



# 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 March 2026

### UnitingWorld's Lent Event

#### Week 3

In our third week, we're visiting West Papua, where people and planet are learning to thrive together in the care of our partner, the Evangelical Christian Church in the Land of Papua. West Papua is a land of staggering beauty and diversity. But children are going hungry as poverty and climate change collide. Food gardens are being ruined by floods, storms and saltwater. Fish stocks are diminishing. As incomes shrink, many families are being forced to cut down forests or sell land just to survive. UnitingWorld's partner, the Evangelical Christian Church in the Land of Papua, with the support of a fresh injection of funding provided by generous Uniting Church people, is taking bold action on locally-driven solutions.

They're helping families to:

- Plant climate-resilient food gardens that keep children fed
- Restore and support traditional farming and fishing practices
- Start small businesses and eco-tourism initiatives for families to earn a sustainable income and overcome poverty.
- Train women and youth as climate champions in their villages

**Options to give**, Werrabee Uniting Church Lent Event link, Lent Event envelopes, online giving, or in person to Armando, Luciana, Mae or Node.

**Why we're participating**, climate change is driving a global hunger crisis. In places like Timor-Leste, one in four people experiences hunger. Half of all children face stunting due to failed crops and limited access to clean water. Our Lent giving helps empower communities facing these challenges.

We hope you'll join us in this meaningful, compassionate journey.

### Lisu Fellowship



Dennis La Wu

Due to the closure of the church hall the Lisu Fellowship have had to find another venue for their worship services. A member of our congregation, Luciana Aragon, was able to provide the Lisu Fellowship Leaders with information that assisted them in finding another venue.

### TODAY AND NEXT WEEK

#### Worship services

8 March 2026: Mr Raymond Surujpal

15 March 2026: Rev. Bruce Watson

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

#### Bible readings

**This week:** Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

**Next week:** 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

#### What's on this week

**Monday:** 9.30am Playgroup

**Tuesday:** 9.30am Bible Study

**Wednesday:** 9.30am Property Group;  
7.30pm Social Issues Group

**Thursday:** 9.30am Gardening Group;  
5.45pm Choral Practice

**Friday:** 6pm Youth Group

#### Rosters 8 March (15 March)

**Greetings:** Margaret Dent (Tulua Seulupe)

**Audiovisual:** Noel Savory (Jacob Lewis)

**Morning Tea:** Mae Joy & Louise De Nove  
(Sandra Savory & Julie Rees)

**Music:** Gina Lee (Wendy Barnes)

**Prayers:** Fale Alga (Tulua Seulupe)

**Reader:** Mahonrie Alga (Bev Lambie)

#### Werrabee UC on Facebook:

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

#### Church office

Open 9.30am to 12 noon. Phone 97411084

Email [office@werribeeunitingchurch.org.au](mailto:office@werribeeunitingchurch.org.au)

#### WUC Newsletter

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 Barnes)

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

#### Samoa service

3rd Sunday, 12pm, in the Church: All welcome.

On behalf of the Lisu Fellowship, Pastor Dennis La Wu has expressed the Fellowship's gratitude for being able to use the hall as their place of worship for the last ten years. Dennis said their thoughts and prayers will be with us as we discern the way forward with the hall issues. We thank them for their donation of \$1000.00 towards the hall costs in the future.

## OSLO

We have booked The Brook Hotel, Point Cook 215 Sneydes Road. They have senior meals \$19 for one course and \$21 for two courses. Please contact Lois for bookings or cancellations on 0414 758 243 as both Elaine and Lorna are away.

## Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting will be held immediately after worship on Sunday 29th March. At that meeting we need to elect the Secretary and Chairperson for the congregation. These positions are annual appointments. Please advise Bev Lambie if you wish to nominate a person for these positions. 0474 075 5543.

## A prayer for peace today

God of Abraham and Sarah, God of Hagar and Ishmael, God of Isaac and Rebekah, God revealed to us in Jesus Christ. We bring before you the lands where our faith was born, now shaken by escalating violence and deep uncertainty.

We pray for the people of Iran, for the people of Israel, and for all across the region living tonight with fear.

We pray for children woken by sirens, for families seeking safety, for those carrying grief, anger and anxiety.

Prince of Peace, interrupt the cycle of violence. Protect civilian life on every side. Grant leaders' wisdom and restraint. Turn hearts from further destruction toward dialogue and de-escalation. Call all nations to act with responsibility, with care for human life, and with respect for the obligations of international law.

Spirit of the Living God, comfort those in Australia whose loved ones are in harm's way. Strengthen Jewish, Muslim, Iranian, Arab and Christian communities who may feel vulnerable or unsettled. Guard us from antisemitism, from Islamophobia, and from every form of hatred that rises in times of conflict.

Make your Church a place of safety, compassion and steady hope. May fear give way to understanding. May violence give way to courage for peace. May justice and mercy meet.

In the name of Christ, who is our peace. Amen.

## Did you know?

WERRIBEE UNITING CHURCH'S BEGINNINGS WERE BOUND UP WITH WERRIBEE MANSION

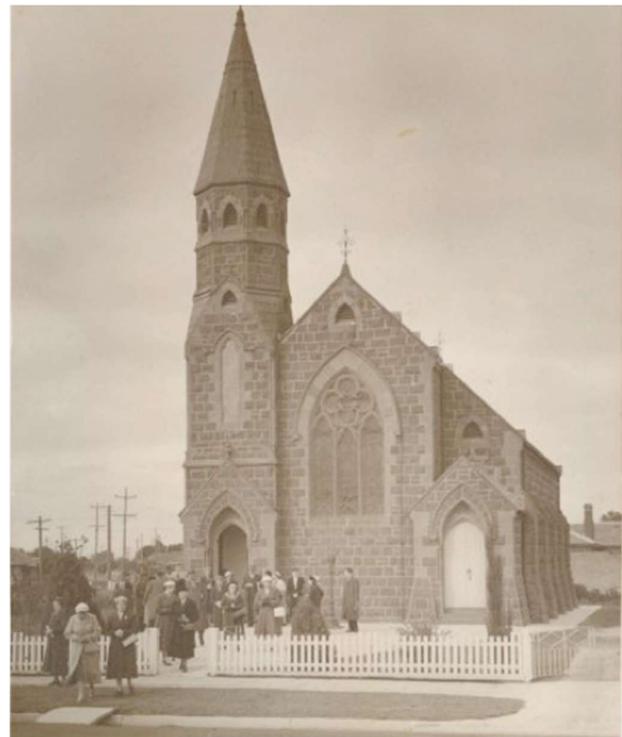
The foundation stone for St Thomas' Presbyterian church (the current Werribee Uniting Church) on the corner of Synnot St and Duncans Road Werribee was laid in

February 1884 by Thomas Chirnside, who donated the money to pay for the land and building. No one now knows where the foundation stone is, because it is not marked! The church was opened 28 September 1884.

The bluestone manse was also built in 1884, but records have been lost. It is said that the women of the congregation raised £600 towards the cost of the manse and that the remainder of the cost was paid for by Thomas Chirnside as well.

There were several 'reminders' of the Chirnside family in the church at one stage—their pew, Elders' chairs, and the communion 'rail', the 'suffer the little children to come unto me' window in the north wall of the church was donated by the Chirnsides in memory of a child in their family who died, and the weather vane on the top of the spire of the church has Thomas Chirnside's initials!

With the current need to stop using the hall it is worth noting that it is 125 years old. The Soldiers Memorial Hall was built in 1921, and the foundation stone was laid 16 April 1921 by George Thomas Chirnside, the son of Andrew Chirnside who was the brother of Thomas.



*St Thomas' Presbyterian (now Werribee Uniting) c. 1960*