

# SHEPPARTON UNITING CHURCH

## SHEPPARTON RURAL CLUSTER



**NEWS MAY 23, 2021**

### ***SPIRIT!***

#### **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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#### **SUNDAY MAY 23 *Pentecost* Rev Loni Vaitohi**

*Readings* Ezekiel 37.1-14 Acts 2.1-21 Ps 104.24-34,35b

Rom 8.22-27 John 15. 26-27, 16.4b-15

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

#### **SUNDAY MAY 30 *Trinity* Revds Tony Davies and Joan Fisher Cafe Church**

*May 30 Trinity* Is 6.1-8 Ps 29 Rom 8.12-17 John 3.1-17

#### **SHEPPARTON WORSHIP ALSO CONTINUES ONLINE**

**Joining in to Zoom via the phone**

*Step 1:* Dial 03 7018 2005 or 02 8015 6011

**May 23** Meeting ID 917 9717 0965# Passcode 183 271#

*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.*

## **CHURCH ROSTERS**

The Rosters have been distributed by Shirley; a copy is on the notice board. so they will not be printed in the *NEWS*.

## **THIS WEEK**

*Tuesday 18 Friendship Group Outing, Billabong (car transport) 10.00am to noon Crazy Whist 1.30*

*Wednesday 26 Women's Afternoon Group The narthex, 2.00pm*

*Thursday 13 Cuppa and Chat 10.00am to noon*

## **PASTORAL PRAYERS**

We continue to remember Emily, Tracy Ford, Lisa, Eve and Merinda Speedy. The Presbytery prays for Wangaratta, Eldorado, Greta-Moyhu, Whitfield. The WCC invites prayers for the lands and peoples of the islands in the Indian Ocean - Comoros, Madagascar, the Maldives, Mauritius, the Seychelles.

The Assembly invites our prayers for

- \*the gift of the Spirit to dwell amongst us - and thanks for the diversity of languages and cultures making up the Uniting Church
  - \*the friendship and communion of all Christians. As followers of Jesus may we walk together in giving witness to God's love, hope and grace
  - \*the people of Palestine and Israel, and for a just peace to prevail
- And pray for Greater Shepparton Winter Night Shelter and all Volunteers!

## **ASSEMBLY NEWS**

This week's is another very full edition

- \*Sorry Day, May 26; National Reconciliation Week action: encouraging First and Second Peoples to walk together
- \*Friday May 21 Young people will hold marches and other events calling for a more genuine response to climate change
- \*Grief for the Holy Land The Assembly has joined the World Council of Churches in expressing deep concern and grief at the escalating violence between Palestine and Israel and calls for an end to this deadly and destructive conflict
- \*Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (Ascension to Pentecost) we remember that one of the foundational commitments of the Uniting Church is active pursuit of unity and reconciliation in the Church, the human family and creation
- \*National Volunteers' Week We celebrate all our Volunteers!
- \*and much more for you to explore

## **SORRY DAY Wednesday May 26**

The annual Sorry Day event will be held at Monash Park on Wednesday morning. But this year, because of COVID limits to numbers, those attending must pre-book. Contact Joan 5812 9320 [joanmcr@netspace.net.au](mailto:joanmcr@netspace.net.au) for help with this.

**NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK May 26 to June 3 (Mabo Day)** Shepparton Regional Reconciliation Committee's other event is a Flats Walk, Sunday May 30, led by Uncle Lance James and Uncle Robert Nicholls. This has a very limited number and may already be filled- pre-booking of course! Check with Joan if interested.

## **GREATER SHEPPARTON WINTER NIGHT SHELTER**

We thank God that this week, more Volunteers have registered for Mondays - though none from our congregation.

We urgently need some more Volunteers:

- another driver
- a person to collect the trailer with the driver
- Overnight Shift people
- a breakfast cook would be useful - for cereals, fruit and toast

Training is compulsory. The final training session will be at the Seventh Day Adventist Church 124 Graham Street on *Sunday May 23*, 1.00 - 4.00pm.

Please let Joan know if you would like to volunteer - 5812 9320. Or just turn up at Sunday's training and tell Tara, the Volunteers Co-ordinator.

The hard-wired smoke detectors will be installed in the old church on Wednesday 26.

## **PRAYERS FOR PENTECOST**

While preparing for my Pentecost service at Waranga on Sunday, I looked at the Church of Scotland website, as I often do. Rather than writing about Pentecost, I am sharing parts of the prayers written by the Moderator Designate, who takes office at the Church's Assembly which meets at Pentecost. He is 'Jim Wallace, Lord Wallace of Tankerness QC' - not your average Moderator, perhaps? I found this lawyer's discussion of the Pentecost scriptures really Spirit-filled - and most stimulating!

Let me share his *Gathering Prayer*

May the exuberant Spirit of God, bursting with the brightness of flame into the coldness of our lives warm us with a passion for justice and beauty.

May the exuberant Spirit of God, sweeping us out of the dusty corners of our apathy breathe vitality into our struggles for change.

May the exuberant Spirit of God, speaking words that leap over barriers of mistrust convey messages of truth and new understanding.

May the exuberant Spirit of God, flame, wind, speech; burn, breathe, speak in us; filling our world with justice and joy. Amen

*And now* the closing section of his prayers:

On this day of Pentecost, we delight in the Holy, sprightly Spirit of God, dancing among us, filling the world with joyful possibility, revealing the music of the Creator.

We rejoice at the Spirit's daring spontaneity and find ourselves caught off guard by her unexpected communications.

In a world that can seem predictable, the Spirit sparks into being new possibilities; inspiring us to forgive ourselves for past mistakes, freeing us from our bondage to past wrong.

In a world that can seem drab, the Spirit weaves ever-changing patterns in the fabric of our being.

In a world that can be hostile, mediating love, building a path from loneliness to conviviality, from antagonism to co-operation.

In a world that appears purposeless, the Spirit's vitality shouts out a mighty 'yes' to life and declares the source of all living to be in the One in whom we all live, move and have our being.