

# **SHEPPARTON UNITING CHURCH**

## **WITH DOOKIE UNITING CHURCH**



**NEWS JULY 10, 2022**

**AFTER PENTECOST 5**

### **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, JULY 10 9.30am Lorraine Threlfall**

*Readings Amos 7.7-17 Ps 82 Col 1.1-14 Luke 10.25-27*

**SUNDAY, JULY 17 9.30 Service with Uniting. Rev Loni Vaitohi**

**Preacher Rev (Deacon) Gavin Blakemore**

### **READINGS**

*July 17 Amos 8.1-12 Ps 52. Col 1.15-28 Luke 10.38-42.*

*July 24 Hosea 1.2-10 Ps 85 Col 2.6-15 Luke 11.1-13*

*July 31 Hosea 11.1-11 Ps 107.1-9, 43 Col 3.1-11 Luke 12.13-21*

*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](http://www.youtube.com/user/SheppartonUniting)

**DOOKIE 9.30 Rev Dr Helen Malcolm**

### **THIS WEEK**

**Monday, July 11 Winter Night Shelter**

**Tuesday, July 12 Friendship Group 10.00am. Crazy Whist 1.30pm**

**Thursday, July 14 Cuppa and Chat 10.00am – noon**

### **PASTORAL PRAYERS**

**We remember** Emily, Eve, Emma, Gwen Wallace, Clive Down  
All with COVID, or isolating – including Lea, Isabel, Jean and Albert,  
Taleena, Vern, Norma, Melissa and Breanna in the last week or so.

*The Presbytery* prays for Rutherglen, Chiltern-Springhurst, Corowa,  
Howlong. *The WCC* prays for the lands and people of Djibouti and  
Somalia.

*The Assembly* invites prayers for

\*First Peoples across Australia and ongoing NAIDOC Week celebrations.

As First and Second Peoples may we follow the path on which God is  
leading us, to get involved, stand up, be brave and be counted.

\*The ministry of Nungalinya College in Darwin. We give thanks for its work  
in developing the First Nations theological perspectives and equipping First  
Peoples for leadership in churches and communities. \*Safety and shelter  
for communities in NSW experiencing extreme weather and those  
evacuating their homes because of heavy rainfall and flooding.

### **SUNDAY, JULY 17 Uniting Service**

We will be joined by some of the Uniting Shepparton staff for worship and  
morning tea. Rev (Deacon) Gavin Blakemore, Mission and Ethos Partner,  
East Division, will be the preacher. Gavin and Uniting staff meet each  
quarter with Loni, Lorraine, Jeni and Joan. We welcome Gavin and Uniting  
Shepparton staff!

**NAIDOC WEEK** from Assembly News.

Reflecting on the theme, Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian  
Congress Interim National Chairperson Rev Mark Kickett said it was a  
reminder of the call of God on our lives and an invitation to reflect on the  
journey we have been on as First and Second Peoples. 'The colonisation of  
this country disempowered and took away all that we were as human, as  
First Nations People, created in the image of God. This week we recall  
those who were not afraid to be brave, to stand up to injustice, to say, "this  
is not right".

We are reminded of where the path of following God takes us. God is calling us to get involved. To stand up and be brave. To stand up and be counted.'

Uniting Church President, Rev Sharon Hollis, said NAIDOC Week was an opportunity to celebrate First Nations People – all they've achieved and all they long for in these lands.'

We are invited to explore ways to *Live the Covenant Locally*.

## **2021 CENSUS DATA**

The 2021 Census figures recently released show that Australians are less interested in Christianity. More than 670,000 people identified with the Uniting Church, a decline of around 22 per cent since 2016.

Rev Sharon Hollis considers the call to be creative, courageous and hopeful. She notes a downward trend in the Uniting Church, with 2.6 per cent of Census respondents identifying with the UCA, compared to 3.7 per cent in 2016. These figures point to decline but also to an opportunity to reset, re-examine our life as the Uniting Church and to discern the call of the Spirit in the transformation that is taking place. There is an opportunity to reshape how we see ourselves in the public space. We need to develop a deeper theology of living our faith away from the centre of society. There is an opportunity to listen to those who no longer identify with organised Christian churches. To wonder, with humility, why fewer people are interested in hearing from the church about the Gospel. It demands a willingness to change those things in our life that hinder people from hearing the good news of love, justice and life that the story of Jesus proclaims.

The President notes that we have to take seriously what these trends say about the medium-term future of the Uniting Church. We must take steps to rethink our polity, structure and practices to enable us to respond better to declining membership and grasp the opportunities for new ways of being followers of Christ. Most of all, we should not lose heart. We need to be creative, courageous and hopeful about the good news of life in Jesus Christ. Let us seek fresh and new ways to share the story of Jesus, seeking to witness to God's transforming love in all we do, concludes the President.

Assembly National Consultant Rev Dr Apwee Ting considers how a more culturally and religiously diverse Australia might expand and enrich our life. Read his comments in next week's *NEWS*.



**THEME: Mary & Martha**



*At Shepparton*

*Uniting Church*

*Sunday 17th July*

*4:30pm - 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 and other activities.*

***Come and learn about the bible story of Mary & Martha in Messy Church style!***

## **GREATER SHEPPARTON WINTER NIGHT SHELTER**

Our volunteers continue to provide meals for the homeless at the Lake on Mondays and drop another meal or two to others. The number of guests coming for meals each night is gradually increasing, but they must walk back to their tents in the dark because of the meal time is 5,45pm. Our guests also take meals to those not able to walk to the Lake. All are hugely grateful to the work of the eight churches in providing these meals every night of the week.