

# Glen Waverley

## Uniting Church

### Welcome

*GWUC is a faithful, Christ-centred community that meets God and shares that unconditional love*

#### SUNDAY PREACHING PLAN - June 2017

| Time                 | June 4<br>Day of Pentecost   | June 11<br>Trinity Sunday   | June 18<br>Pentecost 2  | June 25<br>Pentecost 3  |
|----------------------|--|---|---|---|
| 8.00 am              | Ross Mackinnon<br>Communion  | Rev Evan Laidlaw<br>Communion   | Ross Mackinnon<br>Communion   | 10am Combined<br>Anniversary Service<br>40 Years UCA<br>Ministry Team         |
| 9.15 am              | Rev Neil Peters<br>Communion   | Rev Neil Peters   | Rev Neil Peters   | Genesis 21:8-21<br>Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17<br>Romans 6:1b-11<br>Matthew 10:24-39 |
| 11.00 am             | Rev Neil Peters  | Rev Neil Peters   | Rev Neil Peters<br>Communion  | Green   |
| 4.30 pm              | Children & Families  | Children & Families   | Children & Families   | Green   |
| 7.00 pm              | Alanee Hearnshaw   | State Youth Games<br>Dinner with Neil                                       | Alanee Hearnshaw  | Green   |
| Lectionary           | Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers 11:24-30<br>Psalm 104:24-34, 35b<br>1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 or Acts<br>2:1-21<br>John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39 | Genesis 1:1 - 2:4a<br>Psalm 8<br>2 Corinthians 13:11-13<br>Matthew 28:16-20 | Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7)<br>Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19<br>Romans 5:1-8<br>Matthew 9:35 - 10:8 (9-23) | Green   |
| Liturgical<br>Colour | Red  | White   | Green   | Green   |

### MAY

| MAY    |         | DATES FOR YOUR DIARY                       |
|--------|---------|--|
| 7 May  | 12noon  | Club 2017                                  |
| 14 May | 10.30am | Mothers Day special morning tea            |
| 16 May | 10am    | Star Making                                |
| 25 May | 10am    | Australia's Biggest Morning Tea at The Hub |
| 28 May | 12noon  | Outreach Lunch Forum                       |

### JUNE

|           |         |                                    |
|-----------|---------|------------------------------------|
| 4 June    | 12 noon | Club 2017                          |
| 9-12 June | all day | State Youth Games                  |
| 25 June   | 10am    | Combined service - UCA Anniversary |



## A Letter to the Congregation

Dear Friends,

During Lent we have had the opportunity to just put life on hold for a short while so that we can have space to reflect upon Jesus's final days in Jerusalem. It is a story which can be described as revelatory and in the context of the 21<sup>st</sup> century it is worthwhile to ponder how it speaks to us. The last week of Jesus's life is incredibly important for Christians because 'Holy Week' can be understood as the most sacred of times in the Christian calendar.

Trevor Hudson in his study guide 'Pauses for Lent' refers to John 14:27: 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you'.

He draws our attention to two different kinds of peace. The first kind of peace is the one which the world gives. Hudson defines this kind of peace as fleeting feelings of contentment when we feel as if our lives are going well. Nevertheless these fleeting feelings can disappear very quickly. The second kind of peace is the peace that God provides for us. This can be referred to as a lasting peace because it isn't dependent upon what is happening in our lives. We are provided with an inner assurance that no matter what happens that peace cannot be taken away from us. As Julian of Norwich wrote: 'All shall be well, and all shall be well and all manner of things shall be well.'

If we just think about the final days of Jesus in Jerusalem we note that he trusts God completely. God's peace is evident in the life of Jesus. This is the peace that we are also offered. May we instinctively know that Christ has assured us of this peace.

We walk in peace to serve our Lord.

Helen Stewart - Chair of Church Council

## Entertainment Books

We are again selling Entertainment Books to fundraise for our Youth and Young Adults programs. (It pays for extras like bus hire for SYG and helping to get us to NCYC).

Thank you so much to those who have already purchased a book and for everyone's ongoing support. You can order an entertainment book at [www.entertainment.com.au/orderbooks/189g572](http://www.entertainment.com.au/orderbooks/189g572) or you can get books from the Church Office. If you have ordered a book, please come in and collect it from the Church Office.

Thank you - Alanee.

## The Christian Church in the World

### Islamic zeal in Turkey and Indonesia to soar over Easter

Turkey will hold a constitutional referendum on Easter Sunday, 16 April. If passed, it will increase the power of the president significantly, ironically reducing democracy by means of democracy. As the day approaches, President Erdogan will doubtless play the "populist" ethnic (Turkish), religious (Sunni Islamic) card relentlessly. An explosion of Turkish-Islamic supremacy would bode ill for the Church in Turkey.

Likewise, Jakarta will hold its gubernatorial run-off poll on Wednesday 19 April. The race pits the incumbent governor, ethnic Chinese Christian "Ahok" against "Anies" who is favoured by Islamists. Meanwhile, Ahok's blasphemy trial is expected to continue into May. Tensions are soaring.

Please watch and pray for Turkey and Indonesia and that, no matter what happens in the coming weeks, they will remain peaceful and the Church safe.

### Uncertainty for long-suffering Church in North Korea

North Korea will not disarm willingly as its weapons are a deterrent against foreign intervention. Tensions are reaching boiling point. Despite more than 100 years of severe persecution - under Japanese occupation, Soviet occupation and the Kim family - the Church is believed to number between 300,000 and 500,000. Christianity is prohibited with the threat of death for the believer and labour camp for the extended family. God alone sustains believers struggling to survive in labour camps or as secret believers. One day they will emerge as Korea's light, salt and healing. While we want to see the situation change, we do not want Korea's long-suffering Church engulfed in apocalyptic fire. Please pray that God will intervene for the well-being of the Korean Church and of the whole Korean Peninsula.

- from *Religious Liberty Prayer Bulletin*

"The suffering in the world" - we are reminded when reading the Bible in 1 Peter 1:3-9, that "even in trials and tribulations, 1 Peter insists that for Christians these experiences both purge and purify Faith, and that present woes are to be seen in the light of the future glory to be revealed in Christ Jesus". We may, for a while, suffer various trials, to test the genuineness of our faith, like gold is "tested" by fire, but we are never left alone. Thank you, Lord Jesus Christ.

## Urgent cry for help for Leisure Time

It is becoming increasingly difficult to find volunteers to maintain this well established and significant Outreach Programme. Leisure Time has been part of our congregation's programme for about 35 years and provides a wonderful place for friendship and a range of activities for seniors in our community who would otherwise be lonely and isolated.

Volunteers are desperately needed to assist in the kitchen and as hosts for one Monday each month. We also need an extra driver most weeks.

We are in danger of having to curtail the Leisure Time programme if we cannot find more helpers.

If you are able to give 4 hours once a month, i.e. from 10am to 2pm, please contact Elwyn Pederson on 9803 1378 or 0403 726 246.

If you would be prepared to assist in cleaning up or moving furniture between 1pm and 2pm, she would also be very pleased to hear from you.

## Calling those who are creative

The Faith Development Missional Group has decided that from time to time we would invite members of our church community to offer **creative pieces** to enhance our worship. We had in mind such things as paintings, drawings, photos, poetry, sculptures (not too large), an installation and craft work but it would all be based on a theme for the day.

We would like to work with this idea for **Pentecost Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> June**. Pentecost is a great theme to work with - the Holy Spirit, the fresh winds of the Spirit, the flames of the Spirit, renewal. We will find a way to display or show the work.

If you would like to contribute please let Neil or Mirini Lang know. Remember it is theme based. There will be other opportunities in coming months.

## Outreach Lunch Forum - Sunday 28 May at 12 noon

Our speakers will be Judy and Murray Lowe who are part of Friends of Baguia (a past COP recipient). They will report on their trip to Baguia in Timor Leste last year.

All welcome - please sign the attendance sheet at the office window.

## Communicating Short Term Changes

Sometimes the way we operate or use our buildings changes temporarily. For example, after Christmas and during January office hours, worship times, and available members of the ministry team change.

Information about short-term changes is given in the weekly and/or monthly bulletins and also posted on the notice board near the office. Changed worship times are also shown on the main outside notice board near the car park entrance. For those members of our congregation who like to find information on-line, this information is also available from our web site <http://gwuc.org.au> and from our latest news page at <http://wiki.gwuc.org.au/gwuc/HeadLines>.

None the less, the Communications Committee is aware that some people miss this sort of information. We would like your ideas on how we could do better. We are contemplating options for using services like email, facebook, and instant messaging to push notifications to people. (We won't be able to satisfy everyone's preferences because we don't want to spend too much money on this.) Please let the Communications Committee know if you would like to receive extra notifications about short term matters, and if so how you would like to get them (email, Facebook, instant message etc).

The Communications Committee is aware than not everyone has access to the internet. We are also interested in your ideas concerning how we could better get information to people who are not on-line.

Please contact John Snare ([john.snare@bigpond.com](mailto:john.snare@bigpond.com), 0448 998 775) with your ideas, or send them directly to the Communications Committee ([communications@gwuc.org.au](mailto:communications@gwuc.org.au)).

## A Sponsorship Opportunity

Following the successful completion of the first "Tree Chair" construction, Property Committee is offering the congregation an opportunity to sponsor two more to be installed around selected gum trees on our front lawns.

If you would like to cover the \$700 cost for each of the "Tree Chairs", please speak to Warren Greenwood.

## Annual Op Shop Support for Lentara

Between 1 May and 12 May 2017, Glen Waverley Uniting Church Asylum Seekers Support Group will again fundraise by staffing the Lions Club Op Shop in Mt Waverley. If you are able to assist or for further details contact Heather Wilkins on 9560 1440 or Andrew Hosking via [andrewhosking@gmail.com](mailto:andrewhosking@gmail.com)

## Inclusive Community Report.

**PRAYER SUPPORT GROUP.** If you have a prayer request and you don't want it placed in the prayer book, we do have a prayer support group. All requests for prayer are kept confidential and are only passed on to group members. We don't need to know why you are requesting prayer, just a name is fine. If you need more information, contact Heather or Wendy in the office during office hours, or Beverly on 0417 359 779.

CLUB 2017 will meet as normal today.

**STAR MAKING DAY.** Thanks to our star makers - you have done a wonderful job and the display in the foyer looks fabulous. (Many thanks to the willing volunteers who helped to put up the display.) We will have another star making session on Tuesday 16 May from 10.30 to about 12.30. Hub volunteers will help us and morning tea will be served. We hope that you can join us.

MWAB lunch will be held on Sunday 21 May in the hall. You should have received your invitations (please let us know if you haven't) and replies need to be in by Sunday 14 May.

**PASTORAL WORKSHOP.** The Pastoral Workshop was held last Sunday 30 April. We were thrilled that twenty-four Pastoral Partners and Pastoral Contact people joined us. It was an interesting program and we have had some positive feedback. We were very pleased that Rev. Tom Rose (a member of our congregation) was available to facilitate our discussions. We will have another workshop later in the year.

**MOTHERS' DAY.** We will be having a special morning tea (between services) on Sunday 14 May to honour mothers, grandmothers and aunties in our church community. This morning tea will replace our usual light lunch. Please join us for one of our services and morning tea.

**CHURCH ANNIVERSARY 25 JUNE.** There will be a lunch (sausages, salad and dessert) following the Anniversary service on Sunday 25 June. Cost will be \$10 per person or \$20 for a family. Inclusive Community committee members will be selling tickets from Sunday 28 May.

**OUR NEXT INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY MEETING** will be held on Thursday 18 May at 2.30pm in Room 1. If you have suggestions for activities, please let us know.

Jan Clear

Each Thursday morning from late April a small but dedicated group from our church is serving breakfast at Glen Waverley Secondary College. The breakfast consists of pancakes, toast and hot drinks and on the first day we served breakfast to 100 students. Over the weekend I was asked several times "how do you know if a student is really needy?" Many of the students we served had not had breakfast even though they could have if they chose to. We are not trying to meet a hunger need. The team is working in partnership with the school wellbeing team and volunteers from Young Life to provide the breakfast. Young Life sponsors the chaplain and is a Christian organisation that supports young people. The purpose of the breakfast is to provide a safe, welcoming environment where students can be affirmed and engage with our team, as well as engage with the wellbeing staff of the school and the Young Life volunteers. It is offering another friendly layer of support to students. Our team thinks it is well worthwhile.

Rev Neil Peters (and Alanee Hearnshaw)



### Material Aid Offering for May - "Off Your Back" coat appeal

The Outreach Missional Group have decided to hold an "Off Your Back" coat appeal as the **Monthly Material Aid offering for May**. The basket will be out to receive unwanted coats in reasonable condition on 14<sup>th</sup> May.

"Off your back" was started by a small group of people who wanted to make a difference for homeless people. They were not interested in meetings - just making a difference to the lives of people. Now individuals, businesses, schools and churches hold coat appeals to support homeless people.

"Off Your Back" gives the coats collected to the Salvation Army for distribution. The Salvation Army also supply coats to other not for profit groups working with homeless people.

If you have a coat you no longer use please consider donating it.

## Why walk to support School Chaplaincy?

I was recently asked how the Walk money was going to be used. I said it is primarily contributing to the commitment made by Glen Waverley Uniting Church to support the school chaplaincy program at Glen Waverley Secondary College. After telling the story it was suggested I write this up for the monthly Bulletin.

Glen Waverley Secondary College have had a chaplain at the school for over a decade. In 2015, following a High Court challenge, the Commonwealth Government found that it was not lawful for the Commonwealth to fund State School chaplaincy positions directly to the schools. The Commonwealth remained committed to the school chaplaincy program, so they provided the funds to the State Education Departments for them to distribute to the schools. In this process, the Education Department redirected the funding that was previously provided to Glen Waverley Secondary College to a school with a greater need for support. I completely understand why this happened.

However, Glen Waverley Secondary College remained committed to the chaplaincy position as they saw the benefit to the school community. The chaplain leads mentoring programs for students struggling to cope at school. The school principal invited churches and community groups to partner with the school to keep the chaplain employed at the school. The school contributes funds also.

Alanee and I attended a meeting at the school. The Outreach Missional Group, along with the Church Council, supported a partnership where this church would try and contribute \$5,000 per year. This initiative was considered consistent with our church's vision. In the first year some of the money came from interest from the church Endowment Fund. This year some came from last year's COP funds. Our contribution in both years has involved a significant contribution from the proceeds of the annual Walkathon. The money this church contributes goes towards meeting the \$10,000+ of program costs for the chaplain's work.

## Glen Waverley Secondary College Pancake Breakfast

During conversations about partnership with Glen Waverley Uniting Church an opportunity arose to recommence the pancake breakfast at the school. Alanee has patiently worked on this project and it recommenced last week as a trial for term 2.



## Glen Waverley Uniting Church & The Body Shop at The Glen are hosting



Australia's  
**BIGGEST  
MORNING  
TEA**

*Every cup counts in the fight against cancer*

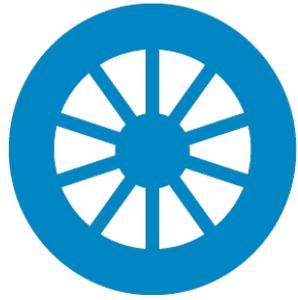
**ALL** donations to the Cancer Council  
Come along, bring your family and  
friends, enjoy morning tea together  
and support the Cancer Council  
**ALL WELCOME**

**Where: Glen Waverley Uniting Church**

**When: Thursday 25th May 2017**

**Time: 10 am to 12 noon**

*Please add your name to the list on the Office  
Counter if you are planning to attend. Thank you*



# COMMUNITY HUB

## Community Hub Missional Group

### Leisure Time

We now have a full list of guests (25), so we intend to start a waiting list. Such a list has not been required for many years.

Average attendance this year has averaged 18, with a maximum of 20.

We have completed one outing – a bus trip to a smorgasbord lunch at Lynbrook. A party of 23 enjoyed an excellent meal and pleasant company.

Our finances are in good shape – we have budgeted for a small loss this year, to maintain our “not for profit” status. Guest contributions have not increased for five years, and outing charges have in fact been reduced.

Our main concern is the number of volunteers. With a full guest list, the burden borne by existing volunteers has increased.

If required, a full copy of the AGM papers, which include an audited financial statement, can be supplied.

Cliff Baker for Laurel Muir

### Playgroups

Term 1 ended happily with Easter egg hunts and shared food for Easter celebrations.

Over the term numbers fluctuated, with Wednesdays being quiet and Fridays very busy. Overall, numbers are healthy and manageable.

Leadership poses a problem in late April and May, when five leaders will be unavailable. Thanks to Sheila, Lynn and Belen (a mother who will help each day while her child is at kinder), all groups will be able to continue until June, when most leaders will return. Playgroup mothers are eager to help, but someone needs to lead each session.

Future leadership at playgroup continues to be a challenge, since the personal situation of leaders changes. Family commitments make it increasingly difficult for me to supervise four mornings a week. I intend to resign as coordinator at the end of this year. Nevertheless I remain firmly convinced of the value of this part of the Church's outreach mission.

Kaye Mackinnon

### The Hub

Being a volunteer with The Hub is a great way of supporting and helping the many people who come into our church during the week. It has been good to see many familiar faces back at The Hub this year, and also to meet new people who are needing company, support, and a place where they feel at home.

Some of those who have become familiar faces at The Hub have now found employment, which is great! However, we will miss Nat and Roger.

Our Australia's Biggest Morning Tea at The Hub will be held on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May, 10am – 12noon. All donations will go to the Cancer Council Victoria. You are all welcome to join in this event, so come along, bring your family and friends, enjoy some good company, good food, and help support the Cancer Council Victoria.

If you would like to help at The Hub by talking, listening and enjoying a cuppa with others, please contact Judith on 9803 8373. We would love some new Hub volunteers or emergency volunteers.

Judith Greenwood

### Coee

This small group continues to meet every Friday. They enjoy a friendly chat and lunch before settling down to their favourite game, Scrabble. If you would like to join them, just give me a call.

Geraldine Fleming