



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.

8 September 2024: Season of Creation

This week on television

This last week of winter in Australia brought a mixed bag of free to air TV viewing.

Firstly, Ray Martin's take on the death industry in Australia disappointed this viewer, as I looked for news of innovative and creative approaches to the "end of life" process. My take-away was the brief segment about composting as a sustainable alternative to the output of carbon dioxide that goes with cremation. The Islamic ritual of washing the body of the dead person by family members stands out as a respectful and loving farewell.

In a time when slide show of the dead person's life is fashionable I would wish to see an informative treatment of the varieties of Christian funeral – featuring the spectrum from traditional to progressive theology.

Secondly, the ABC program "Foreign Correspondent" featured the Australian Christian doctor Ken Elliott and his wife Jocelyn. Ken the surgeon and Jocelyn had been working for some years in primitive conditions amongst the poor people in West African Burkina Faso when Ken was kidnapped by Al Queda factions of Islamic Jihad. For seven years in captivity Ken was malnourished; lack of Vitamin C brought on severe scurvy. Remarkably, Judith and Ken's support group in their church in Perth never gave up praying for Ken.

Pictures of the bleak southern Sahara desert brought to me the reality of a brutal kidnapping. Footage of the 88 year old doctor after his release showed a person whose Christian faith meant complete trust in the God of Jesus Christ; Ken refused to convert to Islam. I was deeply impressed by the story of these faithful and humble Christian missionaries.

Thirdly, I note that television coverage of the Jayson Gillham affair is minimal. Most of the information I can glean comes from the *Age* newspaper which now is a key player in Peter Costello's Nine Entertainment. I feel admiration for a person who puts his career as a classical pianist on the line when he speaks of the more than one hundred journalists killed in the Israeli-Hamas conflict in Gaza.

I will refrain from entering into the ethical nuances of an artist's participation in the debate about Israel's response to the Hamas killing of Israeli people on October 6 last year. It does seem to me that the tragic transformation of Israel from holocaust victim to settler-colonial society to an efficient killing machine provides a reality check.

The complicity of United States, UK and European countries in the arming of Israel needs to be understood as a powerful lesson in the strength of the Zionist lobby in US, UK and European politics. Australia is not

TODAY AND NEXT WEEK

Worship services

8 September: Rev. Bruce Watson

15 September: Rev. Ian Pearse

Bible readings

Today: Proverbs 22:1–2, 8–9, 22–23; Psalm 125; James 2:10–17; Mark 7:24–37

Next week: Proverbs 1:20–33; Psalm 19; James 3:1–12; Mark 8:27–38

What's on this week

Monday: 9.30am Playgroup

7.30pm Social Justice Task Group Meeting

Tuesday: 11am Bible Discussion & Lunch

Wednesday: 6pm Church Council

Thursday: 9.30am Gardening Group;

5pm Health & Fitness;

5pm Choir Practice (chapel)

Saturday: 7am Health & Fitness

Rosters 8 September (& 15 September)

Greetings: Margaret B (Margaret D)

Audiovisual: Christian R-K (Paul K)

Morning Tea: Marie C & Sita T

(Jan B & Julie H)

Flowers: Bev C (Margaret F)

Music: Gina L (Tracey S)

Prayers: Lauina L (Ron L)

Reader: Elizabeth B (Sandra S)

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

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 B)

bookings@werribeeunitingchurch.org.au

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

exempt from the geopolitical struggle which plays out in the Middle East. (NT)

Young Samoans' tribute



Congratulations to Ron L and Tupu L for their mentoring of a choir of teenage Samoans who sang a tribute to fathers, thanksgiving for dads, to the tune "Down by the riverside" last week.

The song was followed by each young person saying a Bible verse appropriate to the day, mainly from the Book of Proverbs.



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.

3030 beach patrol today

Our next clean is on TODAY. We will meet at the foreshore carpark opposite the end of O'Connor's Rd. Werribee South at 11:30 to clean the beach and surrounding areas. The clean will last 1hr and there are a couple of places where we can focus our efforts to make a big difference. We had to change to this location due to the work currently taking place at K Road Cliffs. We hope you can join us. If you haven't been for a while we would love to catch up again & new members are always welcome. Remember to bring your gloves & water bottle.

Fund-raising for Asylum Seekers

The Rev. Bruce Watson is raising funds for the **Asylum Seeker Resource Centre**, and is asking for your support.



I am trying to fundraise \$700 in the Nike Melbourne Marathon Festival 2024 on Sunday 13th October, for a cause that is close to my heart, the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC).

Please help me by making a donation through my page. <https://tinyurl.com/j4vz3ctt>

The ASRC supports people and families with their basic food, housing and medical needs during their journey to safety and freedom; as well as advocating for a fair, just and welcoming Australia.

Making a donation only takes a minute and any money you can give (no matter how large or small) will go a long way to helping me reach my target. Together we will champion hope and compassion!

Thank you, I really appreciate your support.

Justice & International Mission conference on food and social justice



A one day conference on food and social justice will be held at the Centre for Theology and Ministry, 29

College Crescent Parkville on Saturday October 5, 9am–4.15pm. The cost is \$40 or \$25 concession. To book, please go to events.humanitix.com/justice-and-international-mission-convention-2024.

Food is an integral part of our life in our Christian communities. There are many social justice dimensions to what we eat, including making sure everyone has enough healthy food to eat; the impacts on climate change with emissions related to food making making up a third of global greenhouse gas emissions; multinational food corporations that put their profits ahead of people's health; fair employment conditions for those who produce our food; and not stigmatising people for their weight when ultra-processed foods are designed to be addictive.

OSLO Occasional Sunday lunches Out

We will be going to the RSL on Sunday 22nd September for a carvery lunch at 12md. Please contact Elaine or Lorna for booking numbers by Thursday 19th. Everyone welcome.

Multifaith Week of Climate Action

From the 14th to the 24th of September people of all faiths around Australia will publicly call for a clear plan to get us out of this climate crisis and move boldly and rapidly away from coal and gas and towards a sustainable future. There will be media events on **Tuesday September 17 at major iconic places of worship, including a worship service at St Paul's Melbourne from 10am**. Many churches are unfurling banners for this week—including Werribee Uniting Church. Be involved!