



Western Heights Uniting Church

31 Douglass Street, Herne Hill, 3218.

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Email: office@whuc.com.au



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.

February at a Glance

Sunday 2nd	10.00am	Worship—Michele Hardy Rev. Robert Van Zetten—East Geelong
Saturday 8th	9.30am	Shared Community Garden Working Bee
Sunday 9th	10.00am	Worship—Rev. Temukisa Amituana'i-Vaeluaga Congregation Meeting following
Friday 14th	6.00pm	Friday Fun Night—Pizza at Brunezo's
Sunday 16th	10.00am	Worship—Rev. Temukisa Amituana'i-Vaeluaga Communion
Wednesday 19th	7.00pm	Church Council Meeting
Sunday 23rd	10:00am	Worship—Rev. Temukisa Amituana'i-Vaeluaga

WESTERN HEIGHTS UNITING CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER



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 8th February 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.

Port Phillip West 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 meetings are 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**. A short Congregational Meeting will be held following worship on **Sunday 9th February 2025**.

Church & Music Rosters

The Church and Music Rosters for **March, April & May**, will be drawn up for distribution at the start of February. Please use the unavailability book by **2nd-February**, to record the days on which you will be unavailable during these 3 months.

Thanks. Maralann.

Friday Fun Night

Pizza Night

14th February 6.00pm

At Brunenzo's 5/163 Bellarine Highway, Newcomb

Our first event for the year

RSVP: Place your name on the list at the back of the church or ring Maralann 0490 151 560.

Tuesday Friendship

Following the closure of the Westlyn Evening Fellowship on 11th July 2012, there was a perceived desire for ladies to continue to have a time of fellowship together, so in 2013 the "Ladies Evening Fellowship" group, led by Helen Sleep and Joan Murphy, was born, meeting at 6.30pm at the Listening Post.

Following closure of the Listening Post in 2014, the group became the "Friends from Vines", now led by Joan Murphy, meeting each month at 6.30pm in the Horizons Room. In 2017 the group became the "Tuesday Friendship Group", still meeting at 6.30pm. This continued until June 2022, when the meeting time changed to midday.

The group met this way until October 2024 when, with falling numbers and no one volunteering to take over the leadership role, the group disbanded.

Thanks to Helen and particularly to Joan Murphy, for your able leadership of these groups over such an extended time



We have a Saturday workshop to recommend to you.

See it here:

https://www.melbournefoe.org.au/aoc_adaptation_fair_20250208

It has a focus upon celebrating what people are doing in our region to adapt to the effects of climate change and it will be positive and uplifting for those of us who attend.

We do hope to see you there, in Footscray, on February 8th 2025

The PPW Climate Action Task group.

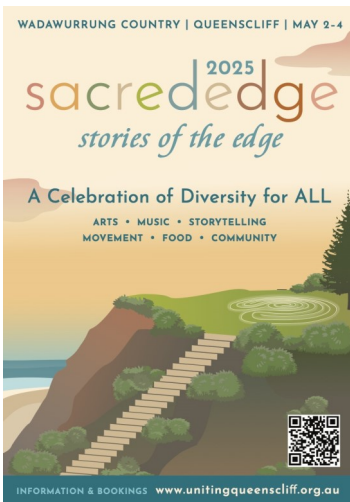
Spiritual Care at University Hospital and MacKellar Centre, Geelong

The Presbytery currently provides 2 days per week (Monday & Friday) of spiritual care to the greater Geelong community based at University Hospital, Geelong. Rev Isabel Greenall is in the Placement offering care and support to patients and staff primarily at the hospital but also to those at the Mackellar Centre, as needed.

Historically, the Uniting Church chaplain has been able to access a list of all Uniting Church patients and visit them. However, with recent review of procedures alongside privacy legislation, it is no longer possible to do this. The process now is that a patient will need to ask their nurse or another member of the ward staff for a visit from the Uniting Church chaplain or Spiritual Care team. They will then put in a referral requesting a visit.

For family members, congregation members and Ministers, sometimes you may know someone in hospital that might need some care during their admission. The most important thing is that you ask for their permission before letting Isabel or the Spiritual Care team know. If the patient is not able to give their own consent, it needs to then come from the next of kin.

The best way to contact Isabel is through the Spiritual Care team direct phone number 4215 0627 or email spiritual.care@barwonhealth.org.au



Sacrededge 2025

We look forward to our Sacrededge community returning to Queenscliff, welcoming back familiar faces and welcoming new friends to the space.

Early Bird tickets are available now until 31 January in limited numbers, so get in quick!

Online booking is available <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1315704>



Combined Refugee Action Group in Geelong

Dear Members of Western Heights UC Congregation,

The incoming Executive of the Combined Refugee Action Group in Geelong (CRAG) met in late November 2024, and in looking at the year ahead, realise that we need help.

There are many groups and individuals in the community who have either ceased supporting the Refugee cause, or believe that ongoing advocacy and direct help is no longer required.

In fact, there are more than 8000 Asylum seekers in Australia who are still in limbo – either refused visas due to the unfair 'Fast Track' system, or are still awaiting decisions from Courts or the Minister for Immigration.

Our Mission is far from over.

To abandon the Refugee cause now would be abandoning the target group which needs our help more than ever before. Can you imagine how it must feel to have lived here for 10, 11, 12 or more years, contributed to the community and still be unsure whether you can stay?

To this end, CRAG Executive members are calling on you to help us in our fight for refugee justice.

Any past contribution to help our Refugee and Asylum seeker friends has been highly valued and we want you to continue for their sake. If you are not already a member of CRAG we encourage you to join us. We meet monthly at 5.30pm at the Geelong Trades Hall, 127 Myers Street Geelong, and would welcome any member of your congregation who would like to come to those meetings.

Will you consider the important life issues continuing to be faced by those seeking asylum and permanent refugee status, and living in our Geelong region, and join us in helping them?

Warm Regards,

Peter Coghlan

Co-Convenor CRAG

Tel: 0437 752 246

Marg. Manning

Co-Convenor CRAG

0409 334 480

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: Lynda Scott
lynda.r.scott@gmail.com 0435 050 958

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
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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