



# Glen Waverley

## Uniting Church

### Welcome

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

#### SUNDAY PREACHING PLAN - January 2019

Time	January 6 Epiphany of the Lord	January 13 Baptism of Jesus	January 20 Epiphany 2	January 27 Epiphany 3
10.00 am	Rev Neil Peters Holy Communion	Jan Clear Alison Clarkson Evangeline Pua	Heather Hon Ross Mackinnon	Alanee Hearnshaw
Lectionary	Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12	Isaiah 43:1-7 Psalm 29 Acts 8:14-17 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22	Isaiah 62:1-5 Psalm 36:5-10 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 John 2:1-11	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a Luke 4:14-21
Liturgical Colour	White	White	Green	Green

#### DECEMBER

DECEMBER		DATES FOR YOUR DIARY
2 December	10am	Combined Worship & Christmas lunch
2 December	5pm	Indonesian Christmas Service & dinner
6 December	10am-12noon	Hub Christmas Morning Tea
10 December	10.30am	Leisure Time Break-up
11 December	8pm	Remembrance Service
16 December	2.30pm	Seniors Carol Service
24 December	5.30 & 11pm	Christmas Eve Services
25 December	8.30 & 10am	Christmas Day Services
31 December	11pm	New Years Eve Service

#### JANUARY

All weeks	10am	Combined Worship Services during January
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## 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 6th December 2018

Time: 10 am to 12 noon

*Donations welcome for needy families  
in our community*

To assist with catering, please add your name to the list on the office counter.

### The Christian Church in the World - December

**Assyrian Crisis in Iraq and Syria:** Assyrians are Christians and the indigenous nation of Mesopotamia (Syria-Iraq). While jihadist activity remains a problem, the threat posed by Kurdish nationalism is growing. The Assyrian remnant in northern Iraq's Nineveh Plains is struggling to rebuild amidst gross insecurity, systematic discrimination, political marginalisation and land seizures. Meanwhile, the Assyrian remnant in north-east Syria's Hasakah Province is struggling to retain its autonomy and culture as Kurdish authorities move to control the education sector. In both Iraq and Syria, Assyrian educators, writers and political figures who resist or criticise the Kurdish authorities are beaten, arrested and intimidated into silence. Kurdish nationalists aim to drive Assyrians from their ancestral lands so Kurds might colonise and eventually annex these lands into a future Kurdish state. Please pray for the Assyrian nation. (Isaiah 19:23-25)

**The North Korean stalemate needs a breakthrough:** North Korea and America have taken steps to improve their relationship. However, a stalemate has set in which threatens to freeze millions of North Koreans - especially those who are poor, imprisoned and / or Christian - in an appalling status quo. North Korea wants America to sign a peace treaty, after which confidence-building measures and concessions can proceed. Meanwhile, the US is demanding, first and foremost, North Korea's "complete verifiable and irreversible denuclearisation", hence the stalemate needs a breakthrough.

Fortunately our God is "Baal-perazim", the God who breaks through (2 Samuel 5:17-21). On Sunday 9 September North Koreans will celebrate the 70th anniversary of their Independence Day. Pray that our ever-creative God will break through the stalemate so the painstaking work of peacemaking can proceed. May God sustain his remnant Church in North Korea.

*from Religious Liberty Prayer Bulletin*

Take Psalm 96 as a beginning of a Meditation. "Declare His glory among the nations" and "Say among the nations: the Lord is King!" But there is a sense of hopelessness for many people, floods, famines, disasters, political upheaval have stripped away people's hope.

Let us look at Revelation 21:1-5. "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them." What a wonderful promise!

"N.T.Wright suggests that a good definition of "the Church" would be: "people who gather together to share hope and be people of hope in the world", right where God has placed you". "May we pray for the Holy Spirit to move us all, as God's children, into the world with actions of love, of service, and hope that reveals the presence of God."

*from "Surprised by Hope" by N.T. Wright*

# ST. JOHN'S UNITING CHURCH

40<sup>th</sup>  
1978 - 2018



## CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

9<sup>th</sup> December 2018  
8.00 pm

Featuring guest artists  
Come along and join in your favourite carols

St John's Uniting Church  
37 Virginia Street Mount Waverley

GLEN WAVERLEY UNITING CHURCH PRESENTS

# HUB KIDS EXPLORE CHRISTMAS

THUR 6 DEC

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

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

\$5 PER CHILD 4PM - 6PM

**REGISTER NOW**

REGISTER ONLINE:  
[GWUC.ORG.AU](http://GWUC.ORG.AU)  
OR CALL US: 9560 3580



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

### **Opportunity to visit Tondano, Sulawesi, Indonesia in 2019**

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 this year, 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 were planning to have a group visit this year until Neil had surgery. We are planning now a return visit in May 2019, probably leaving in the week commencing Monday 13<sup>th</sup>. Neil is going and is seeking a small group to come with him. This puts us in off peak time for flights. Neil is planning to stay 2 Sundays as several churches now want him to visit. Some who come may stay the 2 weeks that Neil is staying and some may return a little earlier. The Indonesian congregations are very keen for us to visit.

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 own intercultural 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 to join the trip or want to know more please speak to Neil, Sony, Glyn or Vida as soon as possible.

### **New Year's Eve Worship**

Neil has received some encouragement to hold a New Year's Eve service which will be held on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> December at 11 pm. It will be an opportunity to worship God, prayerfully reflect on the year that has been, and look forward with hope and expectation to the coming year. All are welcome to come and share in this time of worship.

### **Introducing Evangeline Pua**

Neil has invited Evangeline Pua to preach at the 10 am service on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> January. Alison and Jan will lead the rest of the service. Evangeline recently became a member in association with this congregation. She worships at the Indonesian service and sometimes preaches there. Evangeline has 10 years experience as an ordained minister in Indonesia where her ministry was respected and appreciated. She has an interest in eco-theology. Evangeline and her husband came to Australia to study. Evangeline speaks good English and Neil was delighted when Evangeline agreed to preach in January.

### **Empty Christmas Tree - Welfare**

The Empty Christmas Tree is quite empty. You are invited to bring along a gift for under the Christmas tree. Gifts will be distributed to some in our community (through Welfare) and also to Broadmeadows. Please do not wrap your gifts.

This year we are also collecting non-perishable food items which may be placed under the tree for Welfare to distribute.

Welfare Team thanks you in advance for your donations.

### **Presbytery Property Committee**

We have received a letter looking for new members for Presbytery Property committee, especially Building trades(Electrician, Plumber etc), Renovator, Architect, Structural Engineer, General Handyman, Real Estate, Landscape Gardener, Building Inspector. Anyone interested please contact David Morgan or the office.



### **COP Presentations - Sunday 9 December at 11am**

The COP presentations to Congregation nominators of projects in 2018 will occur at the 11am service on Sunday 9 December. Those receiving a grant have been invited to the service.

The final fete result and distributions were made known to the congregation at the Congregational Meeting held in November.

### **West Papua Christmas Party - Sunday 9 December @ 1pm**

All are welcome to join us for a two course lunch on Sunday 9 December from 1pm. Guest Speaker, Dr Jemina Amery-Gale, will give a talk on threatened wildlife of West Papua and ecology. Interestingly Australia and West Papua share similar flora and fauna.

Come and enjoy good food, entertainment, merchandise, gifts and meet other supporters. Come to support West Papua and catch up on their inspiring journey to liberation. FRWP Office 838 Collins St Docklands (10 mins walk from Southern Cross or 3 tram stops D17.)

For further information call Faye on 0402 853 147.

### **Funeral Catering**

New Volunteers willing to occasionally provide sandwiches or slice for Church Family funerals would be greatly appreciated. If you are able to assist, please add your name to the list on the office counter.

Eileen Scott.

### **The Hub**

The last day for The HUB this year is Thursday 6th December when we will finish the year with our special Christmas Morning Tea at The HUB, 10am - 12noon.

The HUB will resume in 2019 on Tuesday 5th February at 10am.

*A moment of peace*

*A time to remember*

*a loved one*

*A space to breathe*

*A chance to reflect*

*An opportunity to pray*



*You are warmly invited to come along and share  
in a Service of Remembrance - a time to  
remember those who are no longer with us.*

*Tuesday December 11th - 8.00pm*

*Enq: Neil Peters or the Church Office*

*UNITING CHURCH GLEN WAVERLEY  
LEISURE TIME*



*INVITATION*

*Our Christmas Break-up is on*

*Monday 10 December 2018*

*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*

**Why two big Christmas celebrations on the same day - 2  
December?**

A few people have asked why is the Congregation Christmas lunch and the Indonesian Christmas celebration and their dinner on the same Sunday. Surely it would be better to spread over different Sundays.

The answer is quite simple. On a normal Sunday afternoon we have the Indonesian service at 1 pm followed by lunch, we have a 4.30pm children and families gathering and we have a 5.30 pm service. So, when we have a 10 am service on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December and lunch the church complex is free in the afternoon to enable the Indonesian celebration to happen. Also, their celebration can't happen much later as many of their members return to Indonesia by mid December to share Christmas with family.

**December Issue of NewView**

Our theme for this issue is "Making room in our hearts". This might encompass stories, poems, photos, ideas about times when we found room in our hearts for others - and the consequences. It might include musings on how our lives have been enriched in simple ways by people, ideas or actions outside our usual daily routines and environment. Alternatively, perhaps making room for others has presented challenges to our usual behaviour, attitudes and ideas, and therefore has become something we fear a little! Perhaps a nasty experience has caused a loss of trust in others? What guidance do we obtain from our 'wisdom texts', the Bible?

In addition to contributions on our theme, we welcome reports, pictures etc about recent events in our community or involving those who meet together in this place, so that we can all share our joys and concerns for each other.

Send your contributions to Robin Pope at [popesr@aapt.net.au](mailto:popesr@aapt.net.au) by December 14, or hand them in to the office.

## GLEN WAVERLEY UNITING CHURCH



You are invited to join us for a Carol Service on

**Sunday 16 December 2018 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.



### **Inclusive Community Report - December**

**Prayer Support Group:** If you have a prayer request and 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. Thanks to the fifteen people who make up the prayer support group.

**Club 2018** will not meet today as it is the Church Family Lunch. Our F.I.S.H. groups prepare the food and set and decorate the tables and hall.

**Munch with a Bunch:** Our Christmas Munch with a Bunch lunch was held on Sunday 18 November. More than 70 people attended and enjoyed a lovely lunch and entertainment. This was our last MWAB function for 2018. We look forward to many happy gatherings next year.

**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. We will begin our light lunches again in February.

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

**Our next Inclusive Community Meeting** will be held on Thursday 6 December at 12.30pm. If you have suggestions for activities, please let us know. We will be preparing our program for 2019.

**Diary Date - Seniors' Carol Service** Sunday afternoon, 16 December at 2.30pm.

Members of the Inclusive Community Committee would like to wish you a Happy and Holy Christmas and Good Health and Happiness in 2019.

Jan Clear.

## **Acknowledgement of Australia's First Peoples**

The meeting of the congregation on November 20th discussed how we might acknowledge the First Peoples who occupied the land where our church now sits.

We were reminded that the preamble of the Uniting Church constitution was revised in 2009 to include reference to Australia's First Peoples as follows: "As the Church believes God guided it into union so it believes that God is calling it to continually seek a renewal of its life as a community of First Peoples and of Second Peoples from many lands". We were encouraged to follow the lead of the Uniting Church Assembly and find a way to locally acknowledge Australia's first peoples.

The community in which we live is changing very rapidly, and as we imagine and plan for the future, we should not forget what has gone before us; especially the people who lived in this land before us and what we might learn from them. Some members of the congregation are of the opinion that we should find a way to ensure that newcomers are made aware of our heritage leading back to Australia's First Peoples.

Both Church Council and the November meeting of the congregation have expressed the view that we should not go down the path of making statements at the start of regular worship services or meetings.

Church Council feels comfortable with the following statement that might be included on a sign or plaque: "In the spirit of reconciliation and solidarity the congregation of Glen Waverley Uniting Church acknowledge that the land on which we gather to praise God is part of the traditional lands of the Wurrundjeri people of the Kulin nation. Across this wide land we recognise the First People's continuing connection to country, water and community, and recognise Elders past, present and emerging."

St Luke's Uniting Church has a plaque that states: "In the spirit of reconciliation, we the congregation of St Luke's Uniting Church acknowledge that the land on which our church stands is part of the traditional lands of the Wurrundjeri people. We respect the close spiritual and cultural ties of the aboriginal people to their land and commit ourselves to work for justice for indigenous people".

The meeting of the congregation was offered another example of a statement that might be used: "In the spirit of reconciliation, we acknowledge that we are meeting on this land and have connection with this land, the land of the Wurrundjeri people of the Kulin nation.

## **Acknowledgement of Australia's First Peoples (...ctd)**

They were the custodians of this land for thousands of years. We pay our respect to their tribal elders, both past and present, for they hold the memories, the traditions and the culture of aboriginal Australia. We give thanks for their descendants who went on to maintain their spiritual connections and traditions. Together we focus on a united and unified and cohesive nation. We walk together and hope for a better future."

The November meeting of the congregation agreed by consensus that we, as a congregation, would like to progress acknowledgement of Australia's First Peoples in some way.

As we imagine and plan for the future it is appropriate to consider how this acknowledgement might be done and to discuss and consider options widely throughout the congregation. I would like to invite you to volunteer to work with people throughout the congregation over coming months to identify options and what might be broadly acceptable. I encourage you to consider joining a group for this, because this is not a job for just a few. If you are interested contact me ([john.snare@bigpond.com](mailto:john.snare@bigpond.com)), Glyn Howells ([councilchair@gwuc.org.au](mailto:councilchair@gwuc.org.au)) or Heather Hon ([office@gwuc.org.au](mailto:office@gwuc.org.au)).

John Snare - Chair of meetings of the congregation.

## **Morning Tea Roster 2019**

Want to get to know the congregation better? Why not join the happy morning tea team.

If you are willing to assist with Morning Tea in 2019, 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 on 9560 0829.

## **Office Christmas Closure**

The Church Office will be closed from Tuesday 25 December and reopen on Monday 7 January. For the first two weeks (Monday 7 January to Friday 18 January) the office will be open for reduced hours from 9.30am until 3pm each day. On Monday 21 January the office will revert to its normal hours.