



Welcome.

Glen Waverley Uniting Church is a faithful, Christ-centered community that meets God and shares in that unconditional love.

What's On...

Our usual services & events...

8am **Contemplative**

incl. Holy Communion

9.15am **Interactive (+live broadcast)** *incl.*

Holy Communion - 1st Sunday of each month

11am **Traditional (+live broadcast)** *incl.*

Holy Communion - 3rd Sunday of each month

1pm **Indonesian Fellowship on Zoom**

(2pm in Summer)

5pm **Creative Worship**

MONDAY

10.00am **GOMERS**

10.00am **Playgroup**

10.00am **Craft Group**

2.00pm **Leisure Time**

8.00pm **Badminton**

TUESDAY

10.00am **The Hub**

10.00am **Playgroup**

2.00pm **Mindful Meditation**

4.00pm **Meditation Online**

7.30pm **Intercultural Bible Study**

7.30pm **Bible Study**

WEDNESDAY

7.30am **Prayer Time Online**

8.00pm **Free Spirit**

THURSDAY

11.15am **English Conversation Class**

7.00pm **Online Reflection**

8.00pm **Badminton**

FRIDAY

9.30am **Choir of Hope**

5.30pm/7.00pm **Uthies/Youth**

*Please note: not all events are held each week
- please contact the church office for details.*

GWUC Westpac Bank Account

Uniting Church Glen Waverley

BSB: 033 052

Account Number: 92 2198

MINISTERIAL MUSINGS

Rev. Hoon You

God's gifts in UCA? (A Korean Perspective)



As we celebrate 46 years of being Uniting Church in Australia (UCA), what gifts do we still have to share with others?

When Jesus fed 5000 followers, he said to disciples "You give them something to eat." (Mark 6:36) What do you think we can give to others?

Since I arrived in Australia 27 years ago, I have experienced so many blessings in UCA, and I believe these blessings are great gifts from God for all Christians in Australia and in the whole world.

Following feeding 5000 story, I believe we also have five theological heritages (5 loaves) and two pathways (2 fish) that we can share with others if we see things from a different perspective.

Firstly, Ecumenism (The Basis of Union). Everyone knows Ecumenism is in UCA's DNA including the Basis of Union, a short 18 paragraphs of common ground for all believers. For me, who came from South Korea which have 120 denominations within Presbyterian Church only, this union among three denominations are nothing but a miracle and, I felt like a heaven on earth.

Secondly, non-hierarchical system of Interconciliar Councils in the UCA. I personally never seen any other denomination in the world who has such equal relationship which shows respect to each other and less possibility of corruption or misuse of power.

Thirdly, Theology of Calling (Discernment process). Korean churches has more like a job interview and selection process instead of discerning God's calling. I believe UCA's calling process is theologically healthier and guides us to discern the invisible calling, into a visible and discernible process. I am aware that some people think our process takes too long, but I still believe this allows us to discern God's guidance prayerfully.

Fourth, theological heritage is the Theology of Property document from the Assembly which acknowledges that all Uniting Church properties belongs to God, instead of "my" church.

Final, Fifth heritage is our consensus model of decision making process. It may take longer time, but once again, theologically, this process encourages us to be inclusive and allows healthy discussion, listening to small groups' voices.

With these five theological inheritances, I believe God gave us two pathways to nourish our Spirit, which are "Scripture" and "Prayer". These channels allow the Holy Spirit to move around us and help us to learn and equip us to be partners in God's Mission (Missio Dei).

From a Korean perspective, we still have rich blessings from God and we must share with others so that we can be a blessing to others (Get 12:2).

Hoon.

SUNDAY SQUAD

is a space for our children and young teens to learn, share and belong. We are a happy little community where children explore their faith, share in prayer, develop their understanding of the bible, and have fun together. It is also a place with the opportunity to grow leadership skills, with our two eldest members having now taken on roles, one to help support the littlest members and one to help prepare materials for the sessions.



When we meet together, we welcome newcomers and then the children write prayers on post-it notes to place on our prayer board. We use the prompts *Thank you for... Please.... I'm sorry.... I love you because....* A volunteer will read the prayers on behalf of the group. Children know to fold over their note if they want their prayer kept just between them and God.

We spend time having a conversation extending on the bible reading or theme used during children's time in the worship service. Throughout our learning time, participation is encouraged in a variety of creative ways, such as the use of props, guessing games, scavenger hunts, something different each week. We have a colourful set of NIV bibles which the children use to locate and read the related verses.

We love to complete a crafting activity to remind us of our learning. Recently these have included, a sheep door hanger "The Lord is our shepherd", group murals illustrating Psalm 23, gift bags with plaited wool representing the Trinity, and linked paper chains marked with our individual talents "there is one body, but it has many parts". If you take a wander down the corridor beside the kitchen, you will see examples of our learning and prayers on the pinboard. If you would like to come and visit our squad and spend a session learning with us, you would be most welcome.

Annette and Wendy

The Uluru Statement – Walk with us. It's time

A personal reflection from John Snare

Late last year, I was fortunate to be able to attend a study series led by Robert Johnson that challenged me to understand the Uluru Statement from the Heart and think about how as a nation we might respond. The following are my personal reflections on that study.

Firstly, let's look again at the Uluru Statement from the Heart. It's not a long document and is both thought provoking and generous. It speaks directly to those of us whose forbears have arrived here since 1788, not to politicians or other leaders. I wonder how many critics have actually read it!

The Uluru Statement from the Heart (<https://ulurustatement.org/the-statement/>)

"We, gathered at the 2017 National Constitutional Convention, coming from all points of the southern sky, make this statement from the heart: Our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tribes were the first

sovereign Nations of the Australian continent and its adjacent islands, and possessed it under our own laws and customs. This our ancestors did, according to the reckoning of our culture, from the Creation, according to the common law from 'time immemorial', and according to science more than 60,000 years ago.

This sovereignty is a spiritual notion: the ancestral tie between the land, or 'mother nature', and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who were born there from, remain attached thereto, and must one day return thither to be united with our ancestors. This link is the basis of the ownership of the soil, or better, of sovereignty. It has never been ceded or extinguished, and co-exists with the sovereignty of the Crown.

How could it be otherwise? Those peoples possessed a land for sixty millennia and this

sacred link disappears from world history in merely the last two hundred years?

With substantive constitutional change and structural reform, we believe this ancient sovereignty can shine through as a fuller expression of Australia's nationhood.

Proportionally, we are the most incarcerated people on the planet. We are not an innately criminal people. Our children are alienated from their families at unprecedented rates. This cannot be because we have no love for them. And our youth languish in detention in obscene numbers. They should be our hope for the future.

These dimensions of our crisis tell plainly the structural nature of our problem. This is the torment of our powerlessness.

We seek constitutional reforms to empower our people and take a rightful place in our own country. When we have power over our destiny our children will flourish. They will

walk in two worlds and their culture will be a gift to their country.

We call for the establishment of a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Constitution.

Makarrata is the culmination of our agenda: the coming together after a struggle. It captures our aspirations for a fair and truthful relationship with the people of Australia and a better future for our children based on justice and self-determination.

We seek a Makarrata Commission to supervise a process of agreement-making between governments and First Nations and truth-telling about our history.

In 1967 we were counted; in 2017 we seek to be heard. We leave base camp and start our trek across this vast country. We invite you to walk with us in a movement of the Australian people for a better future."

What do the first nation's people call for? The Statement from the Heart calls for three things:

1. A Voice for First Nations people enshrined in the constitution;
2. A Treaty between governments and First Nations peoples; and
3. Truth telling (and listening) about the history of interactions between First Nations people and those who have arrived over the last couple of hundred years or so.

How are things going? Well, a lot of things, many well intentioned, have been tried to solve the problems so eloquently described in the Statement. You can decide for yourself, but I don't think we are doing so well. Have a closer look at the words, the first nations people authors don't want us to solve their problems; they want to solve them for themselves!

There are plenty of people willing to disparage the Statement and find reasons not to accept the invitation in its last sentence. Similarly, there are plenty of people with opinions on what needs to be done first. However, who amongst these, base their opinions on what those most affected, the First Nations people, want? First Nations people have told us what they want, why do so many find it so hard to listen?

In recent times we have heard about social problems in Alice Springs and other remote communities. Lots of people have proposed solutions, but asking the elders of the communities involved what they think seems to me to be an afterthought for our political leaders and the media. Is it any wonder that the statement calls for a voice embedded in the constitution?

Looking at the words in 'The Statement from The Heart' we see not a set of specific demands, but an offer to work together on working out how to do better as a nation. The statement recognises that there are no simple solutions or single obvious best response. However, to me it is clear that repeating an approach that has previously failed is not likely to solve the problems. Well-intentioned initiatives by governments-of-the-day during my lifetime have not improved the situation. So, let's try something different. Let's listen.

John Snare

Another response from Margaret Fraser

Like John Snare, I attended the Uluru Statement studies last year. Robert Johnson had researched and prepared the workshops to be factual and current and without a doubt, very challenging.

I endorse John's comments, and would like to add some of my own.

It is easy to say that the mistakes of the past are historical, and that it's not our fault that land was taken by force, with horrific massacres, or that children were removed from distraught parents, never to be seen again, but at what point are we, as part of the current sovereign people going to consistently acknowledge and talk about this Truth?

In spite of our shameful history and that our systems continue to perpetuate indigenous suffering and powerlessness, the Uluru Statement asks us to not only tell the truth but to look forward in a positive and constructive way "We invite you to walk with us in a movement of the Australian people for a better future." My hope is that we listen carefully to the Voice as it unfolds and is clarified. As Waleed Aly said "The Statement from the Heart is a gift to the nation, not a grab for power."

The least that we can do for now is to acknowledge and respect our First Nations people - 'In the spirit of reconciliation we acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respect to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.' (www.indigenous.gov.au)

Robert Johnson has kindly provided us with his study slides. Even without his full commentary they are a valuable resource.

Margaret Fraser



Foyer Art Glass Panels

Comments from David Williams, the artist.

I wanted a peaceful pastoral scene behind the key elements and suggest that it reminds us of the psalmist's words in Psalm 121: "I will lift up my eyes unto the hills from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord who made heaven and earth." Stretching the imagination further the scene could represent our world that is free from strife and chaos.

The Marriotts. It was a privilege to design this section as I knew Fred and Irene. In the 1970's Fred was a church steward at Springvale Road Methodist Church - a jovial welcoming man with a loud voice! We have known Irene for about 40 years of her long life - practical, efficient, avid gardener and rose lover, a great worker and much loved member of Waverley Historical Society, a musician and staunch church member.

As pioneers, the Marriotts gave the land and built the first Methodist Church in Waverley, pictured here, and served it well before transferring to our church. They planted gum trees near the corner of Springvale & Waverley Roads, so gum trees feature in the window. Some products of their market gardens are shown plus some livestock.

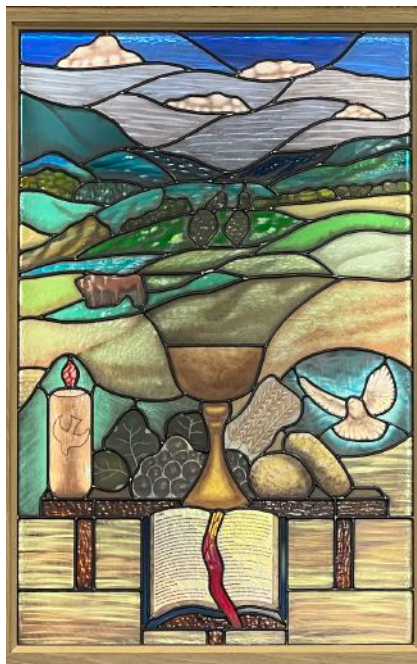
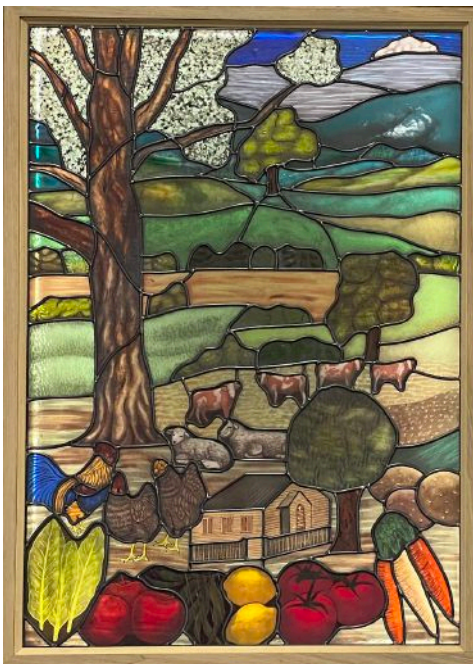
The central elements represent the congregation. Shown here is the Communion Cup, loaves and grapes, the Bible, the baptismal candle and the dove for the Holy Spirit.

Our present Church. Irene Marriott was a long term church member who was a regular contributor to the life of the church through music, flower roster and many activities.

The seats around the gum trees are a resting place and also an invitation to be part of our congregation. The roses are a reminder that Irene grew and loved her rose garden. At the right is our present church with two important elements shown above: the international sign of wi-fi represents our church's digital ministry and the keyboard represents the long, outstanding musical tradition in worship provided by many choirs and hosts of musicians of which Irene was one.

*I will lift up my eyes
unto the hills from
whence cometh my help.
My help cometh from
the Lord who made
heaven and earth.*

Psalm 121



Art Panels Designed by *David Williams*
Painted and Constructed by *Wesley Vine Glass Craftsman*



Tuesday
(during school terms)
10am - 12pm



The Hub members sharing the acknowledgement of Easter by holding up crosses.

Muffin Morning Tea @ The Hub

Proudly Supporting the work of Fight Parkinson's

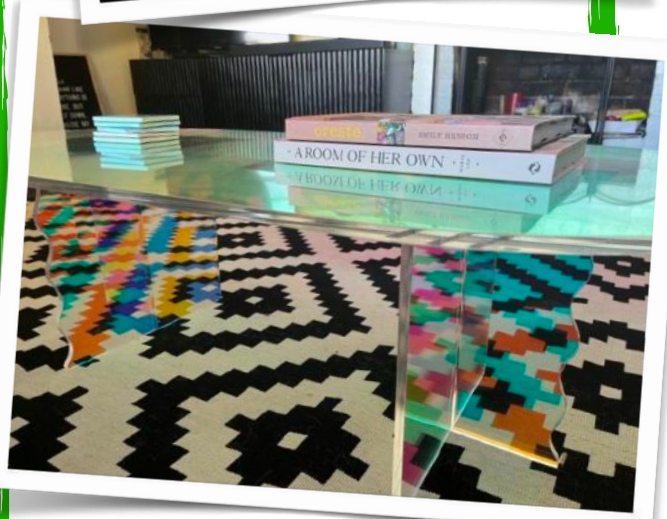
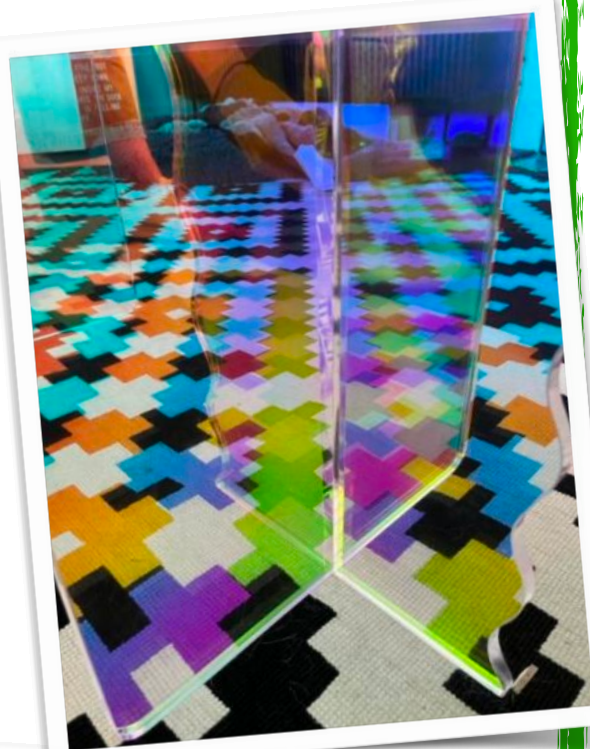
When: Wednesday 16 August, 10am - 12pm
Where: Glen Waverley Uniting Church
Cnr Bogong Avenue & Kingsway

All Welcome!

Supporting



Remember that we gave Alane a coffee table as a farewell present? Below are a couple of photographs of the table on a black and white rug at Alane and Joel's new home. Look at those colours! (Photos by Kaye Morgan.)





Glen Waverley Uniting Church



Indonesian Festival

May 5-7, 2023



Friday 5th May



Panel Discussion



Welcome Dinner



Art Exhibition Opening

Saturday 6th May



Celebration Concert



Sharing an Indonesian Feast



Gifts from
GWUC to our
Indonesian
Friends



Glen Waverley Uniting Church



Indonesian Festival

May 5-7, 2023



Sunday 7th May Intercultural Worship Service

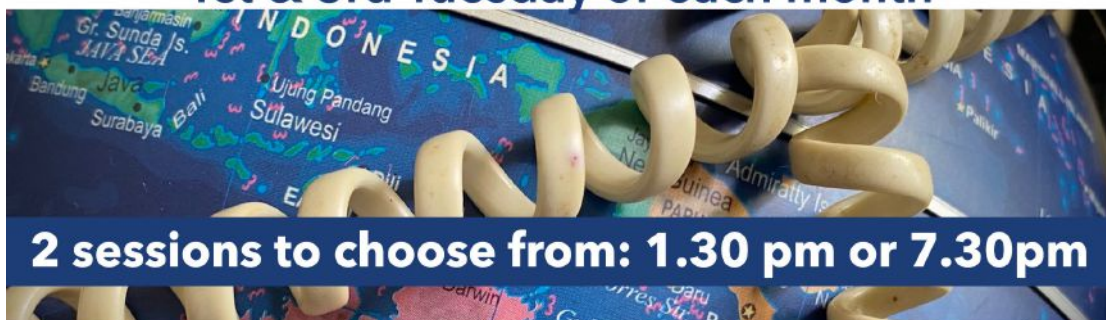


Indonesian Choir singing
"In Jesus there is triumph"

Dalam yesus ada kemenangan
in Jesus there is triumph
sekarang dan selamanya
now and forever

Intercultural Bible Study

1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month



2 sessions to choose from: 1.30 pm or 7.30pm

Zoom also available at 7.30pm session
Sign up sheet available on office counter



Panel Discussion

Sachin Remson, a GWUC church council member, was one of the panel members at the forum which was part of the recent GWUC Indonesian Festival. His speech was so important that we felt it needed to be shared with the whole Glen Waverley Uniting Church community. Thank you Sachin for allowing us to share your story with our church community in the Kingsway magazine.

Hello, everyone. Thank you so much for having me as a part of the learned panel.

My name is Sachin Remson, and I am here today to share our experience as newly arrived immigrants, our relationship with this wonderful church, and my hope for the future.

Let me start my journey with a verse from Proverbs, chapter 16, verse 9, and I quote: "A man's heart plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps".

I would like to share a few facts about my birth country India. We are a country of 1.4 billion people with 80% population following Hinduism but with a sizeable 18% Muslim population along with being the birthplace of many religions like Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism. We have been invaded and colonised by Mongols, Greeks, the Spanish, Portuguese, French, Dutch and English over 1000 years, which has left a mix of different cultures and heavily impacted Indian traditions and our way of life.

Christianity came to India, with the arrival of the Disciple Thomas but was spread by Italian missionaries, Jesuits and when the British occupied India from 1757. You would be surprised to know, that the Christian population is less than 2% in India, but most of them are 5th-6th generation Converted Christians like us.

I came from a country where within a 200kms range, the language, dialect, culture, food and even the colour of your clothes changes. There are 358 languages spoken in India and this diversity in cultures has influenced how we perceive, respect, and accept other traditions.

My journey to move to Australia started in 2018, when I was given a temporary visa for 4 years to work in Melbourne in a financial institution. It was the biggest decision of our

lives as we would be leaving behind our old parents, our friends, and our whole relationship structure. The decision was made easy when our parents supported us 100%. I call it a "Leap of Faith" where you immerse yourself in God's will and trust in his judgement.

Starting a new journey at the age of 39 was not easy as you are in the middle of your career, your kid is 12 years old, and your wife is leaving the job that she loves to support your dream.

We had heard experiences from some families, which sold everything in India, tried to settle down overseas but had to come back due to racial discrimination. We were very fearful of how our daughter would be treated in school due to her brown skin, how would she react, would she be able to make friends, and would we have to move back to India due to this?

For our family, the goal was simple. Our happiness and stability depended on Rebecca, our daughter and we wanted to give her the best opportunity in life.

As newly arrived immigrants, there is a lot of information overload, and you need to get answers to all questions in 48 hours as soon you land here. Where to open a bank account, where to buy groceries, what is the NBN, how do you cross the roads, how do you use self-checkout at grocery stores, how do you get access to health and financial services, how do you find a rental property, which suburb is safe to live, and some of them were funny ones - do I have to mow the lawn or you start comparing vegetable prices in India vs here, I mean the eggs are really expensive here?

One of the funniest stories, we encountered was when we bought a washing machine and didn't know how to operate it. We pressed on a few buttons and our clothes were stuck in there for three days. We finally had to take help from our colleagues but by that time, our clothes had shrunk.

In India, you see people around you 24/7, but in Australia, we could only see 3-4 people passing on the road on any given day; for us that was very odd. The daily news on TV would finish in 30 minutes and everywhere you go, people would call you mate. I was embarrassed to ask why a chicken would be called a chook or why do people eat dinner at 6 pm and sleep at 9 or why do we start selling Christmas trees in September and not December? In time, you start learning from observing people and taking their advice.

You learn from the man standing in front of you in the train line and you start behaving, as he/she is doing to be accepted in the society. I learned a lot from my 12-year-old daughter Rebecca about Korean pop, Ramen noodles, social media and making friends from different cultures. The process of becoming an Aussie had started and we loved the people around us. I also realised, knowing English, and speaking English are two totally different things. The rate of speech, pronunciation and choice of words depends on who you interact with. While Anna and I have always been exposed to Western Culture because we worked for American customers, we soon realised the importance of saying "Thank you", "Ahha", "Good Morning" and "How are you doing". Understanding dialects from people with different backgrounds was the key to communication and understanding. The work culture in Australia, requires people to indulge in "Small Talk" over a cuppa or drinks on Friday. It requires an individual to choose a footy team, to know a dating show like "Farmer wants a wife" and be open to share their own personal stories. This is unlike Indian Culture, where there is cutthroat competition and people are struggling to live day by day.

The fear of rejection by colleagues, constant pressure to succeed and adjustment required for interaction with different cultures, took over 8-12 months as I had to reset, take advice from people I trusted and change my

communication skills. I also firmly believe that God wanted us to settle down in Glen Waverley. We were looking at houses all over Melbourne, and never had Monash in our minds. We never realised that Glen Waverley Secondary College is among the top 15 schools in Victoria and our daughter would find her lifelong friends there. It was a miracle that while searching for a church, we walked in one Sunday evening in Glen Waverley Uniting Church for the 5pm service and saw a globe outside with more than 100 flags representing people belonging to different countries and cultures, all worshipping under one roof.

From that time onwards, we knew that this church would play a big role in our life as it is multi-cultural and Christ-centred and would be our strength, when we feel homesick or lonely away from our families.

Glen Waverley Uniting Church's mission to provide "Fellowship, care and support for all groups within the faith community so that the people know that they are included" is now very important to the ever changing demographic landscape of our country and the world.

I believe, we as a congregation, have embarked on a journey to be more inclusive

*A man's heart
plans his course,
but the Lord
determines his
steps.*

Proverbs 16:9

of other faiths and cultures, interacting, learning, and indulging in intercultural dialogue in a safe environment.

We are enhancing our digital ministry, and organised events like "Together Again" to bring people in unison after Covid.

We discuss challenging topics like racism, colonial mindsets, English as the medium of conversation and acceptability of intercultural and multicultural views in our worship. I have been lucky to be part of forums which have enhanced my knowledge of the past, present and what is needed to preserve Christian faith

in Australia and share with communities in neighbouring countries.

As Christians, we believe that God made all of humanity in his image and Jesus preached "Love thy neighbour as thyself". If we believe in his everlasting word, then we cannot have any prejudices to other religions or cultures.

We stand as "one" in his eyes and will always be "one". May we continue this process of accepting our differences, giving equal opportunities to all and work towards strengthening our faith together.

At the end, I am pleased to share that I recently changed my job and now work for a company known as 'Maxme' which assists International Students and Immigrants to understand Australian Workplace culture and to strengthen their communication skills etc. I love working with this smaller community to help young aspiring people find a place in Australian Society, while preserving their own distinct identities.

May the peace of the Lord be with you always.
Thank you.

Sachin Remson

In Concert with

Free Spirit & Friends

2.30pm - Sunday 10 September

at Glen Waverley Uniting Church, Cnr Bogong Avenue & Kingsway

Proceeds support the Glen Waverley Uniting Church Welfare Program

ADMISSION BY \$20 DONATION
CONCESSION \$15 | CHILDREN U/12 FREE
Tickets available at the door (includes Afternoon Tea)



INTERCULTURAL WORSHIP WORKSHOP

LEADERSHIP TRAINING 2023

SUNDAY 16 JULY
2.00 - 4.30pm
Please put your name on the
signup list on the office counter to
register your interest

Parking Changes in Glen Waverley - A message from Church Council.

Members of the congregation

As you are probably aware, work will commence shortly to extend the multi-storey car park opposite the church. The Property Committee and Church Council are liaising with Monash Council concerning how this might affect us. Regardless, parking will be challenging at times for the next couple of years.

We seek your understanding and co-operation. It would be good if places in the church car park were left free as much as possible for those amongst us for whom mobility is difficult. However, there is no way we can control the use of our carpark by congregation members, visitors, or passers-by.

For those without mobility issues, we suggest using the parking that is available in the surrounding streets and in the Library carpark. Monash Council has released details of parking restrictions in the streets surrounding the church. These are available to view on the notice board in the foyer. Please check carefully the restrictions which apply to where you are parking.

We encourage the use of carpooling and ask that you do not leave your car in the carpark for extended periods after your event or function has ended.

If you have a genuine need to use the carpark for non-church activities during the week (Mon-Sat), please check with the church office to ensure there are no events or functions being held.

With a bit of good-will, we can make this work.

*Church Council,
Glen Waverley Uniting Church*




GOMER'S

**- GRUMPY OLD MEN &
EARLY RETIREES**

10am every Monday
Join us for coffee and a chat!

PLAYGROUP

**0-4
years** **Come
along &
Play!**

Monday & Tuesday
10am-12pm



1945

**Glen
Waverley...
The Way We
Were**

1958





Pre-Loved Treasures and Collectables, Pre-Loved Books, Silent Auction, Food, Craft, Toys, Cakes, Plants, Music & more...

Items for any stall may be delivered on Friday 20 October between 9am-7pm to Glen Waverley Uniting Church, corner Bogong Avenue & Kingsway, GW

Please note: we are unable to accept mattresses, furniture, pre-loved clothing or unsaleable items

Ministry Team



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Kingsway Magazine is a regular magazine of Glen Waverley Uniting Church. It is designed to provide a voice for the church community to share activities, thoughts, celebrations, stories and the faith journey, and will present to the church community the quiet achievers and achievements in the life of our church. "Kingsway" has a multi-generational, multi-cultural and missional focus and is designed to build community, lift the spirit and strengthen our faith. If you have an item, article or notice that you think will be just right for "Kingsway", please contact Joanne Boldiston (office@gwuc.org.au) or David Fraser (davidfraser60@gmail.com).