

seasons of LIFE

At our combined service in March we sang a song 'Turn, turn, turn' which became popular in the 1960s. The chorus quotes Ecclesiastes 3:1, declaring "To everything there is a season and a time [for] every purpose under heaven".

We have seasons in life. This year my first nephew/niece will be married. More generally, life seasons might include having children, learning to live with adult children (as Lynn and I are), preparing for retirement, downsizing a home, retirement village living and sometimes a season of ill health. Sometimes moving into a new life season can be quite challenging and confronting. At other times there is excitement.

We have seasons in the life of the church as well. We recently acknowledged the significant contribution Alison Clarkson has made in her 16 years of dedicated service to seniors ministry. Now we have a new season with Di Paterson joining us as a Pastoral Care Worker. Alanee is also in a new season as she is now half time youth and young adults as well as resourcing and supporting children and families ministry and developing outreach to the local community, in particular a cross cultural ministry in Kingsway.

Our congregation's vision has 4 pillars: Nurturing Faith, Strengthening Community, Kingsway Ministry (cross cultural) and Raising our Local Profile. We will work on all these, but some of our community are sensing the need this year to put more time into nurturing faith.

We could see it as a season for building faith, encouraging questions and exploration, and sharing faith. Some are seeking to be equipped to share their faith. Life and energy will emerge as we seek to build up the people of God. An additional benefit would be a strengthening of community.

Are we prepared to be courageous and bold to embrace the new season that God might want to give us as a congregation?

In the church year we are currently in the season of Lent, moving toward the season of Easter. In the lead up to and including Good Friday, we recognise that Jesus experienced betrayal, pain, suffering and rejection. We too can experience betrayal, pain, suffering and rejection. Jesus knows what it is like for us living our life. He

died and rose again that we might also have a fresh beginning, a new season, a time of living life in abundance. Jesus offers us the gift of life, freedom and forgiveness.

Let's be open to embracing any new season with which God wants to entrust our congregation. We would not be alone, for God is with us. Maybe Jesus is inviting us to step out of the boat and walk in faith.

May you all have a thoughtful, reflective, blessed and safe Easter season.

From Neil, along with Alanee and Di.

Holy week services will be Monday 10th to Wednesday 12th April 7.30 pm.
Maundy Thursday 13th 8pm HC.
Good Friday 9.15am and Easter Sunday 10am.



GLEN WAVERLEY UNITING CHURCH
CNR BOGONG AVE & KINGSWAY
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diary DATES



HOT CROSS BUN MORNING TEA AT THE HUB



UNITING CHURCH 40 YEAR ANNIVERSARY



SPECIAL SLICE MORNING TEA AT THE HUB

30 March Hot cross bun Morning Tea at The Hub 10 am - 12 noon

29 April Annual Walk-A-Thon for schools ministry 8 am - 2.30 pm

14 May 9.15 and 11 am Special Mother's Day services

25 May Australia's Biggest Morning Tea at The Hub - Cancer Council 10 am - 12 noon

4 June Pentecost Sunday

9 - 12 June State Youth Games

25 June Anniversary Service 10am (40 years UCA)

16 July Seniors' Service 2.30 pm

30 July Combined Service 10 am

16 August Special slice Morning Tea at The Hub for Parkinsons 10 am - 12 noon

15 October Seniors' Service 2.30 pm

21 October Fete

22 October Combined Service 10 am

26 October Seniors' Morning Tea at The Hub for Motor Neurone Disease 10 am - 12 noon

27, 28 & 29 November Children's Nativity Photos at The Hub 10 am - 12 noon

28 November Remembrance Service 8 pm

3 December Combined Service 10 am followed by Christmas lunch

7 December Christmas Morning Tea at The Hub 10 am - 12 noon

10 December Seniors' Service 2.30 pm



FREE
Family
Easter

EVENT

SUNDAY 16 APRIL, 3PM

GLEN WAVERLEY UNITING CHURCH

Family Easter Event

As part of our Easter Celebrations, we are inviting our neighbours and local community for an afternoon of fun on Easter Sunday.

Free; Easter Egg Hunt, Easter Crafts, Egg & Spoon Race, Colouring In Competition and More Fun Activities.

Sunday 16 April 3pm on the lawns of Glen Waverley Uniting Church.

Located Corner of Bogong Avenue & Kingsway. (Opposite the Monash library.)



Glen Waverley
Uniting Church