



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.

1 February 2026

Thank you

Thank you to the Rev. David Withers, who is a retired minister and a member of our congregation, for stepping in and leading our communion services in January and February.

And thank you to the volunteers all around the church who maintain the weekly services and worship, pastoral care, bible study, maintenance, children's programs, youth group, gardens, music and choir, and **who** offer various forms of leadership. Without your willing contribution this church would be forced to close.

Reminders:

Uniting Church Adult Fellowship (UCAF)

Our first meeting this year is on Wednesday at 1pm — all are welcome!

Booking our facilities

For all church group bookings, if you are wanting to use the church facilities, please ensure that you email bookings@werribeeunitingchurch.org.au with full details **at least two weeks prior to the date that you require**. Please note that the Bookings email is monitored during business hours, whereas this is not the case for the church office email. (Elizabeth, Bookings Admin Officer)

Ambassador

(A psalm of mission by Karel Reus)

Let me be Ambassador, dear Lord,
and lead me in this foreign land
to make your case
with careful, crafted words.
Grant me permission to present
your policy, dear Lord,
with diplomatic care
and gentleness.
Teach me to speak the tongues of friend and foe;
translating, clarifying, coaching
interpreting your call to love
to one and all.
Skill me in the mediator's arts
that this side, and that,
will seek you out, to show a way
to Kingdom come.

Recently the Australian Government appointed a new Ambassador to the United States. Our prayers for his very considerable responsibility would be in order, as well as for ourselves.

TODAY AND NEXT WEEK

Worship services

1 February 2026: Rev. David Withers

8 February 2026: Mr Raymond Surujpal

For Pastoral Care: Please contact Raymond Surujpal, convenor of the pastoral care team on: 0432 619 184

Bible readings

This week: Micah 6:1–8; Psalm 15; 1 Corinthians 1:18–31; Matthew 5:1–12

Next week: Isaiah 58:1–12; Psalm 112:1–9; 1 Corinthians 2:1–16; Matthew 5:13–20

What's on this week

Monday: 9.30am Playgroup

Wednesday: 9.30am Property Group; 1pm UC Adult Fellowship

Thursday: 9.30am Gardening Group; 5.45pm Choral Practice; 6.45pm Worship Committee

Friday: 6.00pm Youth Group

Rosters 1 February (8 February)

Greetings: Margaret Dent (Tulua Seulupe)

Audiovisual: Christian Ropeti-Kilifi (Faith & Chelsea Kirkman)

Morning Tea: Tulua Seulupe (Elaine Belcher & Margaret Gook)

Music: Wendy Barnes (Gina Lee)

Prayers: Ron Latu (Mahonrie Aiga)

Reader: Sandra Savory (Julie Rees)

Werribee UC on Facebook:

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

Church office

Open 9.30am to 12 noon. Phone 97411084

Email office@werribeeunitingchurch.org.au

WUC Newsletter

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

Samoan service (3rd Sunday, 4pm)

3rd Sunday, 4pm, in the Church: All welcome.

Node Madu



Node is the third child in a family of seven from the Kunini Village in the Western Province of Papua New Guinea. His father was a Pastor, Rev Kibani Were Madu with the United Church of Papua New

Guinea (PNG) and later became a local language Translator with the Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL). He was encouraged to join their linguistic work and spent 6 months in Los Angeles, USA to proof read and edit. That led on to translation and publication of the whole of the New Testament into the local language, BINE. The New Testament Bine Bible is called IRELOTA MENE (Life Giving Words). Later Node worked with his dad to translate a Hymn Book and a Bible Study Guide into the Bine language.

Node's siblings have all gone on to important roles including a Geologist, a Lawyer, a Land Administrator, and one sister is in Ministry in PNG.

Node's education began at a village primary school in PNG and he attended boarding school for his secondary school years before he studied dental science at the University of PNG (UPNG). In 1985 he received a scholarship from the Australian Government to study at the Royal Adelaide Dental School. That qualified him to become a Teaching Fellow and Tutor at the Faculty of Medicine, UPNG.

Node married Leah Misima in 1987. In 1988 Node was awarded a second scholarship to study at Melbourne University for 5 years. He did specialised training in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (OMFS) Node's specialist skills were in great demand. He worked in seven hospitals including Royal Melbourne and Royal Children's.

In 2025 Node received an award for 25 years of service in the Austin Hospital. (Photo above)

Node worked in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and his late wife Leah was a staff Dental Nurse at Royal Dental Hospital. They have four adult children. Their eldest daughter Victoria was born in 1992 and works as a nurse in Cairns. Son Poweji (PJ) is a carpenter in Wonthaggi.

Their twins Joshua (Assistant Manager in a chocolate packing warehouse) and Rachel were born in 2001. Rachel is a Assistant Hotel Manager in Geelong and Melbourne. Her fiancé comes from Chile. When Node completed his training and experience in Melbourne he returned to Port Moresby to work only to be told "We don't have a job for you." However, God was in control and before long Node had three jobs and more than enough to do.

His roles included health administrator, specialist clinician and teaching. AusAID has involved Node as a consultant to help develop the National Health Plan for PNG. Working with charities to support PNGeans to have specialist medical services in Australia. Node has escorted PNG patients who needed to travel to Australia for procedures that could not be done in PNG. In recognition of his leadership in the health profession he was awarded Fellowship of International College of Dental Surgeons (FICDS) of USA. Above all serving God as Chairman of his Provincial Fellowship was always a priority.

In recent years Node was back in Melbourne, he lost his wife during the Covid pandemic. Living alone, and their children, all adults now moving on with their lives. He decided to re-marry and established contact with Mae Joy through Christian Filipina. Her family were very protective and not sure about allowing her to move away. Node made several trips to the Philippines to convince them that he would be a suitable husband. Finally the family agreed to the marriage and Node and Mae Joy were married on 31st August, 2024 in the Philippines before Mae Joy came to live with Node in Melbourne.

We are very pleased to have them as part of our congregation. We are impressed with their faith and the way they both use their skills for the Lord. (Bev Lambie)

