

# **SHEPPARTON UNITING CHURCH**

## **WITH DOOKIE UNITING CHURCH**



**NEWS JANUARY 30, 2022**

### **Epiphany 4**

#### **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 0438 242 150  
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**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; Chaplain

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6 Rev Glenys Gill HC**

#### **READINGS**

*Feb 6* Is 6. 1-8 Ps 138 1 Cor 15.1-11 Luke 5.1-11

*Feb 13* Jer 17.5-10 Ps 1 1 Cor 15. 12-20 Luke 6.17-26

*Feb 20* Gen 45.3-11, 15 Ps 37.1-11, 39-40 1Cor 15.35-38, 42-50  
Luke 6.27-38

*Feb 27* Ex 34.29-35 Ps 99 2Cor 3.12- 4.2 Luke 9.28-36

*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 well before the crisis in Tonga.

## **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](http://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**

**Masks are mandatory for worship in Victoria.**

## **DOOKIE CONGREGATION January 30**

**Combined service at Shepparton**

## **PASTORAL PRAYERS**

We remember Emily, Tracy Ford, Eve, Bron, Lea, Lisa and her family, Emma Fethney, Nancy and John King (death of John's brother), Elsie Enders (funeral of her sister Bev Monday 31); the family of Jim Waldron (funeral Wednesday 9, 11.00am); all our Tongan members and their families.

*The Presbytery prays for The Scots' School, Albury.*

*The WCC prays for the lands and people of Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Western Sahara, Tunisia*

*The Assembly invites prayers for*

**\*\*First Nations people who January 26 were reminded of experiences of trauma, racism, disconnection and dispossession. We lament the injustices, past and present, and pray for healing.**

**\*Emerging generations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders to be given a voice and a platform to lead the changes that are needed to move Australia forward as a nation that puts First Nations people at its heart. \*Uniting Church members acknowledged in the Australia Day Honours for 2022 and all in the UCA who selflessly give their time and service in our worship and community life. Dr Jill Tabart OAM, first woman UCA President.**

## **SALE OF MAUDE STREET CHURCHES**

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

## **FRIENDSHIP GROUP**

The Friendship Group will start again Tuesday February 1. We meet at 10.00am every Tuesday in the church and enjoy fun and fellowship, with morning tea and various activities. Do come along: all are welcome!

## **CUPPA AND CHAT**

Thursday, February 3, 10.00am to noon.

## **SURVIVAL DAY 2022      *Assembly News***

We recognise that for many First Nations people in Australia, January 26 is a day of deep sadness and a reminder of trauma and disempowerment, because of the way this nation was colonised.

The National Interim Chair for the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress, Rev Matk Kickett, shares his hopes for a 'reawakening' that places First Nations people at the heart of this nation.

In referring to this day as 'Survival Day', Mark says, 'For many Aboriginal and Islander people right across the country, it really is a celebration of resilience of the resilience of our First Nations folk. We have been here for millennia. We've endured the 200 plus years of colonisation, with all the various policies that have impacted that. But here we are, we've come out on the other side. There is a sense of emergence among our younger generations that are really going to have an impact in the way Australia moves forward and for the identity of who we are.'

## **PRAYER SERVICE FOR TONGA      *Assembly News***

The livestreamed prayer service for Tonga last week, led by the Multicultural Church Circle and shared by President Rev Sharon Hollis, Tongan National Conference Chair Rev Feke Kamitoni and representatives from Uniting Church national conferences may be accessed on the Uniting Church Assembly Facebook page.

## **TONGAN NEWS**

The Vaitohi village, Kanokupolu, and those of Moti Vaitohi, Hoke, Taleena and Neo Maile and Manatu Tu'ungafasi, are all on Tongatapu. These three villages are all on higher ground, near the airport. Tevake Losaki (Lavinia's husband) comes from Vava'u Island, which is higher above sea level.

The highest point on Tongatapu is 35 metres above sea level (compare Shepparton 110 metres above SL. Mt Major is 350M above SL.) As we learnt last Sunday, Kanokupolu is on a narrow peninsula, and thus experienced the tsunami from two opposite directions, which exacerbated the destruction. Miraculously, the house Taani built has survived!

The King of Tonga, who comes from the same area as the Vaitohis, has announced that their village will be evacuated permanently to higher ground.



Red Cross teams set up a temporary shelter in the village of Kanokupolu, western Tongatapu, on Friday 21.

### **Gifts for Tonga**

*Gifts through this congregation* may be made to the Treasurer, Lea Watts – or in a labelled envelope in the offering bowl.

You may also choose to subscribe to the *UnitingWorld* appeal: contact [unitingworld.org.au](http://unitingworld.org.au) or phone 1800 998 122

or to the *Act for Peace* Tonga Emergency Appeal: contact [actforpeace.org.au](http://actforpeace.org.au) or phone 1800 025 101