

# SHEPPARTON UNITING CHURCH

## SHEPPARTON RURAL CLUSTER



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

### NEWS OCTOBER 11, 2020

#### MINISTERS

Rev Loni Vaitohi 5822 4602 0449 504 228

Rev Joan Fisher, Minister in Assoc

Pastoral Care Convenor Shirley Marven

Church 4805 1120

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

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

#### SUNDAY OCTOBER 11

**Praying Together** Wangaratta, Eldorado, Greta-Moyhu, Whitfield

**Readings** Ex 32.1-14 Ps 106.1-6,19-23 Phil 4.1-9 Matt 22.1-14

**Worship** Revd Loni Vaitohi Duty Elder Anni Russell

The service will be live on Zoom, or by phone, 9.30am See details opposite or use the website (above) to view the service.

#### READINGS - OCTOBER

Oct 18 Ex 33.12-23 Ps 99 1 Thess 1.1-10 Matt 22.15-22

Oct 25 Ex 34.1-12 Ps90.1-6.13-17 1 Thess 2.1-8 Matt 22.34-46

#### FOR YOUR OFFERING THE TREASURER 0409 438 741

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

## SHEPPARTON WORSHIP ONLINE

### Joining in to Zoom via the phone

*Step 1:* To join the meeting via a Phone call please dial one of the five following phone numbers: The 03 number is for Victoria so is likely to be a cheaper call than one of the interstate numbers.

03 7018 2005

02 8015 6011

07 3185 3730

08 7150 1149

08 6119 3900

*Step 2:* when prompted enter the meeting code on the Zoom invitation.

The Meeting Code for October 11 is 936 5808 9052#

*Step 3:* you will asked if you are the meeting host or a participant

Don't worry about this question, just press #

*Step 4:* when prompted enter the passcode on the Zoom invitation, which will also change each week.

The Passcode for October 11 is 254972#

### FAITH-SHARING BY ZOOM

Our first faith-sharing group on Zoom has begun on Wednesdays at 2.00pm. If you'd like to be part of another group, please contact Joan Fisher, 5821 8382; 0417 210 447, or Shirley Marven, 0438 242 150, so another time can be arranged.

### CELEBRATING A CENTENARY!

Anne Wright will celebrate her one hundredth birthday on Wednesday October 14! Congratulations, Anne! The last few years Anne has lived in Hakea Lodge and now Maculata Place. She attends all the Uniting Church services and some others held there. Anne is looking forward to Wednesday, even though her family will not be able to be with her - except possibly for one person for one hour. This year Anne has used Covid-limitations and lockdown most beneficially: she says she's never read her Bible so much! She now has *With Love to the World* and *The Upper Room* which she greatly enjoys. Happy Hundred, Anne! May God bless you on this very special day as you have been so richly blessed for a century, and also for the days to come!

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Despite difficulties with communication we have managed to contribute almost 150 boxes for children in SE Asia, who will be delighted to receive their precious boxes filled with love.

Thanks to Val and Trev who have done the lion's share of packing 100 boxes, thanks to all who packed boxes, contributed items, knitted beanies and donated \$710 for postage. And to Joan for helping with communicating to all of us. Grateful thanks to you all. Lois Hardy

## PASTORAL PRAYERS

Please remember those in hospital, those convalescing after surgery and those who are not well. Especially remember those who are feeling lonely! Pray for the members of your pastoral group. As Greater Shepparton City Council elections approach, remember Ben Ladson who is standing for election. Pray for all Op Shop Volunteers and all who visit the Op Shop this week.

## AND ALSO

As well as praying for congregations within the Presbytery (see Sunday October 11), you are invited to pray for Belize, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico in the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Prayer Cycle.

October 1-17 is International Poverty Week; the Uniting Church remembers October 17, the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. October 16 is World Food Day.

Last week's Assembly prayer list was for

- \*all responding to God's call by living out their Christian vocation
- \*women in leadership across the Uniting Church
- \*all who work in Disaster Recovery and Relief Ministry

## OP SHOP NOW OPEN

The re-opening of the Op Shop has been very warmly welcomed! Not least by those who have been cleaning out cupboards...

## OTHER SUNDAY SERVICES ONLINE

*Waranga Cluster 10.00 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/)  
*Mt Eliza Uniting Church* [mteliza.unitingchurch.org.au](http://mteliza.unitingchurch.org.au) 10.00am or recorded  
*Bairnsdale Uniting Church* [Worship@Home27th](mailto:Worship@Home27th) September a couple of days before the Sunday. Remember to adjust the date, of course!

## ASSEMBLY ZOOM PRESENTATIONS

### *Fast or Feast?*

**October 1**

Loni was able to join this webinar at which a key speaker was Revd Dr Geoffrey Thompson, of Pilgrim Theological College who made an extremely helpful presentation on 'virtual Sacraments' - or not. No reports available yet.

### *The President's Conference*

**October 3**

This webinar was a 'taster' for The President's Conference, postponed from 2020 to early next year. It was to help us reflect on God's call on our lives and how we live our Christian vocation in our particular context. It was in three sessions over Saturday afternoon, EST:

*Called by God* considered biblical themes of Call and our response to the crises in the contemporary Australian context. Two presenters.

*Living our Christian Vocation* Six Uniting Church members spoke of their faith and life: Rev Mark Kickett (Chairperson of Congress), Rev Rahika Sukumar-White, Rev Charissa Suli, Ms Catherine Pepper (Sustainability and Smart Cities Leader and environmentalist), Rev Al Macrae and Ms Rhanee Tsetsakos. This group clearly includes Indigenous members, people from SE Asia and the Pacific as well as a scientist and a former President. Their faith stories were memorable!

*Faith in Public Life* Four Adelaide members and Dr Sureke Goringe, National Director of Uniting World provided amazing stories of the intersection of their faith and public life. Assoc Prof Lorna Hallahan, social worker and disability advocate, working on top Commissions as well as lecturing in Social Work at Flinders University, is disabled - she spoke of a terminal illness at sixteen. Mark Henley is Manager of Advocacy and Communications for Uniting Communities in Adelaide - another passionate advocate. Prof Dr Ian Olver, medical oncologist, cancer researcher, bioethicist and Lay Preacher, spoke of his journey from medicine to research, head of the Cancer Council, bioethicist and also preacher and how each had flowed into the next, in Australia and overseas, although he did not seek it! Rev Deacon Sandy Boyce (Pilgrim Church Adelaide) is President of Diakonia World Federation, and reflected on her work with Deacons around the world.

I had time for only two sessions and was glad I chose the second and third, though doubtless I'd have said that whichever two I attended. All the speakers will be taking part at the real Conference, with the usual time allocation, and opportunities for conversation. Joan