

Newsbeat

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PRESBYTERY OF PORT PHILLIP EAST



DECEMBER HEADLINES

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WITH WESTERN PORT

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BLING IN CARRUM

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DECEMBER 2022 ISSUE



Port Phillip East Presbytery's WHAT'S HAPPENING

An insight into what congregations,
schools & members are doing

AN AFTERNOON OF BLING

Uniting by the Bay are celebrating the golden anniversary of their op shop in Carrum this year. 50 years! It first opened in 1972 and has been an important part of the church ever since. Minister Sam Joo writes about the Op Shop's brilliant celebration.

Over the last three to four years, we have accumulated a significant quantity of expensive jewellery from our donations which has not been suitable to sell in the op shop. We have been puzzling over an appropriate way to market the jewellery, with limited success online. Covid limitations put a stop to a couple of other ideas.

This year, with indoor gatherings again being an option, we decided to combine the two events and have a social gathering, combining the church and op shop.

With the help of many eager volunteers, we put on a scrumptious afternoon tea, had a display of our jewellery for sale, and were entertained by a wonderful pianist and vocalist. A good crowd of people attended, made up of church members, op shop volunteers, and their family and friends.

A 'Fifty years anniversary' cake was cut by Mabel Arnold and Linda McLean, both long time volunteers at the op shop. Together with Thelma Craig, who was unable to attend, they were also given a certificate of appreciation for their service.

The afternoon was enjoyed by all, and a total in excess of \$2200 was raised from the jewellery sale.

Uniting by the Bay website: ucappep.net/Chelsea



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN TOORAK?

Anne Smith from Toorak Uniting Church writes about the ongoing work of the churches in Toorak.

Toorak Uniting Church (TUC) is an active participant in the Toorak Ecumenical Movement which celebrated its 42nd birthday on Pentecost Sunday this year. The four churches of Toorak – St John's Anglican, St Peter's Roman Catholic, the Swedish Church and TUC – re-committed themselves to ecumenism and re-signed the covenant, which was originally signed on Pentecost Sunday in 1980.

Our ecumenical op-shop in Carters Avenue has flourished, despite Covid. Profits are dispersed by the churches to various agencies.

Food For Friends was initiated in 1990 after an exchange visit to Canada by one of our ministers who witnessed a similar program there. Originally, volunteers collected food donations from shoppers at two local supermarkets. Of course, Covid changed those arrangements so we now have regular appeals for financial donations. This money is divided between the churches and then volunteers shop for the lists of items from each agency and delivers them.

The churches have their own outreach. At TUC we have a retiring offering on communion Sunday which our outreach committee distributes to causes we support, including a breakfast program for students at Robinvale College, SOSK (Skills, Opportunity and Survival in Kenya) and The Food Truck run by Cranbourne Uniting Church.

TUC's dance class for year 9 girls and year 10 boys has been operating for 50 years with approximately 400 students involved each year.

The John McKenzie Kindergarten is also over 50 years old and the Kinross Centre for Arts and Spirituality is very busy, as is our Hodges Gallery and café.

For further details phone Bronwen (Monday-Tuesday) Richard (Wednesday-Friday) at the Toorak Uniting Church office, (03) 9829 03006 or visit Toorak Uniting Church website toorakuc.org.au

CONTINUING THE CELEBRATIONS AT CORNISH

On Saturday 5 November, Cornish College held a special Chapel Service as part of its 10 Year Anniversary celebrations. Despite the wet weather in the weeks leading up to the day, the sun shone and it was wonderful to celebrate this very special occasion with members of the College community and other invited guests. The service was held in the context of a school picnic, with food trucks and coffee carts. Later, chaplain Claire Dawe took guests for a tour of the Cornish College grounds.



Chaplain Claire Dawe (left), Uniting by the Bay minister Sam Joo, principal Nicola Forest (right) with staff and students at the service.





Above is Rev Claire Dawe, school chaplain, speaking and below is Rev Sam Joo, UCA Minister from Uniting by the Bay, lead a prayer.





Join us this summer!

-  Balnarring SUFM
-  Balnarring SUFM



**30 Dec
to 7 Jan**

What?

Bible stories, games, songs, drama, craft activities and lots more!

Where?

Balnarring Beach in the Robertson Recreation Reserve or Rotunda opposite Tulum General Store.

Child Safe

Team members are volunteers from churches across Victoria. They have received training and hold a WWCC card.

Directors

Lwendyl 0429 680 231
Carson 0426 880 703

Scripture Union

455 Springfield Road,
Mitcham Victoria 3132
(03) 9482 5700
www.suvic.org.au



JOY AND HAPPINESS IN WESTERN PORT

Western Port Parish includes three sites: Hastings, Balnarring and Crib Point. Rev Nigel McBrien shares with us what brought true delight to Western Port Parish in 2022.

Joy and happiness are great qualities that we hear about at this time of the year with Advent and Christmas. Perhaps a deeper question, when speaking of joy and happiness, is “what brings us happiness and joy throughout the year in the congregation?”

True happiness and joy have been those moments when we sense that God is found in worship and as we serve within our churches. I think Western Port Parish members are not alone in saying this. Nothing beats the joy and happiness that God instils.

We have found joy and happiness in practical ways. With hospitality and gathering around food. Phone calls and visits that show caring for one another and the gift to share.

Just the other day, a 93 year old lady phoned to ask how I was after a recent accident. I was touched by this thoughtful moment. She deserved a phone call to find out how she was faring, more than I needing a call.

We have stories of care for those in need. People in the local community centres remarked on the kindness expressed in food and toy appeals by the Parish and the giving of grants to local community needs from the Op Shop funds. Caring, sharing and concern bring us joy and happiness. It is hard to define, yet tangible.



One event that has brought great joy and happiness to us this year was the arrival of a youth leader named Maree Strong. Maree is a retiree who has a wonderful way with the youth in the Hastings area and the wider community. Three nights each week, she cooks a meal for the youth to share. She also includes craft and fun activities in the evenings before gathering the youth together each evening to share something to give thanks for.

One of the qualities that Maree instils in the youth is that of hope and ways to seek joy and happiness in the middle of whatever the circumstances are at that present moment. Maree has got the young people to make Christmas presents to give to people in the street as random acts of kindness.

What brings joy and happiness? When even one of the youth finds a contentment in their life. Maree relates how she went through a time when she thought that it was up to her to change the world and one of the youth said, “Mrs Strong, If God wanted you to save the whole world, you would have been born with your undies on the outside.”

westernport.unitingchurch.org.au

SUFM in Balnarring

Each January SU runs a free holiday program for families, kids and teens in and around Balnarring. The SUFM team is made up of about 30 people who volunteer their time to plan and run the program, because of a passion for sharing the good news about Jesus and God. All team members are required to have a current WWC card, and are fully trained in safety and care through SU’s ChildSafe. If you’re interested in joining the team, fill out the form at suvic.joinateam.org and select ‘Balnarring SUFM’ as your team.

Michael Collie 0423 244 481



Members from Western Port celebrating Christmas festivities.



STEPPING STONES IN MISSION



Craig Mitchell, Presbytery Minister: Church Development, writes about post-Covid life, the reviewing of our mission, pathways in community engagement and how to focus on our mission.

My Apple Mac sometimes shows the “spinning beach ball of death” when a program stops working or the whole operating system hangs. At that point there are two options - force quit the program and restart it, or restart the whole computer! (For some its, “Phone grandchild!”) Church life post-COVID feels like a reboot. Ministry and mission as we know them were stalled. We were in fact flat out busy creating alternative church, but we also felt that we were spinning our wheels. This year, getting back up to speed hasn’t been easy. In fact, it can feel as if everything has shifted so much that we’re reinventing ourselves.

Reviewing our Mission

This year I’ve been meeting every three to four months with the St Luke’s Mt Waverley Church Council to help them reflect, review, reconsider their mission orientation as a congregation. Evaluation is tricky in the church. We deal with intangibles, though we’d love more members. Finance is usually a challenge, but we hate talking to the congregation about it. We believe we have something to offer, but aren’t in the business of bragging or proselytising (are we?). We see ourselves as warm and welcoming, so why don’t visitors... visit? Even the word “growth” causes mixed reactions (for understandable reasons). Inner? Outer? Numerical? Spiritual? Missional?

Marks of the Church

My work with St Luke’s begins with scripture and theology. What does it mean to be the church? The book of Acts provides one springboard for a conversation for the Spirit at work in a fledgling community of faith in a multi-faith society – a community of radical discipleship marked by intimacy and transparency.

At each Council meeting we reflected on a text. These connected with Jürgen Moltmann’s notion of Christopraxis – the ministry and mission of Christ being expressed in the ministry and mission of the church. We tend to focus on programs and activities rather than the deeper dimensions that underly them. These ‘marks’ provided five lenses for examining what St Luke’s does.

Pathways in Community

Pathways is a workshop process designed by Melbourne mission consultant Ken Morgan. The process involves mapping the pathways or stepping stones that people might take into Christian community and in deepening Christian faith. Of course there’s no formula to this. People take different pathways in their life and faith journey. The process invites leaders to consider a series of questions. How does the wider community know about you? What are people’s first points of contact with your church people, activities and groups? Where and when do people build friendships? In addition to worship services, when and how do people explore faith for the first time? Where and when is faith deepened? Who does this informally, conversationally? See pathways4mission.com



Mapping Pathways

We map all of the congregation's activities. It is an enjoyable group exercise where we chat about what the church does and why. At the end we see some strengths and some gaps. In my experience, there are common gaps in the pathways that churches offer.

- How well and widely are we known in the local community?
- What are the first points of contact with the community life of the congregation (other than Sunday worship)?
- How and where do people form friendships? Do they need to become regulars before they become friends?
- When and how are people able to ask questions and explore the basics of Christian faith?
- What are the ways in which we apprentice people into living as disciples?
- How are people recruited, trained and supported into leadership roles?

That's a snapshot of a process that takes a couple of hours. It is an excellent, clarifying activity for leaders.

Know Your Neighbourhood

The 2021 Census data provided a rich source of information for two conversations about how the nature of the Mt Waverley community and how it has changed in recent years. I prepare a summary of demographic characteristics of the region.

What changes are evident to us? What surprises us?

To what extent is our congregation changing along with the local community? Who is represented in our pathways, and who is not? What will church look like in the future?

We take a Google Maps walk around the area. I'm the first time visitor, asking questions about the region as we zoom in and out on its features - schools, medical services, recreation areas, community organisations, retails, churches, etc. Where do people gather and why? Where is 'church' outside our building? Where do we engage with people outside our building? If the weather is good, we can do a neighbourhood walk or drive and discover a range of things by direct observation.

Focusing our Mission

Where does all that lead us? We see and evaluate our programs through the lenses of the marks of being the people of God in the world. While we can be all things to all people, we seek to be some things for some people. We look at the social connections that we make beyond the church building as our primary mission engagement. We recognise that church is not at its heart a social club, but a faith-deepening and faith-expressing people of God. We understand that invitation precedes welcome, and that genuine friendship precedes participation, let alone membership. For St Luke's this is part of an ongoing work-in-progress of evaluation, focus and development.

If you're interested in doing some of this work with your congregation and Church Council in 2023, contact Craig Mitchell on pm-cd@ucappeg.org



HOW CAN YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Tom Spurling, Port Phillip East Presbytery Chairperson, and Rev Deacon Andrea Mayes encourage us to be passionate about action on climate change.

Limiting the global effect on climate change needs to happen at three levels – internationally, nationally and locally. We have seen action on two of these levels this last month. We saw nations working together at the international COP27 meeting in Egypt and heard two accounts of local action at our November Presbytery in Council meeting.

The international COP27 meeting had some promising outcomes but was disappointing in the end. The promising outcome was the agreement to set up a “loss and damage” fund to help developing countries bear the immediate costs of climate-fuelled events such as storms and floods. This was widely welcomed by independent observers.

“This loss and damage fund will be a lifeline for poor families whose houses are destroyed, farmers whose fields are ruined, and islanders forced from their ancestral homes,” said Ani Dasgupta, president of the environmental think tank World Resources Institute. This is a positive step towards climate justice.

The disappointing aspect of the meeting was that there was no progress on additional commitments to reduce emissions.

Despite (historical) greenhouse gas emissions dropping during the pandemic we are on track to exceed the 1.5 degrees which was agreed as the safest level of climate change. All governments around the world need to improve their NDCs and take action to achieve them.

At the Presbytery meeting we heard from Hampton Uniting about the many different actions they have taken over the years to address climate change, including installing solar panels, improving energy efficiency and working with community groups such as Common Grace and the Bayside Climate Crisis Action Group. Cornish College shared how sustainability has been built into all areas of the school and how they have worked with the five-leaf eco award process.



Rev Deacon Andrea Mayes speaking on climate action at the Presbytery meeting at Noble Park on Wednesday November 23.

There are lots of different ways we as individuals can help address climate change. One way is by considering climate friendly Christmas presents.

For every dollar you donate at One Tree Planted a tree is planted by a not for profit organisation in the world region you choose. onetreepanted.org.

World Vision has a specific climate action related gift. This \$20 gift contributes to the natural regeneration of trees with a goal to restore up to 750,000 hectares of land in Africa. Click here for further details: worldvision.com.au/gifts



To join the Port Phillip East Presbytery Climate Action network, email Andrea Mayes andreamayes@gmail.com or feel free to call her on 0408 615 939.



PRESBYTERY THANKSGIVING DINNER



On Saturday 19 November around 60 ministry agents and committee members from around the Presbytery gathered for dinner at the Village Church, Mt Eliza.

Mt Eliza minister Cameron McAdam and Presbytery Minister: Pastoral Anneke Oppewal organised and hosted the event that was partly funded by Presbytery to celebrate and say thank you for all the hard work ministry agents and lay leaders have put in and are continuing to put in in Port Philip East.

It was a great opportunity to catch up after all the Covid upheaval of the last couple of years. Some met people they'd been working with over zoom face to face for the first time while others were able to reconnect for the first time for a long while.

It was wonderful to see so many happy faces absorbed in conversation and sharing an excellent meal together and come together from every corner of our Presbytery.

The evening included a photo booth, with serious and not so serious options available (see to the right).



PORT PHILLIP PRESBYTERY MEETING

For those that missed our Presbytery Meeting last week, here is an overview.

The November Presbytery in Council meeting was held at St Columba's Uniting Church, Noble Park, the first meeting held in a building since the meeting held at Korean Church of Melbourne in March 2021. You can read the papers on the Presbytery website.

The meeting elected the Standing Committee for 2023: Chair Tom Spurling (1 year), Deputy Chair David Higham (2 years), Treasurer Jeff Gardner (5 years), Mission Leadership Development Committee Chair Ennis Macleod (2 years), Pastoral Relations Committee Chair James Douglas (1 year), Property Committee Chair Gavin Faichney (1 year), Sam Joo (2 years), Joy Blamires (2 years). The Standing Committee is able to co-opt two more people. Chris Begg was re-elected as Chair of Finance Committee (1 year).

The Presbytery approved the budget for 2023, which includes significant funding for ministry and mission in the Casey Cardinia region. Congregations are invited to contribute to this project.

Andrea Mayes, who leads the Presbytery's climate action network, led a session on climate justice and listening to first peoples. Mark Zirnsak, Senior Social Justice Advocate (eLM) with VicTas Synod, introduced the resolutions made at the 2022 meeting of Uniting Church in Australia Assembly, including the challenge for all parts of the Uniting Church to be carbon neutral by 2040.

We heard inspiring stories of environmental action from Claire Dawe and Alex Parrington at Cornish College, and Ian Menzies at Hampton Uniting Church. In small groups we talked about what had inspired us, and reflected on what kinds of commitment to climate action we could make across the Uniting Church.



In the second part of the meeting we prayed, sang, listened to and reflected on scripture. We acknowledged people concluding in their committee roles: Elizabeth Adam (Property), Pam Campbell (Finance), Kelly Skilton (MLDC), and Fiona Winn (Acting Deputy Chair). We acknowledged the retirement of Charles Sundaresan Bakhtar and Julie Ross.

We sang words of affirmation, written by Uniting Church minister Phil Newton:

We hear our God in you
We see God's light in you.
We are holding, sharing,
God's love revealed,
joining our lives in you.

Presbytery Minister Duncan Macleod preached on the call to stay awake and be ready for new opportunities.

We spent time affirming the contribution of Duncan as Presbytery Minister: Team Leader over the last four years. The Presbytery presented him with a liturgical stole with an indigenous design. Members of Presbytery formally released him from his responsibilities as he moves to the role of Executive Officer, eLM (Equipping Leaders for Mission), Synod of Victoria and Tasmania. Members of the eLM staff were there to receive Duncan into his new role.

Duncan will be working with Port Phillip East Presbytery through to Wednesday December 21. In January Duncan and Ennis will be moving from the Presbytery manse in Heatherton to a Synod manse in Brighton East. He starts his new role with eLM on February 1.

A service of induction for Duncan, Kelly Skilton and chaplaincy coordinator Lauren Mosso will be held at the Centre for Theology and Ministry on Tuesday February 7.



NEW FACES ON STANDING COMMITTEE

At the November meeting of Presbytery we thanked Fiona Winn for her time as Deputy Chair (acting). David Higham was elected as the new Deputy Chair, taking up his role in March 2023.

Prior to joining the UCA, David Higham was a member of the Methodist Church in the UK, where he was made a confirmed member on 4th April 1965. He has been attending worship in the Uniting Church since 2008 when first visiting Melbourne.

David worked for the Royal Mail in the UK. His last appointment was that of Area Manager. He had a workforce of around a 1000, including 50 managers and support staff. This experience of leading a team of highly skilled and knowledgeable people has enabled him to understand, gain and develop the kinds of behaviour and skills necessary to contribute to the work of the PSC and assist the Chair in leading the Presbytery.

David and Val migrated to Australia in December 2012 and joined the UCA, first as members of Croydon UCA. In 2015 they moved to Narre Warren and transferred their membership to St Andrew's Berwick, where they are still members.



In January 2020 David was invited to provide Long Term Supply for Seaford Uniting Church. This supply is continuing and David has been recognised as serving in the Ministry of Pastor. David has been a member of Presbytery since 2016, firstly as a representative for St Andrew's Berwick and since 2020 in his role at Seaford. He was a member of the PPEP Standing Committee in 2019 and 2020. He is currently a member of PPEP Mission Leadership Development Committee and the Synod/Presbytery Money for Mission Steering Committee.

At the November meeting of Presbytery we thanked Kelly Skilton for her time as MLDC Chair. Ennis Macleod was elected as the new Chair, taking up the role in January 2023 as Kelly begins work with eLM.

Ennis Macleod has been a member of the UCA since 2001, participating actively in churches on the Gold Coast, in Canberra, Sydney and Melbourne. She is a member of Port Phillip ast Presbytery in Council and minutes secretary for the Church Council at St Leonards, Brighton Beach.

Ennis worked at Uniting Theological College (UTC) in Parramatta North in supporting theological students, producing resources for lay education programs for the NSW/ACT Synod as well as an advocacy training program for Uniting NSW.ACT. She completed a Graduate Diploma in Theology at UTC, and a Graduate Certificate in Divinity at Pilgrim. Her minor thesis was on the Holy Spirit in the Basis of Union.



Ennis has been a member of MLDC for a year, contributing to the team focussing on mission development, particularly with multicultural and intercultural mission and ministry. Her vision is to provide opportunities specifically aimed at fostering lay leadership in PPEP.



CHRISTMAS GOODIES HEADING TO PORT MORESBY

John Connan and his team have gathered as many Christmas goodies as they can for the United Church of Papua New Guinea, which we hope will bring extra joy to many this Christmas.

The Mission Liaison Group have just finished packing a container to go to Viniu Giriwa in Port Moresby.

The volunteer group in Keysborough relies very heavily on women. Without them it would be almost impossible at this stage to pack the containers in such short notice before companies start charging \$100 per day for their labour. Paul Argent from the Coatesville congregation gives up time to help when we need his young arms to lift and pack. On the day the container was sealed ready for shipment, Peter Chen joined in. Dr Graeme Webster from the Beaumaris congregation gives some time when he can.

The container which will arrive in Port Moresby on December 16 has amongst other contents church furniture from High Street Rd, Mount Waverley, as well as the Box Hill area, along with 122 backpacks from Backpack Pasifika, and stacks of kindergarten equipment and toys.



GARAGE SALE FOR MISSION LIAISON GROUP FREIGHT COSTS

**176 CHAPEL ROAD, KEYSBOROUGH SOUTH
Saturday 10 December, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

Recently oceanic freight charges have sapped Mission Liaison Group funds.

Back in mid-October a Garage Sale was held to help meet those costs which were up almost 80% on former rates. Rates are falling but remain higher than pre-Covid times.

Another Garage Sale is being held at 176 Chapel Road, Keysborough South, to help meet the charges on the next shipment, which will arrive in Port Moresby six days later. The following shipment will be for Tonga. That won't be sent until February.

We hope to see **YOU** there.



ARMADALE DO BREAKFAST

Meeting on a monthly basis, Armadale Uniting Church members catch up and gather for breakfast.

The women of Armadale Uniting Church meet on a monthly basis to enjoy a hearty breakfast at a local restaurant/cafe. This brings us together for both deep and light discussion of life, faith and meaning.

Gatherings are enthusiastically anticipated and the experience of fellowship is joyful and happy.

The coffee is great as well!

The men, too, have regular breakfasts, usually at the same venue as the women, but on a different day. It's an event that's been going for several years, although the most that could be achieved during the height of the Covid lockdowns were occasional coffees in the park. But since these lockdowns finished, the breakfasts have resumed and are again eagerly anticipated each month.



CHRISTMAS PRAYER

*A Christmas prayer from Armadale minister
Rev Fiona Winn.*

*God of all peoples,
times and places,
in Jesus Christ
You have come to us
- and come to us still.
He is our joy.*

*In the most distressing
of times, through Him,
You show us that joy
is not being saved out of our
trials and troubles,
but being made safe in them,
where ultimately nothing
and no one can harm us.
He is our joy.*

*In these days of
uncertainty and insecurity,
as we remember our story,
His story,
encourage our hearts
that we may be and become,
for each other
and for the whole world,
people of deep, true and
enduring joy.*

*In the name,
and for the sake,
of the One who is our joy,
Jesus Christ.*

Amen

For Your Calendar

A Starry Night

Friday 2 December, 5 - 9 pm, Murrumbena
Outdoor festivities, lighting of palm trees

Bethlehem in Brighton

Saturday 3 Dec from 10am - 1 pm at Trinity Uniting Church 15-17 Black Street, Brighton

Uluru Statement in Oakleigh

4 pm St David's Oakleigh, Sunday December 4

St David's Parkdale Christmas Carols

Sunday 11 December from 5pm-6pm followed by supper

Glen Waverley Christmas Carols

Sunday 18 December 10am with Nativity Worship
Installation WONDER from 9am-3.30pm

Heatherton Dingley UC Christmas Carols

Sunday 18 December 7.30pm

Mt Martha Interactive Peace Trail

Sunday 18 December 1.30pm - 3.30pm

Balnarring SUFM Holiday Program

30 Dec - 7 Jan 2023

2023

Uniting Church Theology and History

Monday to Friday, February 6-10
Intensive at Pilgrim Theological College

Reflective Practice for Intercultural Ministry

Wednesday February 15, 10am-3.30pm
Online event by Synod Intercultural Forum



Uniting Church Theology and History

- academic unit
- offered by Pilgrim Theological College (VicTas Synod) in cooperation with United Theological College (NSW/ACT Synod)
- Lecturers - Rev Dr Geoff Thompson and Dr Damien Palmer, supplemented by input from leaders and scholars of the UCA
- When: Feb 6-10 2023, plus one follow up day (tbc)
- Audit, Undergraduate and Post-graduate options for study
- those undertaking the unit for competency reasons will need to complete assessments

For further information contact:

Erlinda Loveseed | Pilgrim Theological College
registrar@pilgrim.edu.au | 03 9340 8892



Pilgrim Theological College has released a timetable of courses available for 2023

Face to face: Come to the Centre for Theology & Ministry in Parkville to be in the classroom throughout the semester

Online-Synchronous: be available online throughout the semester at the time indicated on the timetable to complete this unit.

Online Asynchronous: you can complete this unit by studying online in your own time.

Blended: A mixture of study in your own time and at a time designated.

Intensive Units: be present in the classroom or online on the dates specified.

For timetable & information on courses visit pilgrim.edu.au



PPE OFFICE HOURS OVER THE SUMMER

Port Phillip East Presbytery office in Noble Park will be closed between Wednesday December 21 and Sunday January 8.

Presbytery Chair Tom Spurling and Presbytery Minister Anneke Oppewal will be on standby through the summer as contact persons.

Craig Mitchell will be on medical leave from Monday December 12 through to February 5, due to an operation on his arm.

Duncan Macleod will be on annual leave from Wednesday, December 21 through to January 31, and beginning as Executive Officer with eLM, Synod of Victoria and Tasmania on February 1, 2023.

David Higham will be providing supply in a Presbytery Minister role from the beginning of January, two days a week, and through the year until the Presbytery Minister Team Leader role is filled.

Presbytery Secretary Anne Kim will be on leave from December 22 through to January 2.

Presbytery Comms Officer Sarah Manase will be on leave from December 12 through to January 13.

WHO TO CALL IN AN EMERGENCY

It's a good idea to have an emergency plan for home and work. Should damage (fire/flood/weather/vandalism) to property for which a congregation has responsible body status and/or has an impact on ministerial personnel (including family) the following contacts are worth having on hand.

PPEP Chair Tom Spurling
0409 461 390 chair@ucappep.org

PPEP Minister Pastoral Anneke Oppewal
0437 298 454 pm-pastoral@ucappep.org

VCC Emergency Ministry services
(03) 9412 8481, info@vccem.org.au

Red Cross 1800 733 276

State Emergency Services 132 500

Synod Insurance (03) 9116 1905
insurance@victas.uca.org.au

Synod Property Services (03) 9116 1956
property@victas.uca.org.au

Synod Occupational Health & Safety (03) 9116 1949
SynodOHS@victas.uca.org.au

Uniting in prayer this summer

Each week congregations are encouraged to include their neighbours in their prayers. The Presbytery's prayer calendar covers congregations, schools and agencies of the Uniting Church in our Presbytery and Synod. You can check the calendar on the Presbytery website.

December 4	<i>St Kilda – Rev Alex Sangster, Randall Kent Melbourne Methodist Church in Zimbabwe – Evelyn Mavodza</i>
December 11	<i>Toorak – Rev Peter Whitaker (Supply), Jenny Stewardson Armada – Rev Fiona Winn, Mr Bill Rush</i>
December 18	<i>Wheeler Hill – Rev Paulo Kwajakwan (Supply), Marcia Hall Western Port – Rev (Deacon) Nigel McBrien, Margaret Baker</i>
December 25	<i>VCC Emergency Services chaplains & volunteers</i>
January 1	<i>SU Holiday programs at Balnarring and Rosebud</i>
January 8	<i>Uniting Camping, Merricks Lodge</i>
January 15	<i>Defense Force Chaplains, Retired Ministers</i>
January 22	<i>Uniting Aboriginal & Islander Christian Congress</i>
January 29	<i>Presbytery Leadership</i>



Immanuel

*We are waiting
while the bombs continue to fall
and floods of misery
turn us away from our screens
in an attempt to keep our sanity*

*We are waiting,
while Covid still wreaks havoc with
lives and health across the planet
putting pressure on systems
that form the backbone
of our lives together*

*We are waiting,
financial downturns
an imploding property market
climate change
the threat and dread
ringing in our ears*

*We are waiting
wrapped in a blanket,
and in need of a nappy change
suckling at the breast
of a young mother
far from home and comfort
Jesus begins
his journey*

*We are waiting
for him to meet us
and tell us
that God is still with us
and make us listen
for angels singing in the night
about God's grace*

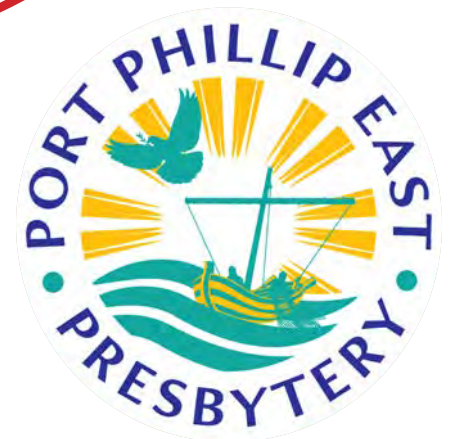
*Wait, and see
the light break through
and hear the sound
of Christ's coming
God's presence is growing
in the midst of us
more often than not
where we might least expect it.*

*Wait, see, listen
for where God is
in the midst of us.*

By Rev Anneke Oppewal

Send your articles and photographs for Newsbeat, the Presbytery website and Facebook page, and weekly email, to Communications Officer Sarah Manase

comms-officer@ucappep.org



Visit the Port Phillip East Presbytery office at 1 Allan St, Noble Park.



03 9558 4710



www.facebook.com/ucappep.org



www.ucappep.org



PO Box 696, Noble Park, VIC 3174

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**Port Phillip East Presbytery
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