

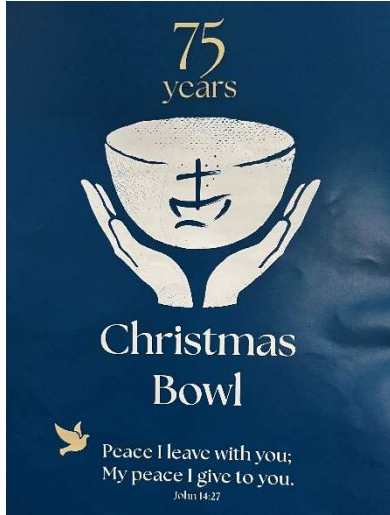


Werrabee Uniting Church

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.

8 December 2024: Advent 2

Christmas Bowl appeal



Werrabee Uniting Church is supporting the Christmas Bowl Appeal again this year.

The Christmas Bowl appeal has been running for 75 years this year. It was started in 1949 by Rev. Frank Byatt who placed a Bowl of Remembrance on his Christmas dinner table in order to give to the starving

refugees of war-ravaged Europe.

Frank Byatt believed that we have a responsibility to share what we have with others who need it. He saw it as a fundamental part of living out Jesus' call to love our neighbours as ourselves (Mark 12:31). Please support this appeal if you are able.

This week in church we will hear about the help we can give to displaced people in Gaza.

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

Request for help

Some good news—Eric and Rowie Griffiths' Perth family (Julie, Dave, Tucker (17) and Sheridan (9)) will be flying in for Christmas—the first time in six years the entire family has been together. However, they are hoping to find some house sitting in the area, maybe between Boxing Day and New Year's Eve when they fly home, as ten people in the one house at the same time for an extended period can become a bit strained. They are happy to look after chooks or a dog and water the garden where necessary, but no cats as Dave is allergic to them. Please contact Rowie on 0427 102 791 if you are available to help.

TODAY AND NEXT WEEK

Worship services

8 December: Rev. Linley Liersch

15 December: Rev. Bruce Watson

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: Baruch 5:1–9; Luke 1:68–79;

Philippians 1:3–11; Luke 3:1–6

Next week: Zephaniah 3:114–20; Isaiah 12:2–6; Philippians 4:4–7; Luke 3:7–18

What's on this week

Monday: 9.30am Playgroup

Thursday: 9.30am Gardening Group;

5pm Health & Fitness;

5pm Choral Practice (chapel)

Saturday: 8am Health & Fitness

Sunday 15th: 7pm Carols Service

Rosters 8 December (& 15 December)

Greetings: Margaret Bull (Elizabeth Barnes)

Audiovisual: Paul Kirkman (Jacob Lewis)

Morning Tea: Sandra Savory & Margaret Gook (Mary Dixon & Margaret Dent)

Flowers: Jennie Kirkman (Elaine Belcher)

Music: Gina Lee (Wendy Barnes)

Prayers: Elizabeth Barnes (Vivien Bleakley & Wendy Barnes)

Reader: Bev Lambie (Sandra Savory)

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

From Christmas through January the office will be open only on Thursday mornings.

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#)

Carols Service – Next Week

Come and celebrate the Christmas season at our annual Carols Service, which will take place next week 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!

Help needed

Readers & Kitchen helpers are required for the Carols Evening Service at 7pm Sunday 15th December 2024. Please text Raymond (M:0432619184) or contact the Church Office, if you are able to take part. We need approximately 10 readers.



Shop online for gifts that fight poverty and build hope!

Looking for unique gifts that change lives?

You've come to the right place. Go to...

<https://donate.unitingworld.org.au/everythingincommon>

Each gift you give a loved one supports communities in the Pacific, Asia and Africa to fight poverty in the face of climate change and environmental degradation.

Your generosity makes a real difference.

Common Grace: Justice Appeal

I (Robert Renton, Editor) am a subscriber to Common Grace, an organisation of Christians drawn from all denominations. One of their concerns is for the refugees of the world, and an email I received this week from James Harris, Common Grace Justice for People Seeking Asylum Coordinator, is aimed particularly at the needs of Palestinian people. This is part of his email.

Our voices calling for safety, compassion and welcome are needed more than ever. Heartbreakingly, the global refugee crisis continues to grow at unprecedented levels. This year, we saw the numbers of forcibly displaced people hit 120 million — the highest number ever. As we head towards Christmas, we remember our own Lord, Jesus, who had to flee as a child to Egypt. ...

It is easy to feel overwhelmed by the scale of the crisis before us, the horrific impact of conflicts around the world keep growing, and more people than ever before are being displaced. The early disciples too experienced their moments of being overwhelmed. The [words Jesus gave to them](#) amidst a moment when they were faced

with a crowd of hungry followers, I hear in my heart as if Jesus is speaking directly to me about Sudan or Gaza: *"I have compassion for these people... [they] have nothing to eat. I do not want to send them away hungry."*

There is a rumbling of energy and determination across the movement to respond meaningfully and faithfully at this crucial time in history.

Since October 2023, many of us are holding Gaza deeply in our hearts, praying and calling for peace, safety and welcome from those seeking safety from this conflict, a responsibility many of us feel more acutely as this brutal war is being waged by one of Australia's allies.

We are pleased to have partnered with [Palestinian Christians in Australia](#), to launch the Christians United for Refuge campaign in 2025. The campaign is calling for the Australian Government to:

- Grant immediate emergency humanitarian visas to thousands of Palestinians in Gaza.
- Provide sustained diplomatic pressure on the Israeli government about border crossings to allow visa-holders to safely evacuate from Gaza and aid to freely enter.
- Provide robust resettlement assistance once these families arrive in Australia.

James asks us—*Will you join us in taking action in 2025?*

What action might you take? Go to

https://www.commongrace.org.au/campaign_community_call?utm_campaign=campaign_community_call&utm_medium=email&utm_source=commongrace

to sign up for an online Zoom opportunity on February 4th at 7pm to:

- hear from Common Grace's National Director Gershon Nimbalker speaking alongside James Harris, Common Grace's recently appointed Justice for People Seeking Asylum Justice Coordinator.
- Learn how to meet with federal officials and candidates in the lead-up to the 2025 federal election.
- Ask your church leader to endorse the campaign (or join as a church leader yourself).
- Be equipped to take faithful, practical action to advocate for justice.
- Sign up now to join this pivotal moment and be part of a movement inspired by Christ's call to welcome the stranger and seek justice for the oppressed.

Rosters:

New rosters our out for Greetings, Prayers and Readings for January to March 2025. We urgently need these to be filled, especially the prayer roster. If you can help they will be at the front door on Sunday Morning or contact the Church Office. Thanks, Liz