

SHEPPARTON UNITING CHURCH

SHEPPARTON RURAL CLUSTER



NEWS AUGUST 29, 2021

AFTER PENTECOST 14

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

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SUNDAY AUGUST 29 Revd Joan Fisher; Young Adults

Readings Song 2.8-13 Ps 45.1-2, 6-9 Jas1.17-27 Mk 7.1-8,14-15,
22-33

Praying Together Defence Force Chaplains

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 5 Revd Loni Vaitohi

Praying Together Violet Town, Strathbogie

READINGS FOR SEPTEMBER

Sept 12 Gen 1. 26-28 Psalm 8 Phil 2.1-8 Mark 10.41-45

Sept 19 Jer 4.23-28 Psalm 19.1-6 Phil 2.14-18 Mark 15. 33-39

Sept 26 Is 65.17-25 Psalm 48.1-11 Rom 8. 28-39 Mark 16,14-18

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 SUNDAY AUGUST 29

Sunday worship will be online only. Joan and the Young Adults will Zoom in from home. Do join them!

Joining in to Zoom by phone

Step 1: Dial 03 7018 2005 or 02 8015 6011

August 29 Meeting ID 955 5275 8517# Passcode 423 015#

RURAL CLUSTER SUNDAY AUGUST 29 as for Shepparton

SEASON OF CREATION

The Season of Creation had its beginnings in 1989 when the Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios proclaimed September 1 as a day of prayer for creation. Other Christian churches in Europe embraced this, and Pope Francis did so for the Roman Catholic Church in 2015. Now it is widely celebrated. In Australia, led by Professor Norman Habel, the Lutheran Church adopted the Season of Creation very early, and encouraged Lutherans in other countries to share in the celebration. The Season of Creation begins on September 1, with prayer for all creation, and now ends on October 4, the Feast of St Francis (of Assisi), a day observed by some Western churches - especially Catholics and Anglicans - Blessing the Animals.

This year, a special celebration, *A Home for All? Renewing the Oikos of God*, has been prepared. It is suggested for use by the UC President. Loni will be using these resources September 5 and October 3. Glenys and Joan (McRae), however, will use the Year B resources for the three middle Sundays: *Humanity, Sky, Mountain*, for which you will find the readings on the previous page. This will give you a taste of both ways of observing this Season. See Assembly News for *Renewing the Oikos of God* resources.

PASTORAL PRAYERS

We remember Emily, Tracy Ford, Lisa, Eve, Bev Mathews

The Presbytery prays for Kyabram; Cooma - soon to be closed.

The WCC invites prayers for the lands and peoples of Cape Verde, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Senegal (all are in central western Africa)

The Assembly prays for

*Those doing the urgent work to provide safety and protection for refugees from Afghanistan.

*Members of the Assembly Standing Committee meeting this weekend for the first time since their election at the 16th Assembly meeting.

*All those who have served and continue to serve on our Church Council and those who are mentoring, equipping and making space for the next generations.

THIS WEEK

No events - so plenty of time for prayer, phone calls to connect with our folk, and to reflect on Creation!

DIGEST of PRESBYTERY OF NORTH EAST VICTORIA MEETING SATURDAY 21st August 2021 – a Zoom meeting

Worship led by Scott Leslie: Scott reminded us of the message in Hebrews 13: 7-9a 'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow.' We want to find new ways of engaging with people in these times including sharing the peace using Auslan – ask someone present to demonstrate! In the words of Archbishop Oscar Romero: We plant the seeds that one day will grow.... We cannot do everything ... as in John 4 when Jesus met the woman at the well – God engages with us everywhere and at all times – not only in church buildings!

Administration Report: Seminar September 1 and 2 re ESM (Essential Safety Measures) suggest all Church Councillors and Property Committee members attend – details to be sent. It was noted that it is the Federal Govt which has put in place the legislation re ESM and that it affects all community buildings not just churches. Suggest we contact politicians re how this is affecting small churches/clubs burdened by the costs involved.

Education, Resources and Innovation Report: Reminder that Field Day lectures, workshops still available on line. Some churches have used this material for study groups. [SEP] Presbytery thanked for support in selling Tatura Church and purchasing Olive and Vine. [SEP] Wide ranging discussion on "Small Church Network" proposal. (See Pres Rep for copy of booklet.) Comments included:

- Need to ensure new good quality technology and people need to be trained in its use
- Need to equip/train local people to provide pastoral care
- Worship via Zoom increases the passive participation of a congregation so need to review [SEP] how we go about liturgy, why we do what we do
- Zoom doesn't necessarily support community development
- Perhaps include opportunity for local singing at the start – only sermon via zoom
- Need to recognise the skills we do have in our congregations
- Suggest small congregations link with larger congregations Further discussion at next Presbytery meeting

Faith Communities: Small group discussion of advantages of transferring to become a Faith Community in relation to mission and finance. Consideration of the role to be played by the larger congregation or

Presbytery in oversight of a Faith Community.

Chris Barnett – eLM: Outlined his 4 areas of interest at present:

1. Emphasis on listening and responding to needs of presbyteries. Planning road trips (when ^{SEP}permissible). Contact Chris if you would like him and Rev Robin Yang to visit.
2. Intergenerational – commenced 'huddles' this week, discussing this book and its application.
3. Intercultural – event on Nov 3 – details to follow
4. Worship and Preaching – course with Mel Perkins to commence Sept 1

Other reports:

Mission and Education: - feedback invited on questions included in report. Note Criteria for Grants has changed – closing date: September 30, 2021. **PRC:** Rev Beth Bear to commence placement at St David's Jan. 2022. Currently on Maternity Leave following birth of daughter Zoe. Rev Tony Davies on LSL - Rev Rachel Franklin and Rev Alan Lockwood available for Pastoral Care needs, concerns. Rachel focussing on Keeping Children Safe compliance by congregations. **LouAnne Stabb** appointed by SC as Chair of Property and Finance Committee, May 2021. **Chairperson, Rev Deacon Kel Hodge**, noted that all Presbyteries are facing similar challenges with diminishing resources – financial and personnel. Rev Kel thanked the PMs for their leadership and hard work in the presbytery and acknowledged the work of all the committee members and volunteers.

Helen Collins

GREATER SHEPPARTON WINTER NIGHT SHELTER

The Monday team were looking forward to their last two Mondays. But on Saturday 21, Winter Night Shelter came to an abrupt halt because some Volunteers that week were involved with one of the COVID sites. The Guests were offered a week in a motel, GSWNS paying the tariff. One Guest received permanent accommodation; several decided to end WNS then and returned to their other 'homes'. Four men were put in a motel last Saturday; one left Sunday. Our team offered to do meals, but St Brendan's had done so Sunday to Thursday, so we offered to complete their stay. Our two Joans have maintained phone contact with the three, and offered extra food and activities for one. Friday morning, Joan Fisher took meals for Friday to Monday - breakfast, lunch, dinner, snacks and fruit, to the two remaining, both of whom joined the Shelter the night after our last Monday. We have become good friends through our daily calls. Both have tested negative but need to isolate another week (as I do). Pray for John who has not yet received accommodation for next week. Janet, Bev and I provided the meals and will get more food to them while they are in isolation. Please keep praying for all the Guests! *Joan McRae*