



Werribee Uniting Church

19 November
2023
Pentecost 24

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 have received eleven nominations for our new Church Council. They are Amelia R-K, Node M, Lauina L, Ashok S, Dorien P (aka Tupai), Tupu L, Tracey S, Elizabeth B, Margaret B, Armando A and Noel S. We had four of these nominees give two-minute speeches last Sunday. There will be three today and four next Sunday.

The ballot will take place on 3rd December. Only those present at worship that day will be able to vote.

Profiles of all nominees are available as you enter the church each Sunday. You are encouraged to make notes on them to help you remember the person and try to get to know them especially if they share your interests. Please bring all those profiles to help you vote on December 3rd. (Bev Lambie)

Sammy Stamp

A reminder, please, to put any cards/envelopes/loose stamps into the "Sammy Stamp" box in the foyer!

Environment News

The Environment Defenders Office is mounting a legal challenge to stop extension of "Mount Pleasant," NSW's largest open cut coal mine, (pictured) at Muswellbrook, in the Hunter Valley.



The NSW Independent Planning Commission (IPC) approval would double coal production and extend the life of the mine by 22 years until 2048. Information: contact Kirsty R reply@supporters.edo.org.au

Conference of the Parties COP28 will meet 30 November to 12 December 2023 at Expo City, Dubai, United Arab Emirates. President of the meeting will be Sultan Al Jaber, managing director of Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) whose output of crude oil exceeds 3 million barrels a day. "Dubai is no vacation spot for dissidents" who may be subject to kidnapping, according to the Guardian newspaper 16/10/23. Pope Francis plans to attend CO28. (NT)

Gospel reflection: three servants



Our Gospel for this Sunday ventures into the unfashionable.

In many ways the Christian church these days is wary of talk about a Second Coming of Christ; but it's worth remembering that this was an important expectation in the early years after Jesus. It was significant to the framers of the Apostles' Creed.

The phrase "I believe he (Jesus) will come again to judge the quick (living) and the dead" stands out in parallel with belief in the Ascended Christ who shares God's dominion over all things.

The Gospel writer Matthew expects Jesus' return; the challenge for the Church and Christians during this end time is to live adventurously in the life of God in keeping with his generosity.

There was conflict in some early communities of believers over the issue of reaching out to the Gentiles. Some refused to support the expansion of the Gospel into the Gentile world; they could not believe that God would be so adventuresome.

Matthew is saying: allow God to be extravagantly generous; trust him, he wants us to put our lives at his disposal, taking risks.

It's still a problem for some sections of the church which resist God's radical inclusivity for fear that his (or her) purity and holiness might be compromised. Accustomed to the closed circles of our comfortable pews, we are wary of the church being associated with radical social movements, other religions and scruffy individuals.

It's a temptation for the Uniting Church in Australia to focus its energy on self-preservation. Instead let's allow God to work in mysterious, risky and unexpected ways, bringing us along albeit reluctantly. (Neil T)

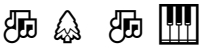
NEWS AND NOTES

Bible Discussion Group

The Bible Discussion Group resumes meetings on Tuesday **28 November** at 11.30 am. Neil T.

O.S.L.O Occasional Sunday Lunches Out. We will be going to the Hoppers Club 180-200 Pannam Drive Hoppers Crossing for our Christmas lunch on Nov. 26 at 12md. There is a 3 course carvery for \$27 and everyone is very welcome. Please let Elaine or Lorna know that you are coming before Thursday 23 Nov.

Carol Service preparation

 The annual Carol Service is planned for 17 December at 7pm. Rehearsals will continue on the following dates: Saturday 18/11 5–6pm; Monday 27/11 5–6.30pm; Sunday 3/12/23 5–6.30pm, Sunday 10/12 5–6.30pm; Saturday 16/12 5–6.30pm. Looking forward to seeing everyone again and enjoying the beautiful music of the season. (Wendy B.)

Beach Patrol 3030

It was great to have 35 enthusiastic volunteers cleaning Campbell's Cove today. Together we removed 125 Kg of rubbish including a car tyre, water pump, car battery and much more. There were also 38 plastic drink bottles, 72 drink cans, and 57 glass bottles. This is our first clean since the CDS launch and it was great that Wes P (Geelong Beach Patrol) was able to take our eligible containers to deliver to a collection point. Our next clean will be Feb 11th but if you are free on Sat Nov 25th Wes has invited us to attend the 3220 Beach Patrol clean at Rippleside Beach Geelong (9:00-10:00 Morning tea after)

Thanks to all our volunteers who have supported us this year. Our group is in great shape with a strong sense of community, and it's been great to welcome lots of new members this year.

Uniting World meets its fundraising target

Uniting World has just hit their fundraising target to help partners in Maluku and Timor-Leste who are fighting a food crisis in their communities. It means dozens of families accessing resources, support and training to grow their own food, and they're already reaping the benefits. We pray it spreads to impact hundreds over the coming months and we're so grateful for the support of people like you to make it happen. Thank you!

Please consider a card for Christmas from their catalogue

Everything in Common Gift Catalogue is out now for Christmas! (Luciana M)

TODAY AND NEXT WEEK

Worship services

19 November: Rev. Angela Tampiyappa
26 November: Rev. Valerie Johnson

What's On This Week

Monday: 9.30am Playgroup
Wednesday: 9.30am Crossroads Property C'tee;
2.30pm Seniors Afternoon Tea
Thursday: 9.30am Gardening Group
Next Sunday: 12noon OSLO

Bible Readings 19 & 26 November

19 November: Judges 4:1–7; 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11; Matthew 25:14–30; Psalm 123:1–4
26 November: Ezekiel 34:1–31; Ephesians 1:15–23; Matthew 25:31–46; Psalm 100

Rosters for 19 November & (26 Nov.)

Greetings: Margaret D (Sandra S)
AV: Christian R-K (Noel S)
Morning Tea: Sandra S & Margaret G (Mary D & Margaret D)
Flowers: Mary D (Margaret F)
Music: Elliott S (Asanka P)
Prayers: Christine M (Lucinda A)
Reader: Amelia R-K (Faye D)

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.

WUC News: For any inclusions, please contact the editors **by Tuesday** (ph. 0427 812 606) or email 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. Elizabeth B manages the bookings.