



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.

22 September 2024: Season of Creation

Who do you say I am?

There's an old story about the wisdom of Socrates. He was resting in the shade of a large olive tree one hot afternoon, when he was approached by a stranger, making his way towards Athens. "Tell me," said the traveller, "what sort of people live in Athens?" Socrates looked up at him and replied, "Where do you come from?" "I come from Argos," he answered. "What are the people like in Argos?" asked Socrates. "Awful," he exclaimed. "They're a lot of quarrelsome, unsociable, lying layabouts." Socrates pondered awhile as he studied the man, and then said very slowly, "I'm sorry to tell you, but you'll find the people of Athens much the same." Presently another traveller came by and asked a similar question. Again Socrates asked where he came from. "I come from Argos," the man replied. "What are the people like there?" asked Socrates. "Charming!" answered the traveller. "The people of Argos are kind, gentle, friendly, honest and hardworking," Socrates smiled and said, "I am pleased to tell you, my friend, that you'll find the people of Athens are much the same."

It's exaggerated, but the point is clear—how we find others is very much the outcome of what we are like and how we treat others. And conversely, who we are is very much the outcome of our relationships and those with whom we come into contact. Relationships are critical. When Jesus asks Peter and the disciples—and ultimately us, "Who do you say I am?" they and we are asked a fundamentally important question about relationships and whether who Jesus was and what he said is of any meaning to us. There's no prize for being able to recite the Apostles' or Nicene creeds, or being able to spout the latest theology. You are being asked about the very meaning of life and where you stand in relation to the meaning that is offered in the story and words of Jesus. And you are being asked to show that meaning in the way you live your life.

Church Council news

The Church Council met on Wednesday 11 September and would like to inform the congregation of the following.

Church Council has decided to elect four new council members and have asked the Congregation Chairperson and Secretary to arrange a congregational meeting for Sunday 20 October. The meeting to take place at the conclusion of morning worship.

The following persons were endorsed as members of the Worship and Music Committee: Node M, Raymond S, Judy V, Lauina L, Ron L, and Angela M. The purpose of the Committee is to primarily to 'assist the Minister(s) in

TODAY AND NEXT WEEK

Worship services

22 September: Rev. Valerie Johnson
29 September: Justice Group leadership

Bible readings

Today: Proverbs 31:10–31; Psalm 1; James 3:13–4:3, 7–8a; Mark 9:30–37

Next week: Esther 7:1–6, 9–10, 9:20–22; Psalm 124; James 5:23–20; Mark 9:38–50

What's on this week

Monday: 9.30am Playgroup

Wednesday: 2pm Seniors Afternoon Tea

Thursday: 9.30am Gardening Group;

5pm Health & Fitness;

5pm Choral Practice (chapel)

Saturday: 7am Health & Fitness

Rosters 15 September (& 22 September)

Greetings: Elizabeth B (Judith O'K)

Audiovisual: Jacob L (Noel S)

Morning Tea: Judith O'K & Dorothy R
(Sandra S & Margaret G)

Flowers: Lorna H (Node M)

Music: Angela M (Tracey S)

Prayers: Ron L (Justice Group)

Reader: Taituave K (Val T)

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

The Office will be closed on the next two Tuesdays 24th September and 1st October.

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.

the conduct of worship and the celebration of the sacraments.’ The Committee will also bring recommendations to the Church Council about the overall program and plan for worship in the congregation (including the need for supply preachers), special events and services, music, youth and family services, Messy Church and any other cultural significant events.

Names are gathered for the Pastoral Care and Spiritual Oversight Team

Draft Terms of Reference for the Finance Committee were submitted for review.

A Zoom account has been setup for Werribee Uniting Church for use by Church Council and other committees for their meetings.

Planning for the church fete is underway by Amelia R-K and Tracey S. A list of volunteers/helpers for the various stalls and activities is being gathered.

Church Council is commencing a Mission Study process to discern future ministry placement for our congregation. More information about this will be provide by the end of October. (Margaret B, Secretary)

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.

Election of Church Council members

The Church Council has called a CONGREGATIONAL MEETING for SUNDAY 20 OCTOBER after worship. We are asking the congregation to nominate people to fill four vacancies on our Church Council for 2025. Please think about the people you believe have the gifts for this important role in our church. Nomination forms will be available at church or from the church office for the next three weeks. Nominations close at 12 noon Friday 11th October.

Bible Discussion in abeyance.

Our regular 11 am Tuesday morning Bible Discussion, based on the lectionary gospel reading for the coming Sunday, is held over for four weeks. Resumption will be announced in Werribee UC Church News. (NT)

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

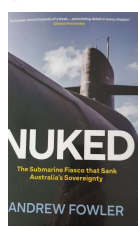
safety and freedom; as well as advocating for a fair, just and welcoming Australia.

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.

A comment on the news

I note there is irony in the timing of the Melbourne Land Forces Expo, the site of a series of ongoing protests last week outside the Melbourne Convention Centre (Jeff's Shed). Just three years ago UK PM Boris Johnson, US President Joe Biden and Australian PM Scott Morrison announced the AUKUS deal to supply nuclear submarines to the Australian navy, at the cost of AUD \$368 billion.



“There was barely a murmur of opposition from the media. Morrison had pulled off a major achievement of what US public intellectual Noam Chomsky describes as the art of manufacturing consent.” (Andrew Fowler, *Nuked*, p.9, MUP).

The three day Expo attracted large attendances from international arms dealers. Protestors called for an end to the genocide amongst Gaza's Palestinians, and an embargo on Australia's arms exports to Israel.

In 2023 the Australian Federal Government awarded a AUD\$10 billion defence contract to South Korean company Hanwha. AUD\$1 billion of the work is sub-contracted to Israeli-based defence company Elbit Systems.

The evidence of Israel's genocide policy towards the Palestinians is on our TV screens every day. I ask: “Why should Australia be complicit in the killing of innocent civilians sheltering from the Israeli Defence Force (IDF) in Gaza?”

Hospitals and schools, medical workers, teachers and students are targeted for destruction and killing. Now at this date 22 September 2024, 40,000 Palestinians have been killed by the IDF since Oct 7, 2023. (Neil T)