

SHEPPARTON UNITING CHURCH

WITH DOOKIE UNITING CHURCH



NEWS SEPTEMBER 4, 2022

AFTER PENTECOST 13

MINISTERS

Rev Loni Vaitohi 5822 4602 0449 504 228

Rev Joan Fisher, Minister in Assoc 5821 8382 0417 210 447

Rev Glenys Gill, Supply Minister 0417 723 634

Pastoral Care Convenor Shirley Marven 0438 242 150

Church 4805 1120

Website sheppartonuc.org.au sheppartonuca@inet.net.au

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

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4 9.30am Rev Loni Vaitohi HC

Readings Jer 18.1-11 Ps 139.1-6, 13-18 Philemon 1-21 Lk 14.25-3

Praying Together The Scots' School, Albury; Chaplain Sam Menzies

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 9.30am Rev Glenys Gill

READINGS

Sept 11 Jer 4.11-12, 22-28 Ps 14 1Tim 1.12-17 Lk 15.1-10

Sept 18 Jer 8.18- 9.1 Ps 79.1-9 1Tim 2. 1-7 Lk 16.1-13

Sept 25 Jer 32.1-3a, 6-15 Ps 91.1-6, 14-16 1Tim 6.6-19 Lk 16.19-31

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 9.30am Rev Glenys Gill

THIS WEEK

Tuesday, Sept 6 Friendship Group *Stamps* 10.00am Crazy Whist
1.30pm

Thursday, Sept 1 Cuppa and Chat 10.00am – noon

PASTORAL PRAYERS

We remember Emily, Eve, Clive (now in Mercy Place), Vern Marven – following an injury to his finger.

All with Covid, or isolating – the vast numbers in Victoria and those in this district.

The Presbytery prays for The Scots' School; Chaplain Samantha Menzies

The WCC prays for the lands and peoples of Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Togo

The Assembly invites prayers for

*God's glorious and diverse creation that surrounds us with colour and life. May we be attentive to creation's cry for renewal, and each take actions to protect and help sustain the world around us.

*All those leading and participating in the World Council of Churches 11th Assembly for the next week. May the Holy Spirit guide and companion them.

*The open-heartedness of the Uniting Church as we seek to live as communities where all are welcomed and included.

Special prayers are invited for

Pakistan, devastated by extreme flooding

Sri Lanka, experiencing a financial crisis, exacerbated by the Covid pandemic.

Special prayers for Loni (and his family), too, because of some health issues currently being diagnosed.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4 Uniting Church Child Safe Sunday

The UCA President has shared a video message which we hope to play during Sunday's worship. You can find it in *Assembly News* Wednesday August 31.

SEASON OF CREATION - SEPTEMBER

The Uniting Church in Australia celebrates the Season of Creation in

September - God's good creation. We use this month to try and reflect with others across the world on our shared call to care for the earth – our common home and the 'household' of God. The 16th Assembly resolved to take seriously First Peoples' wisdom on care for creation. What would it be like if we took our worship to the streets and held sacred services outside? Creation is 'charged with the grandeur of God'.

11TH ASSEMBLY OF THE WORLD COUNCIL OF

CHURCHES The WCC is meeting now in Karlsruhe, Germany. The UCA President, Rev Sharon Hollis, and General Secretary, Colleen Geyer, are at the Assembly and will send video updates. You can follow on the Assembly's Facebook and Instagram. You can also Google the UCA Assembly and find other WCC Assembly news and resources there.

GREATER SHEPPARTON WINTER NIGHT SHELTER

The 2022 Winter Night Shelter programme concluded on August 31 after three months' working with the homeless in this community. Our last night was Monday 29.

The Monday team has included six from the Congregation – Joan Fisher, Jeni Fitzgerald, Gail Jones, Denise Naish, Elaine Brewster and me; we have been joined and supported by 13 Volunteers from other churches and the community. As for 2020 and 2021, the plan was to offer accommodation seven nights a week, but with only one guest, the Winter Night Shelter Board and Venue Co-ordinators decided to instead offer meals seven nights a week at the Lake barbecue shelter at 5.30pm. This has been very successful in that greater numbers, including women, have been assisted with meals and other necessities. Twenty guests have been fed and have shared in conversation as part of this new community. Our highest number has been 11. On Mondays we have served soup and a main course, followed by dessert; packs of surplus food have been welcomed by our guests, as have the hot drinks.

The participating churches are Seventh Day Adventist (Sunday); Mooroopna – St Mary's Catholic sharing nights with the Uniting Church (Tuesday); St Brendan's (Wednesday); several churches (Thursday); St Mel's (Friday) and the Salvation Army (Saturday).

The organisers are very aware that the barbecue shelter is not a satisfactory location for the distribution of food – the shelter is limited, it receives winds from all quarters and rainwater flows from the road down through the side of the shelter where the tables are, so there have been very wet feet some nights. It's also too far for some of the homeless to walk to. It is hoped to have a better location in 2023.

As our Venue Co-ordinator, I offer warmest thanks to the Congregation for their support and willingness to assist. I note that this is one activity where the volunteers always arrive smiling! Joan