

SHEPPARTON UNITING CHURCH

WITH DOOKIE UNITING CHURCH



NEWS FEBRUARY 12, 2023

EPIPHANY 6

MINISTERS

Rev Loni Vaitohi

Sick Leave

Rev Kerrie Needham

Rev Joan Fisher, Minister in Assoc

Rev Glenys Gill, Supply Minister

Pastoral Care Convenor Shirley Marven

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SUNDAY FEBRUARY 12 Rev Kerrie Needham

DOOKIE 9.30am Anglicans

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 19 Joan McRae

DOOKIE 9.30am Rev Denise Naish HC

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 26 Rev Kerrie Needham

DOOKIE 9.30am Elders/Zoom

SHEPPARTON WORSHIP 9.30AM

Worship online www.youtube.com/user/SheppartonUniting

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.

THIS WEEK

Tuesday, February 14 Friendship Group, Crazy Whist

Wednesday February 15 UCAF 1.30pm

Thursday, February 16 Cuppa and Chat 10.00 to noon

GREETINGS FROM KERRIE

Hello. We've had a difficult weekend, all of us, and I pray that you are able to take the time and space you need to work through it. I was blessed with an escape to bushland behind the lake to take in and delight in the noise of swaying trees and the call of birds. I give thanks for the people who took Don and me to a picnic in bushland.

I'm still in a quiet space so I'm a bit light on chatty news this week. I did my first shop at Ryan's this week, and everyone who told me it is good – you are right. Krueger's butchery is on my list for return, and Don and I enjoyed a thickshake at the chip shop in the Target arcade.

I've heard my name is now on the information board at the front of the church, and I have seen the signs and used the parking area set aside for ministers. Thanks to the people who organised these things.

May God bless you, hold you, and support you this week. May you be blessed in the company of others and may you find that one thing which takes you away from the usual and leads to a refreshing of your soul.

Kerrie



Sunday, February 19

4.30 – 6.30

including a meal.

ONLINE LENTEN STUDIES

As usual, the Presbytery will offer Lenten Studies online, again sharing with Loddon Mallee Presbytery. There will be six sessions, offered with a choice of Sunday evening (6.30-8.00pm) or Wednesday afternoon (2.30-4.00pm), starting February 19 or 22. Each study will have a different leader, three from each presbytery. You will be able to join online at home or in a group.

Flyers are available on the narthex table. They were emailed to those on the email list last weekend.

PRESBYTERY OF NORTH EAST VICTORIA

A reminder that the Presbytery meets at Shepparton on Saturday, February 18 from 9.30am. Morning tea will be served from 9.00am.

As well as the members of presbytery, who include elected members from Shepparton and Dookie congregations, the Chairperson of Presbytery, Rev Gereldine Leonard, has invited other church members to share in the meeting. You can still RSVP to the Presbytery Secretary, Scott Leslie, scottuniting@gmail.com

PASTORAL PRAYERS

We remember Emily and her family; Eve

All with Covid, or Long Covid, in the continuing serious pandemic. *The Presbytery* prays for the Waranga congregations – Murchison, Rushworth, Colbinabbin and Tatura. *The WCC* prays for the lands and peoples of Austria, Liechtenstein and Switzerland, as well as for Turkey and Syria. The Assembly invites prayers for *all impacted by the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria; *Young adults in the Uniting Church. We give thanks for their gifts, leadership and passion. *The worldwide ecumenical movement and for the leadership of the World Council of Churches in responding to global changes.

Loni, Moti and the family. Kerrie and Don

PANCAKE DAY, TUESDAY FEBRUARY 21 A congregational social evening will be held on Shrove Tuesday to support Uniting's Pancake Day fundraiser. Everyone is invited to come along to the church from 6.30pm for Dessert Pancakes and a cuppa and to make a donation towards the fundraiser. The pancakes will be served 'restaurant style'. The Catering Committee will be providing the pancakes and are donating the ingredients and their time. This is a great opportunity to come together for a social evening and to learn more about the work of Uniting. For catering purposes, add your name to the list in the narthex or contact Lorraine or Jillean to indicate your attendance or if you need transport. Those who came last year will remember what a great night it was.

LENT

The season of Lent which helps prepare us for the Crucifixion and then Easter begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22.

Our Ash Wednesday service will be held at 7.00pm that evening, led by Rev Kerrie Needham.

EARTHQUAKES IN SYRIA AND TURKEY

Following the series of earthquakes in Syria and Turkey early this week, over 23,000 deaths have been recorded so far (Saturday am), as well as widespread destruction. The World Council of Churches reports that local churches have been reaching out with care and prayers. They have checked on those affected and have been praying for those missing. The earthquake epicentres are in southern Turkey and northern Syria regional areas where buildings have not been constructed to withstand earthquakes, as in the more northern cities. 'Let us bring our intercessions together, praying that the God of Life will comfort the ones who lost their loved ones and give strength to those involved in the actions of solidarity with the victims,' said Rev Prof Dr Jerry Pillay, General Secretary of the WCC. 'We convey our prayers to the victims and their families, as well as to the churches and local communities in Syria and in Turkey mobilising their networks to help their sisters and brothers.' In Shepparton we remember the many Turkish people who have migrated to this district, including the Imam at the Turkish mosque in Mooroopna; we pray for the Syrian refugees who have more recently come to Shepparton.

WITH LOVE TO THE WORLD

Joan has three complimentary copies of the next edition, February 13 to May 14. She will leave them on the narthex table for people to take. Subscriptions can be arranged - \$18 for the rest of the year.

APOLOGY ANNIVERSARY

Monday 13 is the anniversary of the Apology to the Stolen Generations made by Prime Minister Kevin Rudd in 2008 to acknowledge previous government policies of forced child removal and assimilation. However, in 2021, there were still over 20,500 Indigenous children separated from their families.

The annual Shepparton Apology Breakfast will be held in Queen's Gardens on Monday at 7.30am.

CHURCH OFFERINGS – ELECTRONIC GIVING

Please contact us for more information.