



Glen Waverley

Uniting Church

Welcome

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

SUNDAY PREACHING PLAN - February 2019							
Time	February 3 Epiphany 4	February 10 Epiphany 5	February 17 Epiphany 6	February 24 Epiphany 7			
8.00 am	Ross Mackinnon Communion	Susan Karoly Communion	Ross Mackinnon Communion	Rev Neil Peters Communion			
9.15 am	Rev Neil Peters Communion	Rev Neil Peters	Rev Neil Peters	Alanee Hearnshaw			
11.00 am	Rev Neil Peters	Rev Neil Peters	Rev Neil Peters Communion	Alanee Hearnshaw			
1.00 pm	Indonesian Service	Indonesian Service	Indonesian Service	Indonesian Service Rev Neil Peters			
4.30 pm	Children & Families	Children & Families	Children & Families	Children & Families			
5.30 pm	Alanee Hearnshaw	Alanee Hearnshaw	Alanee Hearnshaw	Alanee Hearnshaw			
Lectionary	Jeremiah 1:4-10 Psalm 71:1-6 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 Luke 4:21-30	Isaiah 6:1-8 Psalm 138 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 Luke 5:1-11	Jeremiah 17:5-10 Psalm 1 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 Luke 6:17-26	Genesis 45:3-11,15 Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50 Luke 6:27-38			
Liturgical Colour	Green	Green	Green	Green			Green

JANUARY

6 January	10am
13 January	10am
20 January	10am
27 January	10am

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

6 January	10am	Combined Service
13 January	10am	Combined Service
20 January	10am	Combined Service
27 January	10am	Back to School and Backpack Blessing Combined Service

FEBRUARY

3 February	12 noon	Club 2019
5 February	10am	The HUB resumes



Ministry Team Greetings

Ministry Team would like to wish everyone all the best for a wonderful year in 2019. We look forward to sharing together in the love and grace of God with one another and the community in the coming year.

January Worship Services

A reminder that during January there will be one combined service of worship each Sunday at 10am.

Usual service times will recommence on Sunday 3 February.

Office Christmas Closure

The Church Office will 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.

Back to School and Backpack Blessing Service - Sunday 27 January

Please join us for the Back to School and Backpack Blessing Service on Sunday 27 January at 10am.

During this service we will be praying for students, teachers, families and backpacks (so bring your school bag) as you head back to school.

All welcome.

Ministry Team Leave

Rev Neil Peters will be away from 7 January until 28 January.

Alanee will be returning from leave on 7 January.

If you need to speak to a minister during this time please feel free to contact Di Paterson or the Church Office.

Office Calendar

A reminder to all church users to please inform the office of any booking requirements for 2019. The office is trying to finalise the calendar over the next two weeks.

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.

Door Stewards Roster

Thanks to all those who have helped with the Stewards Roster for 2018. If you have not done this before and would like to assist in 2019 please add your name to the list on the office counter. If you are on the roster and not able to continue please also note this on the roster.

Book Sale 2019 - Advance Notice

Once again, we will be holding a Used Book Sale at the Church on Saturday 2 March to raise funds for the church's work. Please start collecting those books you have read or no longer need, and ask your friends to do the same.

This year, we are intending to be open until 4pm, so would also appreciate as many volunteers as possible to help on the day and in the set up and packing up.

Many thanks. Sue Morgan (ph 9560 8024).

New Year's Greetings

As we move into 2019, it is always good to reflect on the amazing love gift of Jesus. Christmas is often such a busy time that the gift of Christmas can get lost in the tinsel and the traditions. The awesome love and grace of God are reflected in the life of Jesus.

For me, Jesus reveals the loving face of God to the world. Our response is to reflect that love back to God and share that love and grace with those around us.

As the people of God at Glen Waverley it is important for us to remember to do just that, to reflect God's love and grace to family, friends, the people in the Glen and the list goes on. A warm smile, a friendly greeting, positive comments, caring support are the ways we reflect God's love and grace to our community.

We need to remember that we, as a community of faith, are the face of Jesus to the world. So, let us love as God loves, love and care as Jesus showed us and allow the Holy Spirit to fire and inspire our Christ-like love.

May the love, grace and blessing of God journey with you as you move forward into 2019.

Di Paterson.



New Year's Eve Service

After receiving two prompts I eventually decided to hold a New Year's Eve service at 11pm with supper at 10.30pm. I had dared to hope that 20 people might come but I realised this was completely unknown and new. I was greatly encouraged and stunned when 54 people, including 5 children, attended and participated very well in the service. Faye Wagon looked after supper and Lynn Peters agreed to play the keyboard.

Some of our long-time members attended but I felt like I only knew about half the congregation. There were families with a Sri Lankan and Indonesian background who were pleased to attend. Some of our own congregation invited friends. This seems to be a strategic worship service cross-culturally. We had badminton and table tennis players stay for the service. Sony and Binsar sang a traditional song sung on New Year's Eve in their Indonesian community and next year we hope to have a Sri Lankan song.

We sang, we prayed, we read from the Scriptures and we expressed what we wanted to give thanks for in 2018 and we expressed some of our hopes for 2019. We also thought about the joys and tragedies of the last year. I offered a brief reflection.

Neil Peters.

Day of Mourning - Letter from President Dr Deidre Palmer

The observance of a Day of Mourning was endorsed by the Fifteenth Assembly at the request of our sisters and brothers in the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC).

In the spirit of our Covenant relationship with the UAICC, we have declared the Sunday before Australia Day as a Day of Mourning.

This Day of Mourning Worship Resource invites all Uniting Churches in Australia (UCA) congregations to hold worship services that reflect on the effect of invasion and colonisation on Australia's First Peoples and our identity as a nation.

This worship service will be an annual fixture on our liturgical calendar.

Remembering our history is an important part of our journey toward reconciliation as First and Second Peoples. The service reminds us of the dispossession and violence against First Peoples, and laments that as a Church and as Second Peoples we were and remain complicit.

We acknowledged this in our Church when we apologised to the Stolen Generations in 1997.

We acknowledged this by revising the Preamble to our Constitution, which was approved by the Ninth Assembly in 2009.

We acknowledged this in affirming First Peoples as the sovereign peoples of this land.

Our declaration of a Day of Mourning allows us to stand together in remembering the truth of our history, and honouring the culture of Australia's First Peoples, their families and the next generations.

I will be joining Uniting Church members in lamenting, saying sorry and asking for forgiveness, for the past and current impacts of colonisation and dispossession of Australia's First Peoples.

I pray that our Church and our nation will continue on this journey of confession, forgiveness and working toward justice and healing.

Rev Denise Champion, a Deacon in the UCA and an Adnyamathanha woman speaks of the new community toward which we are called as the Uniting Church:

"I have been challenged, in my work in facilitating reconciliation between First and Second Peoples, to create a safe community. A community where people can come together, sit and talk, and experience healing and forgiveness for the past, finding a new destiny together."

As the Uniting Church we affirm that ours is "a destiny together" acknowledging the wrongs of the past and the present and committing ourselves to take action to bring about a more just Australia. As the Uniting Church we hear Jesus calling us into the light of reconciliation.

I pray that the whole nation may fully acknowledge our history and take a significant step towards healing for our nation.

I want to acknowledge our past President Mr Stuart McMillan for his work in developing this resource and his ongoing passionate commitment to walking together as First and Second Peoples.

I commend this resource to the Church.

Grace and peace to you.



Dr Deidre Palmer

President - Uniting Church in Australia

The 10am Combined Service of Lament and Thanksgiving on Sunday 20 January (the Sunday before Australia Day) will be taken by Heather Hon and Ross Mackinnon and will reflect some of this theme.