



Werribee Uniting Church

5 November
2023
Pentecost 22

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

One farewell, one anniversary

The Rev. Linley Liersch officiated at the “cutting of the ties” worship service last week, when the Rev. Fa’amata’u Leota’s settlement at Hoppers Crossing UC was effectively concluded, and the worship service began with Linley’s presentation of a certificate recognizing the Rev. Neil Tolliday’s 60th anniversary of ordination in the Presbyterian Church of Australia and the Uniting Church in Australia. Neil’s sons Bob and Michael and his daughter Janet were present with their partners. Neil responded.

Margaret G for Crossroads congregation and Tupu L for Hoppers Crossing congregation presented gifts including flowers to Fa’ama and his wife Taega.

Taega said thanks, and Fa’ama spoke farewell words about his time with the Hoppers Crossing congregation and their coming to join with Werribee Crossroads sisters and brothers’ partnership in ministry. He gave a blessing to both congregations for their future as a community of Christ.

The morning concluded with a magnificent brunch in the hall provided by the women of Hoppers Crossing Uniting Church and Crossroads Church.

Fa’ama will be inducted into Sunbury congregation on Sunday December 3, 2023 at a time to be confirmed. He and Taega will welcome friends from our two congregations in Werribee. (NT & RR)

Election of new Church Council

We need your help to nominate members now!



The new council will have both general members and elders.

We aim for six councillors 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. Closing time is 9.30am November 19th. 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 Lambie)

Gospel reflection today

Recently I joined the Climate choir outside the Arts Centre in St Kilda Road, where we were singing “Here we stand for those who face a rising sea... Mining fossil fuels is wrong...” (Tune: “She’ll be coming round the mountain”.) I feel uncomfortable for myself and others active in the ‘resist global warming’ movement when I know that we are using petrol driven vehicles and natural gas heating and flying with aviation fuel.

How can we reconcile our espoused values with our actions? The writer of Matthew’s gospel holds a mirror to see ourselves, when he says in chapter 23, referring to the Pharisees “Obey everything they teach you, but don’t do as they do.” There’s hypocrisy in the Christian church, when it preaches about sin and forgets the decades of documented child sexual abuse in many countries around the world.

The Scribes and Pharisees are castigated in chapter 23 of Matthew’s gospel, “You hypocrites...” Let’s look at the context.

This gospel was probably written in the decades after the Romans destroyed the Jerusalem Temple in 70CE. The place where this gospel was written was probably an Eastern Mediterranean city such as Antioch in Syria. The Jewish community centred on the synagogue was struggling to recover from the Roman Empire’s attack on its religion, its cultural traditions and its priesthood.

Christian Jews who believed in Jesus added to the mix, bringing conflict as new leadership emerged in the Jewish community. The struggle for control of the synagogue was won by the Pharisees, much to the chagrin of the Christian community of Matthew. Therefore, the Gospel of Matthew contains much invective directed at the Pharisees. The church over many centuries directed its hatred toward all Jews.

We Christians today can focus on Matthew’s message in verse 12 “humble yourself.” And we can live by the command in Micah 6: “Love mercy, do justice and walk humbly with your God.” (Neil T)

NEWS AND NOTES

Bible Discussion Group

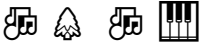
The Bible Discussion Group resumes meetings on Tuesday 14 November at 11.30 am. Neil T.

Boys' Brigade.

Boys' Brigade – Monday night—7:00pm to 9:00pm at Dreambuilders Church, 37-43 Graham Court, Hoppers Crossing, contact Scott W. or boysbrigadewyndham@gmail.com for details.

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 25th 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 23rd Nov.

Carol Service preparation begins tonight.

 At **6pm tonight rehearsals** will begin for our annual carol service, which will probably be at 7pm on 17 December. Rehearsals will continue on the following dates: Sunday 12/11/23 6–7.30pm; 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.

Hoping you can join us with our first Carols Service rehearsal on Sunday 5th November 6pm at Crossroads church and looking forward to seeing everyone again and enjoying the beautiful music of the season. (Wendy B.)

Presbytery seeking committee members.

Presbytery Committees are often required to make a decision that will affect your congregation, and the right decision will only be made if all voices are heard, so why not be part of that decision making process by taking up an executive position or by joining one of the Presbytery committees? We will welcome your opinion.

If you are interested, please check the church notice boards for more information on roles and responsibilities and nominations close on 13 November 2023.



TODAY AND NEXT WEEK

Worship services

5 November: Rev. Angela Tampiyappa (HC)
12 November: Rev. Annetia Goldsmith

What's On This Week

Monday: 9.30am Playgroup

Wednesday: 9.30am Crossroads Property C'tee

Thursday: 9.30am Gardening Group

Bible Readings 5 & 12 November

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

12 November: Joshua 24:1–3a, 14–25; 1

Thessalonians 4:13–18; Matthew 25:1–13; Ps. 78

Rosters for 5 November & (12 November)

Greetings: Julie H (Margaret B)

AV: Christian R-K (Paul K)

Morning Tea: Samoan Ladies (Judy O'K & Dorothy R)

Flowers: Jennie K (Elaine B)

Music: Elliott S (Gina L)

Prayers: Doug M (Elizabeth B)

Reader: Tupu L (Deb C)

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 T)—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 Barnes manages the bookings.