

SHEPPARTON UNITING CHURCH

SHEPPARTON RURAL CLUSTER



NEWS FEBRUARY 21, 2021

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

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ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE now THURSDAY 18, 7pm

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 21 Lent 1 Revd Glenys Gill

Praying Together Emmanuel West Wodonga, Kergunyah

Readings Gen 9.8-17 Ps 25.1-10 1Pet 3 .18-22 Mark 1.9-15

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 28 Lent 2 Revd Loni Vaitohi

Praying Together Seymour, Avenel-Nagambie

Readings Gen 17.1-7,15-16 Ps 22.23-31 Rom 4.13-25

Mark 8.31- 38 or Mark 9.2-9

READINGS MARCH

March 7 Ex 20.1-17 Ps 19 1 Cor 1.18-25 John 2.13-22

March 14 Num 12.4-9 Ps 107.1-3,17-22 Eph 2.1-10 John 3,14-21

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 ALSO CONTINUES ONLINE

Joining in to Zoom via the phone

Step 1: Dial 03 7018 2005 or 02 8015 6011 *Step 2:* when prompted enter the meeting ID for that date, followed by #

Step 3: Press # *Step 4:* enter the passcode for that date, then#

February 21 Meeting ID 917 5734 2566# Passcode 818 806#

THE SEASON OF LENT

On Ash Wednesday, February 17, the Church moved into the season of Lent, forty days (not counting Sundays) when the Church pauses to refocus, reflect and refresh on its Journey to Jerusalem to share in the great Paschal Mystery of the Passion, the Crucifixion and the Resurrection. Long ago the tradition of living more simply began - and with using up rich foods such as eggs and cream on Shrove Tuesday - this is the origin of Pancake Day and Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday) in some other countries. Often the discipline of 'giving up something for Lent' has been observed. In recent times we have encouraged people to take something up for Lent - especially Lent studies focussing on the life and death of Jesus Christ. We have two opportunities for studies - those run by Joan Fisher, and the online ones offered by the Presbytery. We are very welcome to do both! The colour for Lent is purple, the colour of penitence and mourning. Since the Early Church, the training of new Christians preparing for baptism culminated during Lent, for baptism at Easter. The President of the Uniting Church offers a prayer for Lent. Read it later in the *NEWS*. May our faith be blessed, renewed and strengthened this Lent!

CHURCH ROSTERS

	<i>February 21</i>	<i>February 28</i>
<i>Opening</i>	J. Fitzgerald	J. Fitzgerald
<i>Elder</i>	C. Shields	S. Marven
<i>Welcome/Sign In</i>	H.Dixon, B. Fisher	K. Jones, B. Fisher
<i>Readers</i>	C. Shields, B. Hardy	S. Marven, B. Fisher
<i>Data Projector</i>	T. and N. Maile	L. Threlfall
<i>Audio-Zoom</i>	T. and N. Maile	C. Shields
<i>Counting Offering</i>	V. and W. Gibbs	J. Dahlberg, D. Spratling
<i>Flowers</i>		S. Marven

THIS WEEK

Tuesday 23 *Friendship Group* 10.00am Lisa's Service; *Crazy Whist*
Thursday 25 *Cuppa and Chat* 10.00am to noon
Friday 26 *Service of Thanksgiving* for the late Murray Russell
2.00pm

PREACHING PLAN

	<i>February 21</i>	<i>February 28</i>
<i>Shepparton 9.30</i>	Glenys Gill	Loni Vaitohi
<i>Dookie 9.00</i>	Loni Vaitohi	Joan McRae
<i>Pine Lodge 11.00</i>	Loni Vaitohi	Joan McRae

PRINTED NEWS AND SUNDAY SERVICES

If you no longer require these printed or emailed resources, please sign the list on the narthex table. Or Shirley vial our email *Shirley Marven*

LENT STUDIES

During Lent a series of studies using the UnitingWorld resources on what it means to be a good neighbour will be held. Wednesdays at 2.00pm, starting on February 24 is one series. The other will be either Tuesdays or Thursdays at 2.00pm, beginning on February 23 or 25, is the other option. Today is the last opportunity to make your choice by signing the sheet on the narthex table. *Joan Fisher*

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION 2020-21 CHANGED DATES

Because we were not able to worship at the church February 14, changes have been made to the various dates.

February 21 Nomination forms available

March 7 Closing date for nominations - due by noon. The box is on the narthex table

March 21 **AGM Part 2 including ballots for leadership positions**

The postponement of the AGM Part 2 means that some people will not be able to attend, so an electronic ballot will be available for them. More later.

PASTORAL PRAYERS

This week we pray especially for those who are not well, remembering Emily, now at home, Heather, Ailsa, now in Banksia, Jim, Eve, Thelma and Merinda Speedy (Mooroopna) now home and receiving treatment in Shepparton. and Vern after surgery in Melbourne.

We pray for the meeting of the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania, meeting online February 26 to 28. Jen, Cam and Jeni are among the presbytery representatives to Synod.

We invite prayers for the Congregation as it discerns and nominates the Congregational Leaders to be elected on March 21.

In the Presbytery we pray for the Emmanuekl Wodonga West and Kergunyah. The WCC invites prayers France, Germany and Monaco.

REPORT OF CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING FEBRUARY 10, 2021

Chairperson Rev Loni Vaitohi opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Shirley Marven led devotions, reflecting on Transfiguration Day.

As always joys and concerns in the life of the congregation were shared, with joy being expressed that: we were able to share in Communion together for the first time in many months; that the various activities of the congregation are resuming again; that new members have been welcomed to worship since face to face worship recommenced. Concern was expressed for members who are experiencing illness and bereavement.

Reports were received from the

Pastoral Care Team which is planning to hold a gathering of all those involved in the visiting teams and any folk who are interested in joining this important ministry. Shirley Marven will provide more details via the *NEWS*.

Property Maintenance Committee, recommending that: consideration be given to installing a TV screen into the Narthex; that the Cross be reinstalled above the server in the original church; and that a new sign advertising the OP Shop be obtained and fixed to the Fryers St fence. Quotes will be obtained for the installation of an extra screen and the new Op Shop sign. A power source will be required for the Cross as it has back lighting – it was agreed that this work be undertaken.

The Sonder Collective detailing their planning for the coming year and requesting that *Jen and Cam Shields to be able to work with current youth and leaders within the Shepparton UCA congregation to engage in events run under the Sonder Collective banner.*

And that the Shepparton UCA buildings be made available for youth and youth adults' events with association with the Sonder Collective/Sonder Yonder through 2021, both in person and utilising streaming accounts and equipment through the supervision of Jen and Cam Shields. Both requests were approved by consensus.

The Op Shop committee members who are also CC members shared that the Op Shop has held a 'half price' week which was successful, though the amount of donated goods being received is hard to keep up with. They also shared that the Op Shop Hot Water service, installed in 1971, has failed. As the provision of hot water in a workplace is an OHS issue it was agreed that a new, under bench hot water service be installed. Quotes are being obtained for this work to be done.

Other decisions made include

*The appointment of Lea Watts as financial administrator for the Shepparton Uniting Church, noting that there will be a time of hand over between Zane Streeter and Lea and that Zane has generously offered to provide ongoing support for Lea until she has access to bank accounts and has completed the necessary training.

Church Council sincerely thanks Zane for his commitment to the role of Treasurer over the last 7 years, and to Alan and Ellen Cameron for the support they gave to Zane over that time. Alan and Ellen are also thanked for their ongoing support for Lea as she learns the ropes.

*Shepparton Uniting Church will work with Rev Tony Davies, Presbytery Minister for Pastoral Care and Mission to conduct a Mission Study which will enable us to explore the strategy, mission and ministry needs of congregation into the future.

Planning for the Mission Study will begin almost immediately and further information will be shared as it comes to hand. *Lorraine Threlfall*

MARCH MORNING TEA ROSTER

Elaine Brewster, Jenny McCaffrey, Norma Howard, Jen Lavery

PRESBYTERY LENT STUDIES Not in opposition to ours: extra! ***Journeying with Jesus***

Following on from our Advent studies we will be offering a series of Lenten Studies - *Journeying with Jesus*. *These studies have been written* by Rev Dr Robert Bos and are based on The Gospel according to Mark. Passages have been selected which best present key elements of Mark's message.

Study Booklets

Study booklets will need to be purchased and downloaded from Mediacom. Cost \$9.00 (mediacomeshop.org.au)

Where and When

The studies are a facilitated Presbytery-wide experience via Zoom. The studies will be led by Cynthia Page, minister at Eaglehawk and Marong UCA. She will introduce the studies and participants will interact initially as a large group before breaking into groups for discussion. We will re-convene as a single group to draw together the threads of our discussion and a time of prayer.

The studies will run on five consecutive Sunday evenings commencing 21st Feb from 6.:30 –7:45 pm. (21, 28 Feb; 7, 14, 21 March)