

SHEPPARTON UNITING CHURCH

WITH DOOKIE UNITING CHURCH



NEWS MARCH 20, 2022

Lent 3

MINISTERS

Rev Loni Vaitohi 5822 4602 0449 504 228

Rev Joan Fisher, Minister in Assoc

Rev Glenys Gill, Supply Minister

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SUNDAY, MARCH 20 Rev Glenys Gill.

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

Praying Together Yarrawonga

SUNDAY, MARCH 27 Rev Loni Vaitohi

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

READINGS

April 3. Is 43.16-21 Ps 126 Phil 3.4b-14. John 12.1-8.

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

DOOKIE CONGREGATION March 20 Rev Loni Vaitohi

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 Yarrowonga.

The WCC prays for the lands and peoples of Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania.

The Assembly invites prayers for *Chaplains of all faiths working in crisis and disaster-hit communities, providing support and meeting trauma and chaos with care and compassion. *Our brothers and sisters in the

Methodist Church of Sri Lanka as they seek to follow Christ and mark the season of Lent in a challenging and uncertain context. *Rev John Gilmore and the ecumenical work and vision of the National Council of Churches in Australia. *Communities around Australia marking National Close the Gap Day on March 17. We honour the ongoing strength and resilience of First Peoples in sustaining the world's oldest living cultures and pay for health equality and justice and for lasting change.

THIS WEEK

Tuesday, March 22 Friendship Group *Oldest Book* 10.00am. **Crazy**

Whist 1.30pm New players warmly welcome.

Going Deeper Study Groups 2.30pm and 7.30pm.

Week 3: Can you remember a time when you felt overwhelmed by the enormity of all that lies ahead? The Transforming Worship Circle offers a visual and spoken reflection.

Wednesday, March 23 Women's Afternoon Group 1.30pm.

All welcome! **Thursday, March 17 Cuppa and Chat.** 10.00am - noon

ROSTERS available on Sunday.



Sunday March 20, 4:30- 6.30pm

(tea provided)

Jesus in the Desert – and Lent

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 TAGS

See Bron if you wish to order a Uniting Church name tag.

FROM ASSEMBLY NEWS MARCH 16

Flood Update: the long road to recovery

As communities impacted by floods across NSW and Queensland assess the physical and mental toll of the disaster, the Uniting Church chaplains and ministry agents are providing community support and emotional and spiritual care.

Grief in the time of COVID-19

Register now to join the first webinar for 2022 from the Assembly Resourcing Unit and the Being a Multicultural Church Circle. Join by Zoom Thursday March 24, 7.30-9.00pm.

New President for NCCA. Rev John Gilmore, a minister of the Churches of Christ in Australia, is the ninth President of the NCCA. He was appointed late in 2021.

UnitingCare calls for increase in aged care wages Ahead of the Federal Election, UnitingCare Australia is calling on the major parties to commit to fully funding an increase in aged care wages to give certainty and hope to the sector. It has the lowest- paid caring workforce, yet they provide some of the most important work.

Methodist Church in Sri Lanka – power cuts, food and water shortages are being faced: how does this work out during Lent when people are called to live simply/. The President of UCA Partner Church, the Methodist Church of Sri Lanka, encourages its Churches to remember who they are and why they exist: to be a caring community following Christ, living simply, standing for truth and bringing hope to others.

SO THAT ALL MAY SHARE ABUNDANT LIFE: ELECTION

2022 The Uniting Church has released a pre-election resource which expresses our hope for Australia to become a nation where all people and the whole creation can flourish. The document, *Our Vision for a Just Australia*, addresses seven critical issues that Australia must address urgently to build a more just, compassionate and inclusive nation.

There is one copy on the notice board and a second for borrowing.

PRESBYTERY MEETING DIGEST *continued from March 13*

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. *With thanks to Helen Collins, St Stephen's Wodonga*

UCA ASSEMBLY NATIONAL DISASTER RELIEF FUND

If you would like to contribute to the Disaster Relief Fund initiated by the President, Rev Sharon Hollis, for relief for flood-ravaged areas, here are some options:

See Lea Watts

Direct Debit. Please contact us for details

Cheque. To UCA Assembly - National Disaster Relief Fund.

Mail to UCA Assembly - National Disaster Relief Fund.
Box A2266 Sydney South NSW 1235