



Welcome

GWUC is a faithful, Christ-centered community that meets God and shares in that unconditional love. We welcome all those who are worshipping with us here in the church or via our Broadcast Ministry - we are glad you are here!

January Worship Services

Sunday 5 January - Christmas 2/Epiphany

10am Worship (+live broadcast) *incl. Holy Communion* Rev. Ian Ferguson / Rev. Chris Waddell

Sunday 12 January - Baptism of Jesus

10am Worship (+live broadcast) Rev. Tom Rose

Sunday 19 January - Epiphany 2 / UCA Day of Mourning

10am Worship (+live broadcast) Susan Karoly

Sunday 26 January - Epiphany 3

10am Worship (+live broadcast) Rev. Ian Ferguson / Rev. Chris Waddell
1pm Indonesian Fellowship *incl. Holy Communion*

Sunday 2 February - Epiphany 4

8.30am Contemplative *incl. Holy Communion*
10am Worship (+live broadcast) *incl. Holy Communion* Rev. Chris Waddell / Rev. Ian Ferguson
*including **Sunday Squad** and **Back to School & Backpack Blessing***
5pm FEAST (Friends Eating & Sharing Together) - *Please bring a plate of food to share*



If you are new or visiting our church, look out for the people wearing yellow flower brooches. They are part of our welcoming team, and would love to have a chat and get to know you! Also, don't forget to fill in a 'Welcome' card so that we can stay in contact.



BACK TO SCHOOL & BACKPACK BLESSING

**Sunday 2 February
10am Service**

You are invited to bring along your backpacks, briefcases, tote bags or tool belts for a special blessing to begin the new school year surrounded in prayer.

Special take home Blessing Tags will show you
You are Loved!



Annual Leave & Office Hours

Ian Ferguson & Chris Waddell will be on annual leave from Monday 6th January until Friday 17 January. Please contact Di Paterson 0400 961 052 for any pastoral care matters.

The church office will be closed from 6 January, reopening 28 January. During this time, messages and emails will be monitored, so please email office@gwuc.org.au or leave a message at 9560 3580 if you have any queries.

2025 Dates for Your Diary!

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 2 Feb | Backpack Blessing |
| 9 Feb | Lunar New Year & Lantern Festival: Year of the Snake |
| 1 Mar | Annual Book Sale |
| 9 Mar | Musical Matinee & light lunch |
| 3 Apr | Hot Cross Bun Morning Tea @ The Hub |
| 22 May | Aust. Biggest Morning Tea @ The Hub |
| 21 Aug | Muffin Morning Tea @ The Hub |
| 18 Oct | Annual Grand Fete! |
| 30 Oct | Seniors Morning Tea @ The Hub |
| 30 Nov | Annual Christmas Lunch |
| 4 Dec | Christmas Morning Tea @ The Hub |

Hall Floor Resurfacing

The church hall will be closed from Thursday 2nd January until Thursday 16th January for resurfacing of the floor. During that period the hall will be **completely out-of-bounds** for **ALL** access. All doors to the hall will be locked and must not be opened under any circumstances. By extension, this means the storerooms at the back of the hall (**Store B** and **Store C**) will be completely inaccessible. All groups/persons who may need to use items that are presently in those two storerooms during that fortnight, please contact Michael Boldiston (0408 338 893) to arrange for those items to be placed in Store A ahead of 2nd January. Access to Store A will be through the roller door **only**.

Cleaning and Mowing Roster

We have a small team of dedicated volunteers who clean the church facilities and mow the lawns on a regular basis. Many of these people have been on the roster for many years. If you have the time to help out a few times a year for a couple of hours on a weekend (times are flexible), please add your name to the sign up sheet outside the Church Office and/or contact Fairlie Mackinnon at f.mackinnon@bigpond.com. The Church provides all the cleaning equipment. I am happy to answer any questions you may have. All volunteers are welcome. *Fairlie Mackinnon (Property Committee)*

Christmas Cards

Thank you to all who purchased Christmas Cards. Our sales of cards have raised over \$1000 to support the work of Uniting (Share).

With Love To The World

A daily bible guide following the lectionary. Annual subscription of **\$25** is due now. Please pay to church office. New subscribers, please contact the office for details.

2025 Lunar New Year - Year of the Snake



This church has been invited to participate in the City of Monash's Lunar New Year Celebrations to be held in Kingsway on **Sunday 9th February**. We intend to offer craft and information about our church programs, and we **need your help** to make this a success!

Volunteers are needed with set up and/or pack up, as well as helping on the stall for a couple of hours. Can YOU help? Please contact Lorraine Chee lorrainechee1@gmail.com or the church office for more details.

5PM FEAST

*"Friends Eating
And Sharing
Together"*



A casual place to share Faith, Food and Fellowship. We will have a rotation of studies, testimonies, crafts, movies and reflections, all while sharing a meal together. All ages are welcome!

Returning on Sunday 2nd February, 2025.



Glen Waverley Uniting Church

Book Sale

Used books for adults and kids

**Saturday
1 March
8:30am-4pm**



Donations of books welcomed
from Feb 24



2025 Book Sale

We would love you to be part of this event. The summer holidays are a great time to sort through those books you no longer need. We will be setting up on Friday 28 February, packing up on Sunday 2 March, and would appreciate your donations of books and your help over those 3 days.

Donations of books welcome
from 24 February.

Calling all Walkers!

The 2025 Book Sale is on Saturday 1 March. We look forward to working together to make this event a great success. Volunteers are needed to help deliver 5000 flyers advertising the Book Sale in assigned areas in Glen Waverley. The flyers will be available from 7 February for delivery during the week 16-22 February. The sign-up sheet is on the office counter. If you helped last year, please tick your name on the sheet to indicate you are able to assist again this year. **New walkers are always needed - please add your name to the list.** If it is more convenient, you can contact Peter Anderson at pjanderson253@gmail.com or 0411 123 253. Thank you!

The Getaways

The Getaways are members of our congregation who "get away" for a relaxed weekend, or sometimes only a day, to destinations that are never too far away from Glen Waverley – maybe 1 or 2 hours drive. If you enjoy camping, caravanning, cabin-ing or day trips you are more than welcome to join us. Stay for the weekend or just visit for a day. The weekends can be as busy or as quiet as you like. Some will go on walks or visit a market, while others will sit and read, knit or do craft, do crosswords or sleep!!! There are no rules and it is always a lovely time to sit and chat with old and new friends. We come together to share a meal (approx \$10pp) on the Saturday of the weekend – sometimes dinner, sometimes lunch! All are invited...

2025 Autumn Getaway 14–17 March



Our Autumn Getaway this year is again to Warragul, staying at the Warragul Gardens Holiday Park from Fri 14 to Mon 17 March. Please call the park directly on 5623 2707 for overnight bookings.

Day Visitors are especially welcome on Saturday 15 March when after a leisurely morning strolling around a local market, we return to the caravan park for a shared lunch (\$10pp). Please **BYO meat for a BBQ**. Salad, bread etc will be provided. For catering purposes, please contact the church office if you will be attending. All are welcome! Come when you can, leave when you must! Happy Camping!

A vibrant comic book style graphic with a blue background, white clouds, and yellow stars. The text is bold and stylized. A yellow starburst in the top left contains the text 'BACK IN FEB 2025'. The main title 'GLEN WAVERLEY UNITING CHURCH' is in white with a black outline. Below it, 'YOUTH GROUP' is written in large, red, block letters with a white outline and a yellow starburst behind it. To the right, 'FOR YOUTH IN YEAR 7 TO 21 YEARS OLD' is written in white. In the bottom right, there is a black circular logo with 'GWUC' and 'PRACTIV GOOD' inside. The bottom of the graphic has a red banner with white text.

BACK IN FEB 2025

**GLEN WAVERLEY
UNITING CHURCH**

**FRIDAY NIGHTS
7PM - 9.30PM**

**USUALLY AT GWUC AND
USUALLY ONLY \$2!**

**FOR YOUTH IN
YEAR 7 TO
21 YEARS OLD**

GWUC
PRACTIV GOOD

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT CHRIS WADDELL ON 0418373065.

**Back in
Feb 2025**

Kids @ Glen Waverley Uniting Church

**PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR
CHILDREN TO EXPLORE THE CHRISTIAN
FAITH THROUGH STORIES,
QUESTIONING, CRAFT AND CREATIVITY**

- **SUNDAY SQUAD : KINDER AGE TO YEAR 6. MEETING DURING MORNING WORSHIP ON SUNDAY'S. CHILDREN SPEND THE FIRST 15 TO 20 MINUTES IN THE WORSHIP CENTRE AND THEN GO OUT WITH LEADERS.**
- **SUNDAY SQUAD (TEENS): SAME AS ABOVE ONLY FOR HIGH SCHOOL AGED KIDS**

**STAY TUNED FOR SCHOOL HOLIDAYS PROGRAMS
AND OTHER KIDS EVENTS!**

Asylum Seeker Welcome Centre - Emergency Appeal

Recently, a fire occurred at the Asylum Seeker Welcome Centre in Brunswick destroying some of the facilities and many of the resources used to help the community. Thankfully, no one was injured, but the fire caused considerable disruption to the service, which will be impacted for at least the next several months. Uniting are asking for urgent monetary gifts to enable the ASWC to continue to serve the community over the coming Christmas period. Your donations will pay for food vouchers, enable people to be supported at alternative sites, and will provide essential funds for them to effectively coordinate services into the new year.

Go to <https://www.unitingvictas.org.au/donation-form-aswc-emergency-appeal/> to learn more.

GWUC also support the Asylum Seeker Welcome Centre through our sales of honey, and recently through our COP Funds from the 2024 Fete.

Outreach and Social Justice Mission Group

What does GWUC's Outreach and Social Justice Mission Group (OSJMG) do?

The Outreach and Social Justice Mission Group (OSJMG) is one of GWUC's four mission groups and reports directly to the Church Council. We encourage our congregation to be active and committed to serving God in the wider community and around the world.

We are keen to maintain the well-supported projects from our past, such as :

- Congregational Outreach Projects with proceeds from our annual fete,
- Monthly Material Aid donations,
- Honey Money for Asylum Seeker services,
- Pancake Breakfasts at GW Secondary College,
- Christmas Bowl,
- Welfare Committee, and
- Frontier Services.

We also wish to connect with new causes raised by members of our congregation and the Justice and International Mission unit of the Uniting Church Synod.

During 2024, we have enjoyed attending some of the 1st Nations events organised by Monash Council and would like to build on this in future.

This mission group is the connecting point for all GWUC outreach and social justice activities. We meet every second month and undertake tasks throughout the year. Some of our tasks involve fund-raising but others do not.

How can you assist or participate in OSJMG activities?

- Check out our notice-board for information about our current and ongoing projects.
- Pray for guidance to choose projects to support.
- Consider joining the OSJMG. New members are very welcome, and may choose the type of involvement they would like to have. Our activity is limited by the number of helpers we have.
- Our first meeting for 2025 will be held at the church on Thursday 13th Feb at 10am. Feel free to attend as an observer or prospective member.

If you have enquiries about the OSJMG or ideas to share, please contact Margaret Fraser, Chairperson, marjanfraser@gmail.com.

Honey Sales



Our new batch of delicious pure honey is now on sale near the church kitchen.

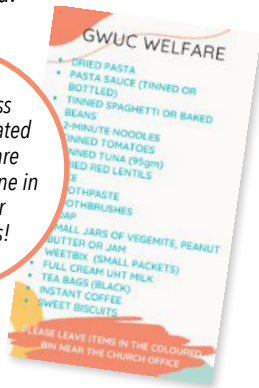
Please self-serve, place your money into the small bag provided and post it into the church letter box outside the doors near the office. Thank you for supporting the Asylum Seeker Welcome Centre. We appreciate your return of empty jars with labels removed if possible. *Margaret & David Fraser*



GWUC Welfare Pantry

The items of most need: Dried Pasta, Tinned/ bottled pasta sauce, Dried red lentils, Rice, Tinned spaghetti & baked beans, 2minute noodles, Tinned tomatoes, Tinned tuna 95g, Small jars of Vegemite/peanut butter/jam, Weetbix (small packets), Full cream UHT milk, Black teabags, Instant coffee, Sweet biscuits, Toothbrushes and toothpaste. Goods can be placed in the coloured bins near the office door. Shopping lists to assist you can be taken from the Outreach and Social Justice display board.

Handy business card sized laminated shopping lists are available - keep one in your wallet for shopping days!



Name Tags

A new order for name tags will be completed soon. If you would like to purchase a name tag, please put your name on the list on the office counter. Cost \$10 each. Please also remember to wear your name tag - it is helpful for those of us who forget names !

Housekeeping Reminder

At the conclusion of your meeting or event, it is your responsibility to return any chairs, tables or equipment you have moved. Please switch off lights, fans, heaters and air conditioners; empty rubbish bins, turn off the dishwasher (if used) and lock all external doors. We are a busy church and our rooms are used by many groups. Your assistance in keeping our buildings clean and tidy is appreciated.

What's On in 2025...

GOMERs - 10am each Monday morning

Badminton & Table Tennis - Monday's & Thursday's from 20th January - after the hall resurfacing is complete!

Sunday Squad - during 10am worship from 2nd February

The Hub & Playgroup - Tuesdays @ 10am from 4th February

Youth Group - Friday's @ 7pm from 7th February

Also returning in 2025: Leisure Time, English Conversation Classes, UCAF, Free Spirit, Choir of Hope, Craft Group, Mindful Meditation and more...

Contact Us:

Ministry Team

Rev. Ian Ferguson - Minister of the Word
0438 547 842
iferguson@gwuc.org.au

Rev. Chris Waddell - Minister of the Word
0418 373 065
chris.waddell.gwuc@gmail.com

Di Paterson - Pastoral Care Worker
0400 961 052
dpaterson7@bigpond.com

Church Office

Joanne Boldiston - Office Manager
Mon - Fri: 9am - 3.30pm
9560 3580
Emails: office@gwuc.org.au or
minteamandoffice@gwuc.org.au
Website: gwuc.org.au

GWUC Westpac Bank Account Details:

Account Name: *Uniting Church Glen Waverley*
BSB: 033 052
Account Number: 92 2198