



Werribee Uniting Church

10 December
2023
Advent 2

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

Welcome to Rev. Aiono Viliamu-Kilifi

The congregation at Werribee Uniting Church welcomes our brother minister who is leading worship this morning. The Rev. Aiono became an ordained minister of the Methodist Church in New Zealand in 2011. Since 2014 he has been living in Australia. His full-time placement is the Hoppers Crossing Samoan Wesleyan Methodist Congregation, now meeting at Seabrook Community Centre Hall, Truganina Avenue in Point Cook.

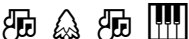
Congratulations to the new Church Council

All 12 nominees to the Church Council were elected in last week's ballot, so congratulations to them and the very best wishes and support from the new congregation for them as they begin their new responsibilities. The members now are Tupu L, Christine M, Noel S, Ashok S, Amelia R-K, Node M, Lauina L, Dorien P, Tracey S, Elizabeth B, Margaret B, and Armando A.

Bible Discussion Group

The Bible Discussion Group is taking a break and will resume meetings on Tuesdays **in February** at 11.30 am.

Carol Service preparation

 The annual Carol Service is planned for 17 December at 7pm. Rehearsals will continue on the following dates: 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.)

Sammy Stamp

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



CHRISTMAS BOWL WEEK 2



Second Sunday of Advent **Bringing Peace to refugees in Ethiopia**

Sara* fled to Ethiopia from Yemen eight years ago with her four children. In Addis Ababa refugees are at risk of severe exploitation, with little access to education, medical care, or basics like food. Through Act for Peace's partner, the Ethiopian Orthodox Church Development and Inter-Church Aid Commission, you can help provide refugees with medical and psychological care, as well as livelihoods training, giving people like Sara the chance to build secure futures for their families. **Please give today.**

CALL: 1800 025 101 VISIT: christmasbowl.actforpeace.org.au

*Name changed for safety reasons

The Christmas appeal of Act for Peace, the international humanitarian agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. ABN 85 679 970 195

Last week we dedicated our wooden Christmas Bowl for the purpose of collecting our donations to the Christmas Bowl Appeal. This is the annual Christmas Appeal of Act for Peace, which is run by the National Council of Churches and supported by many churches of many denominations all over Australia.

Our new combined church, Werribee Uniting Church is pleased to support the appeal this year, as both Hoppers Crossing and Crossroads churches have in the past. This is a practical way that we can care for our neighbours around the world that are going through tough times of conflict, trauma and displacement.

If you would like to donate, please place your donation in the Christmas bowl at the back of the church, use the envelopes provided at church, visit our church's Christmas Bowl donation page with this link: mycb.link/45154, scan the QR code on the posters in the foyer, or call 1800 025 101.



A working bee restored the stone wall at the entrance to the church grounds to its former glory. Pictured - Vince Li, Eric Griffiths and Alastair Robinson. Geoff Gook says the exit fence will be repaired before Christmas.

NEWS AND NOTES

Rev. Dr Marie Ropeti-Apisaloma visiting Wyndham interviewed by Neil Tolliday



Author of “Nafanua Theology” the Rev. Dr Marie (pictured) visited recently with her daughter Amelia Ropeti-Kilifi’s family, in Point Cook.

Dr Marie is presently minister of two Samoan speaking parishes and is the Moderator of Northern Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa

New Zealand, which includes 80 parishes.

We met over a glass of water, in the Plaza Tavern. I expressed the hope that when Dr Marie next visits her Australian family, that she will come to our Werribee congregation on a Sunday morning.

“Nafanua Theology – a Samoan Christian argument for women in ordained ministry” (published November 2022) is an important contribution to the struggle of women in the churches of the Pacific and the world. Patriarchal denial of the claim of women to an equal role in ordained ministry leadership of Christ’s church is unjust. Replying to the charge that Samoan culture is to be blamed for not ordaining women, she shows that from ancient times, Samoan women shared equally in community leadership.

Dr Marie explained to me that ordained ministry is her calling over 40 years, although the church of her childhood – the Congregational Christian Church of Samoa refused to admit her to that role.

In 1975, denied entry into ministry in her own church, Marie began studies at Knox Theological College. Completing academic requirements, in 1981 she was ordained into the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand. She led a white congregation which was next door to a Samoan congregation, so she experienced the tension of being unable to work with her own people.

On a World Council of Churches scholarship, Marie completed a Master’s degree at the Pacific School of Religion, Berkely California. This led to her doctoral studies at the Pacific Theological College, Suva Fiji, while working part-time in ordained ministry.

She says: “If we nurture each other, our minds will be inclusive. I go back to what Jesus said: ‘Love one another.’”

The Rev. Faama was very pleased to have several members of our congregation join him for his induction at Sunbury last week—including a Samoan choir!

TODAY AND NEXT WEEK

Worship services

10 December: Rev. Aiono Viliamu-Kilifi

17 December: Rev. Angela Tampiyappa

What’s On This Week

Monday: 9.30am Playgroup

Tuesday: 11.30am Bible Discussion Group

Wednesday: 9.30am Property C’tee

Thursday: 9.30am Gardening Group

Bible Readings 10 Dec. & 17 December

10 December: Isaiah 40:1–11; 2 Peter 3:8–15a;

Mark 1:1–8; Psalm 85:1–2, 8–13

17 December: Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11; 1

Thessalonians 5:16–24; John 1:6–8; 19–28; Ps 126

Rosters for 10 December & (17 Dec.)

Greetings: Margaret B (Margaret D)

AV: Jacob L (Christian R-K)

Morning Tea: Elaine B & Sandra S (Margaret F & Asanka P)

Flowers: Rose G (Lorna H)

Music: Gina L (Elliott S)

Prayers: Margaret B (HX)

Reader: ? (HX)

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 editor **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 Barnes manages the bookings.