



# Glen Waverley

## Uniting Church

### Welcome

*GWUC is a faithful, Christ-centred community that meets God and shares that unconditional love*

#### SUNDAY PREACHING PLAN - January 2017

Time	January 1 Christmas 1	January 8 Baptism of Jesus	January 15 Epiphany 2	January 22 Epiphany 3	January 29 Epiphany 4
10.00 am	Rev Neil Peters Communion	Heather Hon Ross Mackinnon	Alison Clarkson Jan Clear	Rev Tom Rose Communion	Alanee Hearnshaw
Lectionary	Isaiah 63:7-9 Psalm 148 Hebrews 2:10-18 Matthew 2:13-23	Isaiah 42:1-9 Psalm 29 Acts 10:34-43 Matthew 3:12-17	Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 40:1-11 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 John 1:29-42	Isaiah 9:1-4 Psalm 27:1, 4-9 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 Matthew 4:12-23	Micah 6:1-8 Psalm 15 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 Matthew 5:1-12
Liturgical Colour	White	White	Green	Green	Green

#### DECEMBER

DECEMBER		DATES FOR YOUR DIARY
6 December	7.30pm	Remembrance Service
8 December	10am-12pm	HUB Christmas Morning Tea
11 December	2.30pm	Seniors Carol Service
12 December	10.30am	Leisure Time Christmas Breakup
22 December	2pm-4pm	Kids Christmas Event
24 December	7.30pm	Family Christmas Eve Service
24 December	11.00pm	Christmas Eve Service
25 December	8.30am	Christmas Day Service
25 December	10.00am	Christmas Day Service

#### JANUARY

1 January	10am	Combined Service
8 January	10am	Combined Service
11 January	10am	Star Making Day





## Join us for this special Christmas Morning Tea

欢聚一起 享用早点 共贺圣诞



### EVERYONE WELCOME

欢迎大家参加

Where: THE HUB

Glen Waverley Uniting Church  
Cnr Bogong Avenue & Kingsway

When: Thursday 8th December 2016

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. Many thanks.

### The Church in the World

**'Blasphemy' Fuels Tensions In Indonesia:** Indonesia's fundamentalist Muslim clerics have accused Basuki 'Ahok' Tjahaja Purnama - the ethnic Chinese Christian Governor of Jakarta - of blasphemy, hoping to prevent him contesting Jakarta's February 2017 gubernatorial elections. The clerics assert the Quran forbids Muslims taking non-Muslims as allies (Sura 5:51) and therefore as rulers. When Ahok suggested this was a lie, he was accused of blasphemy. Led by the Islamic Defenders Front, up to 200,000 Muslims protested in Jakarta on 4 November, calling for Ahok to be prosecuted and even killed. Transnational jihadists have threatened to kill Ahok if he is not convicted and Islamic State is calling its supporters to 'fan the flames of jihad in Indonesia'. A profound struggle is under way, with legal and spiritual dimensions. Please pray for Indonesia and its Christians.

**Update On The Battle For Aleppo:** For the second time in three months the 'rebels' controlling eastern Aleppo have refused the Syrian government's offer of safe passage out of the besieged city. Not only are they refusing to surrender the city, they are refusing to surrender their human shields, with a doctor confirming that anyone trying to leave is strafed by rebel sniper-fire. On 28 October the al-Qaeda-led Jaysh al-Fatah coalition launched a new offensive aimed at breaking through into government held western Aleppo, home to some 40,000 Christians. May the Lord protect, preserve, deliver and build his Church. Meanwhile, Turkish forces have crossed into Syria and are advancing south. If the 'rebels' do not surrender eastern Aleppo soon, the Syrian government will be compelled to reconquer it by force. May the Lord have mercy on Aleppo.

**Miracle Rescue Of Christian Girls in Iraq:** Despite having been driven from their homes in Mosul and the Nineveh Plains during June to August 2014, the now-displaced Assyrian remnant will face elevated risk during the battle for Mosul. On 23 October ISIS launched a fierce attack on Kirkuk, during which a group of ISIS fighters took up positions inside the home of seven female Christian university students. Unable to escape, the girls hid under their beds, texting their priest in Erbil. He in turn rallied the church to prayer and notified Iraqi and Kurdish forces. It is nothing short of a miracle that these girls remained undetected and were rescued, not simply alive but unharmed. Their priest said, 'It's a true miracle ... We prayed a lot and God answered.' Please pray for Iraq and its Christian Remnant.

*From Religious Liberty Prayer Bulletin*

"Lord, help us to 'pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness' and to put our hope in God." 1 Timothy 6:11-19.

You are invited to a

# **WRITE FOR RIGHTS**

**South Eastern Group**

**AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL**



**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2016**

Join us to write letters in support of  
human rights throughout the world.

No need to bring anything, except yourself.

All materials supplied.

A light supper will be served at conclusion.

Venue: - Meeting rooms, rear of St Stephen & St Mary Parish Centre,  
383 High St Rd, Mt Waverley. (Melways 61 D11)

Time: - 7.30pm

Enquiries or RSVP: - Phone Lu on 9802 1703 or [johnthek@westnet.com.au](mailto:johnthek@westnet.com.au)

## **A Letter to the Congregation**

Dear Friends,

Joy is an emotion that is difficult to define, but often includes bliss, contentment and happiness. Christians can sense that this feeling of joy is really a gift from a loving God. Joy is meant to be felt rather than defined by words. It is in our ongoing relationship with God that we can feel joy. As we venture into Advent perhaps it is timely to consider when and in which situations we experience joy in our lives.

In the study guide 'Sent: Delivering The Gift of Hope at Christmas' Jorge Acevedo reminds us that God sent Christ at Christmas and Christ sends us. Acevedo notes that Jesus' birth was not a one-time occurrence but rather the possibility that at Christmas time Jesus is being born again in our lives. The prayer that Acevedo offers is further reminder of the presence of Christ within us and the presence of Christ around us.

'Come, Lord Jesus

Amid the glitter of the shopping season

We long for another kind of gift - the time to anticipate your coming anew at Christmas.

By your Spirit and through your word, come and fill our hearts with peace'.

Amen

This Christmas may you feel the joy of the Lord.

Helen Stewart - Chair of Church Council

## **Important Dates for your New Calendar**

As you look ahead to next year, be sure to add these dates to your Calendar:

- Book Fair - Saturday March 4 from 8.30am till 1pm

- Fete - Saturday October 21 from 8.30am till 2pm

Your assistance in setup, serving on the day, and cleanup, will be needed and much appreciated. Both events rely on your contributions of stock to sell, so please put aside items to sell as you do your spring clean.

For more information, see Sue Morgan (9560 8024) or the Church Office.

## Remembrance Service - 6 December at 7.30pm

All are invited to the Remembrance Service to be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 6 December. This is an opportunity to reflect and remember those who will not be with us this Christmas.

## Help Needed - Morning Tea Roster

New volunteers are needed to help with morning tea on Sunday mornings.

Would you consider joining the merry band of people who serve morning tea on Sunday mornings? You get to meet people in a friendly atmosphere and the other helpers are a great bunch. It is a great way to meet fellow church members.

Generally your turn comes around 4 times a year so please give it some consideration. You can put your name on the list outside the Church Office or call Rewa on 9560-0829.

## Working with Children Checks (WWCC) and Police Checks

Many members will have seen requests for these checks. A police check is required for any member handling church money, and a WWCC is required for any church leader or volunteer whom a child may see as a person of authority. At GWUC, this includes Organists, Greeters and Door Stewards, as well as the ministers, Church Councillors and other leaders on the photo board in the foyer. These requirements do not of course indicate that we do not trust our leaders. Rather they are about being able to assure members, including new members, that we have done all that we can to ensure the safety of their contributions and their children. They are also needed to comply with UCA and government policies.

For further information, please see <http://wiki.gwuc.org.au/gwuc/WorkingWithChildrenCheck>. If you have questions, or need help applying, I am always happy to help, either by phone or sitting down with you and my laptop. The office staff are also familiar with the process and happy to help.

David Morgan

## “What kind of Congregation do we want to be?”

In 2014 the new Church Council drew up a Code of Conduct to set culture for itself. A modified version of this was then proposed for the congregation. In a discussion at the July Congregational meeting, some members raised concerns about this document. In response we have sought advice from an external facilitator on how to involve the whole congregation in reframing it, to better suit its intended purpose as an aspirational statement about behaviour between members. We had hoped to begin a series of workshops for this purpose this month, but under advice from the consultant, have found it necessary to defer the workshops to the New Year. We will keep the congregation informed of developments.

Helen Stewart - Chair of Church Council

## Sampari Art Exhibition and Events - 4 to 11 December

We are having a cultural extravaganza to support West Papua. Events include:-

Sunday 4 December - 1pm to 4pm

Melanesian Cultural Day and Food Festival.

Thursday 8 December - 6pm - 8pm

Debate (Monash and Melbourne Uni Assoc. Debaters)

Friday 9 December - 7pm

Film “Land of the Morning Star”

Saturday 10 December - Pacific Views on Climate Change

Sunday 11 December - Christmas Party

For details go to either website [dfait.federalrepublicofwestpapua.org](http://dfait.federalrepublicofwestpapua.org) or [www.facebook.com/sampariexhibition](https://www.facebook.com/sampariexhibition)

Venue: 26 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy (Victoria Street end - near St Vincents). Sundays free Parking.

## Church Bookings for 2017

Would all group co-ordinators please let the office know in the next two weeks what your booking requirements are for 2017 so that we can do our best to accommodate you.



### **Church Christmas Lunch**

What a wonderful Christmas Lunch last Sunday. Great food, great company and great conversations. But, best of all, the great result of being able to give our GWUC Welfare group \$532.30.

Thank you very much to all those who helped in so many different ways with the lunch, and thank you to everyone who attended, all helping us to continue supporting the needy families in our community through our Welfare group.

### **Uniting World Christmas Gift Catalogue**

The Uniting World Christmas Gift Catalogue is available on the Stewards Table. Why not think about giving a gift that gives twice this Christmas.

### **Christmas Bowl**

Envelopes for this year's Christmas Bowl are available in the Monthly Bulletin today or from the Stewards Table. The focus of Christmas Bowl this year is families in Zimbabwe. Please consider supporting the annual Christmas Bowl Appeal.

### **Empty Christmas Tree**

You are invited to bring gifts for our tree. Gifts can include food items, toys, toiletries, vouchers for all ages. Gifts (preferably unwrapped) can be left under the tree until December 18.

### **Honey**

Sadly the honey sales will be shortly coming to an end. Due to the increased health and safety requirements from Monash Council it is no longer possible to sell honey from our premises. Honey sales will cease by Christmas.

May I take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported honey sales over the years. The funds raised, approximately \$1000 a year, have been greatly appreciated by the Asylum Seeker Network.

## **GLEN WAVERLEY UNITING CHURCH** **Ministry to Seniors**



**You are invited to join us for a Carol Service**  
on

**Sunday 11 December 2016 at 2.30pm**  
**Free Spirit will lead the singing**

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

*Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!*  
*Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!*  
*Jesus comes;*  
*we will make him welcome.*

**Cake and shortbread will be served after the service.**

UNITING CHURCH GLEN WAVERLEY  
LEISURE TIME



INVITATION

*Our Christmas Break-up is on  
Monday 12 December 2016*

*All Leisure Time volunteers are cordially invited to  
join with guests and the committee in the Church  
hall at*

*10.15am*

*for morning tea after which we will move to the  
church for our entertainment.*

*You may also wish to share in our  
Christmas Service  
On the same day at 1.30-2pm*

**THURSDAY**

**22**

**DECEMBER 2016**

**KIDS CHRISTMAS EVENT**  
with challenges, craft, snacks, activities, and entertainment!

**DETACHED OUTLAW  
SURVIVOR  
OUTLAW**

At: Glen Waverley Uniting Church

## New View

It's that time of year again when the world goes crazy and we are encouraged to spend up, go out and generally have a good time. The next issue of *NewView* will focus on 'Preparing for Christmas'. What does Christmas mean for you, in the frenzy of the world around us? How do you manage the gross commercialisation of the season? What are the celebrations that you especially look forward to? Are there special procedures/rituals/customs that are meaningful for you and your family, which you want to continue because you feel they reflect the 'reason for the season'? How significant is the story of Jesus' birth to Christianity, and your faith?

Your reflections on our theme, in their many and varied forms (poetry, stories, meditations, articles) are invited. Additionally, your reports, including reviews, articles of interest and happenings (unrelated to the theme) over the last 3 months will help to keep us all informed of events and concerns in our vibrant Glen Waverley Uniting Church community. Submissions can be emailed to [popesr@aapt.net.au](mailto:popesr@aapt.net.au) or may be handed in to the GWUC office by Friday December 9.

Robin Pope

## Looking for a special Christmas Gift - 'A Spirit for all Seasons' CD from Free Spirit

As Christmas approaches, it is sometimes hard to find the right gift to show someone you are thinking of them. Free Spirit has the answer.

Copies of their 2016 CD released earlier this year may be the perfect answer. This CD contains some beautiful Christmas songs. \$20 with all proceeds going to the mission of our church. Available from John Snare, or the church office; or just ask any Free Spirit member.

1. Rhythm of Life
2. Do You Know What it Means to Miss New Orleans?
3. 10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)
4. Joy in the Morning
5. How Beautiful
6. Soon and Very Soon
7. At the Riverside
8. They Can't Take That Away from Me
9. Breath of Heaven (Mary's Song)
10. Still, Still, Still (Austrian Carol)
11. O Holy Night (with "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring")
12. Son of God, Asleep
13. Were You There On That Christmas Night
14. And Wherever You Go (a Choral Blessing)

## Church Council Elections

Church Council Elections are coming up shortly with two vacancies to fill. We also have two nominees. Some information from each of the nominees is listed below.



**Elwyn Pederson** - A little bit about myself.

- I believe my ministry is in music to enable members to worship in spirit and truth.
- I also believe pastoral care is essential to the spiritual health of our congregation.

I am involved with Leisure Time, piano and organ playing for worship, co-directing Uniting Voices, and assisting with pastoral care.



**David Fraser** - A little bit about myself.

I have worshipped at Glen Waverley Uniting Church for 39 years. For many years I was a leader of the youth group at the Springvale Road church then the Uniting Church. I have been an elder, on two minister selection committees, and previously on Church Council. I am currently a member of the 9:15 band. I try to live out my faith, but often fail. I believe that we have a wonderful church community and wish to contribute to the Glen Waverley Uniting Church by serving on the Church Council.

Please give your prayerful consideration to both these nominees.

## Wesley Food for Families

This year we are continuing our support of the Wesley Food for Families Appeal. Boxes will be here to receive donations of ready to eat meals, instant noodles, pasta and pasta sauce, baby food, spreads, breakfast cereal, UHT long life milk, spaghetti and baked beans. We realise we support our Welfare Committee but we can support Wesley Mission as well in their important work.



## **Inclusive Community Report**

As this is the last monthly bulletin for 2016, I would like to thank members of the Inclusive Community committee for their dedication and hard work. I would also like to thank you, members of the congregation, for attending and supporting functions that we have organised.

**Prayer Support Group** - If you have a prayer request and you don't want it placed in the prayer book, we do have a prayer support group. All requests for prayer are kept confidential and are only passed on to group members. We don't need to know why you are requesting prayer, just a name is fine. If you need more information, contact Heather or Wendy in the office, during office hours, or Jan on 0419 589 175.

**Our Newcomers** spent a pleasant afternoon together on Sunday 20 November. They heard about our church, vision and activities and had afternoon tea. It was a great time of fellowship and learning.

**Star Making Day** - In our last NewView, I told you about "One Million Stars to end Violence" - a project to increase awareness of violence. Stars will be displayed at the 2018 Commonwealth Games in Queensland. We will be having a star making day on Wednesday 11 January, in the Fellowship area, from 10am to 2pm. Materials, food and refreshments will be provided. To help with catering, would you please let the office know if you plan to attend.

**Munch with a Bunch** will be held on Sunday 18 December, in the hall. You should have received your invitation. Don't forget your \$5 Kris Kringle present.

**Our Youngest Members** - Last month, we welcomed Rebecca and Peter's daughter Ayla into our church family. This month I am delighted to welcome Laura and Daniel's son Flynn, brother for Elijah and Audrey. Laura and Daniel have been worshipping with us for a few months. We also welcome Sarah and Josh's son Zachary. They are members of our young adults group. Congratulations to these two families.

**Pancake Day for 2017** will be held on Tuesday 28 February at our church from 11.30am until 2.30pm.

**Mount Waverley Inter-church Council** will hold its Carols in the village (Hamilton Place, Mt Waverley) on Friday 9 December from 6.30pm till 8pm.

**Glen Waverley Inter-church Council** has placed its Christmas Board on Central Reserve (corner of Waverley and Springvale Roads) Have a look - I think it conveys the Christmas message very well.

## **Inclusive Community Report (... ctd)**

**Our next meeting** will be on Wednesday 14 December at 9.30am. If you have suggestions for activities, please let us know as we will be planning our program for next year.

On behalf of our committee, I would like to wish you a Happy Christmas and all the best for the New Year.

Jan Clear.

## **The Hub**

The last day of The Hub for 2016 will be the day of our Christmas Morning Tea, Thursday 8th December, finishing at 12noon. The Hub will resume on Tuesday 31st January 2017 at 10am.

## **Wanted - Hub Volunteers**

The Hub Volunteers have been connecting with and growing relationships with many people in the church and in the wider community for over 7 years. Some of these volunteers needed to finish up at The Hub this year, so we are looking for a few more people who "have a heart" for connecting with others in the church, and those in the wider community, offering hospitality in the way of a cuppa, a biscuit and company.

Our visitors to The Hub really appreciate the company, the help and the hospitality that we offer them. We have helped them to feel at home in our church, and they call Glen Waverley Uniting Church - their church.

The Hub operates on Tuesday and Thursday from 10am - 2pm and Wednesday 10am - 12noon during school terms. Two Hub Volunteers are rostered on together for a 2 hour session and this can be once a month, once a term, or as often as you like!

If you "have a heart" for The Hub activities, and would like to help at The Hub in 2017, either on a roster for our normal Hub activity, or as an emergency, or helping with our special morning teas, please contact Judith Greenwood on 9803 8373. She would love to hear from you!

## **Thanks**

Many thanks to everyone who has shown their care and support since Tony lost his job. We are thankful that he now has some casual work.

Heather Hon.