

# **SHEPPARTON UNITING CHURCH**

## **WITH DOOKIE UNITING CHURCH**



**NEWS JANUARY 22, 2023**

### **EPIPHANY 3**

#### **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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<https://www.facebook.com/shepparton.unitingchurch>

**SUNDAY JANUARY 22 Day of Mourning Shirley Marven**

*Readings* Is 9.1-4 Ps 27.1, 4-9 1Cor 1. 10-18 Mt 4.12-23

**DOOKIE Elders/Zoom**

**SUNDAY JANUARY 29 Combined Service Rev Kerrie**

**Needham** *Thanks and farewell to Rev Glenys Gill*

**SHEPPARTON WORSHIP 9.30AM**

**Worship online** [www.youtube.com/user/SheppartonUniting](http://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.*

## **SUNDAY JANUARY 29 Combined service Rev Kerrie Needham**

Thanks and farewell to Rev Glenys Gill.

The service will take the form of Café Church: we'll sit at tables, have coffee or tea and a little food, chat a bit, pray a bit and think about God too. Next Sunday is also the last day of Glenys Gill's supply ministry with us and we will be honouring her contribution to this congregation in the service.

## **DAY OF MOURNING**

The Day of Mourning is an opportunity for Uniting Church members to reflect on the dispossession of Australia's First People and the ongoing injustices faced by First Nations people in this land. We Second Peoples, from many lands, now lament that we were and remain complicit in these things.

The Fifteenth Assembly (2018) endorsed a request from the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress for observance of a Day of Mourning on the Sunday before January 26. We are invited to reflect on the effects of invasion, colonisation and racism on First Peoples.

## **GREETINGS FROM KERRIE**

Hello, I've been looking over ideas for the Café Church next week. Amongst a variety of ice breaker / conversation topics was: The one thing I do that, while I am doing it makes me feel most alive.

This morning, the smell of a freshly baked cake took me back to my childhood to the hour's drive to my grandmother's house, a short drive from a small village. Well, it was a town which had declined in size.

My Nan would welcome us all after the dogs let her know someone had come. She'd usher us into the house, push a poker around in the wood stove, send Dad for some wood, sit the kettle over the firebox and pull out her big mixing bowl and wooden spoon.

As the adults caught each other up on what had been happening, she'd cream butter and sugar, invite us to try until we'd complain about our aching arms, and soon pop a tray of patty cakes into the oven.

If Nan knew we were coming, sometimes we'd get jelly cakes (little round patty cakes dipped in jelly) – with a dob of cream if we were lucky. She also made the most awesome apple tarts, and sponge cakes with jelly filled indentations on top with cream, cherries and angelica decorating the crown shape.

For Christmas Nan would make trifle – one for adults with sherry bought especially and a less potent but no less delicious one for the kids. She made plum pudding with threepence and sixpences in them, even though decimal currency was around...they were saved from year to year.

There were a few recipes I could pass on to my sister whenever she rang up for them, as I'd watched them being made. Nan's trifle, baked rice pudding, Mum's bread and butter custard without vanilla because Mum once bought a batch of vanilla essence and it was vile and we rebelled.

You may have guessed one thing I do which makes me feel alive. I rarely have time to play now, but I have great joy in having time to cook, and even greater joy if a small grandchild sidles up to offer help.

What makes you feel most alive? I'm not going to ask you that on Café Church day, but it's worth thinking about ... and maybe prioritising.

God wants us to have joy in our lives.  
God bless. Kerrie

Café Church is happening next Sunday, January 29. We'll sit at tables, have coffee or tea and a little food, chat a bit, pray a bit and think about God too.

Next Sunday, January 29 is also the last day of Glenys Gill's supply ministry with us and we will be honouring her contribution to this congregation in the service.

Sunflowers. The trees are gone, but you still have time to add a prayer on a sunflower for the collection which will be sent to the Ukraine embassy at the end of January.

Did you notice the saying in the display stand next to the little table cross? A huge thank you for this and other sayings to be used over the weeks ahead.

### **PASTORAL PRAYERS**

*We remember* Emily, Eve

All with Covid, or Long Covid; those isolating – the increasing numbers in Victoria and locally with the new vicious strains. *The Presbytery* prays for Numurkah, and Nathalia-Picola. *The WCC* prays for the lands and peoples of Cyprus, Greece and Turkey. And we pray for Australia's First Peoples, that injustices against them, including racism, may cease now. We pray,

too, for the UAICC in its ministry and for Pastor Mark Kickett, Interim Chairperson.

All refugees and displaced people. Ukraine.

Loni, Moti and the family. Kerrie and Don.

**CONGRATULATIONS CR BEN LADSON!**

Warmest congratulations to Ben Ladson, now Councillor Ben Ladson, Greater Shepparton City Council! Ben, we offer you our prayerful support in this new appointment, and will watch your work with interest.

**CHURCH OFFERINGS – ELECTRONIC GIVING**

Please contact us for further information