



GLEN WAVERLEY Uniting Church

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



The Uniting Church came into being with much excitement and anticipation on 22 June 1977. At the time it was felt that this new denomination would demonstrate and symbolize the unity that God desired for the Church and the unity that Jesus prayed for in John's gospel. The name of this new denomination said loudly that unity was important.

One of the changes that I have noticed since then has been the Uniting Church becoming much more cross-cultural. Some of our larger congregations are Korean and Tongan UCs. The contribution of people from around the world has enriched our congregational life and our worship life and is also a sign of unity.

We are using the key words 'unity' and 'maturity' for our anniversary theme this year. The words come from Ephesians chapter 4. The message in recent services has reminded us that unity is an aspect of the work of, and the gift offered by, the Holy Spirit. Unity is more than we can manufacture as members of a congregation. Sure, we should treat one another with respect, with understanding, with patience, with trust and with acceptance – these qualities will greatly assist the life, the cohesion and the unity of a congregation – however, we are really united because we are followers of Jesus Christ, and the work of the Holy Spirit strengthens our unity. A cohesive and united congregation reflects the

maturity of the Christian people involved. A united and cohesive congregation should also be more effective in offering and growing its ministry and mission.

A congregation has a responsibility to build up the people of God in faith and service. As we are nurtured and fed in our Christian faith we grow in understanding and in maturity. As we learn, as we serve together, through worship, study and prayer, as we grow and nurture new leaders, we are seeking to grow mature followers of Jesus. This nurturing work involves programs in children's, families, youth and adult ministry. But more than just programs it involves those more mature in the faith coming alongside others and journeying with them. That is really the model that Jesus used with his disciples.

As we approach the anniversary it is important to remember those who have gone before us, who nurtured us in the faith, whether they be Sunday School teachers, youth leaders, fellowship or study leaders, camp leaders, ministers or other mature followers of Christ. **Who was it that nurtured and encouraged you in your faith? Who has come alongside you and journeyed with you through a challenging time or when you took on a new role?** It's good to remember those who encouraged us and stood with us. There are also those who gave us a gentle push of encouragement, who helped us identify our gifts and begin to

use them. There are probably many people who have helped us grow to maturity as followers of Jesus. Our parents and grandparents may have been influential. **Take a moment to pause and be thankful for those people who influenced and guided you.**

Then there are those who have had a vision for a congregation and worked and prayed it into being. There are those who have taken on a project, sometimes a project ahead of its time, and persisted to see the project become fruitful. We will always need people who can discern before God the way forward for a congregation. Glen Waverley Uniting has had many good and faithful leaders and servants over the years. We want to remember them with thankfulness and acknowledge their service.

Now it is we, who are part of this congregation now, who have the responsibility to carry on the ministry and mission of this congregation. Every generation has its opportunities to grow and support the ministry and mission of Christ.

Covid-19 Update and our Building complex

Council recently adopted the following statements about worship, reopening the church and meeting in homes.

As we are one congregation, we will not recommence worship until government, Synod and Presbytery advice make it possible for all services to begin.

Having considered the post June 1 regulations from government, and advice from Synod, Church Council agreed to the following guidelines to apply from June 1 to June 22.

Given the requirements of fewer than 20 persons and 4 square metres per person in a room of a church building, no meetings will be held at the church during this time. **The complex remains closed.**

While it may be legal for people to meet in homes, with fewer than 20 persons able to maintain 1.5m between them, that does not mean that it is advisable. Certainly no member should be pressured to attend. Whether to attend should be a free and considered decision of each member, considering their own health, exposure and vulnerability. Church Council cannot endorse such meetings as church groups.

Glen Waverley Uniting Church

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Phone: 0434 119 335

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We need to have the eyes of faith to see these opportunities.

What is it that you are seeing? You might like to let the ministry team know what you are seeing. We need to discern prayerfully where God might lead us. We don't have to pick up every opportunity that presents itself. But we do need to discern prayerfully and then work creatively with some of the opportunities around us. As we do this, we can remember Jesus said "I will be with you always".

At this time of the Uniting Church anniversary we give thanks for past faithful serving members, and we commit ourselves to be part of the active and vibrant future of this congregation and its ministry, mission and service. We give thanks for each person in our midst and we look forward expectantly to what the Holy Spirit will do in us, among us, and through us.

May God be very close to you in these challenging days.

Neil, Alanee, Di, Gemma and Joanne.

Uniting Church in Australia
Anniversary Celebration @ GWUC

Sunday 21 June



10am Live Stream

www.gwuc.org.au/live

Rev. Neil Peters & Alanee Hearnshaw

Pentecost 3

Ezekiel 37:15-28; Psalm 122;
Ephesians 4:1-16; John 17:20-26

Be
HUMBLE
Be
GENTLE
Be
PATIENT
Be
LOVING
Ephesians 4:2

Planned Giving and Open Plate arrangements during the COVID-19 closures.

Many of our congregation choose to use *Open Plate* giving as their means of financial support for our programs. Others opt to use Planned Giving envelopes and/or direct payment giving through Synod. We rely upon this generosity to enable the ministry and outreach to exist. We thank you for these gifts.

During this challenging time - with the church building closed, and no services in place to receive open plate funds or envelopes, we would like to offer an alternate option as a means to fund the ministry team and supporting activities.

We are immediately implementing a short-term arrangement where you can make contributions direct to our bank account using these details:

Account Name:	Uniting Church Glen Waverley
BSB:	033-052
Account number:	922198
Description:	"Open Plate" or "Envelope #---"

You can access this option through your bank or other financial organisation which will enable you to select both a frequency and an amount that fits your current financial circumstances. Alternatively, you can action on a regular basis through your home internet banking application or other electronic payment option.

For those using Planned Giving envelopes, please add your regular envelope number (#---) as the description, so that the Planned Giving committee can record your generosity.

We realise that some people may be concerned as to privacy and confidentiality. Please be assured that these bank deposits will be managed and co-ordinated in the strictest confidence of personal privacy with the Planned Giving committee overseeing the process.

We are certain that you will understand the need for these changes in these very challenging times. Please contact our Office Manager, Joanne Boldiston by phone (0434 119 335) or by email (office@gwuc.org.au) to answer your queries, help with the transactions and resolve any difficulties.

Glyn Howells
Chairperson

Ken Coutts
Treasurer

Ken Hutchinson / Ian McMillan
Planned Giving Committee



How to come to Church on Sundays...

Option 1:

1. Open the Internet on your computer, iPad or device
2. Go to the Glen Waverley Uniting Church website - www.gwuc.org.au
3. Click on the Worship Live Stream box
4. Move your mouse over the picture of the church and when the arrow in the middle highlights red, click the arrow.

Option 2:

Open YouTube and search for 'Glen Waverley Uniting Church' to find our YouTube channel.

Services/Events go 'Live' 5 minutes before the start time

HOW TO "Cuppa Call" IN 3 EASY STEPS

- 1 Make a cuppa
- 2 Phone a friend
- 3 Drink your cuppa while chatting with your friend

Enjoy one today!



Do you have an email address?

Can we send you church information by email?

One of the ways we have been staying in contact during this time of isolation is by email, and if you are able to receive emails we would love to know!

Email messages are usually sent daily - they may include a fun picture or a bible quote and will hopefully brighten your day.

Please send an email to the church office if you would like to be added to our list.

office@gwuc.org.au

Prayer in the time of Coronavirus

God of love, God of grace, God of surprises,
We are grateful for the moments of love and community we share.

We know you are with us. We know the promise we have in you.

Yet we live with our hurt in the present and uncertainty in the time ahead, and wonder what the future holds for us and our communities.

We pour out our hearts and souls to you ... and pray:
for your world, your peoples and all who inhabit the face of the earth;

*for those who are grieving for loss of loved ones, for those who fear for their safety,
for those who feel most isolated and alone;*

*for those who give of themselves to support others:
health care workers, cleaners, teachers, truck drivers and delivery personnel, pharmacists, grocery sales assistants, phone counsellors,
personal care assistants, those who prepare meals for emergency food relief*

... bring your comfort, hope, strength, and healing love.

We pray for our communities of faith,
that we may be beacons of hopefulness, of promise, of peace with each other, and of inclusive love for neighbour.

We pray in the hope we know in Jesus,
in whom we see and know the fullness of the grace and love of God. Amen.

Denise Liersch, Moderator, Synod of VicTas

What's On...

Monday

- 10am Virtual GOMER - Zoom
- 3.30pm Mice, Kats & Dogs - Zoom

Tuesday

- 10am 'Cuppa Call' with Neil

Wednesday

- 7am Prayer - Live Broadcast
- 10am 'Cuppa Call' with Di
- 5.30pm Uthies - Zoom (alternate weeks)

Thursday

- 7.30pm Evening Reflection - Live Broadcast

Friday

- 12pm 'Cuppa Call' with Alanee
- 5.30pm Uthies - Zoom (alternate weeks)
- 7.30pm Youth - Zoom

Sunday

- 10am Worship - Live Broadcast



SENDING A
HUGE
THANK YOU
TO ALL THE MANY
VOLUNTEERS
FROM
GLEN WAVERLEY
UNITING CHURCH.

WE ABSOLUTELY, POSITIVELY, COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT
YOU!!