



# Glen Waverley

## Uniting Church

### Welcome

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

#### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

##### August 2019

14 Aug	10am	Celebration Morning Tea at The Hub
25 Aug	12.30pm	Munch with a Bunch
31 Aug	8am-12pm	Church Spring Clean

##### September 2019

15 Sept	12pm	Sharing from our visit to Indonesia
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##### October 2019

19 Oct	8.30am-2pm	GRAND FETE
20 Oct	10am	Combined Worship

##### November 2019

9 Nov	12.30pm	Getaways Spring Picnic
24 Nov	12.30pm	Munch with a Bunch Christmas Lunch

SUNDAY PREACHING PLAN - September 2019			
Time	September 1 Pentecost 12	September 8 Pentecost 13	September 15 Pentecost 14
8:00 am	Ross Mackinnon Communion	Ross Mackinnon Rev. Neil Peters Communion	Ross Mackinnon Communion
9:15 am	Rev. Neil Peters Daniel Sihombing Communion	Rev. Neil Peters	Rev. Neil Peters
11:00 am	Rev. Neil Peters Daniel Sihombing	Rev. Neil Peters	Rev. Neil Peters Communion
1:00 pm	Daniel Sihombing	Rev. Apwee Ting	Rev. Neil Peters Communion
4:30 pm	Children & Families	Children & Families	Children & Families
5:30 pm	Alanee Hearshaw	Alanee Hearshaw	Alanee Hearshaw
Lectionary	Jeremiah 2:4-13	Jeremiah 18:1-11	Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28
	Psalms 81:1, 10-16 Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16 Luke 14:1, 7-14	Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18 Philimon 1-21 Luke 14:25-33	Psalms 14 1 Timothy 1:12-17 Luke 15:1-10
Liturgical Colour	Green	Green	Green
	September 22 Pentecost 15	September 29 Pentecost 16	
	Ross Mackinnon Communion	Susan Karoly Peter Baker Communion	
	Alanee Hearshaw	Alanee Hearshaw	
	Daniel Sihombing	Di Paterson	
	School Holidays	Di Paterson	
	School Holidays	Di Paterson	
	Alanee Hearshaw	Alanee Hearshaw	
	Jeremiah 8:18 - 9:1 Psalms 79:1-9 1 Timothy 2:1-7 Luke 16:1-13	Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15 Psalms 91:1-6, 14-16 1 Timothy 6:6-19 Luke 16:19-31	
	Green	Green	Green





**Glen Waverley Uniting Church  
Special Morning Tea**

*Celebrating*

**10 years**  
of **THE HUB**



**YOU ARE INVITED**

**欢迎你**

**All donations to research into Parkinson's Disease**

**Where: Glen Waverley Uniting Church  
cnr Bogong Ave & Kingsway**

**When: Wednesday 14th August 2019**

**Time: 10 am to 12 pm**

*If you are planning to attend, please add your name to the list  
on the office counter to assist with catering.*

**Inclusive Community Report.**

**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 the church office or Beverly on 0417 359 779. Thanks to the fifteen people who make up the prayer support group.

**Bring and Share Lunch.** You are ALL invited to the Bring and Share Lunch after the 11am service TODAY 4 August. Bring a plate of food to share. This lunch will be held in the Fellowship area so please join us.

Our next **Light Lunch** will be on Sunday 11 August after the 11am service. This will be held in the Fellowship area. We will have soup, sandwiches, fruit and some sweet food. You do not have to bring a plate of food for the light lunch. The food for this is provided.

We have a request for **transport** to church (from the Mt. Waverley area). This wouldn't be every week. This same person would like to go out for lunch on a weekday, about once a month. If you could help with either of these requests, would you please contact the church office.

*Diary Date:* The next **Munch with a Bunch** gathering will be Sunday 25 AUGUST at our church. Invitations will be sent out early August.

Our next **Inclusive Community meeting** will be on Tuesday 27 August at 1 pm in Room 1.

*If you have any suggestions for functions or activities, please let us know.*

Jan Clear.

**Material Aid Offering - August 2019**

This month we are collecting items for Brentwood Secondary College's Wellbeing Department.

Muesli bars, "Up & Go" drinks, pens & pencils and Noodles in a cup are all useful.

Thank you for supporting our local high schools.



Coming soon: our

# Grand Fete

Save the date:

**Saturday 19 October**

**8:30am - 2:00pm**



Postscript: Concert "Song to the Moon" (18<sup>th</sup> July)

*In this concert, held in the church, the performances of organist Dominic Perissinotto and soprano Eva-Marie Middleton were outstanding.*

*As advised elsewhere, the concert raised over \$800 nett, for our parish funds. The couple returns to Melbourne at least annually, and a further concert in our church next year has already been mooted.*

*Geoff Willis*

Michael Forrest was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis during his time at GWUC, almost 20 years ago. He is now in need of a car to carry his electric wheelchair. A [GoFundMe campaign](#) for him offers the chance for us to contribute. Click on "+ read more" for Michael's story. If that is too intimidating, contributions can be made to the church office.

Rashika and friends present

## **rise**

A celebration of music and poetry  
followed by the launch of Rashika's debut book

Sunday 11 August 2019 @ 3pm

Auburn Uniting Church

see Community Notice Board for more details

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# welcome

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August = Welcoming Month

Church council has been looking at the "taking the pulse" responses from late last year and we identified an encouragement to further develop the way we welcome people. Church Council recognises that we are welcoming people but it is always going to be an aspect of our ministry that we can improve. We feel welcoming can be part of the culture of this congregation and so it is our shared responsibility. It's not just the task of a designated few people at the door or the welcome table.

So, church council established a task group to work on this project. The task group will share ideas and strategies and information throughout August. In fact, we have designated August as Welcoming Month. The research says that how we welcome people is very important if those people are going to consider returning to your church. We are a fortunate congregation in that we do get a lot of people attending for the first time to check out this church community. We want these people to feel most welcome and we would hope that they consider joining us and finding a home within our congregation.

So, keep an eye out for ideas and suggestions, and importantly be alert to people that you might not know who are near you at church. But more than that, take a deep breath, and find the courage to go and say hello, and introduce yourself.

## Advance Notice: All are welcome

**Sunday 15 September**

### **Indonesian lunch & sharing after the 11am service**

Neil, Vida, Lucky, Willie, Yoke, Lina, Susan and Glyn would like to talk in more depth about our weeks in May visiting the Riedel congregation and GMIM (the Christian Evangelical Church in Minahasa) in North Sulawesi, Indonesia.



*Worship and supper with one of the kolums (cell groups) of the Riedel congregation.*

This was an enriching experience for each of us. We saw how a wonderfully different inter-generational church bears witness to the Gospel in an overwhelmingly Christian society.



*Neil preaching and baptism at Maranatha Church, Tomohon*

“Iranians are fed up by the situation in the Middle East. More Muslims have been killed in the name of their common god by their fellow Muslims than Muslims being killed by non-Muslims in 1400 years.

Ever since they became Christians, they have faced more challenges than before, “but God would walk with us through this whole process“.

An Iranian converted at age 15, and he was disowned by his family, kicked out of home, assaulted and imprisoned by the Iranian Government.

An Iranian woman was working as a translator in the Iranian Bible Society, then one day, Muslim men came into the office with a gun, confiscated and closed the office down.

They became a couple and managed finally to escape to Greece, first the husband, and later his wife, on a blank passport, via Germany.

They believe this was God’s providence. They are now in the US as refugees.

*from the Bible Society*

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### **September Issue of NewView**

Our theme for the September issue of NewView is “Hope”. What is hope, how is it related to faith (Hebrews 11:1), and why is it important? In his book “Table Talk” Martin Luther says “Everything that is done in the world is done by hope”.

You are invited to contribute articles, poems and book reviews considering the theme or other relevant subjects (for example, “good works – faith in action”), as well as your anecdotes, photos and reports about recent events at or involving GWUC or articles of general interest to GWUC.

As our editor, Robin Pope, will be away for a short while in September, please email your contributions to Peter Stewart at [ptr.stwrt@gmail.com](mailto:ptr.stwrt@gmail.com). The closing date for submissions is Thursday 12th September. Thank you.

## **The Christian Church in the World**

### **Win for Hindu Nationalism in Indian Elections will impact Christians**

As anticipated, the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won the Indian elections and Narendra Modi will be India's prime minister for the next five years. India now has up to 43 percent of its Members of Parliament serving while facing criminal charges. Official data from the Election Commission shows the BJP ahead in 302 of the 542 seats. This is well over the 272 needed for majority in the lower house of parliament. The National Democratic Alliance, of which the BJP is a part, is poised to win 350 seats: i.e., 64.6 percent, just short of the two-thirds needed to change the constitution. For India's beleaguered Christians, persecution with impunity can only escalate. Please pray for India and its Christians.

*from Religious Liberty Prayer Bulletin*

### **Arrests amidst rising tensions in Iran**

On 1 July agents from the Ministry of Intelligence and Security (MOIS) raided the homes of Christian converts in Bushehr, in south-west Iran. They violently arrested eight believers, including five members of one family. The matriarch was subsequently released due to her age, but seven converts aged in their 20s and 30s (including three married couples) remain detained in the MOIS office in Bushehr. Doubtless conditions remain oppressive. On 9 May regime agents raided the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Tabriz, in north-west Iran. While the 100-year-old heritage-listed church had been confiscated in 2011, the Assyrian believers had been allowed to continue worshipping there. Now the state has expelled the church warden, changed the locks, torn down the cross and installed surveillance cameras. Please pray for Iran and its believers.

*from Religious Liberty Prayer Bulletin*

### **Some news from Iran:**

The Director of the Iranian Bible Society in Diaspora and his wife, have put Persian Bibles into the hands of Iranians during Iranian New Year, which is in March. They don't call it smuggling, they call it "Special Handling Overwhelming Care and Kindness (SHOCK) delivery of the Bible". The team distributed 7,500 pieces of scriptures. In 2015 they managed to distribute 150,000 copies of the full Bible inside Iran. In 2016 it distributed one million digital Bibles and 7,500 print Bibles and almost 10,000 print New Testaments.

## **RECOGNISING FIRST PEOPLES - A REFLECTION**

Last Sunday the Congregational meeting affirmed by agreement the wording of a plaque recognising Australia's First Peoples. There was strong support for this decision. There were a couple of questioning or clarifying matters raised around the use of the word "reconciliation". What are we in fact trying to say in using this sentence - "We commit to work for reconciliation with indigenous people and justice for all"?

I wanted to offer a personal response. It is hard for me to understand the pain of many indigenous Australians. They held a strong spiritual attachment to land and many were forced off their land. The Australian government, with good intentions, adopted practices of removing children and of assimilation. This had a massive impact on families and individual well-being. The Church also contributed to these endeavours. I have not been personally involved, and you probably haven't either. The Australian Government and the Uniting Church have offered apologies for their involvement in removing children.

I feel that by committing to work for reconciliation with indigenous Australians we are saying we want to build a bridge between people. We hear and acknowledge the past hurts and it is our desire to move forward together into the future. We want to help heal hurts, learn from each other, value the contribution and the culture of each person; we want to work together to make this country a better place for all Australians. We want to make it possible for indigenous Australians to feel welcome and find a home within the church. My desire is that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, migrants and asylum seekers, and those born in Australia, all feel welcome and at home in our church, in our community and in our country.

Rev. Neil Peters

## Faith Development Missional Group - BLOGSPOT!

Andrew King is a member of The United Church of Canada. He has a passion for poetry and aims to write a poem a week based on the Lectionary readings for that week. His website is called "A Poetic Kind of Place". This is what he has to say in introducing himself:

Hi! I am Andrew King. I'm in my 60s, an almost-retired part-time staff member of a church in Oakville, Ontario. I am a fan of dogs, poetry, the Sunday lectionary, the daily news. . . and to which I add: [Maple Grove United Church](#), (a member congregation of [The United Church of Canada](#)). But poetry is currently my principal part-time passion.

I do not send a lot of poems out to literary magazines — not even close — so this blog will be a place where I can share some of my passions and poetic efforts. My goal for the year is to post a poem a week about the Sunday Scripture lessons from the lectionary. I cannot claim that my poems will be of prize quality; I write primarily for spiritual self-nourishment. However, if someone else can derive even a small benefit from my work, then that will be an answer to prayer. I hope you will visit me from time to time. May you enjoy what you find here.

*Here are a couple of his poems...*

### **HELP US TO SEE** ([John 9: 1-41](#))

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What would we see, Lord,  
if you healed our blindness today?

Would we see you at work  
in the ones we think to be sinful?

Would we see you at work  
among the outcasts of the world?

Would we see your love  
for the poor, the homeless, the hungry?

Would we see your compassion  
for the weak, the helpless, the afraid?

Would we see you  
in the stranger, the foreigner, the refugee?

Would we see your likeness — can we grasp it —  
in each one of ourselves?

Help us to see, Lord. Heal our blindness today.

### **A PRAYER** ([1 Kings 8: 22-23, 41-43](#), [Luke 7: 1-10](#))

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Come through the doors of our house, Lord.  
Let us admit you whether we feel  
worthy or unworthy,  
holy or sinful,  
faithful or wavering.  
Come through the doors of our house just the same.

Come to the house of our hearts, Lord,  
our searching hearts, our contented hearts,  
our caring, giving, loving hearts,  
our needy, angry, anxious hearts,  
come to the house of our hearts in joy or pain.

Come to the house of our days, Lord,  
our happy days, our hurting days,  
our bitter days, our bright days,  
our struggling, sorrowing, sad days,  
come to the house of our days in sun or in rain.  
Come to the house of our world, Lord,

our wondrous world, our wounded world,  
our teeming world, our tortured world,  
our singing, shouting, crying world,  
come to the house of our world, and let us be changed.

The URL for Andrew King's website is:  
<https://earth2earth.wordpress.com/>