

# **SHEPPARTON UNITING CHURCH**

## **WITH DOOKIE UNITING CHURCH**



**NEWS JANUARY 23, 2022**

### **Epiphany 3**

#### **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, JANUARY 23 Rev Glenys Gill**

*Readings* 3 Neh 8.1-3, 5-6, 8-10 Ps 19 1 Cor 12.12-31a. Lk 4.4-21 *Praying Together*. Presbytery Ministers – Richard Franklin, Tony Davies. Brian Spencer

#### **SUNDAY, JANUARY 30 Joan McRae**

**Combined service with Dookie**

*Readings* Jer 1.4-10 Ps 71.1-6 1Cor 13.1-13 Luke 4.12-30  
*Praying Together* The Scots' School Albury

*We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands and waters of the region, the Peoples of the Yorta Yorta Nation and pay our respects to their Elders, past, present, and emerging.*

## **MINISTER'S LEAVE**

**The Rev Loni Vaitohi is on annual leave until Monday, February 14.**

This leave, some of which is owing from 2021, was arranged some time ago – well before the crisis in Tonga.

*Should you require a minister in the next three-plus weeks, please contact*

Rev Glenys Gill 0417 723 634

Rev Joan Fisher 0417 210 447

## **SHEPPARTON WORSHIP**

**There are two options for worship every Sunday:**

***Worship in the church at 9.30am***

***or Worship online, using Youtube.***

Go to [www.youtube.com/user/SheppartonUniting](https://www.youtube.com/user/SheppartonUniting)

When the appropriate service link comes with the video link: click the link and you will be taken to the service. This may take a short while.

## **REQUIREMENTS FOR WORSHIP, ALL SERVICES**

**COVID Marshalls will ensure that you are correctly checked in – QR code**

**Proof of double vaccination is no longer required for worship as of Thursday December 16. Masks are mandatory for worship in Victoria.**

## **DOOKIE CONGREGATION January 23**

**9.30am. Elders/Zoom**

## **PASTORAL PRAYERS**

We remember Emily, Tracy Ford, Eve, Bron, Lea, Lisa and her family, Emma Fethney, Jim Waldron, all our Tongan members and their families

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

*The WCC* prays for the lands and people of Cyprus, Greece and Turkey.

*The Assembly invites prayers for*

\*The people of Tonga and the Pacific who were impacted by the tsunami and the Tongan community in Australia, especially those who are awaiting news of loved ones.

\*Those working in aged care amid the enormous challenges posed by the spread of Omicron.

\*Communities who will mark a Day of Mourning in worship this Sunday.

We give thanks for the resilience and survival of Australia's First Peoples and we pray for the work of justice, truth-telling and healing.

## **SALE OF MAUDE STREET CHURCHES**

The auction of the two churches will be held on Friday, January 28 at 7.00pm.

## **CUPPA AND CHAT**

Thursday, January 27, 10.00am to noon.

## **CONGRATULATIONS!**

Congratulations to Alan and Ellen Cameron who celebrated their 63<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary on January 17.

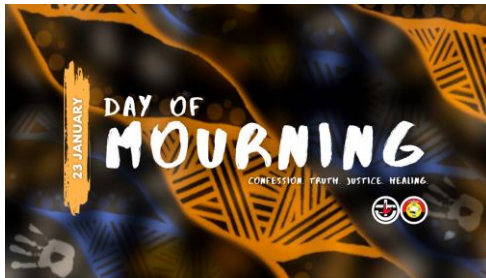
## **OP SHOP NEWS**

The Op Shop will be closed next week, January 24-28. This will be reviewed again next week. It is hoped the number of COVID cases in the community will soon decrease.

*Val Gibbs*

## **DAY OF MOURNING 2022**      *Assembly News*

On Sunday January 23, many Uniting Church communities across the country mark a Day of Mourning in worship services will reflect on and lament the effects of invasion and colonisation on Australia's First Peoples. UCA President, Rev Sharon Hollis, and UAICC National Interim Chair Rev Mark Kickett, have recorded a conversation, accessed through Assembly News.



## **UNITING IN PRAYER FOR TONGA**      *Assembly News*

“Uniting Church in Australia President Rev Sharon Hollis and Chair of the Uniting Church’s Tongan National Conference Rev Feke Kamitoni have encouraged people to pray for Tonga after it was hit by a tsunami late on Saturday night. ...

‘I encourage all Uniting church members to join in prayer for the people of Tonga and across the Pacific who have been impacted by the tsunami,’ said Rev Hollis, ‘We pray for people’s safety, for those whose homes have

been lost or damaged and all those anxiously awaiting news of loved ones.’  
‘I also encourage members of the Uniting Church to be in touch with people they know in the Tongan-Australian community to offer them support at this very stressful time as they wait for news of friends and family.’

“Since the tsunami hit, the Tongan community across Australia have rallied together. An online prayer vigil was hosted by Pasifika TV and Radio. Uniting Church Tongan members... have played a role in the broadcast.”

‘Rev Kamitoni said many elderly members of the community were concerned about siblings and relatives and there were many seasonal workers living in Australia worried about their children and families.’

*Assembly News* includes A Prayer for Tonga, Rev Loni Vaitoni. Because it is in Tongan, the prayer is not included here.

*UnitingWorld* is ready to support the Uniting Church’s Tongan partners as soon as needs have been assessed. *UnitingWorld* will work through its partner, the Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga.

*Act for Peace* (Christmas Bowl) launched an Emergency Appeal for Tonga on Monday. By Thursday, \$66,000 had been subscribed. *Act for Peace* will work through its partners, the Tongan National Council of Churches.



From Consulate of Kingdom of Tonga; ABC

## **LONI REPORTS:**

The Vaitohi village, Kanokupolu, on the island of Tongatapu, is one of the six villages hardest hit: 21 homes were completely destroyed and over 30 damaged. The people of the village were all evacuated before the tsunami hit but they were able to return to the village during the day. The Queen of Tonga has visited the village with food and water and words of encouragement. According to the Chair of the Tongan Parliament, agriculture is ruined over much of Tonga – 155 islands; 37 inhabited.

There were no lives lost in this village, but the recovery will take a long time. Though their hearts may be broken, their will is not.

We are also remembering Loni's brother Taani, Tess and their family. The Losaki family (Lavinia, Tevake and family) village is on Vava'u island, which is higher above sea level. Manatu's village is also on Tongatapu, but on higher ground near the airport (Lisa, Manatu and family; Edna's sisters were evacuated). I note that Loni has two siblings living in the village; Loni's house was destroyed.

## **When needs have been assessed, Shepparton Uniting Church expects to hold an appeal.**

You may also choose to subscribe to the *UnitingWorld* appeal 1800 998 122

or to the *Act for Peace* Tonga Emergency Appeal 1800 025 101

The ABC Online News Friday 21 quotes a United Nations figure of 84,000 people in Tonga – over 80% of the population – who have been affected – by destruction, volcanic ash, undrinkable water. On some small islands all houses have been destroyed. Then there is the long-term effect on agriculture, mentioned above.

Kanokupolu villagers will hold a prayer service Saturday evening: Loni will be Participating.