



Glen Waverley

Uniting Church

Welcome

GWUC is a faithful, Christ-centred community that meets God and shares that unconditional love: meet_god@anytime.with.us

SUNDAY PREACHING PLAN - January 2016

Time	January 3 Christmas 2	January 10 Baptism of Jesus	January 17 Epiphany 2	January 24 Epiphany 3	January 31 Epiphany 4
10.00 am	Rev Neil Peters	Alison Clarkson Nancye Cottrell	Alanee Hearnshaw Communion Alison Clarkson	Rev Dr Warren Bartlett	Rev Neil Peters
Lectionary	Jeremiah 31:7-14 Psalm 147:12-20 Ephesians 1:3-14 John 1:(1-9), 10-18	Isaiah 43:1-7 Psalm 29 Acts 8:14-17 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22	Isaiah 62:1-5 Psalm 36:5-10 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 John 2:1-11	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a Luke 4:14-21	Jeremiah 4:1-10 Psalm 71:1-6 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 Luke 4:21-30
Liturgical Colour	White	White	Green	Green	Green

DECEMBER

4 - 13 December	<i>All day</i>
7 December	<i>5pm</i>
7 December	<i>10.15am</i>
10 December	<i>10am - 12noon</i>
12 December	<i>12noon</i>
13 December	<i>11.00am</i>
13 December	<i>2.30pm</i>
17 December	<i>5pm</i>
21 December	<i>2pm - 4pm</i>
24 December	<i>7.30pm</i>
24 December	<i>11pm</i>
25 December	<i>8.30am</i>
25 December	<i>10am</i>

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

4 - 13 December	<i>All day</i>	Sampari Art Exhibition and Sale
7 December	<i>5pm</i>	NewView Deadline
7 December	<i>10.15am</i>	Leisure Time Christmas Breakup
10 December	<i>10am - 12noon</i>	The Hub Christmas Morning Tea
12 December	<i>12noon</i>	Christmas Stall
13 December	<i>11.00am</i>	Iona Christmas Service
13 December	<i>2.30pm</i>	Senior Carol Service
17 December	<i>5pm</i>	Last Day for Christmas Tree Gifts
21 December	<i>2pm - 4pm</i>	Kids Journeying Through Christmas
24 December	<i>7.30pm</i>	Christmas Celebration
24 December	<i>11pm</i>	Creatively Engage in the Christmas Story
25 December	<i>8.30am</i>	All age celebration of Christmas
25 December	<i>10am</i>	All age celebration of Christmas





Join us for this special
Christmas Morning Tea
欢聚一起 享用早点 共贺圣



EVERYONE WELCOME
欢迎大家参加

Where: **THE HUB**
Glen Waverley Uniting Church
When: **Thursday 10th December 2015**
Time: **10 am to 12 noon**

**Donations will be given to needy families
in our community**

*Please add your name to the list on the Office Counter if you
are planning to attend. Thank you.*

The Christian Church in the World

Russia in Syria: The Syrian government has come under severe stress during 2015 as the al-Qaeda-led 'Jaysh al Fateh' rebel coalition has advanced into government strongholds in the north-west and as Islamic State (IS) has advanced towards Damascus. In July the government made a strategic retreat, abandoning the vast east to defend the main population centres as risk from al-Qaeda and IS. In September, as rockets rained down on Latakia (formerly Laodicean) and IS sat poised to fill any power vacuum in Damascus, Russia entered the fray. Russia was defending its own assets and interests, shoring up sanctuary for Syria's imperilled minorities and helping the Syrian government fight against international Islamic jihad. In response, al-Qaeda has called for jihad against the 'Eastern Crusader', in Syria and Russia. Please pray for Christians at risk.

Violence Escalates as Hindutva takes hold in India: Hindutva (Hindu nationalism) arose in the early twentieth century primarily as a response to British colonial rule. India has been independent since 1947, but ambitious politicians in 'democratic' India now foster Hindutva for political gain. Instead of uniting Indians against the British, Hindu nationalists are uniting Indians behind a Hindu elite keen to preserve their own power and privilege. By demonstrating non-Hindus as disloyal and a threat Hindutva has turned India into a sectarian tinderbox. Violent persecution is escalating and will certainly get considerably worse when the ruling Hindu Nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) introduces an anti-conversion bill during the winter sitting of parliament (expected to commence 20 November). The Indian Church is growing precisely because it is a mission focused church. Please pray for India and its church. (Ephesians 6:12-18)

From Religious Liberty Prayer Bulletin

Luke 21:7-19 "God of love, source of all being, when we give into fear about the world, help us to focus on You." (from "Love to the World"). We Thank You for Your embrace in sending Your Son, Jesus Christ".

May we celebrate Christmas with Hope and Truth.

West Papula: Invitation to Sampari Art Exhibition

The Women's Office of the Federal Republic of West Papua has been very busy organising the Sampari Art Exhibition and Sale to be held from 4 to 13 December, 2015 at the ACU Gallery, 26 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy.

Samurai Exhibition, together with its Program of events, is designed to "inspire a bounty of imagery and knowledge about West Papula, the people, and their ambition to be free".

For more information, and to view the Program of Events, please visit <http://dfait.federalrepublicofwestpapua.org/calendar/>

Another easy way to give to Glen Waverley Uniting Church

Technology impacts our lives in many ways every day. We now have smart phones, smart tablets, smart watches and smart users. The Glen Waverley Uniting Church wants to ensure you have many choices in how you support our work and outreach and we would like to make it easy for you to manage your gift.

We have introduced another way for you to give to us in addition to the Open Plate cash, Direct Credits, regular Envelopes by inviting you to use your phones, tablets or home computers at any time.

Instead of signing up for regular payments you may wish to make a direct deposit for whatever amount you feel you are able to contribute each week or at a time of your choice.

There is no need to complete any documents or forms, and you can do it at any time.

All we ask is that you describe your gift as "offering", so that our accounts will correctly reflect your gift.

If this type of direct giving is attractive to you, please use ...

BSB: 033 052

Account: 922198

Account Name: Uniting Church Glen Waverley

If you would like to have a card to place into the offering plate during worship as a physical act of your giving, please talk to Heather Hon in the office.

Thank you for your gifts.

Finance Committee.

From the Ministry Team

The Ministry Team extend greetings for a joyous and blessed Christmas as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. We hope you can enter in to the Christmas celebrations offered by Glen Waverley Uniting Church and that you are encouraged and strengthened as a follower of Jesus Christ during the season of Advent and Christmas. For those who are getting away over the holiday season, may your time away be safe and refreshing in preparation for what the new year has in store for our congregation. The ministry team looks forward to sharing with you in 2016.



CHRISTMAS CARDS

- ❖ available now from the church office.
- ❖ Large variety
- ❖ Mixed packs
- ❖ \$7.00 - \$8.00 for pack of 10 cards
- ❖ Purchase of these cards helps support the work of UCA Share and the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation.
- ❖ Don't miss out. Buy your cards now.
- ❖ Cards also available each Sunday (in the foyer)



Letter to the Congregation

Dear Friends,

This Christmas hear the message that the Spirit beckons us to new beginnings, for Advent is the start of the Christian year. Take time to read 'The Magnificat', for it is a song of freedom which offers a message of hope for the refugee, the voiceless and the forgotten. But who are the forgotten? Perhaps the answer lies in reflecting upon where Christ is in our own journey, at the centre or at the periphery? Are our thoughts, words and actions inspired by kindness and love? New beginnings. New beginnings.

Advent is one of the most inspiring times in the Christian year. We hear a message of hope, of reassurance that we are not alone in our struggles. We are asked to ponder and accept realities that are well beyond our human understanding. Throughout this year I have been blessed to walk beside people who shared their faith stories with me. I express a deep appreciation and respect for their openness in allowing me to be privileged to hear their stories. There are people in this congregation who inspire me through their exemplary Christian lives.

Christmas is traditionally the time when we get together with our families and close friends to celebrate the birth of Jesus. However, for some people Christmas can be a very lonely time. Therefore I invite all members of the Congregation who will be alone to come to my home on Christmas Day any time after 11am and enjoy a Christmas lunch with us. My family are looking forward to sharing our Christmas with you. Please don't bring presents, just yourselves. To help me with catering I have placed a clip board outside the church office for you to put your name on. All are welcome.

PRAYER:

Loving Lord,
As we journey towards Christmas
May we seek a place of quietness
Where we are mindful of the message
You have for us.
Amen.

Grace, Peace, Love, Joy, Hope.

Helen Stewart
Chair of Church Council

New Kids Christmas Outreach Program!

We are holding a new Kids Christmas Outreach Program this year on Monday 21 December from 2-4pm and are looking for volunteers of all ages to help us. From welcomers, crafters, handymen & handywomen, to prepare some wood work craft. We'd love to have your help. Please contact Nancye for more information on specific roles. Thank you.



A kids Christmas Program, an interactive afternoon of activities, games and craft...

that brings the Christmas Story to life.

KIDS JOURNEYING THROUGH Christmas

21 DEC

Rego open from 1.30pm Program 2-4pm
\$5 Including craft, snack & activities.
Glen Waverley Uniting Church
Crn Bogong Ave & Kingsway
Register online at gwuc.org.au
ph: Nancye 0424 739 891



The 2016 Kenya Calendar and Gift Cards are back!

To support ongoing community projects and Mission in Action Orphanage, calendars and gift cards are available for purchase again this year.

These are great for Christmas - the perfect gift for someone who has everything!

Calendars and gift cards will be available for purchase after the 9.15am and 7pm services through December.

100% of the proceeds go to the work of Mission in Action. www.missioninaction.com.au



Calendars - \$25

School Shoes - \$15

School Uniform - \$20

Sports Uniform - \$30

Health Care - \$40

Classroom Resources - \$50

Free Spirit's New CD!

Free Spirit has a new CD currently in production. It will contain a great mix of songs ranging from Jazz to Contemporary Worship and Sacred Christmas pieces. The expected delivery date of the CD is February 2016.

Pre-order your copy now! Cost: \$20.

Enquiries: Deb Leigh 0411 778 417.

NewView December Issue - Monday December 7 Deadline

As we recall the story of Joseph and Mary travelling to Bethlehem for the census, we try to identify with the young couple and how difficult it must have been for them as they faced the perils of the journey and then their future together as a couple. Our theme for the Christmas issue of *NewView* is **journeying**. We each have our own tales of our own journeys, all different but equally significant.

Sometimes we have been helped on our way by others; at other times we have had to press on alone - and so we realise that the actual journey (and what we have learned and experienced on the way) has been of more importance than the destination. Do you have a story to share about a time when your journeying brought you a better understanding of yourself and your capabilities, and your faith was strengthened as you moved on?

Any such stories, as well as reports and anecdotes about recent events involving our GWUC community; meditations on studies you have undertaken; poems reflecting on life's journey, or reviews of helpful books you have read will be welcomed. Send by email to popesr@aapt.net.au or leave your contribution at the church office. The closing date is Monday December 7.

Leisure Time Christmas Breakup - Monday 7 December

A reminder to Leisure Time Volunteers to come and join the guests and Committee for morning tea from 10.15am. Afterwards please stay to hear entertainment by Glen Waverley Primary School's three choirs.

The Hub

The last day of The Hub this year will be Thursday 10th December which is our Christmas Morning Tea day.

The Hub will resume in 2016 on Tuesday 2nd February.

If you would like to help at The Hub in 2016, please contact Judith on 9803 8373.

Iona Christmas 13 December at 11am

Some of you may be wondering about Uniting Voices' "Iona Christmas Service" so here is a very brief background to Iona and its style of worship and music.



Iona is a small island off the coast of Mull, one of Scotland's westerly Hebridean islands. The ancient Benedictine abbey on Iona, was founded by St Columba in 563 CE. It was restored during the Great Depression just before WW2, and the new Iona Community, centred in the Abbey but scattered throughout the world, has brought new life and vigour to the Church through its worship and music. It has become an impetus for spiritual renewal within the Church and also a force for world peace, reconciliation and justice.

The Iona Community focuses on God's preferment of the ordinary person over the powerful ecclesiastical tradition of the Church. They seek to touch the hearts of people in new and challenging ways. Their daily services emphasise that Jesus' message was to ordinary folk, that he sides with the poor and downtrodden and offers hope and new life to everyone. The theme of our 11am service on 13 December will reflect the Iona vision.

The songs Uniting Voices will be singing align with this emphasis. This is beautifully expressed in Together in Song number 288:

Not the powerful, not the privileged,
not the powerful in the land,
but the no-ones and the needy
were the first to hold God's hand.

God, determined to be different
from the standards we think best,
in his choice of friends and family,
lets forgotten folk be blessed.

The Iona Community reflects the Celtic tradition in their songs and worship and traditional Celtic folk tunes are often used for their songs. The worship ideas of the Community are sometimes quite radical, challenging the worshipper to reflect on their beliefs and their Christian life in new and stimulating ways.

Christmas Toilet Paper

Ever wished you could bring about social justice by your choice of toilet paper? Well, now you can! Outreach, supported by Church Council, are now acting as a supplier for ethical toilet paper. The toilet paper is made from 100% recycled paper and the company that produces it donate 50% of their profits to WaterAid to continue their work towards giving everyone around the world access to a safe and healthy toilet. Toilet rolls are double length, come wrapped in awesome Australian Christmas designs and are on sale for \$1 a roll. We are also selling their 100% sustainably sourced tissues for \$1.50 a box of 70. Contact Alanee or Amy Spark Eichenbaum for more information.

More information can be found at <http://au.whogivesacrap.org/>



Material Aid Offering

The Outreach Missional Group decided that there would be no material aid offering in December or January because there are other worthwhile Appeals offered through our church in the lead up to Christmas. The material aid offering will come back next year. We thank you for your wonderful support of the material aid offering during 2015.

Wesley Mission Food for Families

Once again we will have a Food for Families box inside our entry doors to receive your non-perishable food or toiletries donations in support of the Wesley Mission Food for Families appeal. We supported this appeal last year and we are happy to support it again this year. This is another way that our congregation can support those who do not have the means to celebrate Christmas in the way that many others can. Please consider making a contribution.

Monash Area - Blood Donations needed urgently

Red Cross have advised that their Mount Waverley Donor Centre (beside the Pinewood cinema) will reopen in a few weeks' time, after refurbishment.

In order to maintain their daily blood supplies to hospitals etc until then, they urgently need more people to donate at their BloodMobile, the large vehicle parked in the southern carpark behind their Centre. It's quite a setup and my experience there was good.

To book an appointment, please ring 13-1495 as soon as possible. New donors always welcome.

Geoff Willis.

Monash Council Development Proposal

We have received copies of the Proposal from Monash Council to develop the central car park space into community facilities. A copy of the brochure is available on the Community Noticeboard. If you are interested you can read more here, as well as finding out how to become part of the continuing community discussion.

GLEN WAVERLEY UNITING CHURCH Ministry to Seniors



*Ding Dong
Merrily on High
In heaven the bells are ringing
Ding Dong
Verify the sky
Is riven with angels singing*

Celebrate Christmas with Carols

**Sunday 13 December 2015
2.30pm**

**Carol singing led by Free Spirit with cake
and shortbread to follow.**

All welcome.





YOURS GIFTS are invited for
our **EMPTY**
CHRISTMAS TREE

Gifts for children, teenagers,
mums and dads are needed.
Food also welcome.

Please do not wrap your
presents.

**So that gifts can be distributed in time for Christmas, please
leave your gift by WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 17.**



Inclusive Community Report

Thank you: As this is the last monthly bulletin for 2015, I would like to thank Inclusive Community committee members for their support, encouragement and help this year. I would also like to thank members of the congregation for attending functions that we have organised and supporting us.

Prayer Chain: If you have a prayer request and you don't want it placed in the prayer book, we do have a prayer chain. All requests for prayer are kept confidential and are only passed onto chain members. We don't need to know why you are requesting prayer, just a name is fine. If you need more information, contact Heather in the office, during office hours or Beverly on 0417 359 779.

Lunch: Sunday 13 December after the 11am service and before the Seniors' service.

Munch with a Bunch: Our Christmas lunch will be held at the RSL on Sunday 20 December. You should receive your invitation today or early next week. (Don't forget to bring a small gift-\$5).

Members: At the November meeting of Church Council, Rev Raja and Mrs Kala Rajakulendran were received as members (transferring from Wonthaggi). Raja is doing supply during December and January so they will be back with us in February. Angel Shea was received into full membership. We say welcome to you all.

Diary Dates: Pancake Day will be on Tuesday 9 February (11.30am -2.30pm).

Our next meeting will be on Monday 11 January at 10.30 am. This will be our planning meeting so if you have suggestions for activities, please let us know.

We would like to wish you a happy and holy Christmas and we hope that you have many blessings during 2016.

Jan Clear