



# Werribee 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.

## 16 June 2024: Refugee Week

### Finding Freedom: Family

Refugee week, 16–22 June, is a unique opportunity to take time to learn about the experiences of people who have sought refuge and asylum, to celebrate the valuable contributions made by refugees to the world and our communities, and consider how we can take action together for justice.

Refugee Week 2024 is falling at a time of great grief and uncertainty around escalating global conflicts, including the heartbreaking crisis in Gaza. Ongoing and new conflicts, political oppression and insecurity, has led to the world facing the worst displacement of people crisis in its history, with more than 100 million people across the planet having been forced to flee their homes because they are in fear of being persecuted. We continue to pray and call for peace.

The Refugee Week theme for 2024 recognises the profound journey of resilience, strength, and unity that defines the refugee experience, with a focus on the importance of family in providing solace, support, and a sense of belonging on the journey towards finding freedom.

#### **Book review: *Refuge Reimagined*, by Mark & Luke Glanville**

The United Nations recently announced that last year the world resettled the lowest number of refugees in nearly twenty years, even though there are record numbers of people needing a safe home. Our country has also reduced support for people seeking safety. In 2020, the Morrison Government cut the number of people our nation would resettle by 5,000 per year. The Morrison Government has also cut financial assistance for people seeking safety by 86% since 2017.

Christians in particular have reason to keep talking about refugees given the Bible has much to say on this issue. Have you ever thought through what the Bible says about people from refugee backgrounds?

*Refuge Reimagined* is a new book from Australian brothers, Mark and Luke Glanville. Mark is an Old Testament scholar and Luke is an Associate Professor in International Relations. Their joint qualifications allow them to write from a unique perspective that is both deeply Biblical and grounded in the political realities of the global refugee situation.

**Their central message is that the Bible calls followers of Jesus to embrace people from refugee backgrounds as ‘kin’ or family.** God’s people are urged repeatedly throughout the Bible to extend kinship to those who are on the outside of community. We are to welcome into the protective centre of the community those who are without clan, without family, without home. This is a challenging but deeply transformative message.

(Information for Refugee Week and this book review are from Common Grace: <https://www.commongrace.org.au>)

## TODAY AND NEXT WEEK

### Worship services

16 June: Rev. Ian Pearse

23 June: Rev. Val Johnson

### Bible readings

**Today:** 1 Samuel 15:34–16:13; Psalm 92:1–4, 12–15; 2 Corinthians 5:6–17; Mark 4:26–34

**Next week:** 1 Samuel 17:32–49; Psalm 107:1–3, 23–32, 2 Corinthians 6:1–13; Mark 4:35–41

### What’s on this week

**Monday:** 9.30am Playgroup

7pm Justice Taskgroup

**Tuesday: 11.00am** Bible Study & Lunch

**Thursday:** 9.30am Gardening Group; 5pm

Health & Fitness

**Friday:** 1pm Sew ‘n’ Sow

**Saturday:** 7am Health & Fitness

### Rosters 16 June (& 23 June)

**Greetings:** Node M (Margaret D)

**Audiovisual:** Christian R-K (Noel S)

**Morning Tea:** Elaine B & Julie R (Margaret F & Margaret G)

**Flowers:** Rose G (Elaine B)

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

**Prayers:** Margaret B (Jeremy W)

**Reader:** Node M (Deb C)

### Werribee 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](mailto:office@werribeeunitingchurch.org.au)

### WUC Newsletter (Editor: Robert Renton)

Send information for inclusion to the Editor at [robert.renton@bigpond.com](mailto: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 B)

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

**Samoan service** The Samoan language service is held every 3rd Sunday at 4pm in the church. All welcome.

## UCAF Backpacks.



We have had notification that our backpacks can be on their way to the SOLOMON Islands if we can get them into the shipping container by mid July. If you are working on a backpack could you please try and complete it by the end of June so that I can reply YES we can supply....maybe 50. (Up to 43

now) Thanks. Margaret G asst sec. Werribee Uniting UCAF

### A reminder

The “Record of Contact Details” forms which have been distributed in recent weeks are needed urgently.

If you have not returned yours please get it to the Church Office this week or give it to Bev Lambie on Sunday.

Note: Each adult needs to complete a separate form.

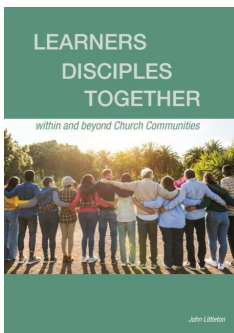
Name Tags for those who have completed forms will be available on Sunday. (Bev Lambie Cong. Secretary)

### Oslo Sunday Lunches Out.



On 23rd of June we will be going to the Racecourse hotel. No seniors meals but the manager has offered us choice of 2 roasts for

\$24 or roast with dessert for \$30. Everyone is welcome. Please contact Elaine or Lorna by Thursday 20th June for catering.



### Discipleship

MediaCom has just published a new book on discipleship—a topic that Christians need to understand.

The three papers or articles presented in *Learners-Disciples-Together* are a result of John Littleton’s learning and reflection on discipleship ministry practice.

*Learners-Disciples-Together. Within and beyond church communities* offers a deep dive into the concept of discipleship within the context of modern Christian communities. With a focus on the majority of Church members—the everyday disciples and parish leader disciples, Littleton integrates biblical and theological insights with recent scholarship and his own reflections from practice.

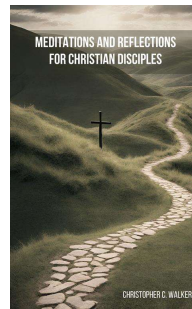
Available for ordering online here  
Cost \$21.95 + postage and handling

Email: [admin@mediacom.org.au](mailto:admin@mediacom.org.au)

Phone: 08 83711399

A second book is by an Australian Uniting Church theologian, Dr Christopher Walker. *Meditations and Reflections for Christian Disciples* is a thoughtful exploration of Christian faith and discipleship. Whether read individually or used as a resource for group study, Walker encourages readers to delve into the depths of their faith

and live more fully into their identity as disciples of Christ.



Available for ordering online here  
Cost \$28.95 + postage and handling

Email: [admin@mediacom.org.au](mailto:admin@mediacom.org.au)

Phone: 08 83711399

[*Note from Editor:* I don’t usually provide ‘free’ advertising, but the topic is so important in today’s context of some very strange ideas about what constitutes ‘being a

Christian’—especially in and emanating from the USA, the so-called “Christian nationalism”, which is so supportive of convicted felon Donald Trump.]

### 17th Assembly papers

Are you interested to find out how the Uniting Church is going across our nation and what sorts of things are being planned for our Church? You can read all the papers for the 17th Assembly at this address:

<https://uniting.church/17th-assembly-papers/>

The Assembly is to be held in Parramatta NSW from the 11th to the 16th of July.

### UCA Act 2 report

The major report to the forthcoming Assembly is the Act 2 report which has been finalised after two years of consultation across all levels of the Church. It will be the subject of much debate and it will have an effect on our congregation’s life in time to come. You can read the report here: <https://uniting.church/final-report-of-the-act2-project-released/>

### To contact the Rev. Ian Pearse

The Rev. Ian Pearse offers pastoral care to anyone in our congregation. Please ring mobile: 0411 771 853 or send an email to: [enps@iinet.net.au](mailto:enps@iinet.net.au).

