	16 th	(70)

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:

I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year.

Charles Dickens

Diary for This Week

Sunday 22nd	10.00am	Worship – Rev. Temukisa Amituana'i-Vaeluaga Lessons & Carols
Tuesday 24th	11.30pm	"Welcoming Christmas...Quietly"
Wednesday 25th	9.00pm	Christmas Day – Rev. Temukisa Amituana'i-Vaeluaga

Diary for Next Week

Sunday 29th 10.00am Worship – Rev. Bruce Waldron

Minister and Pastoral Care

Rev. Temukisa Amituana'i-Vaeluaga

Phone: 0400 664 991

Christmas Message

As we journey from Advent to Christmas; I acknowledge the fullness of life in our journey of faith. We've laughed, cried, struggled, rejoiced & in the stillness of this season of waiting, we affirm God's presence & love.

I pray that the mystery & magic of Christmas fills every corner of your heart & home with joy & peace, love & hope now & always.

Advent Blessings

Temukisa

Nominations for Presbytery Representative

Nominations are called for a Western Heights Congregational Presbytery Representative for the quarterly Presbytery in Council meetings held on the 3rd Saturdays from 10am – 2.30pm; commencing in February 2025. Presbytery in Council meeting is held in person at St Albans Uniting Church (Melbourne) or on zoom.

Please prayerfully discern this calling and with those whom you consider to have the gifts and graces for this ministry. The representative will speak and vote on behalf of the congregation at the Presbytery meetings, so their knowledge of the congregation is crucial.

Nomination forms will be available from the office. All nominations close on Sunday, 2 February, 2025.

Thanks. Velma Oliver, on behalf of Church Council.

Geelong Youth Engagement

The latest newsletter is on the noticeboard.

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, 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. 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. Forms will be available until the end of December, 2024. Thanks.

Tasks people are doing today.

22nd December 2024

Vestry Steward: Roger Dingle

Reader: Tim Hunt

Stewards: Graeme Hardy, Maralann Damiano

Greeter: Barbara Everett

Morning Tea: Catherine Van Zetten, Jean Payne

Hall Cleaner: Maralann Damiano

Musicians: Melinda Bell, Geoff Coots, Dudley Holroyd, David Andrews, Les Oliver

Singers: Lynda Scott, Bill Fleming

PA/Data: Peter Morgan / Allister Coots

Tasks people are doing next week.

29th December 2024

Vestry Steward: Annette Chidzey

Reader: Allister Coots

Stewards: Geoff Everett, Bruce Rookes

Greeter: Doreen Holroyd

Morning Tea: Michele Hardy, Barbara Everett

Hall Cleaner: Neil Douglas

Musicians: Melinda Bell, Geoff Coots, Dudley Holroyd, Bruce Waldron

Singers: Lynda Scott, Bev Hunt,

PA/Data: Tim Hunt / Allister Coots

Tasks people are doing Christmas Day.

25th December 2024

Vestry Steward: Michele Hardy

Reader: Jenni Harper

Stewards: Tim Hunt, Colin Rookes

Greeter: Velma Oliver

Musicians: Geoff Coots, Dudley Holroyd, Bruce Waldron, Les Oliver

Singers: Lynda Scott, Ashley Payne, Bev Hunt

PA/Data: Sharn Waldron / Allister Coots



JOHN 1: 6-8, 19-23

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord" ', as the prophet Isaiah said.

LUKE 1: 26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the

child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

LUKE 2: 1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

LUKE 2: 8-16

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was

with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!' When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

MATTHEW 2: 1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel." ' Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped

over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

JOHN 1: 1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.