

# SHEPPARTON UNITING CHURCH

## SHEPPARTON RURAL CLUSTER



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

### NEWS JUNE 21, 2020

#### MINISTERS

**Rev Rosalie Rayment-Hewitt** 5821 2077 on leave

**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 JUNE 21

**Praying Together** Presbytery Ministers - Richard, Tony, Brian

**Readings** Gen 21.8-21 Ps 86.1-10, 16-17 Rom 6.1b-11 Mt 10.24-39

**Worship** Joan Fisher Service streamed on Facebook 9.30am

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

#### READINGS JUNE

**June 22 UCA Anniversary** Ezek 37.15-28 Ps 122 Heb 13.1-8

John 17.20-26

**June 28** Gen 22.1-14 Ps 13 Rom 6.12-23 Mt 10.40-42

**Services** will be streamed - see above.

**The Narthex** will be open two mornings a week - see next page.

*We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands 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)

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

*Assembly Service* 10.00am Each Sunday, a different church is featured on the *Assembly's Facebook address*. Details of the service are not available until Friday, on Assembly News, so our email version contains them.

#### UNITING CHURCH ANNIVERSARY JUNE 22

Can you remember June 22, 1977? Where did you celebrate Union? One thousand of us, mostly Methodists and Presbyterians, with a handful from the Congregational Church, worshipped at the Civic Centre, then joined in other celebrations. We had high hopes for this exciting new church. Many of these hopes have come to fruition, as have others, not dreamed of then.

#### SHEPPARTON UNITING CHURCH

**Ministers are available** for pastoral conversation as follows:

Joan Fisher Wednesdays, 10.00am to noon

Loni Vaitohi Fridays, 10.00am to 2.00pm

**Small groups** If you would like to join with others, please contact Loni.

**Synod requirements for buildings** are being adhered to rigorously.

#### YOUR OFFERING

Zane thanks all who have made their offering by EFT or taking them to his home. Your generosity and thoughtfulness are greatly appreciated. Zane encourages members to put their offering in their envelope each week and looks forward to receiving them in due course. Zane Streeter

#### ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 2019 were due June 3.

Many have still not been received. Please get them to Joan!

#### BLACK LIVES MATTER VIGIL SATURDAY JUNE 27, NOON

A group of Shepparton organisations including the Shepparton Regional Reconciliation Group and Greater Shepparton Lighthouse Project plans to hold a *Black Lives Matter* Vigil at Victoria Park Lake at noon Saturday June 27. Details are not yet available but may include standing for 30 minutes, socially spaced. Make a note in your diary.

## OP SHOP RE-OPENING JUNE 15, 2020



## ASSEMBLY NATIONAL NEWS June 18

In her annual Church anniversary message to coincide with the foundation of the UCA on June 22, 1977, UCA President Dr Deidre Palmer has encouraged Uniting Church members to apply the difficult learnings of 2020 to shape the way the Church pursues God's mission in the world.

Dr Palmer said the Uniting Church was responding with creativity and compassion to COVID-19 and other crises, embracing new opportunities to be the Body of Christ.

'While we've been moving along this unfamiliar pathway we continue to be bearers of Christ's light and hope wherever we are,' said Dr Palmer.

'Your creative responses have been a gift and blessing of the Spirit who guides and sustains us along the way.

'I've been delighted to hear Uniting Church members saying that the sharing online across the country has given them a deeper understanding of the breadth and diversity of the Uniting Church.

'Gathering as a Christian community among our neighbours will remain central to who we are but these last few months have brought home to us that we are not defined by church buildings.

'Rather we are defined and marked by the love and compassion that shapes us and marks our relationships with people in our communities in our neighbourhoods and the wider Australian society.'

As restrictions on gathering and movement are gradually lifted and things return to normal Dr Palmer urged church members to find creative ways to rebuild in a way that would be "just for everyone".

Dr Palmer recommended members read the Assembly's new advocacy document, *Build Back Better. A Just Recovery post COVID-19*, and issued a warm invitation to UCA members to attend her President's conference in October.

'On this anniversary, we give thanks to God for who we are and from where we've come. But we also look forward to where we are going.' said Dr Palmer.

'Towards an intergenerational and multicultural Christian community, centred in Christ. led by the innovative, creative Holy Spirit of God.'

*\*Build Back Better was in the June 14 NEWS*

## JOIN THE UNITING CHURCH IN PRAYER FOR

- \*Everyone who has worshipped, witness and served in our Church over the last 43 years
- \*All those who are yearning for face-to-face worship but are still unable to gather safely
- \*Our Church partners in Zimbabwe and India

## ASSEMBLY AUSTRALIA-WIDE SUNDAY WORSHIP JUNE 21

Rev Dr Katalina Tahaafe-Williams from Nightcliff Uniting Church in Darwin livestreamed on the UCA Facebook page at 10.00am