

# SHEPPARTON UNITING CHURCH

## SHEPPARTON RURAL CLUSTER



**The building is closed.  
The Church is alive!**

### NEWS MAY 24, 2020

#### MINISTERS

Rev Rosalie Rayment-Hewitt 5821 2077

Rev Loni Vaitohi 5822 4602

Rev Joan Fisher, Minister in Association

Church 4805 1120

Website [sheppartonuc.org.au](http://sheppartonuc.org.au)

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/shepparton.unitingchurch>

#### SUNDAY MAY 24 EASTER 7

***Christ is risen! Alleluia!***

***Praying Together*** The Scots' School Albury; School Chaplain  
Beth Bear

***Readings*** May 24 Acts 1.6-14 Ps 68.1-10,32-35 1Pet 4.12-14,  
5.6-11 John 17.1-11

***Worship Loni*** check Facebook for streamed service

<https://www.facebook.com/shepparton.unitingchurch>

Church services will not be held in the church until further notice.

#### READINGS Pentecost

May 31 Acts 2.1-21 Ps 104.24-34,35b 1Cor 12.3b-13 Jn 20.19-23

*We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands and waters of the region, and pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.*

#### WORSHIP ONLINE

Waranga Cluster 9.30 am Check [warangaunitingchurches.net.au](http://warangaunitingchurches.net.au)

Glen Waverley Uniting Church 10.00am <https://gwuc.org.au/live/>

Brunswick Uniting Church [brunswick.unitingchurch.org.au/worship-with-us/](http://brunswick.unitingchurch.org.au/worship-with-us/)

Mt Eliza Uniting Church [mteliza.unitingchurch.org.au](http://mteliza.unitingchurch.org.au) 10.00am or  
recorded

Manningham [manninghamuc.org](http://manninghamuc.org) 10.00am or recorded

Sonder Collective first and third Sundays 5.30pm Go to Sonder Facebook

#### SHEPPARTON UNITING CHURCH

**The Synod has requirements for people and church buildings** - hand sanitising, social distancing; cleaning and disinfecting all surfaces, chairs included, each day. We have a thermometer. So we can come safely, up to ten people at a time. We are using specially spaced chairs in the Narthex.

#### ***Meet a Minister for pastoral conversation or prayer***

Monday to Friday mornings, 10.00 to noon. Just drop in - to the Narthex.

***Borrow a hymn book*** to reflect on the words, pray the hymns, sing them.

#### ***Join a small group***

to read and reflect on the passages for the coming Sunday, share joys and concerns and pray for each other.

Tuesdays 10.00am

Wednesdays 1.30pm

Thursdays 7.30pm

Remember to let Rosalie know you would like to come 5821 2077

#### WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

***They Showed Us Unusual Kindness*** Acts 28.2

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2020 runs from Ascension (Thursday) to Pentecost (May 31). The resources have been prepared by the churches in Malta, where Paul was shipwrecked while being taken to Rome as a prisoner, traditionally in the year 60. Continued sheet 2

#### ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 2019 Due April 30, 2020 - one received!

The date for the Annual Meeting cannot be set, but reports can be received! They do not require details of every meeting, but are to report two aspects of your work: a, a couple of highlights; b. some directions for the future. And your financial report. To Joan by June 3, please.

## REPORT OF MAY 2020 CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Church Council met by Zoom on the 13<sup>th</sup> of May. Rev Rosalie Rayment-Hewitt led devotions, based on 1 Peter 2:1-10 – The Living Stone and a Chosen People.

Correspondence received included:

\*numerous notifications from the Synod of VicTas and the Presbytery of North East Vic with advice and instructions re COVID-19, size of gatherings, use of buildings, as well as resources for worship and prayers from the Moderator and Chair of Presbytery.

\*a request from Uniting Goulburn North East to enter into conversation regarding the use of the Fryers Street Meeting Room and 4 carparks by Uniting for approximately 2 years.

\*information from the Pastoral Relations Committee of the Presbytery detailing a new initiative of the PRC which links each member of the PRC with a number of congregations 'to affirm the PRC's interest in the life of every congregation and the corresponding pastoral responsibility PRC is seeking to honour.' Rev Veronica Bradley is the nominated liaison person for the Shepparton and Shepparton Rural Congregations. Veronica is in placement in Wangaratta.

\*notification from Sammy Stamp that the group has ceased to meet at 130 Lt Collins St and will 'regroup' at Trinity Uniting Church Brighton later in the year. In the meantime stamps are to be sent to Margaret and Ian Beaumont, 44A Seventh St, Parkdale 3195.

Decisions made include:

1) Church Council agreed to Uniting Goulburn North East occupying the Fryers Street meeting room for up to 2 years, commencing on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2020. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be drawn up to formalise the arrangement. The CC Secretary and Treasurer have been authorised to liaise with Uniting to set up the arrangement and to report to the CC. The fitting out of the meeting room and appropriate security will be the responsibility of Uniting.

2) Church Council, as the body responsible for decisions regarding worship, resolved that 'we hold off from celebrating Communion until we can all gather together again.'

3) While acknowledging that Rosalie's final service will be on the 7<sup>th</sup> of June, her placement with SUC concludes on the 31<sup>st</sup> of August. Rosalie will take Annual Leave and Long Service Leave between the 7<sup>th</sup> of June and the 31<sup>st</sup> of August. CC resolved that a Service of Release and farewell

will be held on Sunday, the 30<sup>th</sup> of August – arrangements will be dependent on the COVID-19 regulations in place at that time.

4) CC resolved to request the Presbytery to arrange a Mission Study with Shepparton and Shepparton Rural Congregations.

5) Lisa Tu'ungafasi, Shirley Marven and Ray Luscombe's terms of service on CC expired in May, but all agreed to continue to serve on CC until a meeting of the Congregation can be held to elect new Elders/Church Councillors.

6) The Op Shop Committee was requested to consider when and how the Op Shop might reopen and report to CC.

6) Church Council made the following *Minute of Commitment* in keeping with the Keeping Children Safe Policy.

*The Shepparton Uniting Church is committed to providing safe places where people are cared for, nurtured and sustained. We have today adopted/reaffirmed the Keeping Children Safe Statement of Commitment as attached. Through it we recommit ourselves to the care, protection and safety of all people, particularly those who are vulnerable.*

The Declaration will be displayed in the Narthex.

**All members of the Congregation who hold a leadership role are required to sign an Individual Declaration – please see Jeni Fitzgerald for a copy of the form.**

## NATIONAL VOLUNTEERS' WEEK May 18 to 24

**Thanks to all Volunteers!**

## WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY continued

Following the shipwreck, during which the centurion ensured that all on board were saved, the citizens of Malta entertained those on the ship. The church in Malta dates from this unlikely visit where God works through Paul. Many other churches, including the Methodists and Church of Scotland, came to Malta with waves of settlement.

Those preparing the reflections, 2019, noted: 'In such tempestuous journeys and chance encounters, God's will for his Church and all people comes to fulfilment. As Paul will proclaim in Rome, this salvation of God has been sent to all peoples (see Acts 28.28).

Day 1 *Reconciliation: Throwing the cargo aboard*  
Acts 27.19-19 21 Psalm 85 Luke 18.9-14

*Reflection* As Christians from different Churches and Traditions, we have unfortunately, over the centuries, accumulated abundant baggage consisting of mutual distrust, bitterness and suspicion. We thank the Lord for the birth and the growth of the ecumenical movement over the past century. Our encounter with Christians from other traditions and our common prayer for Christian unity encourage us to seek mutual forgiveness, reconciliation and acceptance. We must not allow the baggage of our past to hinder us from drawing closer to one another. It is the Lord's will that we let go, in order to let God!

*Prayer* Forgiving God,<sup>[1]</sup>  
set us free from the painful memories of the past,<sup>[1]</sup>  
that wound our shared Christian life.<sup>[1]</sup>  
Lead us to reconciliation,<sup>[1]</sup>  
so that, through the Holy Spirit we may  
overcome<sup>[1]</sup> hatred with love,<sup>[1]</sup>  
anger with gentleness,<sup>[1]</sup>  
and suspicion with trust.<sup>[1]</sup>  
We ask this in the name of your beloved  
Son, our brother Jesus. Amen.

Day 2 *Enlightenment: Seeking and showing forth Christ's light*  
Acts 27.20 Psalm 119.105-110 Mark 4.35-41

Day 3 *Hope: Paul's message*  
Acts 27.22, 34 Psalm 27 Matthew 11.28-30

Day 4 *Trust: Do not be afraid, believe*  
Acts 27.23-26 Psalm 56 Luke 12.22-34

Day 5 *Strength: Breaking bread for the journey*  
Acts 27.33-36 Psalm 77 Mark 6.30-44

Day 6 *Hospitality: Show unusual kindness*  
Acts 28.1-2, 7 Psalm 46 Luke 14.12-24

Day 7 *Conversion: Changing our hearts and minds*  
Acts 28.3-6 Psalm 119.137-144 Matthew 18.1-6

Day 8 *Generosity: Receiving and giving*  
Acts 28.8-10 Psalm 103.1-5 Matthew 10.7-8

*Reflection* This story is full of giving and receiving: Paul received unusual kindness from the islanders; Paul gives healing to the father of Publius and others; having lost everything in the storm, the 276 receive abundant provisions as they set sail. As Christians we are called to unusual kindness. But in order to give we must first learn to receive – from Christ and from others. More often than we realize, we are recipients of acts of kindness from people who are different from us. These acts also point towards the generosity and healing of our Lord. We who have been healed by the Lord are responsible for passing on that which we have received.

*Prayer* God, giver of life,<sup>[1]</sup>  
we thank you for the gift of your compassionate love  
which soothes and strengthens us.<sup>[1]</sup>  
We pray that our churches<sup>[1]</sup>  
may be always open to receive your gifts from one  
another.  
Grant us a spirit of generosity to all,<sup>[1]</sup>  
as we journey together in the path of Christian unity.<sup>[1]</sup>  
We ask this in the name of your Son,<sup>[1]</sup>  
who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Contact Joan for copies of the remaining reflections email or 5812 9320

## **NATIONAL SORRY DAY May 26 *For the mothers and children***

National Sorry Day is on the anniversary of the Bringing Them Home Report of the National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children, tabled May 26, 1997.  
'As a mother, I cannot imagine having to bear the heartbreaking grief of having my child taken away from me.,- reflects Dr Deidre Palmer....'In 1996 the Assembly Standing Committee of the Uniting Church made an "Acknowledgement and Apology" to the "Aboriginal Community for family separation practices and the Church's part in the link."

## **RECONCILIATION WEEK May 27 - June 3 *In this together***

'I encourage Uniting Church members, through these National Reconciliation Week resources, to affirm our covenant relationship as First and Second Peoples and to strengthen our actions for justice, healing and reconciliation.'  
Dr Deidre Palmer, President