

SHEPPARTON UNITING CHURCH WITH DOOKIE UNITING CHURCH



NEWS JUNE 19, 2022 AFTER PENTECOST 2

MINISTERS

Rev Loni Vaitohi

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SUNDAY, JUNE 19 9.30am Narelle and Josh Freeman

Readings 1 Kings 19-1-4, 8-15a Pss 42,43 Gal 3.23-29 Luke 8.26-39

Praying Together Upper Kiewa – Mt Beauty

SUNDAY, JUNE 26 9.30am Rev Loni Vaitohi

READINGS

June 22 UCA Anniversary Deut 30.1-10 Ps 100 1 Cor 3. 10-17

John 15.1-8

June 26 2 Kgs 2.1-2,6-14 Ps 77.1,2, 11-20 Gal 5.1,13-25 Luke 9.51-62

We acknowledge the Traditional owners of the lands and waters of the region, the Bangerang Peoples of the Yorta Yorta Nations and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

SHEPPARTON WORSHIP 9.30AM

Worship online www.youtube.com/user/SheppartonUniting

DOOKIE 9.30 Small Church Network or Shepparton, online

SUNDAY, JUNE 19 Celebrating the Uniting Church Anniversary – 45 years since Union on Wednesday, June 22!

The President, Rev Sharon Hollis (daughter of Joy Sims of Dookie congregation) has sent a message to the Uniting Church on this occasion; we will watch the video during Sunday's service. Or you can access it from the link in *Assembly News* June 16.

Many of us remember the exciting service when we filled the Civic Centre (Eastbank) with 1,000 worshipping together on June 22, 1977. Others have grown up knowing only the Uniting Church! And yet others have joined this church after coming as immigrants or refugees. As the theme for this year's anniversary proclaims, *All of this is us!*

REFUGEE WEEK June 19-25

Refugee Week celebrates the many contributions refugees make to the Australian community. We are grateful for the refugees who joined the Wesley congregation in August 2006: Uzembe Byamasu, Jeannette Mwavita and their children and, later, grandchildren; Mauldi Mukasa, and his six children (Fitina is a Case Manager at Uniting Shepparton; Neema is a nurse at GV Health); later Namulika came to marry Maulidi – they now worship at the Baptist Church. Then Nathan Mwamba and later his brother Emmanuel and sister Roseline and their families arrived. Uzembe and Maulidi and their families had been in refugee camps in Tanzania for a decade or more before being allowed to come to Shepparton as two of fifteen Congolese refugee families. Nathan, Emmanuel and Roseline fled their home in southern Congo and lived as refugees in Namibia for many years before coming to Shepparton.

You doubtless know other former refugees who have given so much to Shepparton community. We thank God for them, and that we are able to welcome them.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, June 19 Messy Church 4.30- 6-30pm

Monday, June 20 Winter Night Shelter

Tuesday, June 21 Friendship Group *Fellowship Group Birthday – Games, followed by lunch* 10.00am. **Crazy Whist** 1.30pm

Wednesday, June 22 Women's Afternoon Group

Thursday, June 23 Cuppa and Chat 10.00am – noon

THEME: UCA Birthday!



At Shepparton

Uniting Church

Sunday 19th June

4:30pm - 6:30pm

A creative new approach to worship,

Messy Church aims to give space and

opportunity for all ages to ponder the spiritual side of life together, through craft, games and other activities.

Come and help us celebrate the 45th birthday of the Uniting Church in Messy Church style!



PASTORAL PRAYERS

We remember Emily, Tracy Ford, Eve, Emma, Don Gill, Lea Watts, Gwen Wallace, Rita and Wendy Mathews.

All with COVID, or isolating.

The Presbytery prays for Upper Kiewa Valley and Mt Beauty. *The WCC* prays for the lands and people of Kenya and Tanzania.

The Assembly invites prayers for

*All those who give their time and energy so generously to faithfully serve God, their community and our Church.

*Safety, hope and welcome for people who seek refuge in Australia and for peace to prevail in the parts of our world impacted by war and violence.

*Those hit hardest by increased costs of living and for individuals and families struggling for the resources to meet their basic needs.

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT, JUNE 2022

Church Council met on the 8th of June and opened with a welcome and Acknowledgement of Country. Bron Fisher led us in a time of devotion, reflecting on John 8:31-36 and the freedom which comes from dependence on God for God's love, mercy, grace and strength.

Bron Fisher, Rob Graham and Gail Jones were welcomed as newly elected Church Councillors, with Bron and Gail both returning for a second term on the Council. Retiring Church Councillor, Lorraine Threlfall was thanked for

her contribution to the Church Council over her term as an Elder. Life Elder Alan Cameron was warmly thanked for his commitment and contribution to the life of the Shepparton, Scots and St Andrews Uniting Church congregations since Union in 1977 and to the Presbyterian congregations prior to Union. Alan continues to hold the title of Elder, but has asked to be excused from attending meetings. Loni led the Council in a prayer of thanksgiving for Alan's gifts and graces.

Rev Loni Vaitohi was elected as Chair of the Church Council, Jen Shields was elected as Minute Secretary and Shirley Marven accepted the role of 'Keeper of the Rolls'.

Members watched a short video introducing the new resource 'Meeting Together – a Workbook for Councils, Committees and Groups' which has been produced by the Presbytery Ministers who are part of the Synod eLM (equipping Leadership for Mission) Committee. Church Council believe that this will be a valuable resource for our Congregation so a number of the booklets will be ordered for the use of our various groups.

A meeting will be held with the Dookie Congregation on June the 15th to discuss the future relationship between the Dookie and Shepparton Congregations, following the closure of the Katandra West and Pine Lodge congregations.

Reports were received from the minister, the Youth, Children's and Family Committee and the Treasurer.

CHURCH ROSTERS JULY, AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

Members who participate in the life of the congregation by being on the church rosters are invited to let Shirl know any dates they are not available during these three months. Those who wish to offer to assist on the rosters for the first time are also asked to contact Shirl. The great offer of the Young Adults to be rostered for morning tea is very good news! Phone Shirl