



Western Heights Uniting Church

31 Douglass Street, Herne Hill, 3218.

(03) 5229 2681

Email: office@whuc.com.au

Website: 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.

June at a Glance

Saturday 6 th	9.30am	Shared Community Garden Working Bee
Sunday 7 th	10.00am	Worship— Rev. Temukisa Amituana'i-Vaeluaga
Sunday 14 th	10.00am	Worship— Rev. Temukisa Amituana'i-Vaeluaga Uniting Winter Appeal
Wednesday 17 th	3.30pm	Church Council Meeting
Sunday 21 st	10.00am	Worship— Rev. Bruce Waldron Communion
Sunday 28 th	10:00am	Worship—Rev. Bruce Waldron Combined service with Geelong Baptist Church

Staff on Leave

Temukisa will be on leave from **Thursday 18th June – Wednesday 1st July.**

June 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

Property Co-ordinator:

Graeme Hardy
0408 630 391
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

Website: www.whuc.com.au

Facebook: Western Heights

Uniting Church

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 6th June 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.



Uniting Winter Appeal

The Uniting Winter Appeal 2026 will be on Sunday 14th June. Donations of blankets, jumpers, beanies etc are most welcome and if you unable to but like to donate you can place money in an envelope and place with the donations.

Share the warmth this winter.

As winter sets in, more older women are being pushed into homelessness. Many come to our services for the very first time, frightened and uncertain about what lies ahead. Your urgent donation today can help ensure they receive the care, housing support, and dignity they deserve.

Combined Service 28th June

Western Heights and The Geelong Baptist Church will join in a celebration service for the Uniting Church Anniversary 22 June and the 76th anniversary of the Korean War 25 June.

Shared Meal to follow the service.

WHUC Prayer Chain

WHUC has an active Prayer Chain.

We have a dedicated team who wish to prayerfully support you in your time of need.

As we are bound by the privacy act everything will be treated in strict confidence.

Leila Green 0433 367 339

Summary of Church Council Meeting of 15 April 2026

Please note there was no meeting in March as we did not have enough members for a quorum.

- ❖ Church Council has approved the motion that the Tennis courts should be leased for the requested 10 year period. Payment terms will be annually, and all tennis coaches must be registered with Tennis Australia to ensure insurance, Working with Children checks and First Aid requirements are met.
- ❖ The company installing our new solar battery are upgrading us to a newer improved battery, as the model originally quoted is no longer available. Unfortunately, the grant application to the Synod Emissions Reduction Fund was unsuccessful but we do thank Geoff Coots for all of his hard work on the application.
- ❖ Council supported the request that WHUC offer to host 2026 Pentecost celebrations.
- ❖ A request for baptism has been received and endorsed
- ❖ The Simpson Grant application for an upgrade to our sound system has been successful and we are grateful to Sharn Waldron and her team for their thorough execution of the process. Many thanks to Sharn and the team.

Summary of Church Council Meeting of 20th May 2026

- ❖ . Church Council will develop a new 3 year strategic plan combining our Missional Goals, our partnership with the Tennis Club and our shared vision within the framework of the Faithful Futures guideline and Presbytery's plan.
- ❖ . The new solar battery is now installed and functioning.
- ❖ . Safe Church will have Sharn Waldron as the new contact person.
- ❖ . In response to a request from the Community Garden Group for funding for new wicking beds, a grant from the Simpson fund will be explored.
- ❖ . We have approved a combined service with the Geelong Baptist Church on June 28th at 10am

Email received from Cheryl Lawrie, Senior Manager, Mission Ethos and Engagement on 20th May

I am pleased to be able to share with Uniting Church congregations some more details about Uniting's emergency relief services in Barwon from July.

As we've shared previously, we've been looking at an outreach model to offer flexible support in areas of need. I'm pleased we are able to announce today a new outreach service in partnership with Whittington Neighbourhood House at 20 Worden Court Whittington, operating from 9.30am - 2.00pm each Thursday from 4 July 2026.

Whittington experiences significant inter-generational socio-economic disadvantage, and the Neighbourhood House is centrally located next door to the primary school and nearby shopping hubs.

We will be using our new space for in-person assessments and will be trialling a voucher system.

As planned, we are exiting our site at Grovedale Uniting Church on 30 June 2026. We will continue to use the current Norlane church site until we transition to a new long-term base in the area. We're currently finalising the agreement for that new site and will be in touch with you again shortly with a full update.

We will expand our opening times in Norlane to 5 days a week, Monday to Friday 9.30am to 1pm.

Our new operating model is agile and scalable which will allow us to expand in other areas and adapt to meet community need. We are excited for what it will make possible.

Thank you for your dedication and patience as we develop a new operating model for Barwon emergency relief. We have appreciated the Church's ongoing interest and support for this service. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

Cheryl

Email received from Cheryl Lawrie, Senior Manager, Mission Ethos and Engagement on 3rd June

I'm writing to give an exciting update about our Barwon Emergency Relief service, and an upcoming move from the Norlane Uniting Church site.

Uniting has announced we will be partnering with the Norlane Community Centre, 39 Rose Ave Norlane, delivering emergency relief at this new site from 6 July 2026, operating five days a week.

Our last days of operation from our current Norlane site will be 2 July and at Grovedale Monday 29 June 2026.

Uniting Emergency Relief already has a strong existing relationship with the community centre, and we are proud to be partnering together to support vulnerable people in our region.

As previously shared, we'll also run an outreach service to support people in the southern part of the Barwon region through a new partnership with Whittington Neighbourhood House, 20 Worden Court Whittington. We'll commence the service in Whittington on Thursday 2 July for in-person assessments and will be trialling a voucher system.

Partnering with likeminded agencies such as Community Centres and Neighbourhood Houses means we can offer compassionate care for people in times of need as part of a connected community support network. These community organisations offer great support programs and social engagement.

We appreciate the enormous support that the Grovedale congregation and Port Phillip West Presbytery have offered to Uniting and our Emergency Relief service for many years.

We will continue to rely on the generosity of volunteers and donors to help us run emergency relief – and we look forward to continuing this critical point of food and material support, as well as a gateway for vulnerable people to access other key services.

Preparations for the move are already underway, and we'll make sure we communicate any relevant logistical details.

Warm regards

Cheryl



Combined Pentecost Service 24 May 2026





Make a difference in Norlane.

Volunteer with Uniting.



Apply

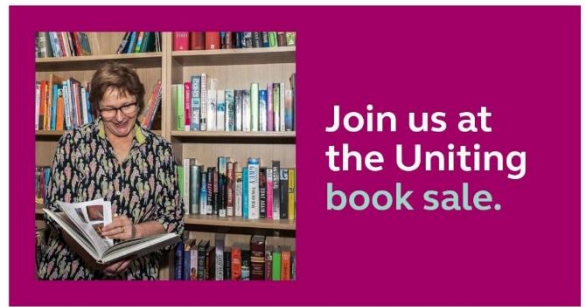
Looking to give back to your community? As a volunteer, you'll be part of a team that turns compassion into action.

We're currently looking for volunteers across a **range of meaningful roles:**

- **Material Aid Support** – Sort and distribute essential goods.
- **Emergency Relief Assessors** – Connect people in crisis with support.
- **Food Pantry Volunteers** – Pack and share food with those in need.
- **Admin & Reception** – Help to keep everything running smoothly!

Scan the QR code to apply, or send an email to volunteers@vt.uniting.org if you're interested in learning more.

Uniting



Join us at the Uniting book sale.

Nothing over \$1
Children's books
\$0.50!

Join us at our monthly book sale.

Held the first Friday and Saturday of each month at Uniting Grovedale, the Uniting book sale raises much needed funds for local services.

Friday 6th June &
Sat 7th June 2026
10am - 2pm
&
Friday 3rd July &
Sat 4th July 2026
10am - 2pm

272 Torquay Rd, Grovedale

(Corner Reserve and Torquay Roads)

Uniting

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.

Uniting Church Safe Church Policies

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

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

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.

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.

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.

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.