



# Western Heights Uniting Church

31 Douglass Street, Herne Hill, 3218.

(03) 5229 2681

Email: [office@whuc.com.au](mailto:office@whuc.com.au)

Website: [www.whuc.com.au](http://www.whuc.com.au)

ABN: 50 871 893 057



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.

## March at a Glance

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Sunday 1st	10.00am	Church Closed – Belmont Uniting Church
Saturday 7th	9.30am	Shared Community Garden Working Bee
Sunday 8th	10.00am	Worship— Rev. Temukisa Amituana'i-Vaeluaga
Sunday 15th	10.00am	Worship— Rev. Temukisa Amituana'i-Vaeluaga Communion
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	3.30pm	Church Council Meeting
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	10:00am	Worship—Rev. Temukisa Amituana'i-Vaeluaga 2026 Congregational Annual General Meeting
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Worship – Rev. Temukisa Amituana'i-Vaeluaga

## Staff on Leave

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Jan will be on leave from **Wednesday 18 March – Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April** inclusive.

March 2026  
NEWSLETTER

## 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  
5229 2681  
[office@whuc.com.au](mailto:office@whuc.com.au)

### Property Co-ordinator:

Graeme Hardy  
0408 630 391  
[graeme.c.hardy@gmail.com](mailto:graeme.c.hardy@gmail.com)

### Communications

#### Administrator:

Jan Grigg  
5229 5889

### Pastoral Care:

Temukisa Amituana'i-  
Vaeluaga  
0400 664 991

### WHUC Office

Phone: 5229 2681

Office hours:

Wed: 1.30pm-3.30pm

Fri: 9.00am-1.00pm

Email: [office@whuc.com.au](mailto:office@whuc.com.au)

Website: [www.whuc.com.au](http://www.whuc.com.au)

Facebook: Western Heights

Uniting Church

## Shared Community Garden News

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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 7<sup>th</sup> March 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.

## Church Closure 1 March

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**Western Heights UC will be closed on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March** to join Belmont Uniting Church in celebrating their 100 years at Thomson Street site.

A Service of Holy Communion and Thanksgiving will be held on **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March at 10.00am**. A luncheon will follow the service at 42 Thomson Street, Belmont.

To assist with catering can you please put name on the sheet at the back or rsvp to [belmont@victas.uca.org.au](mailto:belmont@victas.uca.org.au) by 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

## Cadel Evans Bike Ride Report

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The Tennis Club supplied 110 shifts over the 5 days of the bike ride, of which 30 were filled by 13 church Members on our way to raise \$ 7,000 for court maintenance.

A BIG thank you to all those who were able to help.

We hope to do better again at next year's event.

## Congregational Annual General Meeting

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The 2026 Western Heights Congregational Annual General Meeting will be held after the service on **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2026**.

Could all reports be given to Jan in the office no later than **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March**.

## World Day of Prayer

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Will be held on **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2026** at Wesley Uniting Church, 100 Yarra Street, Geelong at **11am**.

This year the theme is "I will give you rest: Come" prepared by the WDP Committee in Nigeria. Guest speaker is Mr Dempeh Daboer, a member of the Board at Cultura. Everyone is most welcomed.

Further information please ring Heather Watson 0412 139 295 or Sue O'Dnoghue 0429 784 331

## Belmont Uniting Church

Celebrating 100 years of the use of our Thomson Street site as a centre for worship, ministry and mission.



1926



2026

A Service of Holy Communion and Thanksgiving will be held

on Sunday, 1 March 2026, at 10.00am.

Guest preacher: Rev Charissa Suli, President of the Uniting Church in Australia.

You are invited to share in this significant occasion of the life of the congregation.

A luncheon will follow the service.

To assist with catering, please RSVP by 22 February to [belmont@victas.uca.org.au](mailto:belmont@victas.uca.org.au)

Belmont Uniting Church / 42 Thomson Street, Belmont, 3216

### Historic timeline

June 1910	Donation by Mrs Margaret Mickle of a site for a Presbyterian Church in Belmont
1 July 1923	First Presbyterian service in Belmont held at home of Mr Banks, conducted by Rev D W Smith of St Andrew's
October 1925	Decision by "Presbyterian fraternity" to build a church on Thomson St, Belmont
27 February 1926	Belmont Presbyterian Church opened by Rev. C. Neville, Minister of St. Davids Presbyterian, Newtown
13 September 1953	Dedication of the extensions to the church
19 October 1961	Residence and grounds on the corner of Shackleton and Thomson Streets gifted to the congregation.
19 September 1965	Foundation stone for the new church laid by the minister Rev. C.W. McLeod.
20 February 1966	Final service held in 'old' church. New church opened and dedicated.
21 September 1975	Belmont Presbyterian Church re-named the Alexander Thomson Presbyterian Church.
22 June 1977	Alexander Thomson Presbyterian Church becomes part of the UCA as the Alexander Thomson Uniting Church.
10 June 1987	Alexander Thomson UC and Regent St UC form the Belmont Parish
1 December 1996	The Belmont Parish formally becomes one congregation
April 1999	Sale of the Regent St property, and re-development of the Thomson St property
29 April 2001	Redeveloped Thomson St building formally dedicated by the Moderator at a Service of Thanksgiving

Belmont Uniting Church / Presbytery of Port Phillip West



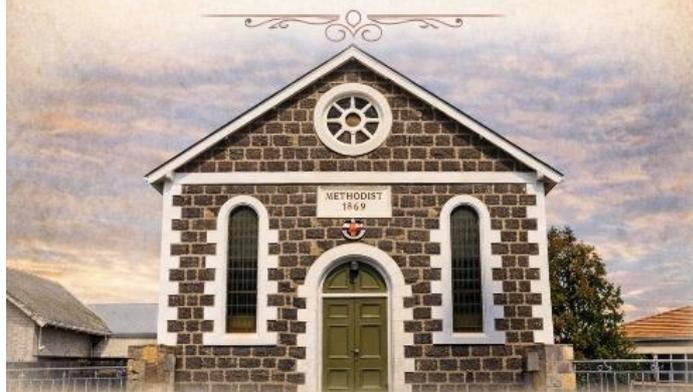
World Day of Prayer 2026

Focus on **Nigeria**



Service date	Friday 6th March 2026
Location	Wesley Uniting Church
Address	100 Yarra Street Geelong
Time	11am
Contact	Heather Watson: 0412 139 295 or Sue O'Donoghue 0429 784 331

## You're invited to a **SERVICE OF CLOSURE** for **NOBLE STREET UNITING CHURCH**



**Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at 2.30 pm**

Noble Street Uniting Church  
35 Noble Street, Geelong

*Holy Communion will be included  
during the service*

*Afternoon tea will be  
served following the service.*



## **Summary of Church Council Meeting of 18th February 2026 .**

- Church Council has approved the motion that we apply for the Simpson Grant to update the Sound System. Many thanks to Sharn Waldron for leading the grant team.
- We will also be pursuing a grant from the "Synod Emissions Reduction Fund" to add to our existing solar panels. We hope to get a 3 phase inverter to support our air conditioning load, and a 19.2KWh battery for storage of excess solar. Thanks to Geoff and Graeme for this initiative.
- The WHUC Funeral Pack (pricing for funerals) has been reviewed and amended to remove ambiguous wording.
- Church Council has committed to reviewing the "Healthy Church Councils" documents.

## FLASHBACKS

Grovedale's Eva and Ian Wood will celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary on February 4.

Eva, nee Giblett, and Ian met at a Methodist Church camp in 1951. The couple married in 1956 in Traralgon at the Methodist Church and later had their reception at the Presbyterian Church Hall before honeymooning in Adelaide.

Eva and Ian spent most of their younger lives living in Gippsland and then Dimboola, before moving to Geelong where they lived in Herne Hill for nearly 50 years. Ian did his carpentry

apprenticeship and worked on the railways for nearly 40 years, while Eva cared for the children and later worked in house cleaning.

They are parents and parents-in-law to Barry and Gail, Glenda and Steve, and Leanne and Jim, and have three grandchildren Joel, Jasmine and Patrick.

Eva, 92, and Ian, 91, now live at Abervale, Grovedale. Ian still enjoys his carpentry and does wood-turning. Eva loves her garden, and is a talented singer who sings in the Abervale choir.

They are both members of the Uniting Church.



Grovedale's Eva and Ian Wood, 92 and 91 respectively, are celebrating their 70th wedding anniversary on February 4. Pictured right, on their wedding day on February 4, 1956.



Do you have a nostalgic or historic photo you want to share? Email it to [journ@geelongadvertiser.com.au](mailto:journ@geelongadvertiser.com.au), with a brief description including names and years, for a chance to have it published.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## Future Monthly Newsletters

To be included in the Monthly Newsletter, please ensure your notices are at the church office by the **20<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:office@whuc.com.au)

## 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.

## 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.

## Uniting Church Safe Church Policies

Access to key Safe Church policies is available on: [safechurch.ucavictas.org.au](http://safechurch.ucavictas.org.au)

## 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 **milk** bottle tops with St. Joseph's College. You can leave your milk bottle tops in the foyer for recycling.