



Glen Waverley

Uniting Church

Welcome

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

SUNDAY PREACHING PLAN - January 2018				
Time	January 7 Baptism of Jesus	January 14 Epiphany 2	January 21 Epiphany 3	January 28 Epiphany 4
10.00 am	Rev Neil Peters Communion	Heather Hon Alison Clarkson	Susan Karoly	Alanee Heamshaw Detrich Cheung
Lectionary	Genesis 1:1-5 Psalm 29 Acts 19:1-7 Mark 1:4-11	1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20) Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 John 1:43-51	Jonah 3:1-5, 10 Psalm 62:5-12 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 Mark 1:14-20	Deuteronomy 18:15-20 Psalm 111 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 Mark 1:21-28
Liturgical Colour	White	Green	Green	Green

DECEMBER

DECEMBER		DATES FOR YOUR DIARY
3 December	10 am	Combined Service and Christmas lunch
7 December	10 am	Christmas Morning Tea at The Hub
10 December	2.30pm	Carol Service
11 December	10 am	Leisure Time Service and Lunch
20/21 December	4-6 pm	Hub Kids Christmas Event
24 December	10am, 5pm & 11pm	Christmas Eve services
25 December	8.30am & 10am	Christmas Day services
31 December	10am	Combined Service

JANUARY

7 January	10am	Combined Service
14 January	10am	Combined Service





Join us for this special Christmas Morning Tea

欢聚一起 享用早点 共贺圣诞



EVERYONE WELCOME

欢迎大家参加

Where: THE HUB

Glen Waverley Uniting Church
Cnr Bogong Avenue & Kingsway

When: Thursday 7th December 2017

Time: 10 am to 12 noon

*Donations will be given to needy families
in our community*

If you would like to attend please add your name to the list
on the office counter.

The Christian Church in the World

Continuing deterioration of religious freedom in Russia

Although Russia was officially Christian for over 1000 years, some Protestant groups were considered 'dangerous sects' and were severely persecuted by the State in the 19th Century. After the Russian Revolution in 1917, atheism was propagated, all religions were persecuted and many church leaders were martyred or spent decades in labour camps. After the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, there was a short period of religious freedom and a spiritual revival across its former republics. Many people accepted Christ. However, Protestant Churches experienced restrictions on their outreach. In 1997, further restrictions resulted in religious freedom worsening. A package of Kremlin counter-terrorism measures enacted in July 2016 included prohibition of any outreach activity outside church premises. This particularly affects three million Protestant Christians. Please pray for Russia and its Church.

In China, Christian advocate confined in an "infinite darkness"

When Gao Zhisheng, committed Christian human rights attorney and religious liberty advocate, emerged from three years' secret detention in August 2014, many surmised he was "utterly destroyed". Confined to house arrest and denied access to medical care, Gao (who had survived torture) could have withered and died, but he did not - he recovered. Despite intensive supervision, Gao wrote both a memoir and a 40-page report on human rights in China. These secret writings were smuggled out and have since been published. On 13 August Gao "disappeared". Recently Gao's supporters have discovered that he is being held in a secret prison in Shaanxi Province, in solitary confinement, in total darkness and denied access to medical care. They fear for his life. Please pray for Gao and for China and its church.

From Religious Liberty Prayer Bulletin

Read Romans Chapter 12

"Lord Jesus Christ, give us courage as we journey with you, so that we can face the difficult challenges that lie ahead.

"Give us strength and patience along the way, so that we may keep on journeying wherever you lead us.

"May our discipleship be fulfilled through the love that we show in our lives."

from Frontier Services

SAMPARI 2017 PROGRAM

ACU Art Gallery

26 Brunswick St, Fitzroy

8 — 17 December



You are invited to a rich and varied series of events and forums during the Sampari 2017 Exhibition in the Australian Catholic University Art Gallery. The forums, hosted by the Federal Republic of West Papua's Women's Office, aim to increase the audience for the visual arts exhibited, and provide space for the exposure of other artists like Poets, Songsters, Musicians, Writers, Activists and Intellectuals.

Program

Friday 8 December at 6pm

Opening, Sampari Art Exhibition & Sale for West Papua. [Facebook](#)

Saturday 9 December, 1 – 4pm

Christmas Party, West Papua Rent Collective. [Facebook](#)

Sunday 10 December 1.30 - 3pm

Launch, World War Two West Papua Exhibition. [Facebook](#)

Wednesday 13 December, 6 – 8pm

Debate: Should Australia support West Papua's independence? [Facebook](#)

Thursday 14 December, 6 – 9pm

The Venus Forum: Stories of the Morning Star. [Facebook](#)

Friday 15 December, 6 – 8pm

Spoken Word – Poets inspired by West Papua. [Facebook](#)

Saturday 16 December, 1 – 4pm

Melanesian Culture Day. [Facebook](#)

Sunday 17 December 4pm

Closing of Sampari 2017 Art Exhibition and Sale

The exhibition runs for the entire week. The visual, sculpture, jewelry and craft artists are inspired by West Papua: by the people, their culture, politics, history, or extraordinary flora and fauna and maritime and territorial environments.

Church Council Information

Church Council met this week and the minutes will be available at <http://wiki.gwuc.org.au/gwuc/CouncilMinutes20171129>.

Glyn Howells was elected Chair for 2018. He requested a Deputy Chair, and Susan Karoly was elected to that position.

A Letter to the Congregation

Dear Friends,

Cross Cultural ministry is one of the areas in our vision. With the appointment of Dietrich Cheung we are excited that the possibilities we have long dreamed and prayed for are beginning to become a reality. Last week we hosted a group of Indonesians for four days so they could see the programs offered at Glen Waverley Uniting Church. When they met with the Q group for lunch on Friday they were presented with a wooden Celtic Cross to take back to their church and they were also each given a wooden Palm Cross. These palm crosses are often given to those in hospital and those enduring difficult times. Last Sunday the Indonesian congregation prepared a delicious Indonesian meal for the host families.

The Sacred Space remains a place of tranquillity where we can pray and support people who are in need of prayer.

As we stop to think about 'Christmas future' we reflect that Advent and Christmas are about a new world. We are to participate with God in bringing about this new world promised by Christmas. In St Augustine's aphorism, "God without us will not; we without God cannot." We who have seen the star are called to participate in the new birth and new world proclaimed by these stories. Jesus is already the light in the darkness for those who follow him.

Finally, congratulations to Glyn Howells on his election to Chair of Church Council and to Susan Karoly on her election to Deputy Chair, at the Council meeting on Wednesday 29 November. We pray that they will be richly blessed in their new roles.

May the God of hope fill you with joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit: Romans 15:13

Helen Stewart - December 2017.

GLEN WAVERLEY UNITING CHURCH
Ministry to Seniors



You are invited to join us for a Carol Service on
Sunday 10 December 2017 at 2.30pm

Free Spirit will lead the singing

ALL ARE WELCOME!

*'Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
Jesus comes;
we will make him welcome.'*

Cake and shortbread will be served after the service.



Glen Waverley Uniting Church
Cnr Kingsway & Bogong Avenue
Glen Waverley. 3150. Melway 71 C3

RSVP to Office 9560 3580
by Wednesday 6 December

Book Sale - March 3, 2018

Next year, we will again be holding a used book sale to raise money for the Church. Please put aside books you have read to donate to the sale and save the date in your diary. Helpers on the afternoon of March 2, and on the day, would be very much appreciated.

For further information, contact Sue Morgan on 9560 8024.

Devotions at Aged Care Facilities

This has been an important outreach over many years. In 2018 we will be losing some of our helpers. If you would like to join our team once a month as a leader of a short devotion or as a pianist, please speak to me.

Alison Clarkson

Autumn 2018 Getaway

Our Autumn 2018 Getaway will be to Warragul Gardens Holiday Park from 15th to 20th March 2018. Please call the park directly on 5923 2707 for bookings. Book early to avoid disappointment!

Car Parking Information

Please be aware that vehicles offloading passengers at the no standing area at the front of the church will continue to incur a \$160 fine from Monash Council.

Leisure Time Volunteers 2018

A reminder for Leisure Time Volunteers that Volunteer Forms for 2018 are due by Monday 4 December. The box for these is on the Office Counter.

Morning Tea Roster 2018

If you are willing to assist with Morning Tea in 2018, please add your name to the sheet on the office counter. If you are already on the roster you do not need to add your name. Enquiries to Rewa Feenaghty

Cleaning and Lawn Mowing Rosters 2018

Church cleaning and lawn mowing is carried out each week by volunteers. Four teams of two people each, clean a part of the complex or mow the lawns each week, taking no more than two hours.

If you are among the younger members of the congregation (under 70!) **please consider whether you could give a couple of hours** sometime on Friday evening or Saturday morning four to five times a year in 2018 to help keep our church tidy.

Please put your name on the list on the office counter if you can help. We will assume current volunteers are available again in 2018 unless they have already advised or note otherwise on the list.

For further details phone Herb Fleming on mobile 0407 516 827 or email fleminghe@outlook.com.



nǐ hǎo (hello in Mandarin)

My name is Dietrich Cheung. From 2017 I'll be working part-time at Glen Waverley Uniting Church as the "Community Planter". My main focus is working in 'cross-cultural' ministry within the local area of Glen Waverley; but you also will see me floating around doing a range of things within the Church community.

Previously I worked in sales and marketing, business development and management and completed my business studies at RMIT in 2010. I then discerned a call from God to ministry with a strong passion for counselling and pastoral care - leading me to complete my Masters of Divinity at the end of 2017. Recently, however, God has led me to work in youth ministry and in particular cross-cultural ministry and

mission. I still have a long way to go in my own spiritual journey - but God has been super gracious to me all the way thus far!

My main focus however will be spending lots of time with people from a Chinese background- trying to know them and their needs. Many are "unchurched" and have no previous experience in any Church community. As you may know already, the demographics surrounding the area of GWUC in the recent years is represented strongly by migrant communities (Chinese, Korean, Malaysian, Singaporean, Indonesian etc.)

We've been blessed with a great opportunity to do 'mission' within our own backyards! We just need the leadership and creativity of a strong team to build this ministry together. Thus, I envision the ministry of our Church being that 'middle' space where a lot of these people can find an even deeper connection within our existing faith community. Hopefully, in time many will come to learn about us and what we offer to them.

It would be my passion and mission to continue to serve Him through this new and exciting ministry to our local community. Come and say hi and ask me more about how we can partner together in our 'local mission' to our neighbours!

I look forward to serving alongside, fellowshiping with and getting to know all of you better!

Deitrich

UNITING CHURCH GLEN WAVERLEY
LEISURE TIME



INVITATION

Our Christmas Break-up is on

Monday 11 December 2017

*All Leisure Time volunteers are cordially invited to
join with guests and the committee in the Church
hall at*

10.15am

*for morning tea after which we will move to the
church for our entertainment.*

You may also wish to share in our

Christmas Service

On the same day at 1.30-2pm

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 join the rest of the church family for the Christmas dinner today. They will not meet in the fellowship area as they normally do.

Light Lunch: We would like to thank the people who joined us for light lunches after the 11am services this year. The lunches have been special times of fellowship and we will begin our light lunches again in February.

Munch with a Bunch was held on 12 November. Unfortunately I was unable to attend but many people told me that it was a great afternoon with musical items and beautiful food. When we have our meeting we will plan our munch with a bunch functions for 2018.

Church Christmas Lunch: This will be held today at 12noon in the hall. Our FISH groups prepare the food, set the tables and decorate the tables and hall. Many people work together to make it a happy occasion.

Our next **Inclusive Community Meeting** will be held on Monday 11 December at 2.30pm. If you have suggestions for activities please let us know. We will be preparing our program for January to June 2018.

Members of the **Glen Waverley Inter Church Council** have spent some time preparing the board that will display a Christmas message, on the corner of Springvale Road and Waverley Road. Look out for it when you are driving down Springvale Road in December.

Members of the **Inclusive Community Committee** would like to wish you a Happy and Holy Christmas and Good Health and Happiness in 2018.

Jan Clear



News from The Hub

The last day for The Hub in 2017 will be Thursday 7 December when we will have our special Christmas Morning Tea from 10am to 12noon. Come and enjoy this special morning tea with family and friends.

Thank you to everyone who has supported The Hub activities in 2017.

The Hub will resume in 2018 on Tuesday 6th February at 10am.

To our Hub Volunteers - thank you very much for all you have done for our visitors to The Hub in 2017. They have really appreciated your help and support in many different ways. Thank you also to those who have helped at our special morning teas during the year. The Hub and these morning teas are now better known by many people in the wider community who now attend regularly.

We look forward to another great year at The Hub in 2018.



Proverbs 27:18

*He who tends the fig tree will eat its fruit,
And he who cares for his master will be honoured.*

Our congregation has a strong commitment to raising funds for our outreach programs. This is something very special that brings the whole congregation together, especially on the

day of the Fete. At our last Church Council meeting, we were talking about the needs of our own congregation, and wondered, whether we have in our hearts, the energy and desire, that will also bring our congregation together to raise funds for our own needs. I would like to invite you to consider joining me in forming a small team in the New Year to brainstorm this idea.

Susan Karoly

NewView December 2017

Our final issue of *NewView* will occur in time for Christmas. Our theme will be "Reconsidering our faith through the Christmas story". What does Christmas mean to you? Where is it situated in your faith? How is it related to the Easter story? How is your faith reflected in what you do at Christmas? What theological or other writings or stories about Christmas have illuminated your understanding of Christmas?

NewView welcomes your stories, poems, book reviews, reports of recent GWUC community activities, letters and photos relating to our theme, or more generally to our shared faith journey and its activities.

Submissions to popesr@aapt.net.au or handed in to the Office no later than Friday December 15.



Hub Kids Unwrap Christmas - Wed 20 and Thurs 21 December

To make this event a great success we need some assistance from volunteers. A list of roles is below. Please sign up on the sheet on the office counter. We hope you can help.

Hospitality: making cuppas and chit-chat to parents who hang around and need a breather from the chaos of Christmas.

Welcomers: door greeters to welcome our guests at the beginning of the event.

Rego and Sign-in: ticking people off our pre-generated list from our online registration, plus following up any paperwork for "on the day" registration.

Afternoon Tea Preparations: cutting up fruit, chopping tops off icy poles, opening packets of chips for little fingers, mixing cordial for our little attendees.

Photographer: to take photos of our amazing event.

Bookmark makers: a sit at home job to be completed by Sunday 17 December. Cut, hole punch and tie ribbon onto a pre-printed bookmark.

First Aiders: Level 2 first aiders to be on site for the event.

Bigger Kids Space: fun interactive joining in our special Christmas Game show. If you enjoy joining in and playing a role this is for you.

Group Hosts: we would like a couple of volunteers who can stay with the older group and encourage them to volunteer in the "game show". These volunteers are sitting in with the group of kids, rather than running an activity.

Little Kids Space: we are aware that we have younger kids in our community, and whilst our main event is aimed at older primary, we would like some volunteers to play with the smaller folk. We will all have activities and entertainment ready to go, you just need to come and make craft with them.

Story Telling: We need a couple of volunteers to take small groups of little kids through an interactive telling of the Christmas story. (There will be a different one each day.)

A shopper to go shopping: Shopping list - fruit, icy poles, cordial, shortbread and Christmas cake.

Fruit buyer: to get a selection of fruit for afternoon snacks.



GLEN WAVERLEY UNITING CHURCH PRESENTS

HUB KIDS UNWRAP CHRISTMAS

WED 20+THURS 21 DEC

JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL KIDS CHRISTMAS EVENT
AS WE EXPLORE THE CHRISTMAS STORY IN AN
INTERACTIVE WAY

CRAFT - GAMES - CHALLENGES -
SNACKS - ACTIVITIES -
ENTERTAINMENT - LOADS OF FUN

\$5 PER SESSION 4PM - 6PM

REGISTER NOW

REGISTER ONLINE:
GWUC.ORG.AU
OR CALL US: 9560 3580

 GLEN WAVERLEY
Uniting Church
Located at the corner of Bogong Ave
& Kingaway, Glen Waverley