

# SHEPPARTON UNITING CHURCH

## SHEPPARTON RURAL CLUSTER



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

### NEWS DECEMBER 6, 2020

#### MINISTERS

Rev Loni Vaitohi 5822 4602 0449 504 228

Rev Joan Fisher, Minister in Assoc

Rev Glenys Gill, Supply Minister

Pastoral Care Convenor Shirley Marven

Church 4805 1120

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

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

#### SUNDAY DECEMBER 6 Advent 2

*Praying Together* Euroa, Terip-Ruffy

*Readings* Is 40.1-11 Ps 85.1-2,8-13 2Pet 3.8-15a Mark 1.1-18

*Worship* Revd Loni Vaitohi Duty Elder Ray Luscombe

The service will be live on Zoom, or by phone, 9.30am

#### READINGS - DECEMBER

Dec 13 Is 61.1-4,8-11 Ps 126 1Thess 5.16-24 John 1.6-8,19-28

Dec 20 2Sam 7.1-11,16 Lk 1.46b-55 Rom 16.25-27 Luke 26-38

Dec 25 Is 62.6-12 Ps 97 Titus 3.4-7 Luke 2. (1-7), 8-20

Dec 27 Is 61.10- 62.3 Ps 148 Gal 4.4-7 Luke 2.22-40

*We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands and waters of the region, the Peoples 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 the interstate number.

03 7018 2005

02 8015 6011

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

The Meeting Code for December 6 is 952 3972 6732#

*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 December 6 is 847 043#

##### ADVENT STUDIES *Hammer on Anvil* Continuing this week!

This year we are sharing in the Advent Studies the Presbytery is holding online - and at the church. *Hammer on Anvil* has been written and will be led by the Revd Gereldine Leonard.

You can still join the online sessions. All sessions will include time for you to share in discussion. Everyone is very welcome! The links will be sent with the online NEWS.

*Online Session times:* Tuesdays December 8, 15, 22 at 3.00pm

Wednesdays December 9, 16, 23 at 7.00pm

We apologise that this week's Tuesday afternoon group was not facilitated. There will be a group meeting at the church Tuesdays at 3.00pm from December 8.

First study: *Waiting* hard copies available from Joan

Second study: *Accepting*

Third study: *Anticipating*

Fourth study: *Journeying*

##### RETURNING TO WORSHIP AT THE CHURCH

At its meeting next week, Church Council will receive a recommendation from the Worship Committee that services be held in the church from December 13. If approval is granted, it will mean that those who come to services will need to follow all the Covid safety rules - signing in, hand wash, social spacing, masks in the building, no touching of others - and no morning tea. Services will continue to be Zoomed at 9.30am.

## BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE Thursday December 17, 5.00pm

Blue Christmas? Surely Christmas is red and green! Blue Christmas services were developed in the Northern Hemisphere by many churches for those feeling pain or grief, for those with no heart to celebrate; they are held on the longest, darkest night of the year, December 21-23.

In our dazzlingly bright days and late sunsets, Blue Christmas services are held to recognise that not everyone is full of joy. Many carry grief and pain, and find the ever-present carols, rush and excitement difficult to share. 'Feeling blue', they are not ready for Christmas.

This year many more people are experiencing grief and pain: they have not been able to share in celebrating the lives of dear ones, including loved members of the congregation. Separation from family and friends, being alone, feeling lonely, loss of work, despair about the future - all have taken a toll. The Blue Christmas service offers a safe space for quiet contemplation, for admitting that we are not 'OK', that we are sad, discouraged, perhaps even angry - or just a little blue... Come to share with others with similar feelings, to find comfort, to find hope.

**Second Sunday of Advent**

### Bringing peace to Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh

The coronavirus has reached the world's largest refugee camp and widespread misinformation about the virus is making it harder for doctors to contain the virus. Act for Peace's local partner is working with doctors, community workers and religious leaders to dispel myths and teach people how to stop the spread. Your Christmas Bowl gift will help give refugees around the world the long-term support they need. **Please give today.**

**CALL: 1800 025 101 VISIT: [actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl](http://actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl)**

The Christmas appeal of Act for Peace, the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. ABN 86 619 970 188

## PASTORAL PRAYERS

Remember those who have undergone surgery and those waiting for surgery, those who are ill or convalescing, and those restored to good health. Specially remember those who are beginning a new programme of medical care. Pray for those in respite and those who have returned home. The WCC Ecumenical Prayer Cycle this week invites prayers for Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam. In the Presbytery, this week we pray for Euroa and Terip-Ruffy.

The Uniting Church Assembly invites our prayers for  
- Thursdays in Black, a worldwide movement under the auspices of the World Council of Churches working for a world without rape and gender-based violence.

- All members of the Uniting Church as we begin our journey through Advent. In worship together, physically distanced or remote, and in our reflection and prayerful practice, may we be uplifted by stories of God's hope as we look forward.

- All those in Australia, our region and around the world who are sick, impoverished, hungry and in greater need than many of us will ever experience. May we find in ourselves the generosity of spirit to be a blessing to the vulnerable.

## OFFERING ENVELOPES December 2020- November 2021

Have you contacted Zane yet for your new envelopes? He is happy to deliver them to you. Remember: next Sunday is December!  
Phone or text Zane: 0409 438 741 to arrange for your envelopes

## NEWS FROM THE OP SHOP

### 1. Roster for 2021

Jenny Goonan is organising the Op Shop roster for 2021. If you would like to be an Op Shop volunteer next year, please contact us and we will pass your information onto Jenny Goonan Op Shop Volunteer Coordinator

### 2. Thank You for Volunteers

We are planning a "Thank You" for all the Op Shop volunteers at Yackatoo Gardens at Coomboona on the 11th of December at 10:00am. Tea/coffee and scones will be available for \$10.00 per person. If you would like to come please write your name on the list at the Op Shop or contact Geoff or Val. (See Val for further details)

## BOOKINGS

If you wish to use a church space for a meeting or function, remember to book with Jeni well in advance, to reserve the space. You will need to follow all Covid restrictions, of course. Contact Jeni: 0419 240 955  
[jplf@inet.net.au](mailto:jplf@inet.net.au)