



Werrabee Uniting Church

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 we gather.

1 December 2024: Advent 1

Christmas Bowl appeal



Last week we dedicated our own Christmas Bowl to be used for the Christmas Bowl Appeal. We support this important appeal every year. It is run by Act for

Peace, the international humanitarian agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. Christmas Bowl has been running for 75 years this year.

Please give to the appeal. This is a way you can share Christ's love with others in need at Christmas time. Funds raised go to help refugees. This week in church we will hear about the help we can give to refugees in Indonesia.

Ways to donate:

- Put cash or cheque in our Christmas bowl, located at the back of the chapel
- Use the Christmas Bowl envelope to give by cash, cheque or credit card. Place in our bowl or return by post



- Donate online at <https://mycb.link/45154> or using this QR code

Congregational

Meeting

At our meeting on Sunday 24th November we appointed six people to form our Joint Nominating Committee. They are Deb Cochran, Geoff Gook, Anina Latu, Lauina Levave. Ken Storey and Site Tupua.

We thank them for their willingness to serve on this committee.

We are very pleased that we have a diverse group with a good balance of ages, cultures, men and women, previous congregations and life experience.

They will be led by two people from Presbytery, the Rev. Peter Beale as chairperson and Lorraine Leitch who is a member of the Pastoral Relations Committee.

Part of their task is to put together a profile of our congregation. To assist them with that task the congregation will be asked to discuss some questions in the new year.

At our congregational meeting Rev Linley Liersch spoke of three questions that will be part of that discussion.

- *Where are you, how has your area changed in the last 5 years?*

TODAY AND NEXT WEEK

Worship services

1 December: Rev. Bruce Watson

8 December: Rev. Linley Liersch

For Pastoral Care: Please contact Raymond Surujpal, convenor of the pastoral care team on mobile: 0432 619 184 or Margaret Bull on mobile: 0417 500 961.

Bible readings

This week: (First Sunday in Advent) Jeremiah 33:14–16; Psalm 25:1–10; 1 Thessalonians 3:9–13; Luke 21:25–36

Next week:

What's on this week

Sunday: 5.30pm Carols Choir Practice (Chapel)

Monday: 9.30am Playgroup

Thursday: 9.30am Gardening Group; 5pm Health & Fitness;

5.30pm Choir Practice (chapel)

Saturday: 8am Health & Fitness

Rosters 1 December (& 8 December)

Greetings: Margaret Dent (Margaret Bull)

Audiovisual: Paul Kirkman (Paul Kirkman)

Morning Tea: Lauina & Pene (Sandra Savory & Margaret Gook)

Flowers: Lorna Hodge (Jennie Kirkman)

Music: Wendy Barnes (Gina Lee)

Prayers: Site Tupua (Elizabeth Barnes)

Reader: Audrey Kateena (Bev Lambie)

Werrabee UC on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/621987747878234/>

Church office

Open Monday to Friday 9.30am–12noon. Phone 97411084 Email

office@werribeeunitingchurch.org.au

WUC Newsletter (Editor: Robert Renton)

Send information for inclusion to the Editor at robert.renton@bigpond.com or 0427 812 606.

Bank Account & Boom Gate (0459#)

BSB 083-909 A/c 516109795

To book facilities at WUC:

Email: (Elizabeth Barnes)

bookings@werribeeunitingchurch.org.au

Samoa service (On hold until 2025).

- *Who are you as a congregation?*
- *If Werribee UCA was not here would your community notice? Why is it significant?*

There was not enough time to discuss this adequately on 24th November so Sandra and Bev were asked to arrange another meeting early in the New Year for this discussion. The date will be advised in the Newsletter.

(Bev Lambie, Congregation Secretary)

Bible Discussion

This group had its last meeting for 2024 on Tuesday 26th November. It will not meet again until February.

Carols Service- Save the Date!

Come and celebrate the Christmas season at our annual Carols Service, which will take place on Sunday, December 15th at 7pm.

Everyone is welcome to hear the timeless story of the first Christmas presented through scripture and much-loved carols...dress with a festive touch, bring your singing voices, and a small plate of supper to share afterwards (if possible) would also be greatly appreciated!

Uniting Church Adult Fellowship

Our next UCAF meeting will be Wednesday 4th December at 12 noon at the "TIGERS" clubhouse. This will be our last meeting for the year. For catering purposes please let Lorraine Sewell or Margaret Gook know if you will be an apology.

The Reverse Advent Calendar

A Reverse Advent Calendar begins as an empty box. For 20 days in the lead up to Christmas you place one item (non-perishable food, toiletries, Christmas treat) into the box. After 20 days your filled Reverse Advent Calendar is dropped off to a designated location where it is distributed by food relief agencies to people in your immediate community who are experiencing food insecurity.



Unlike a regular Advent Calendar where the focus is on receiving a treat every day the Reverse Advent Calendar takes the focus off receiving and places the focus on giving to others.

You can participate by collecting a box from the church office, filling it with items and returning it by December 15. Alternatively you can place an item or two in the box found in the church foyer.

Contact Lauren Duckworth (Withers) for further details
Email: glduckworth2@gmail.com. Phone: 0437 008 328.

Website: www.reverseadventcalendar.com.au

Facebook: Reverse Advent Calendar Werribee

Christmas appeal from Uniting

Our congregation has had a long history of supporting the Uniting Church's social support agency, including hosting the local agency for many years. They've now moved into central facilities in Watton Street but the opportunity to support their work is still very much ours. You can donate via the website:

<https://www.unitingvictas.org.au/christmas/#donate> and make a very worthwhile contribution to caring for many who are not so fortunate.

Wyndham Carols by Candlelight 2024

As we approach the Christmas season, we are excited to share that Wyndham Carols by Candlelight 2024 is back again and fast approaching! Taking place on **Saturday, 7 December at the Werribee Mansion**, this year's event will feature the incredible Silvie Paladino, Australian soprano, and the Salvation Army Melbourne Staff Band led by the legendary Ken Waterworth who will be concluding 30 years as Bandmaster.

Following last year's sell-out success with over 5,000 attendees, we are anticipating another extraordinary evening of worship through carols, celebration of the story of the Nativity, and sharing God's love through bringing the community together.

A moment's reflection

Woe to you cities;
incubators of ambition and hubris.
Woe to you, Washington,
where double-talk and spin parade as truth.
Woe to you, London,
where incarcerated poor burn like candles in the wind.
Woe to you, Pyongyang,
where paranoia and illusion rule.
Woe to you Canberra,
where trust is rare and compassion is overruled by policy and expedience.
Woe to you cities;
artefacts marked by Cain, reaching up and up Babel-like.
Woe to you pretenders to The Kingdom;
your glassy canyons promise heaven but deliver hell.
(Karel Reus, *Conversations with God*, spurred by Jacques Ellul's *Meaning of the City*)

Thank you from Allan Curtis' family

Maureen, Melanie and Sally would like to thank the Werribee Uniting Church Congregation for their wonderful love and support on the loss of Allan, we are truly thankful.