



# Werribee Uniting Church

29 October  
2023  
Pentecost 21

**We acknowledge the people of the Kulin alliance, the original custodians of the land which was never ceded and on which our buildings for worship stand and on which we gather.**



## OUR COMMUNITY NEWS FOR TODAY AND THE COMING WEEK

### Election of new Church Council

**We need your help to nominate members now!**



The new council will have both general members and elders. I want to explain how this will work because this is new for Crossroads as they do not currently have elders.

#### The role of the Church Council

1. Council has oversight of ministry, finance, property and membership. This is a responsibility for all council members but it is a special focus for some members - especially for the treasurer and property rep.
2. Council is responsible for sharing with the minister in mission, pastoral care and spiritual oversight of the congregation. This part of the role will be a special focus for the elders. They will also be involved in the general oversight.

#### Elders have a pastoral role.

They care for congregation members. Watch for new people and make them welcome. They support the minister, where confidentiality and trust are paramount. They assist the minister in various ways in worship and the sacraments.

#### Nominations for Church Council 2024

We aim for six from each congregation. Nominees must be confirmed members. Election is by secret ballot and requires a majority support for a person to be elected.

Nomination forms are available from today. Closing time is 9.30am November 19<sup>th</sup>. Each nominee will provide a written profile and photo. To help us get to know them they will also be given two minutes to speak to the congregation at worship. (Bev L)

### Thank you

#### OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Thank you for your generous donations. A total of 166 shoeboxes have been collected from our joint congregations and have begun their journey to bless children overseas. Best wishes, Rose Geilen

### Gospel reflection today

Matthew's Gospel reading for Sunday 29 October continues his story of Jesus' conflict with the ruling religious elite of Jerusalem.

The Pharisees have caucused to plot against Jesus; now one of their group poses a test question to him: "Teacher, what is the most important commandment in the Torah?"

Jesus replies: "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, your soul and all your mind' is the first and most important commandment." Amidst all the conflicting interpretations of right behaviour, Jesus goes to the centre of Moses' teaching. He requires love of God to be lived in complete obedience. The whole self is in daily living oriented to God.

I like the expression 'mind' as a reminder that God gives to humans' intelligence and imagination, which flourish in the work of science, art, literature, music, drama and all the creative activity which broadens and deepens human understanding.

Charles Darwin, Sigmund Freud and Albert Einstein served the divine will as pioneers of evolutionary science, psychology and cosmology. Brilliant scientists today continue to expand the borders of understanding climate science and global warming. Can the citizens of this planet act politically to save earth from man-made destruction?

Two thousand years on, Christian discipleship requires this same obedience to God and his will. But this is not all.

Jesus says, quoting Leviticus 19:18: "The second most important command is 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'" These two demands are not to be separated. Love must be demonstrated in practical acts of serving God's justice through feeding the poor, housing the homeless and clothing the naked.

Also, in a time when nationalism and national borders divide people into warring tribes, let's remember the ancient command in Leviticus 19: 33 "Don't mistreat any foreigners ... and love them as much as you love yourself." (Neil T)

## NEWS AND NOTES

## Leadership changes



At the Uniting worship service on 22 October, Rev Annetia Goldsmith announced her move from Crossroads congregation to Belmont, Geelong in February 2024. She said:

"My time as minister over four years has seen the progress you have made in coming together. I have been called to the position of minister at Belmont Uniting Church."



At the same worship service, Ms Audrey Kateena announced her resignation as pastoral care worker for the Crossroads congregation, as part of a Liturgy of Release. She said: "Peace be with you. I have

accompanied you in a journey full of ups and downs. I have appreciated the collegial support of Annetia and Fa'ama." (Neil Tolliday)



## Bible Discussion Group

At the church - a time of sharing – 11.30 am discussion and bring lunch to follow at 12.30. Lectionary Gospel reading for this week is Matthew 23: 1–12. Neil T. 0402 817 673.

## Girls Brigade – information evening



## Girls Brigade is coming to Wyndham.

We're holding an information evening for those who are interested in knowing more about becoming an adult leader in the new Girls Brigade outreach ministry.

**Monday, 30 October, 7pm at Dreambuilders Church, 37–43 Graham Court, Hoppers Crossing.**

Contact Scott W or email at girlsbrigadehc@gmail.com for further information.

## Invitation from Rev. David Withers

I am retiring at the end of this year – officially on 31 December 2023. With unused leave being taken before retiring, my final worship service is set for **9:30am Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2023 @ St Andrews Uniting Church in Gisborne Road Bacchus Marsh.** The service will also embrace a sense of my ministry over the years including a precious time at Crossroads 2006-2014. Visitors welcome.

## TODAY AND NEXT WEEK

## Worship services

29 October: Rev. Fa'ama Leota (Final service)  
5 November: Rev. Angela Tampiyappa (HC)

## What's On This Week

**Monday:** 9.30am Playgroup

**Tuesday:** 11.30am Bible Discussion

**Wednesday:** 9.30am Crossroads Property C'tee;  
1pm UC Adult Fellowship (AGM)

**Thursday:** 9.30am Gardening Group

## Bible Readings 29 October &amp; 5 November

**29 October:** Deuteronomy 34:1–12; Psalm 90; 1 Thessalonians 2:1–8; Matthew 22:34–46

**5 November:** Joshua 3:7–17; 1 Thessalonians 2:9–13; Matthew 23:1–12; Psalm 107:1–7, 33–37

## Rosters for 29 October &amp; (5 November)

**Greetings:** Judy O'K (?)

**AV:** Christian R-K (Hoppers Crossing)

**Morning Tea:** Fa'ama Leota Brunch (Samoan Ladies)

**Flowers:** Lorna H (Jennie K)

**Music:** Wendy B (Elliott S)

**Prayers:** Neil T (Hoppers Crossing)

**Reader:** Val T (Hoppers Crossing)

## Werribee Uniting Church online

Our Facebook page can be found at

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/621987747878234/> <https://crossroadsunitingchurch.org.au>.

## Church Office

Church office is open Monday to Friday, 9.30–12 noon. Phone 9741 1084. Email

[office@crossroadsunitingchurch.org.au](mailto:office@crossroadsunitingchurch.org.au).

**WUC News:** For any inclusions, please contact the editors **by Tuesday** (ph. 0427 812 606) or email [robert.renton@bigpond.com](mailto:robert.renton@bigpond.com). Our 'roving reporter' is Neil Tolliday (0402 817 673)—if you have a piece of news or a good story, please contact Neil.

**Bank Accounts:** Crossroads BSB 083-909 A/c 516109795. Hoppers Crossing BSB 013-915 A/c 354439707 Reference: Your surname.

**Boom gate** Remember the code: 0459#

**To book for an event at any of Werribee Uniting Church facilities,** please email

[bookings@crossroadsunitingchurch.org.au](mailto:bookings@crossroadsunitingchurch.org.au).

Elizabeth Barnes manages the bookings.