

# SHEPPARTON UNITING CHURCH

## SHEPPARTON RURAL CLUSTER



**NEWS SEPTEMBER 12, 2021**

**AFTER PENTECOST 16**

### **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 SEPTEMBER 12 Rev Glenys Gill**

Season of Creation *Humanity*

*Readings* Gen 1. 26-28 Ps 8 Phil 2. 1-8 Mark 10.41-45

*Praying Together* Presbytery Ministers - Richard, Tony, Brian

### **SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 19 Rev Glenys Gill**

Season of Creation *Sky*

*Readings* Jer 4.23-28 Psalm 19.1-6 Phil 2.14-18 Mark 15. 33-39

*Praying Together* The Scots' School Albury; Chaplain Rev Beth Bear, currently on maternity leave

### **READINGS FOR SEPTEMBER Season of Creation**

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 SEPTEMBER 12**

Sunday worship will be online only.

### **Joining in to Zoom by phone**

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

**September 12** Meeting ID 978 6979 9632# Passcode 626 713#

## **RURAL CLUSTER SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 12 as for Shepparton**

### **MINISTER'S LEAVE Rev Loni Vaitohi**

Loni begins his leave late this week, with his usual monthly free Sunday, then is on leave from September 13 to 27. We pray that Loni and Moti will have a very enjoyable and refreshing time away from us!

### **STAYING CONNECTED CONVERSATIONS**

The first of these conversations was on Friday, September 3. The group decided to continue meeting on Fridays at 7.30pm.

Here is the phone-in link for this week:

*Step 1* Dial 03 7018 2005

**September 10** Meeting ID 963 0694 7251# Passcode 552 828#

### **SEASON OF CREATION September 1 to October 4**

Sunday 12 is Humanity Sunday, an opportunity to explore the people God loves so dearly and the role they were given at Creation. Genesis 1. 26-28; Mark 10. 41-45.

*Assembly News* is featuring this month-long celebration of how we live in the created world. This week's prayer is *In relation with all creation*, the gift of the team at Leprena UAICC Tasmania, shared by Palawa woman Alison Overeem. The complete Blessing and Prayer is printed on the third sheet, but you won't see the wonderful colours.

### **PASTORAL PRAYERS**

We remember Emily, Tracy Ford, Lisa, Eve

*The Presbytery prays* for the Presbytery Ministers, Richard, Tony and Brian.

*The WCC* invites prayers for the lands and peoples of Ghana and Nigeria. The Assembly prays for

\* The Uniting Church as it discerns and engages in a far-reaching conversation across the Church about the future shape of the UCA.

\* The Circle of Interest Advocates who begin their work for this triennium inviting people into conversation and connection across key areas in the life of our Church. (Loni is one of these Advocates!)

\* Stuart McMillan (former Moderator of the Northern Synod, President of the UCA and Assembly Consultant on Covenanting) after a long and significant contribution to the life of our Church, especially through his ministry with First Nations People.

And, of course, give thanks for the splendid work of GV Health and countless others who sustained Shepparton through those weeks of quarantine.

### ***GROWING UP UNITING: a new narrative for our Church***

'For many years a powerful narrative about the ageing profile of our communities has been shaping the UCA', writes Bethany Broadstock, 'but the collection of essays in the newly published book *Growing Up Uniting* reminds us of the new generations that call the Uniting Church home. Their reflections offer a glimpse into their experiences and their hopes for a movement that is committed to "walk into the future."' *Assembly News 8/9*

***Growing Up Uniting*** ed. William W. Emilson and Elizabeth A. Watson (MediaCom)

At Shepparton, we know that we have members in every generation, from birth to 100! (Adelaide, is not alone in being under one year: Jayden, Zawadi and Nial are sons in three of our Congolese families. And there's Lucy, a little older. But many of the congregations where I take services have no-one under 60 - or even older! We are truly blessed! But now read more from *Assembly News*.

In her review of this new publication, Bethany Broadstock notes the following:

- In some places this absence of the younger generations has been a focus for how our communities, structures and the Gospel are made accessible to each stage of life.

- *Growing Up* reminds us that from the earliest days of the UCA, this Church has been home to whole new generations. Some were born into the UCA; others have chosen it as the context for their life of faith. They have been shaped by its life and values and have gone on to make their contributions. (Bethany is one of these.) Think of those in our congregation.

*Growing Up Uniting* is an anthology of personal essays written by twenty members aged 18 to 40, the first two generations 'to be formed personally, spiritually and theologically in the Uniting Church.' So there is 'a balanced collection of insights... which hold a mirror to the church.' They celebrate our Uniting identity and call us to reflect on where the Spirit is leading us today.

- The writers list the sense of belonging, openness to questions, commitment to justice and Covenant with First Peoples, liberating biblical engagement and a courageous public voice, women's leadership, an Open Communion Table among the things forming our identity.

- There is also critique: aversion to risk, creeping corporatisation, top-heavy bureaucratisation, and loss of imagination, as possible threats to our identity. Is there a failure to invest in the faith formation of young people and to mentor them, or of being unwilling to form them for Christian discipleship?

- but there is willingness to be forward-facing...  
And there is much more!

Bethany Broadstock notes that the book is timely, given the *Act2 Project*, (mentioned in this *NEWS* from time to time.) You can find out about the project on the Assembly website.

Some of us need to purchase this book and share its insights!

## **GREATER SHEPPARTON WINTER NIGHT SHELTER**

Friday 3 was the final meals delivery - until the next day, when I was invited to provide meals for the last of our Guests to take up his motel week and was very happy to do so, as he was a Guest for the entire programme. He leaves the motel September 9. Late September 8 he had no idea where he would be after Thursday morning, but had faith that he would be looked after. This is real trust in God, not desperate hope. You may like to pray for Gavin, John and Ben as they leave the Shelter. So far only John has ongoing accommodation.

## **POST SCRIPT**

We have missed sharing the hard copy version with you, but the delivery team are happy to letter-box drop this week.