

SHEPPARTON UNITING CHURCH

WITH DOOKIE UNITING CHURCH



NEWS MARCH 13 2022

Lent 2

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

Website sheppartonuc.org.au

Email: sheppartonuca@inet.net.au

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/shepparton.unitingchurch>

SUNDAY, MARCH 13 Rev Loni Vaitohi

Readings Gen 15.1-12, 17,18 Ps 27 Phil 3.17-4.1 Lk 13.33-35

Praying Together Faith Communities – Strath Creek; Nagambie
Connect

SUNDAY, MARCH 20 Rev Glenys Gill

READINGS

March 20. Is 55.1-9 Ps 63.1-8 1 Cor 10.1-13 Lk 13. 1-9

March 27. Josiah 5.9-12 Ps 32 2 Cor 5.16-21 Luke 15.1-3, 11b-32

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.

SHEPPARTON WORSHIP 9.30am

or **Worship online, using Youtube.**

Go to 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.

COVID REQUIREMENTS FOR WORSHIP - ALL SERVICES

QR Codes – no longer required unless there is also hospitality

Masks – no longer required

SUNDAY. MORNING. TEA

Morning tea will be served after worship from March 13, in a decision by Church Council March 9.

DOOKIE CONGREGATION March 13 Anglicans - Rev Dr Helen Malcolm

PASTORAL PRAYERS.

We remember Emily, Tracy Ford, Eve, Bron, Lisa and her family, Emma Fethney; Don Gill. All with COVID, or isolating.

The Presbytery prays for our two Faith Communities, Strath Creek; Nagambie Connect. *The WCC* prays for the lands and peoples of the Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. *The Assembly invites prayers for*

*Women across the uniting Church. We give thanks for all they do, both seen and unseen, in building life-giving and faithful communities, uplifting the gifts of others and making known God's love and justice.

*All those impacted by the floods, those mourning lives lost, those who have lost homes and belongings and those responding with emergency relief, care *Members of the Assembly Standing Committee as they gather online together this weekend.

*Peace in Ukraine

GOING DEEPER BIBLE STUDIES

This year, our Lent studies come from the Assembly's Circles of Interest.

Study Groups will be held on Tuesdays, beginning March 15, at 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Next week will be Week 3, but the study will be preceded by an overview of weeks 1 and 2. Those online have already received links to the studies for Weeks 1 and 2, so that they could explore them before next week. The studies discuss the readings for the following Sunday.

THIS WEEK

Tuesday, March 15 Friendship Group Games Day 10.00am. **Crazy Whist** 1.30pm New players warmly welcome.

Study Groups 2.30pm and 7.30pm.

Wednesday, March 16 UCAF 1.30pm.

Thursday, March 17 Cuppa and Chat. 10.00am - noon

CHURCH ROSTERS APRIL, MAY, JUNE

Please leave a note for Shirley in the Rosters box listing any days you are not available.



Sunday March 20, 4:30- 6.30pm

(tea provided)

Messy Church aims to give space and opportunity for all ages to ponder the spiritual side of life together, through craft, games, puppets and other activities. It includes opportunities to develop community through both worship and the sharing of a meal. Do join us!

UNITING CHURCH NAME BADGES

If you would like to purchase a Uniting Church name badge, please let Bron Fisher know 0411 505 319

NB a different sort of badge which doesn't damage fabric is available.

EAST COAST FLOODING EMERGENCY APPEAL

The Rev Sharon Hollis, President of the Uniting Church in Australia, has launched an appeal to support people and communities impacted by the intense rainfall and devastating flooding across the East Coast.

DIGEST, MEETING OF PRESBYTERY, FEBRUARY 19, 2022

Worship led by Rev Deacon Kel Hodge based on Psalm 37:1-11, 39&40 - Delight in who we are and trust in God. Kel reflected on his two years as Chairperson of Presbytery – most of which had been influenced by the results of the pandemic. Kel thought the Presbytery had responded well - especially in the type/style of worship introduced with the addition of Zoom, written materials etc.

The shape of pastoral care has changed with more connections via media or zoom.

Thanks were expressed to all who had worked with, assisted Kel on the journey – special thanks to Tanya Walker who is concluding her 5½ years as Presbytery Secretary in order to concentrate on her studies as she continues her journey towards ordained ministry.

The new Presbytery Chairperson – Rev Gereldine Leonard and the Committee members of Standing Committee, PRC, PFAC and Mission and Education for 22-24 were commissioned.

Rev Gereldine Leonard addressed those gathered with her vision for the Church – one which is small, lay led and relational - one anchored in hope. The task of retired and ordained ministers is to equip and support the leadership of others. The future is here in small, lay led, relational communities just like the early Christian communities. We are a church in transition.

Samm Menzies, the newly appointed Chaplain and Head of service Learning at The Scots School Albury was welcomed to the meeting.

Telling the Story – Community Gardens – Tanya Walker outlined the growth of the Community Garden at the Benalla UCA – the garden is seen as a way of taking God’s mission out of the church building into the world. They have forged a link with Grow Free (www.growfree.org.au), a grassroots, community building movement which promotes a sustainable culture of growing and sharing healthy food and other resources with our neighbours. Friday morning there is a gathering at the garden for maintenance and a sharing of food and conversation. The recently installed garden table and garden area has also been used for worship during the pandemic when indoor gatherings were not possible. Other community gardens have been developed in Violet Town and in Corowa. The latter holds a morning tea every Thursday with guest speakers and the first Sunday in December Rev David Sloane holds a service of worship there.

Table discussions: participants shared their experiences of returning to face-to-face worship. Feedback comments noted that many are retaining recording/live-streaming of worship for those not willing/able to return to worship; Shepparton about to hold their

second Messy Church gathering with a shared meal using pre-boxed meals; Wangaratta overcame the restriction on numbers attending worship by introducing a 2nd 5pm service on a Sunday led by lay leaders, often using alternative styles of worship – Taize, more participatory worship often followed by a meal together at a local restaurant etc; some churches ensure a hard copy of the entire service is made available to those not able to attend or follow using technology; Mooroopna the minister ensured that all were able to use ipads, phones to follow the service by personally instructing them.

Rev Dr Sean Winter – Head of Pilgrim Theological College and a Director of eLm: Education for Leadership and Mission advised that Rev Dr Jenny Byrnes will retire at the end of April and they are currently seeking a replacement. Sean emphasized that the role of the college is not to just train people for ordained ministry but is also to help the church understand the journey it is on and its own nature and mission as proscribed in the BOU (Basis of Union). The College considers the changing nature of society in setting its curriculum. Many Units are available on-line as well as intensive courses for lay and ordained people. The current handbook is on line detailing courses for 2022. People undergoing a Period of Discernment may commence theological studies as a part of the POD. Scholarships are available.

The ballot to select members for the 2022 Synod meeting was held – more lay members are needed to ensure that all 9 Ordained Clergy may attend – to date only 4 Lay people have been nominated – final selection referred to Standing Committee.

No applications received to date for position of Presbytery Secretary – applications still open!

More details in Minutes of meeting available later in March.

With thanks to Helen Collins, St Stephen's Wodonga