



Welcome.

Glen Waverley Uniting Church is a faithful, Christ-centered community that meets God and shares in that unconditional love.

What's On...

Our usual services & events...

8am **Contemplative**

incl. Holy Communion

9.15am **Interactive (+live broadcast)** *incl.*

Holy Communion - 1st Sunday of each month

11am **Traditional (+live broadcast)** *incl.*

Holy Communion - 3rd Sunday of each month

1pm **Indonesian Fellowship on Zoom**

5pm **Creative Worship**

MONDAY

10.00am **GOMERs**

10.00am **Playgroup**

10.00am **Craft Group**

2.00pm **Leisure Time**

8.00pm **Badminton**

TUESDAY

10.00am **The Hub**

10.00am **Playgroup**

2.00pm **Mindful Meditation**

4.00pm **Meditation Online**

7.30pm **Intercultural Bible Study**

7.30pm **Bible Study**

WEDNESDAY

7.30am **Prayer Time Online**

8.00pm **Free Spirit**

THURSDAY

11.15am **English Conversation Class**

7.00pm **Online Reflection**

8.00pm **Badminton**

FRIDAY

9.30am **Choir of Hope**

5.30pm/7.00pm **Uthies/Youth**

*Please note: not all events are held each week
- please contact the church office for details.*

GWUC Westpac Bank Account

Uniting Church Glen Waverley
BSB: 033 052
Account Number: 92 2198

Ministerial Musings | Rev. Chris Waddell

GIFTS



For those I haven't yet had the pleasure of meeting, I am Chris Waddell, the minister for the first third of life here at Glen Waverley Uniting Church. I am newly ordained, and this is my first ministry placement. I have previously been a youth worker at both Camberwell Uniting Church and North Ringwood Uniting Church and for the last twelve years I have been the chaplain at Melba College, a public secondary college in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne. This year I finished my Master of Theology as part of my formation while becoming a minister in the Uniting Church. My family, which includes my wife Linda and my two children Elizabeth (14) and Thomas (10) have just moved into Glen Waverley and we are looking forward to getting to know the community at GWUC.

I have been at GWUC for just under two months and I am already seeing some things happening. I am already seeing people use their gifts to share the good news of Jesus and also to be a great example of Jesus in a world that needs hope which leads me to my reflection for the coming time of Advent. Gifts seem to be a big thing at Christmas time, especially in the western culture. As early as October my 10-year-old son starts to put together his list of the gifts he wants to receive at Christmas time. Some time towards the end of October we start to see Christmas decorations in the shopping centres and in stores. Then in November we hit full swing towards what some call the silly season. Black Friday sales happen in November and people are encouraged to buy their gifts early to avoid disappointment.

I think we are all aware of the tradition of gift giving at Christmas time which relates to the example of the Three Wisemen bringing gifts to the baby Jesus. If we look at the bible story it doesn't say how many Magi there were, there could have been many more. Also, the image of the Magi coming to the stable is not mentioned in the bible. In Matthew it refers to the Magi coming to the house where Mary was living, scholars think this could have even been a few days after the birth, but the classic imagery makes for a great story. One thing we do know is that the Magi did bring gifts for Jesus. The custom was for the Magi to present gifts to royalty or one destined to be a ruling monarch. They had heard of a King who was to be born so they wanted to follow the custom and bring gifts. I have a mental picture of maybe twenty people knocking on Mary's door just after Jesus had been put to sleep, demanding to see the baby, and saying that they have brought gifts for the king. This is just me thinking out loud.

And so, we follow this tradition and give gifts to others. But the story has two meanings. One meaning that we can't overlook is that God gives Jesus as a gift to us; a gift of love, a gift of forgiveness wrapped up in a humble baby.

cont. over.

Musings continued... In John 3:16 it states that, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." Jesus is God's greatest gift to us, given out of love and with the purpose of reconciling us to Himself. There is nothing that we must do to earn God's gift. It is freely given to us. This wonderful gift of love, of compassion, of grace, of forgiveness. What a wonderful thing to remember! Sometimes this message gets lost in the busyness of Christmas.

Secondly, we should be looking on how we can give gifts to others. This is not just speaking of those little things wrapped up nicely in wrapping paper. It refers to how we can use the gifts that God has given us to bless others this Christmas. It could be that God has blessed you with a job so you can afford to give gifts to people, but it can also be, putting in some extra time and listening to your neighbour who might be doing it tough. It might be being able to cook an extra meal for the colleague who has a sick child. It is about thinking how we can serve God and serve others through this festive season. I am reminded of the verse in Matthew 25:40 where Jesus says, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

As we reflect on the tradition of gift-giving during the holiday season, let us remember the true meaning behind it. Jesus is the ultimate gift to us all, given by God out of infinite love. Just as the Magi presented their gifts to Jesus, let us offer ourselves to God in worship and service. May this season be a reminder of the incredible gift we have all received and the gifts of love that we can give to others and to God.

Chris

Glen Waverley Uniting Church



Join us for a

Cocoa & Carols Service

December 24, 2023

10:30pm-11:00pm Hot Chocolate	11:00pm-12:00am Church service
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Join us for an informal and interactive service where we reflect on the true meaning of Christmas as it is celebrated all over the world

Badminton & Table Tennis

Monday & Thursday
8pm to 10pm

No bookings required

\$3 per session



PLAYGROUP

0-4 years

Come along & Play!

Tuesday
10am-12pm



GOMERS

- GRUMPY OLD MEN & EARLY RETIREES

10am every Monday

Join us for coffee and a chat!

You are invited

**Induction Service for
Rev. Ian Ferguson
Sunday 4th February 2024
at 2.30pm**

followed by afternoon tea

All are welcome

Come along and welcome our new minister and his family. Please bring a plate of food to share for afternoon tea.
Please NO nut products & NO hot food or food that needs reheating.



Sharing Morning Tea on
Sunday mornings
All are welcome!

Save the Date!

Saturday, February 24, 2024 8:30am-4pm

1000's of Secondhand Books

**Book
Sale**

Saturday 24 February

8.30am - 4pm

Donations of books welcome from 19 Feb

We would love you to be part of this event. The summer holidays is a great time to sort through those books you no longer need. We will be setting up on Friday 23, packing up on Sunday 25, and would appreciate your donations of books and your help over those 3 days. Donations of books welcome from Monday 19 February.

**2023 Christmas
Installation**

**Experiences
of Christmas**
Local and International

☆ **ON NOW** ☆


All welcome!

*What are some of your own
Christmas Traditions?*

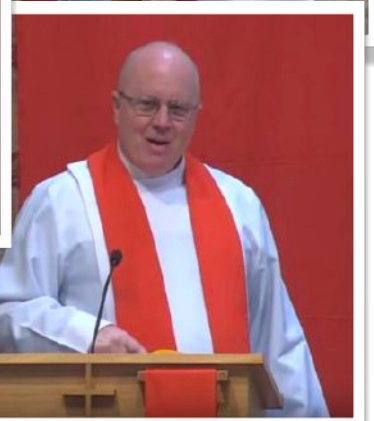
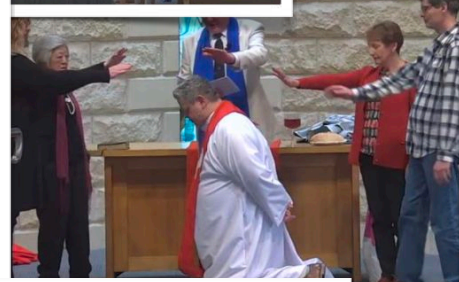
*How do you say
"Merry Christmas"?*

عيد ميلاد مجيد	god jul
Srećan Božić	Baga ayaana qillee geesse
圣诞快乐	Wesołych Świąt
Vrolijk Kerstfeest	Navidadpi kusikuy
Merry Christmas	Crăciun fericit
Joyeux Noël	Manuia le kirisimasi
καλά Χριστούγεννα	Mutlu Noeller
Mele kalikimaka	щасливого Різдва
Selamat natal	Giáng sinh vui vẻ
メリークリスマス	Nadolig Llawen
메리 크리스마스	Ikrisimesi emnandi
felicem natalem Christi	ikini odun keresimesi
Meri Kirihimete	Jabulela Ukhisimusi

Welcome Rev. Chris Waddell to Glen Waverley Uniting Church



A Service of Induction for Rev. Chris Waddell
Glen Waverley Uniting Church
Sunday 15 October at 2pm



OUTREACH AND SOCIAL JUSTICE MISSION GROUP

The GWUC congregational meeting on 30 July 2023 was informed that a new Outreach Mission Group was being established. This has now happened.

The group will be called **Outreach and Social Justice Mission Group**. It will have responsibility for organising future COP projects and guidelines as well as all other projects where we assist or partner with people and places outside of our church premises. We will also maintain links to the UCA Justice and International Mission cluster.



Please have a look at our updated **Noticeboard** at the top of the ramp to see some of the things that this Mission Group is involved with. Let us know if we have missed anything. Your ideas or contributions are most welcome.

We have an ongoing **Material Aid** collection for GWUC Welfare donations and we will also be collecting for a particular charity each month or two. The November collection was for Share the Dignity - we were able to donate 16 handbags full of essentials and luxury extras. Thank you all for your generous donations. Please watch future Bulletin announcements for more information.

Members of the Outreach and Social Justice Mission Group are: David Morgan, Annette Wojak, Margaret Fraser, Vida Foo.

New members are always welcome.

Port Phillip East Presbytery

Glen Waverley Uniting Church is part of Port Phillip East Presbytery.

The Presbytery is the council of the Uniting Church (UCA) providing oversight in the region from Port Melbourne to Pakenham, Toorak to Portsea, and is made up of 60 congregations and faith communities, with members coming from many cultural backgrounds and ages. It provides oversight of the life and mission of the UCA in the region, and fosters connections with UCA agencies and schools.

Have a look at their website - there is lots to discover... <https://ucappeg.org/>



Did you know?

...that Hornsby Girls High School in Sydney have installed a mural celebrating women in science that features our own Kaye Morgan?



...or that in August 2023, Kaye was part of a team who received a prestigious Eureka Prize award for their work in X-ray imaging for lung health?

Go to <https://www.monash.edu/science/news-events/news/current/x-ray-imaging-for-lung-health-recognised-with-prestigious-eureka-prize> to read about it.

Congratulations Kaye!

Glen Waverley Uniting Church Grand Fete

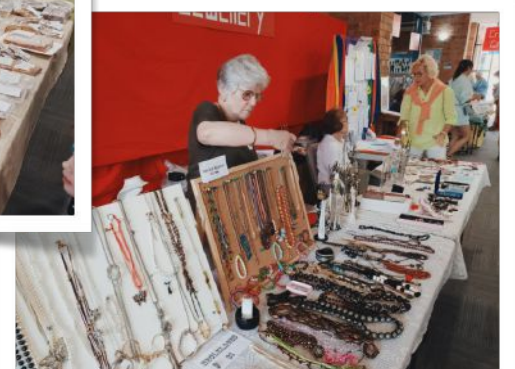
Corner Bogong Avenue & Kingsway, Glen Waverley

Saturday
21 October
8:30am-2:00pm



A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL THE CHURCH COMMUNITY

FETE 2023



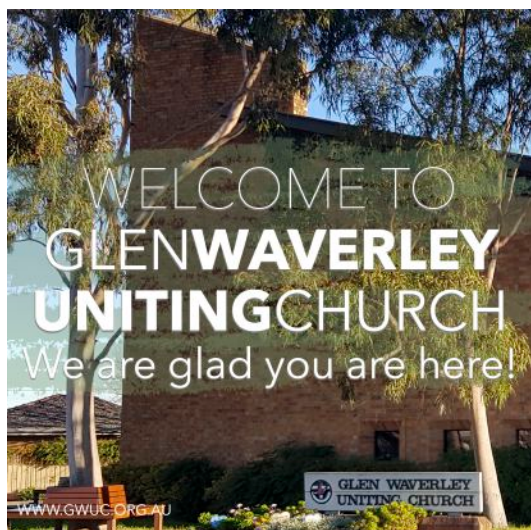
Are you NEW to Glen Waverley Uniting Church?

At this link <https://gwuc.org.au/im-new/> you will find:

- What we stand for
- Who's Who
- Worship Times
- Finding Us
- Groups

We have activities for:

- Children and Families
- Youth and Young Adults
- All Ages
- Seniors



OUR MULTICULTURAL CHURCH

EAST BORNEO SINGERS AND DANCERS

SUNDAY 15TH OCTOBER
2023 AT 9.15 AM



Love is long-suffering
Generous
Love is gentle
Not arrogant
Love does not boast
But love is holy
This world will disappear
But love remains
Let's love each other
Because God is love

Lina presenting our bible reading in English (her father language) and Chinese (her mother language).

你们要靠主常常喜乐！我再说，
你们要喜乐！

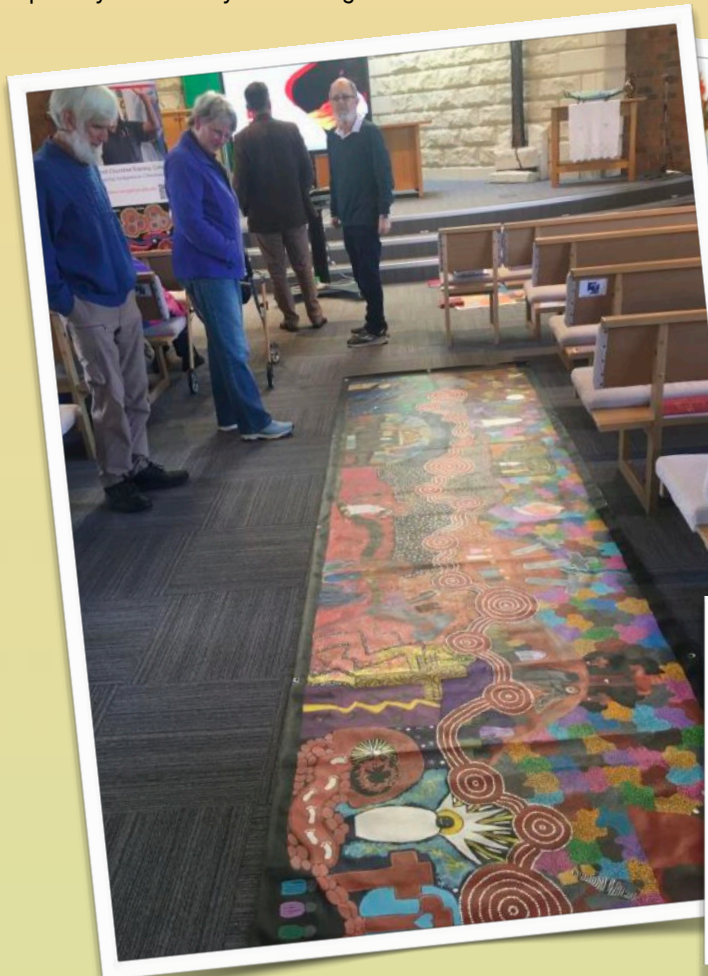
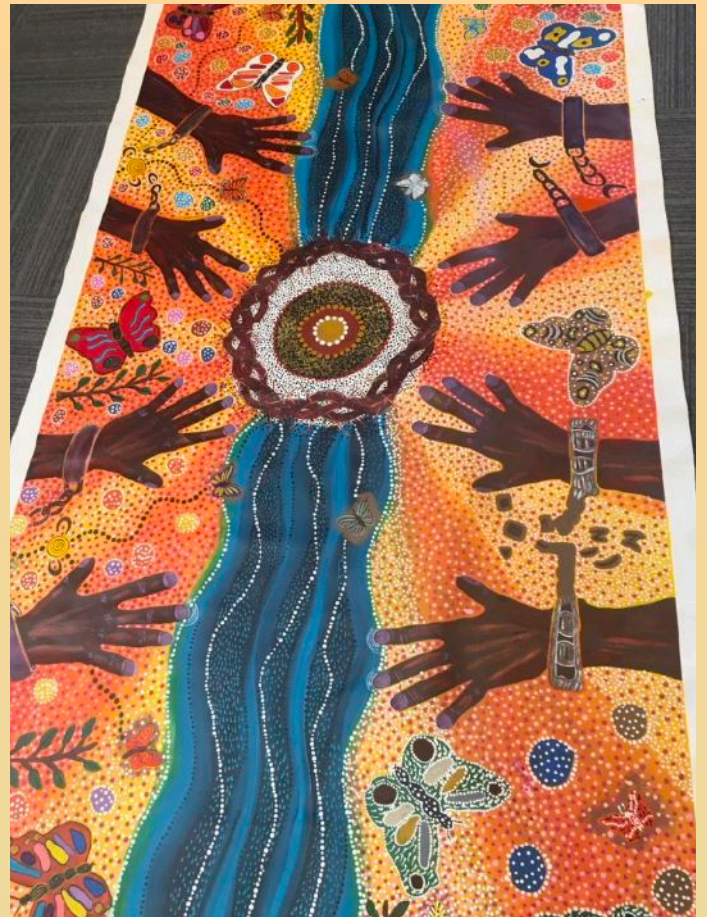
*Rejoice in the Lord always.
I will say it again: Rejoice!*



Nungalinya College, Darwin at GWUC on Monday 16 Oct 2pm-4pm

Speakers from Nungalinya College speak at GWUC on Monday 16 Oct 2pm-4pm. Nungalinya College trains Indigenous leaders and is supported by the UCA. Based in Darwin, Nungalinya College is the premier combined Churches Registered Training Organisation for Indigenous Australians. Every year around 300 adult Indigenous Christians study at Nungalinya.

They come from Anglican, Uniting, Catholic, Lutheran, Baptist and other backgrounds. On average, students come into Darwin from 80-90 discrete, remote Indigenous communities, and a few from urban centres. The benefits to overall Christian communities are vast - as virtually 100% of church leaders in the Northern Territory (whatever the denomination or formal title) study at Nungalinya. The varied cultural and Language backgrounds of the many First Nations are respected and included in life at Nungalinya. Their training programs explore the Christian faith contextually through courses in Literacy and Numeracy, Ministry and Theology, Chaplaincy, Art, Family Wellbeing and Translation.





Hospitality - Understanding - Belonging

A welcoming and friendly place for people of all ages.

Tuesday 10am-12pm
(during school terms)

- Drop in for a chat
 - Have a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit
 - Make new friends
 - Have some time out in a relaxed welcoming space
-

2024 Morning Teas at THE HUB

Hot Cross Bun MT
Thursday 21 March
(supporting Good Friday Appeal)

Australia's Biggest MT
Thursday 23 May
(supporting Cancer Council Victoria)

Muffin MT
Wednesday 15 August
(supporting Fight Parkinson's)

Seniors' MT
Thursday 24 October
(supporting Motor Neurone Research)

Christmas MT
Thursday 5 December
(supporting GWUC Welfare)

Hot Cross Bun Morning Tea at The Hub



When: Thursday 21 March, 10am - 12pm
Where: Glen Waverley Uniting Church
Cnr Bogong Avenue & Kingsway

**All donations to
The Royal Children's Hospital
Good Friday Appeal**

All Welcome!



We look forward
to seeing you
there!



NEIL'S TIME AT GWUC



Lord's Pr
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An Unexpected Experience

Christmas at GWUC

17 December - 10am Nativity Worship

24 December - Christmas Eve Services @ 10am, 7pm & 11pm

25 December - Christmas Day Services @ 8.30am & 10am

31 December - 11pm New Year's Eve Service

COLOUR ME IN...

For the young or young-at-heart...



Ministry Team



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Minister of the Word

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Minister of the Word

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Kingsway Magazine is a regular magazine of Glen Waverley Uniting Church. It is designed to provide a voice for the church community to share activities, thoughts, celebrations, stories and the faith journey, and will present to the church community the quiet achievers and achievements in the life of our church. "Kingsway" has a multi-generational, multi-cultural and missional focus and is designed to build community, lift the spirit and strengthen our faith. If you have an item, article or notice that you think will be just right for "Kingsway", please contact Joanne Boldiston (office@gwuc.org.au) or David Fraser (davidfraser60@gmail.com).