



Glen Waverley

Uniting Church

Welcome

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

SUNDAY PREACHING PLAN - December 2019

Liturgical Colour	Lectionary		
Purple	Advent 1 Isaiah 2:1-5 Psalm 132 Romans 13:11-14 Matthew 24:36-44	4:30pm Indonesian Christmas	Ministry Team 10am
	Advent 2 Isaiah 11:1-10 Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 Romans 15:4-13 Matthew 3:1-12		
Purple	Advent 3 Isaiah 35:1-10 Psalm 146:5-10 or Luke 1:45b-55 James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11	4:30pm Children & Families	11am Rev. Neil Peters Uniting Voices
	Advent 4 Isaiah 7:10-18 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 Romans 1:1-7		
Purple	Advent 4 Isaiah 7:10-18 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 Romans 1:1-7	10am Ministry Team	
	Advent 4 Isaiah 7:10-18 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 Romans 1:1-7		
White	Nativity 1 Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96 Thos 2:11-14 (15-20) Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)	11pm Alanae Hearshaw + team	5:30pm Rev. Neil Peters DI Peterson
	Nativity 2 Isaiah 62:8-12 Psalm 97 Thos 3:4-7 Luke 2:1-7, 8-20		
White	Christmas 1 Isaiah 63:7-9 Psalm 148 Hebrews 2:10-18 Matthew 2:13-23	10am Rev. Neil Peters	8:30am Ministry Team
	Christmas 1 Isaiah 63:7-9 Psalm 148 Hebrews 2:10-18 Matthew 2:13-23		
White	New Year's Day Ezekiel 36:5-11 Psalm 8 Revelation 21:1-6 Matthew 25:31-45	10:30pm Supper 11pm Rev. Neil Peters	
	New Year's Day Ezekiel 36:5-11 Psalm 8 Revelation 21:1-6 Matthew 25:31-45		

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

November 2019

9 Nov	11am	Getaways Spring Picnic
18-20 Nov	10am-12pm	Hub Children's Christmas Nativity Photos
24 Nov	12.30pm	Munch with a Bunch Christmas Lunch

December 2019

1 Dec	10am	Combined Worship
	12.00pm	GWUC Christmas Lunch
	4.30pm	Indonesian Christmas Service & Dinner
5 Dec	10am	Hub Christmas Morning Tea
8 Dec	2.30pm	Seniors Carol Service
9 Dec	10.15am	Leisure Time Christmas Break Up
10 Dec	8pm	Remembrance Service
24 Dec	5.30pm & 11pm	Christmas Eve Services
25 Dec	8.30am & 10am	Christmas Day Services
31 Dec	11pm	New Year's Eve Service



Remembrance Service

Tuesday 10 December at 8pm

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.

Enq: Neil Peters or the Church Office

The Christian Church in the World

The Battle for Himachal Pradesh (in India)

Perched in the Himalayan mountains is the north Indian state of Himachal Pradesh (HP), also known as Devbhumi (the land of the gods) and its capital, Shimla. Behind the scenic beauty lurks a reality of deep spiritual darkness. Whilst Indian missionaries have done amazing work bringing truth, life and light into HP, there remains much work to do - HP is still only 0.2 percent Christian. On 30 August HP's Hindu nationalist-led state government, backed by the supposedly secular Congress, unanimously passed a shockingly repressive anti-conversion law that will fuel persecution and drive Christian witness underground. On 15 September Hindu nationalists shut down a prayer meeting in a private guest house. A new era of escalating persecution is just beginning. Please pray for India and its Christians.

from Religious Liberty Prayer Bulletin

Looming Nationalist Jihad in Indonesia's Papuan Provinces.

Several Java-based Islamic organisations - including the Islam Jihad Front and Islamic Defenders Front - are openly recruiting fighters for a jihad in Indonesia's Papuan provinces. Several other groups - including Laskar Jihad and the Islamic-State affiliate Jamaah Ansharut Daulah - already have bases in the region. On 26 September the Indonesian parliament passed a controversial law that gives the military permission to mobilise civilian forces for national defence. Consequently, instead of functioning as proxies of the Indonesian military, Islamic jihadi and mereh putik (red and white, ultra-nationalist) militias will now be able to fight openly and legally in co-operation with the Indonesian military to defend the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia from 'separatists', by which they mean the ethnic Melanesian and mostly Christian indigenous Papuans. Please pray.

from Religious Liberty Prayer Bulletin

A Prayer:

*When my days become over-busy, and I get hassled by too many worries -
Sweet Lord, give me Your peace.*

*When worship becomes a routine, and prayer has the taste of sawdust:
Renewing Lord, give me Your peace.*

*When my hair turns grey above a wrinkled face,
and my energy is spent before the day is done,
Unfailing Lord, give me Your peace.*

Bruce Prewer.

INVITATION to LEISURE TIME Volunteers

*Our Christmas Break-up is on
Monday 9th December 2019*



*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 into the church for our
entertainment at 11.15am.*

*You may also wish to share in our
Christmas Service
in the hall at 1.30-2pm on the same day*

(RSVP not required)

A lifelong learning community of deepening discipleship for the sake of the mission of God -- some notes on the Pop Up Study with Dr Craig Mitchell

Craig Mitchell has brought before us what I would argue is the key question we face as a congregation. It is not a new question: each generation in every place has faced it.

**What is God calling the church to be in the 21st century?
How might God find a place in people's lives in Glen
Waverley?**

Key answers according to Dr Mitchell:

**A lifelong learning community of deepening discipleship for
the sake of the mission of God**

... The mission of the church is the mission of Christ.

This was an informed and challenging dialogue which sought to focus our sense of who we are as a Christian congregation and what our mission might be in the local community. Along with a clear theological view Craig brought analysis about the ways in which society has changed rapidly over recent decades as well as ABS data on the nature of the Glen Waverley community.

CONTEXT: A changed and changing society – some notes

Change in Glen Waverley – statistics on educational levels, languages spoken at home, whether born in Australia, age profile of population

Cultural changes

- Changing family structure: 60% of women now working
- Longer life expectancy; better health; ageing population.
- Abundance of leisure options.
- Society is increasingly consumer orientated.
- Globalization of culture & religions: "...a spiritual marketplace"
- Shift from reason to experience – "what works, what feels good"
- Questioning & mistrust of traditional institutions e.g. government, banks, churches, media, scientists, experts.
- Media corporatized, ubiquitous, doubted.
 - too much information
- Our newsfeed and consumer choices targeted —>narrowing of perspective —> division, tribalism and separation.
- Divisions within churches and politically

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Technology changes:

- data base = no 1 technological invention – store & retrieve
- nano technology; biotechnology
- technology has become fashion & multi sensory – immersive not just information.
- technology as an appendage – part of our body
- we are reliant on technology we cannot see
- we have an over-abundance of information – more than we can take in.

Environmental change:

- global warming
- species extinction
- waste
- death of bees

From the audience feedback most people who attended felt overwhelmed by all these challenges/ crises

How do we live responsibly?

“God will save us” = unreal salvation narrative – we are not a haven from these problems

In this context HOW IS GOD CALLING US TO BE A FAITHFUL CHURCH?

Models of church – Avery Dulles

- Mystical communion – world wide communion – all one of God’s children
- Sacrament
- Servant of suffering, lost, poor and marginalised
- Herald
- Institution
- Community of disciples – seek to follow Jesus: spiritual & practical – working together (not the institution)

Which one shapes our sense of being Christian?

QUESTIONS WE FACE: questions raised by Dr. Mitchell

Where are we as a congregation? With whom are we building a community?

Is the church only for people like us? What is the mission outside our doors in a “pagan society” – full of unrecognized gods? People yearn to be part of a community – do we have the heart to go out and draw people in?

What is God’s purpose? What is God doing beyond us?

God’s mission chooses and creates a church: shapes who we are.

God is on about changing the world – calling us to be a missionary church in our neighbourhood.... we need to be shaped by God’s mission

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Acknowledgment of First Peoples

All are welcome to the next meeting to discuss GWUC’s Acknowledgment of First Peoples.

When? Friday November 8th at 2.30pm in Room 4

We have already agreed on the wording, but there is much more to discuss....

Where will it be located?

What structure will it be placed on?

Who will design the plaque and the structure?

Should we engage an aboriginal and/ or local artist ?

Could coloured tiles be used to present the design?

Could we invite people to submit designs?

With whom should we consult?

How much to budget? Where to find the money?

These are only some of the questions. Thanks to those who have already shared ideas. See <http://wiki.gwuc.org.au/gwuc/AcknowledgementOfFirstPeoples>

If you have ideas but can’t make the meeting please contact Glyn or John. There will be subsequent meetings.

Glyn Howells (councilchair@gwuc.org.au)

John Snare (john.snare@bigpond.com)

Ping Pong A Thon 2019

A hearty congratulations must go to the organisers and attendees of this year’s most successful event. More than 50 participants were on hand to assist with raising approximately \$200 for the charities concerned. Special thanks go to Sony Simanjuntak and Susan Chan for the provision of delicious savouries to assist with players’ dietary needs! The 2020 event is already being planned so look out for an even bigger event.

Ping Pong Committee 2019.

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Also - we are:

- in the process of setting up a meeting to consult with the Welfare Committee on how to offer the support they might need going forward.
- consulting with families about the sort of support needed for our children's ministry next year as some leaders step back.
- consulting how best to support the bi-lingual English class and Chinese Fellowship
- forming a group from the congregation to complete the Acknowledgement of First Peoples plaque process.

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God is in the business of renewing creation: God in Christ is making all things new.

Our mission is to participate in Jesus' work now.... a declaration and a participation in the renewal. Jesus said "God has come to you". The kingdom of heaven is here and now, we are part of the reconciling work.

That is what we are called to do: communion and community.

CHALLENGE: What do you think? Put pen to paper via the Monthly Bulletin or the quarterly NewView magazine.



GLEN WAVERLEY UNITING CHURCH
CHRISTMAS LUNCH
An invitation to young and old to attend a sit-down Christmas meal together in the hall.

SUNDAY 1 DECEMBER 2019
12PM TO 2PM

The meal will consist of chicken (1/4 for adults and 1/8 for children) with potato, vegetables, gravy, dessert, soft drink, tea or coffee.

Bookings NOW OPEN

Cost
Adults \$15
Children (Primary School) \$6



Children's Christmas Photos

Come along to The Hub at the Glen Waverley Uniting Church and let your children or grandchildren dress up, be a part of the Christmas story, and have their photo taken.

Monday 18 November
Tuesday 19 November
Wednesday 20 November

10am - 12noon

Dress up as Mary, Joseph, shepherds, wise men or angels.

Help your children or grandchildren to remember the real reason we celebrate Christmas - the birth of baby Jesus.



Photos taken will be available for collection on Thursday 5 December between 10am and 12noon.

The Hub - Glen Waverley Uniting Church, Corner Bogong Avenue & Kingsway, Glen Waverley



Getaways Spring Picnic

9 November 2019 - from 11am

Jells Park (Ferntree Gully Road entrance)

Cost \$15 per person (Bookings required)

BYO drinks, chairs, plates, cutlery.

RSVP j.boldiston@bigpond.com by 3 November

Inclusive Community Report.

October has been a busy month. Last Sunday, we acknowledged Bill Morgan's 104th birthday, at the 11am service. What a special milestone! Congratulations Bill. A couple of weeks ago we had the Evans family entertaining us at our Seniors' event and then of course we had the fete and our special morning tea the next morning. Thanks to all who helped to make these occasions so successful.

Bring and Share Lunch. You are ALL invited to the Bring and Share Lunch after the 11am service TODAY 3rd November. Bring a plate of food to share. This lunch will be held in the Fellowship area so please join us as it is the last one for this year. (In December, we will attend the Church Family Christmas lunch.)

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 the office during office hours, or Beverly on 0417 359 779. Thanks to the fifteen people who make up the prayer support group.

On Sunday 10th November, there will be a basket lunch provided between the end of the 11am service and the start of the **Congregational meeting**. The 11am service will finish at 11.45 so there will be time to eat lunch before going into the meeting. It would be helpful to know how many people are staying for lunch so would you please let Joanne, in the office, know or sign the sheet on the office counter.

Our next **Munch with a Bunch** function will be the Christmas lunch on Sunday 24 November. You should have received your invitation this week. We are asking people to bring a Kris Kringle gift (value \$5). Replies are due by 15 November.

Our next Inclusive Community meeting will be on Monday 11 November at 2.30 pm. This will be a short meeting when we will complete our Christmas tree.

If you have suggestions for functions or activities, please let us know. We will be having a planning meeting in January.

Jan Clear.

Where is /Church Council at present?

Craig Mitchell will also be meeting with Church Council on November 27 as he is part of the **Mission Pilot Process (see previous Monthly Bulletin)**. As a congregation we have been accepted to take part in the Presbytery Mission Pilot Process beginning next year. It's a well thought out and designed process as you'll see from the web site. It's an exciting initiative! (<https://www.ucapnep.org/being-presbytery/mission-pilot-process/>).

...a few excerpts from the website:

Mission Cultivation Team

Congregations form a *Mission Cultivation Team* which includes their minister. These teams meet at least monthly during the year. The team takes the lead in their congregation in discerning, designing and implementing the mission experiment.

Mission Cultivation Gauge

These indicators will help determine whether this Project might be timely for your church.

Openness to:

- exploring your congregation's identity and role in mission
- deepening your discipleship practices as a congregation
- building relationships with your local community in new or deeper ways
- team-building and team learning in mission
- experimentation in risking a new initiative
- discernment, listening to God's Spirit

Mission Intensives

During the twelve-month period, all teams participate together in four learning intensives. These sessions are essential to the overall process. The intensives will be led by Phil McCredden and Craig Mitchell.

Mission Intensive Dates: February 14-16 (live-in intensive, Phillip Island); May 2; August 8; October 17

Seeking 4 plus individuals to represent our congregation.

After its November meeting Church Council will be *seeking 4 plus people* to work with Rev Neil Peters, Dr Craig Mitchell (PPE Presbytery Minister – Church Development) and Rev Dev Anandarajan (Synod Intercultural Leadership Development Coordinator). Talk to a member of Church Council if you want to know more.

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Material Aid Offering

For this month's Material Aid Offering we are collecting handbags, personal care items and bras - empowering women with dignity and respect.

It's in the Bag

It's simple. First of all, choose a handbag in good condition that you no longer use. Then, fill it with items that would make a woman feel special, pop in a thoughtful note or Christmas card and show her someone cares.

#itsintheBag

Ask yourself what would a homeless woman need? Chances are, she needs the same personal care and sanitary items you do. Your handbag can be packed full of useful things and relevant items are those little things you need every day, from your toothbrush to your hairbrush. Because nobody should go without life's little essentials!

If you don't have a bag, that's ok, we would love to collect any items. (Shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, toothpaste, sanitary items, etc.) Donations can be placed in the Material Aid bins in the foyer.

Support the Girls

Support The Girls is committed to promoting and providing a healthier and more dignified lifestyle for women and girls. We want to raise awareness of not just homeless women and girls in Australia but also ensure that we can provide practical and simple ways for people to help those without a place to call home.



Donations of clean, unwanted bras can be placed in the Material Aid bins in the foyer.

Supporting not only the homeless but also the needy and the vulnerable.



GLEN WAVERLEY UNITING CHURCH
CORNER BOGONG AVENUE & KINGSWAY



THE HUB
Hospitality - Understanding - Belonging

Christmas Morning Tea

欢聚一起 享用早点 共贺圣诞

THURSDAY 5 DECEMBER 2019
10AM TO 12PM

EVERYONE WELCOME
欢迎大家参加

BOOKINGS: PLEASE PUT YOUR NAME ON THE LIST
ON THE OFFICE COUNTER OR CALL 9560 3580

Donations welcome for needy families in our community

Faith Development Missional Group – BLOGSPOT!

Sister Kym Harris is a Catholic nun from Tanby, on Queensland's Capricorn Coast. Her website - **Pray as you can. The Word is very close to you: It is in your heart** – is well worth visiting.

Each week, she prepares reflective material based on the lectionary for the coming Sunday using the following format:

- The Gospel paraphrased into contemporary language.
- A Psalm.
- A Prayer.
- Commentary – she gives a summary of commentaries on the Gospel reading.
- Exposition – she “exposes” the meaning of reading.
- Reflection – she offers what the reading means to her.
- 'Mirror' Meditations – she describes these this way: *In the Letter of James, we are told that the Scriptures are like a mirror in which we can see ourselves. In this type of meditation, we take a piece of Scripture, hold it before us and consider what echoes within our heart. These echoes help us to see who we are before God and how we are loved.* Here is her Mirror meditation for the story of the persistent widow from Luke 18:1-8:

Rest in the love of your God.

Imagine the deep and desperate need of the widow in this Sunday's Gospel. Take some time to think about how constricted and needy she would have been. Then sit with the places in your heart and in your life where you feel desperate and helpless. Allow your pain and need to well up, even to consume you. Then bring the strength of that emotion before God as the driving force for your prayer. Stay with that need until God's mercy answers.

Rest in the love of your God.

- 'Mulling' Meditations for times such as exercising or waiting. She explains: *The purpose of mulling meditations is to offer a few ideas that one can mull about while doing other occupations. There are many things we do in our day that do not require our full attention - some things which are largely done on automatic pilot - like peeling the potatoes. While we give these our attention, part of our mind is still at work mulling on other things and unless it is given something positive to feed on, we easily feed on negative thoughts. Personally, I find mulling time the most likely time for God to get through to me.*

Because I am not so conscious of myself, God gets through the cracks and opens my heart to look at life differently.

- Visual Meditations – she gives links to paintings to view or movies to watch. She says: *Looking at art works or movies is a great way to open ourselves to the meaning of the Gospels. Seeing can bypass our preconceived notions, giving us new vistas of enlightenment. With painting or sculpture, one needs to sit quietly and absorb the dynamics of the piece. The drama of movies more easily engages us and offers a way to conversation about the Gospel with other members of your family.*

She concludes by suggesting hymns and poems which may be helpful for the coming Sunday's worship and offers a format for personal prayer.

The URL for Sister Harris' s website is: <http://www.prayasyoucan.com.au>

Ross Mackinnon

December NewView

As we remember the birth of Jesus during Advent, our theme for the December issue will be JOY. What is joy? What things bring joy into your life? How do you express joy? Is it important to celebrate significant events which bring joy? You are invited to write about the matters, large and small, which bring joy into your life.

In addition your reports and photos about events and projects which have taken place in our GWUC community are welcomed, to keep us all informed about our community's happenings, as are anecdotes, poems or longer reflections on our individual journeys of faith.

The closing date for submissions is Monday, December 9. Send by email to popesr@aapt.net.au or hand in to the GWUC office.