

# Glen Waverley

## Uniting Church

### Welcome

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

SUNDAY PREACHING PLAN - June 2018						
Time	June 3 Pentecost 2	June 10 Pentecost 3	June 17 Pentecost 4	June 24		
8.00 am	Helen Stewart Peter Baker Communion	Susan Karoly Rev Neil Peters Communion	Ross Mackinnon Communion	10am Combined Anniversary Service followed by lunch Ministry Team	1 Samuel 17: (1a, 4-11, 19-23), 32-49 or 1 Samuel 17:57-18:5, 10-16 Psalm 9:9-20 or Psalm 133 2 Corinthians 6:1-13 Mark 4:35-41	Green
9.15 am	Rev Neil Peters Communion	Rev Neil Peters	Rev Neil Peters			
11.00 am	Rev Neil Peters	Rev Neil Peters	Rev Neil Peters Communion			
4.30 pm	Children & Families	Children & Families TBA	Children & Families			
5.30 pm	Alanee Hearnshaw	State Youth Games	Alanee Hearnshaw			
Lectionary	1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20) Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 2 Corinthians 4:5-12 Mark 2:23-3:6	1 Samuel 8:4-11, (12-15), 16-20, (11:14-15) Psalm 138 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1 Mark 3:20-35	1 Samuel 15:34-16:13 Psalm 20 2 Corinthians 5:6-10, (11-13), 14-17 Mark 4:26-34			Green
Liturgical Colour	Green	Green	Green	Green		Green

June 22 - UCA Anniversary  
Lectionary: 2 Chronicles 30:1-9; Psalm 127; Ephesians 2:19-22; John 17:1-11  
Liturgical Colour: Red

### MAY

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY		
12 May	9am	Glenallen Working Bee
13 May	all day	Material Aid Offering
20 May	12 noon	Munch With A Bunch
24 May	10am	Biggest Morning Tea at The Hub
27 May	morning	Christian Unity Ecumenical Celebration
31 May	2.30pm	Inclusive Community Meeting

### JUNE

8-11 June	all day	State Youth Games
15 June	3pm	NewView Contributions Due
24 June	10am	Church Anniversary - Combined Service and Congregation Lunch





## Glen Waverley Uniting Church will be hosting



**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**  
**cnr Bogong Ave & Kingsway**

When: **Thursday 24th May 2018**

Time: **10 am to 12 noon**

To assist with catering, could you please add your name to the list on the office counter if you are planning to attend.

## The Christian Church in the World

**Iranian Refugees Abandoned:** Some 100 persecuted Iranians, most of them Christians, are currently facing deportation from Austria after the US reneged on its agreement with Austria. The asylum seekers, who had been vetted while still in Iran, travelled to Austria at the invitation of the US so they could apply to enter America as refugees under a US law known as the Lautenberg Amendment. This process has been operating since 2004. Now that the US has reneged, these 100 or so Iranians are facing the prospect of deportation back to Iran. On 21 February Austrian police raided an apartment building in Vienna where some of the Christian Iranians have been living, seizing their documents and passports and threatening them with deportation. Their situation is dire. Please pray for them.

**Church suffers as repression escalates in China and Vietnam:** China and Vietnam are Communist Party-ruled totalitarian states that have opened up economically in pursuit of prosperity. Both are mitigating the risks of openness by escalating repression and moving to exert greater control over their citizens by cracking down on speech, religion and association. In China, it is no longer possible to purchase Bibles on-line as the authorities move to take control not only of availability and distribution, but of the text itself. In Vietnam, as in China, human rights and religious liberty advocacy is undertaken at great personal risk. On 5 April two Christian religious liberty advocates - human rights lawyer Nguyen Van Dai (48) and Pastor Nguyen Trung Ton (46) received 15- and 12-year prison terms respectively after the court deemed them guilty of subversion. Please pray.

*from Religious Liberty Prayer Bulletin*

John 12:20-26

“Conveniently, I forget that life springs  
new-nurtured out of sacrifice.  
That grain must fall, lose light,  
die in darkness,  
and that wheat-roots tangle underground  
with the dead husk of seed.  
Lord, help me to see,  
with the clear clarity of Christ’s vision,  
that life is more than these.  
That in the economics of eternity  
all gain is loss, loss gain.  
Accountancy reborn in love.  
And love, selfgiving, free,  
so difficult,  
counts everything  
by counting nothing.”

“Meditations” by Eddie Askew

## Material Aid Offering - Sunday 13 May

The May Material Aid Offering will be in support of the Glen Waverley Uniting Church Welfare Committee. The Welfare team regularly have people coming to the church for assistance with food, medication, transport, and sometimes energy accounts.

The material aid offering is for non-perishables such as breakfast cereals, long life milk, Milo, canned fruit, soups, tea, coffee, biscuits, toothpaste and brushes, soap and washing powders.

The Welfare work of our church makes a real difference in people's lives.



## Uniting World - Reducing Foreign Aid

Uniting World is concerned by reports of further cuts to the Foreign Aid budget in this year's budget. Uniting World states "we know that assistance through partnership can make an enormous difference to poor communities overseas. Assisting people to thrive in their own communities seems a better way to enhance security for everyone, including Australia". Uniting World asked those who share their concern to write letters to the Prime Minister and relevant minister.

## Many Thanks

Sunday 23 October 2011 may not be a day you recall particularly well, but it was the first time we attended a service at Glen Waverley. Only a few days earlier, on Thursday 20, we'd landed at Tullamarine, wide eyed and exhausted, as migrants to Australia from the UK. We'd never been here, we knew no one in Australia, and we'd found Glen Waverley Uniting Church from its website. We needed to put down roots and we needed to find friends.

We are enormously grateful to GWUC collectively, and to many of you as individuals, that we did put down roots, and we made some fabulous, lifelong, generous friends (you know who you are). On that first Sunday, and in the weeks and months that followed, people noticed us, talked to us, cared about us, and even now, writing this, I feel very emotional that you did that. There were countless acts of generous, selfless kindness. It made the daunting prospect of building a new life in Australia so much easier. Some of you will have met my late Mum on her two visits to see us over here - she viewed GWUC as the church she wished she could attend all the time, and as her worshipping home when here.

And now, with enormous thanks for your role in the last six and a half years of our lives, but also with huge sadness in leaving, we have moved on. We have built a new home in Lara, and a couple of weeks ago attended GWUC for the last time. We will miss you, and I know that many will miss us. Please don't be strangers - we are 75 minutes away along the M1, and if you don't have our contact details, the church office does.

And once again, thank you. I cannot express how much your love and care has meant to us.

Chris Owen.

## UCA Assembly Meeting in July - Update

This is the first of what will be several updates leading in to the UCA Assembly meeting being held in July at Box Hill. The Assembly meets every three years. Many reports will be received, proposals considered, discussions held, and decisions made. It is also a time to network across Australia. It is an important meeting for our church.

Some of the reports have just been released. The church council wants this congregation to be informed about some of the things coming before this Assembly meeting. The Assembly Standing Committee are bringing a report on marriage and same gender relationships. The last Assembly resolved for this work to be done and to bring a report to the next meeting. This is a sensitive issue for the church. We all know that different members hold different views. As we prepare for the Assembly it will be important to be respectful of the diversity of our church as a whole and within our own congregation. It will be important to be prayerful.

At the moment there are four possible options for the Assembly meeting to consider arising from this extensive report. I will share them with you but please realise that further proposals may come to Assembly on this matter and that there may be amendments during the course of the Assembly meeting as well.

The possible options are:

1. Offer the rites of marriage only to opposite-gender relationships, while allowing Ministers and Uniting Church authorised celebrants to conduct, or to decline to conduct, “blessings” of same-gender relationships as long as such ceremonies “do not resemble marriage” without any officially approved rites for such services.
2. Offer the rites of marriage only to opposite-gender relationships, while allowing Ministers and Uniting Church authorised celebrants to conduct, or to decline to conduct, “blessings” of same-gender, covenantal relationships according to officially approved rites for such services.
3. Offer the rites of marriage only to opposite-gender relationships, and forbid Ministers and Uniting Church authorised celebrants to conduct blessings of same-gender covenantal relationships.
4. Offer the rites of marriage to opposite-gender and same-gender couples, while allowing Ministers and Uniting Church authorised celebrants freedom of conscience to perform marriages or not.

The full and extensive report is found at the link below. 4.2 is the executive summary which gives you an overview.

<https://uniting.church/b23-standing-committee-report-on-marriage-and-same-gender-relationships/>

Neil Peters - on behalf of Church Council.

## Christian Unity Ecumenical Celebration - Sunday 27 May

Once again we have been invited to take part in the Christian Unity Ecumenical Celebration on Trinity Sunday, 27 May. The churches taking part in our group are St Stephen & St Mary Anglican Church (383 High Street Road, Mt Waverley) (service 9am), St Leonard's Catholic Church (349 Springvale Road Glen Waverley) (service 10am), St Justin's Catholic Church (48 Whalley Drive Wheelers Hill ) (service 10.30) and our church at 11am. We need two people for each church (including ours) - one to read a prayer (provided) and the other to light a candle (provided). Members of the congregation who have attended the services at other churches in the past have found them interesting and have enjoyed the experience.

If you want more information or want to volunteer, please contact Wendy or Heather in the office.

Jan Clear.

## Glenallen - Giving us all a chance to shine!

To celebrate the longstanding relationship between Glenallen School and Glen Waverley Uniting Church we have again this year been cordially invited to attend two of their Working Bees to be held at the school this year.

No special skill set is required to attend but a willing pair of weeding hands and skills for simple handyman tasks will be sufficient talents to assist the school.

Dates for your diary are the following:-

Saturday 12 May - 9am to 11.30am

Saturday 27 October - 9am to 11.30am

If you believe that this opportunity is your moment to shine please add your name to the list on the Office Counter or speak with Andrew Hosking for more details.

## Opportunity to Visit Tondano, Sulawesi, Indonesia

The Church Council is actively encouraging a sister church relationship with the Riedel congregation in Tondano, Sulawesi, Indonesia. This is Lucky Kalonta's home church and Alanee visited the congregation, where she was warmly welcomed, after attending the Asian Ecumenical Youth Conference. Last year we had a small group from the Riedel congregation visit our church and we are planning a return visit in August. Neil is going and is seeking a small group to come with him departing 5 August and returning 14 August.

Why would this congregation want to nurture a sister church relationship?

The Riedel congregation wants to learn from a congregation like ours. We have an opportunity to learn from them as well. We are forced to think about what is the Gospel, and what is cultural when it comes to faith and church. We will become more sensitive when developing our cross cultural ministry. We can share joys and pray for each other. We can learn about living in a multi faith community. We can hear what it is like for the Christians to be a minority group in a country. It will open our eyes and ears to the real issues facing our near neighbour Christian community. We are reminded that we are part of a worldwide Church.

If you are interested in the trip or want to know more please speak to Neil, Sony or Glyn.



## “A great time of fellowship”



On Tuesday, 1 May, I was one of many who attended the UCAF fundraising luncheon. The speakers David and Shirley Williams took us on a wonderful adventure around Australia through their talk and the paintings by David.

We were then encouraged to sit next to someone we did not know over luncheon. It was a wonderful time to catch up with unfamiliar and familiar faces. Through this time of fellowship, I was able to get to know those with whom I sat a little better.

I came away from the luncheon thinking how important fellowship is along with our faith development through worship and Bible study.

Jesus had a reputation from the Pharisees and Sanhedrin of being a 'party' boy, but through the times when he gathered over a meal, it gave an opportunity for everyone to get to learn more intimately about each other.

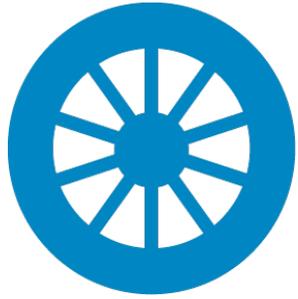
Often it is during the times of fellowship that I feel the Spirit moves us to informally 'brainstorm' how as a congregation we can not only witness to others the love of Jesus Christ but also recognise how *everyone* within our congregation forms a most important part of the body of Christ.

*“But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.”*

Ephesians 4:15-16.

So thank you to all - our speakers, the many volunteers who organised such a wonderful experience, and to the folks who attended the luncheon that made the fundraiser successful.

Susan Karoly - Deputy Chair, Church Council.



# COMMUNITY HUB

## Community Hub Missional Group

### Badminton: Andrew Hosking

The Badminton and Table Tennis groups both continue to be a very popular form of community outreach, with an average of about 18 players, including occasional visitors. These groups meet on Mondays and Thursdays from 8-10 pm. A new portable table tennis table is needed to accommodate increasing numbers of players.

### Cocee: Geraldine Fleming

This very small group meets a real need for the members who chat together over lunch. It continues to gather weekly on Fridays.

### Happenings at The HUB: Judith Greenwood

The Hub has been a very busy place this year with new people coming each week, and familiar faces returning regularly. Some days there have been around 18 people at The Hub. Some Hub visitors attended our church during Easter. They really appreciate all that The Hub and our church do to help them.

Our Hot Cross Bun Morning Tea at The Hub was a great success. Many people from the wider community attended, some for the first time, and others who are now coming regularly. Donations of \$950 were given to The Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal.

Our Australia's Biggest Morning Tea at The Hub will be held on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May, 10am - 12noon. All donations from this morning will go to 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 Cancer Council Victoria.

We would love some new Hub volunteers and it would also be great to have some more emergency volunteers to help out when volunteers are sick or on holidays.

If you would like to help at The Hub, even once a term, please contact Judith on 9803 8373. Thank you.

## Next Issue of NewView

The next issue of *NewView* will occur in late June. As we remember the many changes which occurred with the formation of the Uniting Church in 1977, we will consider the theme of 'Change'. During our lives we change as we grow and gain more experience; modern life itself seems characterised by a rapid rate of change. Adjusting to change forces us to: examine our own attitudes and to determine what is important and must be retained - and why; or decide to consciously alter our own attitudes and practices. Or perhaps we bury our heads in the sand and ignore the world around us by refusing to acknowledge that change is necessary!

What changes have impacted on your life? Was it anticipated with joy, or was it unwelcome? How did you cope with it? What did you decide was non-negotiable and should continue the same? What did you relinquish, and why? What was the outcome? How was change achieved? Looking back, do you think it could have been managed differently, or better? What did you learn from the experience?

Your stories, anecdotes, poems, photos on the theme are welcomed, as are reports, reviews and photos of recent happenings in our community that keep us all informed about our many members and their activities. Send your submission to [popesr@aapt.net.au](mailto:popesr@aapt.net.au) by Friday, June 15, or hand it in to the office.

Robin Pope.

## **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. Beverly would like to thank those who give up their time to be part of this ministry. If you need more information or would like to be part of the prayer support group, contact Heather or Wendy in the office, during office hours, or Beverly on 0417 359 779.

**Club 2018** will meet as normal today.

**Goodbye:** Chris Owen and Sharon Harper-Wilkinson have built a home in Lara (not far from Geelong). Sharon, Chris and their daughter Rhian have been part of our congregation for six and a half years. They found Glen Waverley Uniting Church on the internet before they left England. Chris attended the 11am service regularly. He has been one of our speakers at the Way of the Cross at Central Reserve on Good Friday and has also spoken at church services and led a couple of Lenten studies. Rhian has been a member of the youth group and attended when she wasn't studying or working. Sharon has helped with Hub morning teas, playgroup, relieved in the office sometimes and was on one of our COP committees. We are glad to know that they have a home of their own now and we hope that they will be very happy as they settle into life in a new community. We wish them well.

**Walkathon:** On Saturday 28 April a number of people supported Neil and walked to raise funds for Chaplaincy and the Breakfast Program at Glen Waverley Secondary College and SRI (Religious Education) in Primary Schools. The walkers enjoyed snacks, morning tea and lunch prepared and served by Inclusive Community Committee members and other helpers. Thanks to helpers and walkers.

**Medical Forms:** If you submitted a medical form last year and you want to update your details now, please let me know and I will give you a new form to fill out. If I do not hear from you I will presume that your details are unchanged.

**Mothers' Day:** On Mothers' Day we will have a special morning tea between services. If you are a mother, sister, auntie, grandma, friend or an adopted mother or grandmother, please join us.

**Munch with a Bunch** lunch will be held on Sunday 20 May in the hall. If you do not have your invitation you should receive it this week.

**Our next Inclusive Community meeting** will be held on Thursday 31 May at 2.30pm in Room 2. If you have suggestions of activities, please let us know.

Jan Clear.

## **Community Hub Missional Group (continued)**

### **Leisure Time: Laurel Muir**

Leisure Time continues to be busy and much appreciated by the guests, thanks to the large band of committed volunteers who act as drivers, hostesses, and prepare a delicious lunch. In fact, there have been some problems lately with overcrowding due to the unexpected arrival of people who are not members. A pleasant lunch outing was enjoyed at Lyndhurst Hotel. More lunch outings are planned for later in the year, including a film and lunch at the Pinewood Cinema.

The Leisure Time AGM was held on 16 April.

### **Playgroups: Bev Richardson**

Our four playgroups are continuing to operate this year, catering for about thirty families, including about forty-five children. Playgroup continues to be enjoyed and appreciated by parents and especially grandparents, as they care for their little ones. The GWUC volunteers who lead these groups are very much appreciated but new volunteers are always needed.

### **Welfare: Neil Peters and Dorothy Lockhart**

There continues to be a constant demand for this much needed service and resources have been strained. Nevertheless congregational groups and individual members have made much appreciated contributions. Most clients are experiencing multiple issues that contribute to their hardship. Donations of coffee and long life milk are always needed.

The Welfare Committee continue to liaise frequently with other local community support agencies and are regularly invited to attend training sessions.

## SOUND ADVICE

Providing sound management for worship, weddings and funerals is becoming a challenge for the congregation.

We are looking for people to learn the basics of sound management to enable us to continue to help church functions, hirers and others to use our church facilities.

If you would be willing to learn how to connect and control a microphone, please add your name to the list on the office counter.

This does not require technical knowledge, just organisational skills.

We are particularly looking for people who can be available during the day. This is when most weddings and funerals are held and is the time we are finding most difficult to get help.

In some instances you may even receive a payment from the hirer for performing this task.

**To all existing sound operators:** We need to give everyone some additional training on how to best use the church systems as there have been some minor changes and we wish to ensure the best outcomes for operators and users.

In the next few weeks we will be arranging training opportunities to help. Please try and find time to attend.

If you have a question, please contact the office or myself.

Thank you -

Warren Greenwood - Property Chairperson

Mobile: 0403028948

[warren@rwg.com.au](mailto:warren@rwg.com.au)



## WEDDING AND FUNERAL SUPPORT

We need stewards for weddings and funerals.

This task involves opening and closing the church for the function, ensuring the organisers have what they need and for funerals providing support to the funeral companies.

It may also require help in turning microphones on, making sure there is toilet paper and hand towels available etc.

If the requirements are more complex than that, others will always help you.

These needs are almost always during the day and are hard for us to cover.

It does not require heavy lifting skills.

There is also a need for people willing to clean up afterwards, and usually the hirer will offer a thank you payment.

You will always be contacted and asked if you are available.

You will always have people to help get you going.

If you can or would be a steward, could you add your name to the list on the office counter.

If you have a question, please contact the office or myself.

Thank you -

Warren Greenwood - Property Chairperson

Mobile: 0403028948

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