

Newsbeat



NEWSLETTER FOR THE PRESBYTERY OF PORT PHILLIP EAST



FEBRUARY HEADLINES

JUST DO IT! - PUTTING FAITH INTO PRACTICE

MURRUMBEENA UC COURTYARD MURAL

POWERFUL OUTDOOR LEARNING AT CORNISH

MINISTRY FORMATION JOURNEYS -
DUNCAN TURUVA &
DANIEL SIHOMBING

KELLY UPLOADED

EXPLORING GROWTH WITH ANNEKE OPPEWAL

TWO MINISTRY FORMATION STORIES

JOB VACANCIES

DIARY DATES

FEBRUARY 2023 ISSUE



Port Phillip East Presbytery's WHAT'S HAPPENING

An insight into what congregations,
schools & members are doing

POWERFUL OUTDOOR LEARNING AT CORNISH COLLEGE

At Cornish College we are committed to caring for the land and those who come here, now and in the future.

One of the many wonderful programs that the College offers on its 100 acre classroom, is *Dhumba-dha biik* (pronounced dum-ba-dah biik). This name is Boon Wurrung language for 'Talk Country' and is a weekly outdoor learning program. The College has received special permission to use this term to describe the program, where all Early Learning Centre and primary students spend an extended period of time each week outside (all year-round and regardless of the weather) learning on and about their country.

The students form strong connections to the land. Whilst out 'on country' the students are able to develop their resilience, independence, communication, mindfulness and problem-solving skills. They bring their passions for the environment back to the classroom where they discuss and share their findings, and use them as a provocation for writing, mathematics, inquiry and scientific investigations and play.

The students explore, wonder, pose questions, offer ideas and solutions and use scientific vocabulary in an authentic context.

As they walk, there are many conversations. Mostly these conversations are about nature and there are always questions. Children have a natural affinity with their world and there is just so much that they want to know and discover. Outdoors, the environment is a powerful and engaging second teacher.

Written by Dennis Freeman

For further details please visit
cornishcollege.vic.edu.au



Cornish College kids exploring and learning in the outdoor program.



KELLY UPLOADED TO SYNOD ROLE

A familiar face in PPE, Kelly Skilton, is now our eLM Young Generations - Digital & New Communities contact. She tells all as she opens up about and her new role in our Synod, and her continuing journey with our God.



Kelly Skilton, Younger Generations - Digital & New Communities

Looking through the February Crosslight, and this issue of the Newsbeat, it may seem like everyone is dying their hair green. However, on second look you will realise it is just the same person in all the photos and one that is no stranger to PPEP. So why is it that I am being “uploaded” to the Synod? Well, in case you had not heard, last month I stepped into a new role within the VicTas Synod working on the Younger Generations team. The team, as a collective, will be looking at resourcing and equipping our younger generations across the church, and my main focus will be the New and Digital Communities.

Since the arrival of COVID-19, our communities look very different. We can see they are different, and we can feel that they are different. The truth is that a lot of people don't know what to make of it. What do discipleship, mission and leadership look like now? How do we engage our communities in person and online? These are big questions and some of us have thoughts and ideas about them, but they can be overwhelming for those of us just trying to keep caring for one another; unpacking these complex questions is just not on this week's to-do list... or even next week.

But these questions are now on my to-do list. It is important that we take the time to unpack the reality of this fast-changing in-person and online world so we are able to continue being the church with our local communities.

People have asked me, “Why you? and how did you get here?” Currently you will find me as a 32-year-old, second-generation South African Australian... with green hair. I have been employed by the church since I was 23, serving on the ministry team at Murrumbeena Uniting; the multi-faith Chaplaincy team at Monash University; doing office administration at Armadale Baptist; and supply ministry at The Korean Church of Melbourne (KCM). In addition, I started a new form of youth and young adults ministry called *The Sonder Collective* (which includes digital ministry). There are also countless organisations and communities outside the Uniting Church that I have led and volunteered with. Before all this, you would have found me serving as a barista.

I decided that instead of entering the design industry, I was going to continue studying and so I enrolled in my Bachelor of Theology at Whitley College. In hindsight, studying theology does seem like an obvious step toward working in the church, but the first time I really found myself considering it was when I got a phone call (to be honest, a number of phone calls) about whether a Youth and Young Adults position at Murrumbeena Uniting would interest me. I was in my last year of theological studies (well, so I thought), and living in Healesville, but as soon as I got off the phone I jumped into my car and drove an hour and a half to find this church. When I got there I drove to the back of the car park to pray and listen to whether or not this was the direction I should be going. Well, what started as prayer ended in tears (good ones) and so I wrote an application for this new-found church community and began the ten years of ‘church’ that you have read about above.

What started as a simple, “I want to learn more about who God is to me, and who I am to God” led me to study not only my Bachelor of Theology but also my Masters in Theological Studies, and now I am halfway through a Masters in Missional Leadership. Across each of these courses, my main focus has been on adolescent faith development in 21st Century Australia.

Written by Kelly Skilton

For further details, or even if you just want to connect, you can now get in contact with Kelly Skilton at her new email kelly.skilton@victas.uca.org.au



REFLECTIONS ON GROWTH

Rev Anneke Oppewal reflects on Growth and the experiences she faced in 2022. Exploring the story of Nicodemus, she asks, how do you feel you will experience growth in the coming year?



Casting my mind back over 2022 with the theme for this edition of Newsbeat in mind I wondered where, for me, growth had most clearly happened. Thinking back my heart gradually filled with gratitude for all the many instances and opportunities that helped me grow over the past year, realising that my life has been full of instances and opportunities that have changed me and helped me grow more and more into myself as well as getting closer to God. And how wonderful it is that that experience of growth never seems to have stopped.

Three things stood out in particular from the year: The first was finishing my Graduate Diploma in Supervision with relational changes that brought a wealth of new insights and opportunities to share and practise with fellow supervisors as well as receiving feedback on supervision I provided to others outside the course.

In addition, there was the five day course on indigenous ways of mediation and conflict management with We-Ali. We were invited to set aside some of our cultural biases and submit ourselves, while we were learning, to a way of looking and dealing with conflict that goes back to practices that have proven to be effective and helpful going back thousands of years before European settlement.

Alongside these two, there was the once a month conversations in the cafe at Robinsons Bookshop in Glen Waverley where we talked in a small group about post colonial theology, racism, activism and church in an intercultural setting that was at times awkward and challenging but always richly rewarding. And then there was more.... conversations with colleagues, challenging meetings with Church Councils reflecting on their future, pastoral conversations around ill health and bereavement, books that offered insights and inspiration where I hadn't expected it.

What all of these things have in common is relationality, connecting with others and being open to being transformed in the process. It reminded me of the story of Nicodemus (John 3). Here someone who presumably knew it all, who was steeped in tradition and learning, and an experienced leader of the community that he was, was prepared to seek out an opportunity to speak to Jesus. He opened himself to another perspective and way of doing religion, changing his existing convictions and allowing something new to be born into his life as it was.

I wonder what experiences of change and transformation have opened new horizons for you in the past year and what they will be in the coming year? What will bring you the excitement and energy of renewal and a change of perspective or intensifying of experience that will help you grow? What will you share of that experience to others around you too?

There are many stories in the gospel about growth. About seeds that grow into plants and even trees. About kernels of hope and faith changing the world around them for the better. About people opening their hearts and minds to following Jesus and finding themselves walking a different path than they perhaps had been on before - finding abundance and blessing in places that they may not have discovered had they stayed where they were. I wonder where you might find those seeds of faith and hope growing on your journey, leading you deeper into the journey that we've all been invited to through Christ; to make a difference in this world and be people of healing, justice grace and peace in a myriad of ways.

If you are interested in further training or education here are a couple of links you might want to explore:

pilgrim.edu.au

divinity.edu.au/study/professional-supervision

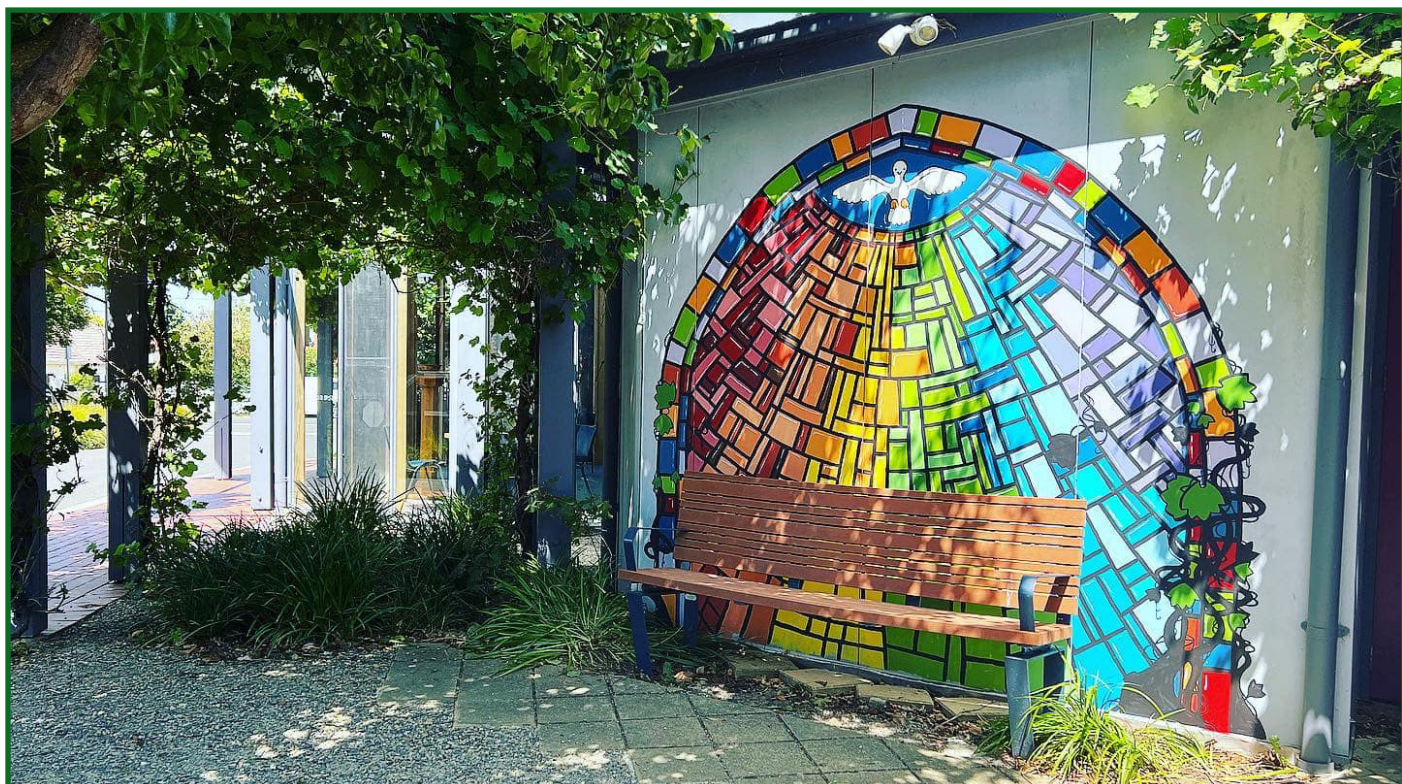
gestalttherapyaustralia.com.au/evenbrite-events

wealli.com.au/product/the-prun-managing-conflict

Written by Rev Anneke Oppewal



MURRUMBEENA UNITING'S COURTYARD



In 2021 an idea was birthed to add some colour to the courtyard at Murrumbeena UC. It was thought something that could invite and involve the local community would be a good thing. And so, the planning began!

Kelly Skilton came up with the design of a stained-glass mural based on the windows that were already within the worship space at Murrumbeena. Using this idea, the design was drawn on the grey wall and colour coded with numbers so that anyone could be involved in the painting. All we needed to do was supply the paint!

The outline of the mural was first drawn up to coincide with Neighbour Day on Sunday 27th March 2022. Community members who joined us for Neighbour Day began the project, our young adults gave a couple of blocks of time to painting as did some of our congregational members and members of the community garden group. Kelly and Jared finished it off just after Christmas 2022 and we are ready to head into 2023 with a great splash of colour in our courtyard!

Written by Rev Jay Robinson

For further details visit: murrumbeenauniting.org.au



Murrumbeena UC Community helping one another to create a special project in their courtyard.



JUST DO IT! PUTTING FAITH INTO PRACTICE



Dr Craig Mitchell, Presbytery Minister: Church Development, writes about how faith is a verb. Let's put our faith into practice and get ourselves and our congregations to Just Do It!

Discipleship is Being and Doing

Watching the Australian Open Tennis, I am bombarded with images of the Nike "tick" logo on players' clothing, and reminded of the company's slogan "Just do it!"

Get up.

Get out.

Get going.

And I'm also reminded that faith is a verb. Christian discipleship is about *being* and doing. *Belief* in action.

Andrew Roberts speaks of *Holy Habits*. Richard Foster writes about *Spiritual Disciplines*. Dorothy Bass and others describe *Christian Practices*. These refer to the faith-filled actions of followers of Jesus Christ that embody the Way of the people of God in the world.

If the *being* of discipleship is about abiding with God in Christ and being transformed by the Spirit's presence, the *doing* is about acting in ways that welcome and help to bring about the purposes of God for our world; *doing* or imitating the habits that we see in Jesus and his disciples, *doing* or participating in the ongoing ministry and mission of Christ.

Habits of Faithful Living

A common reference for exploring Christian practices is the description in Acts 2:42-47 of the life of the early church. How did the early Christians live as a community? What marked them as distinctive? Christian writers list a range of inward and outward Christian practices or disciplines. Here are some examples:

Dorothy Bass – keeping Sabbath, singing our lives, hospitality, discernment, household economics, forgiveness, and honouring the body (and more!)

Craig Dykstra – interpreting the Scriptures together, worshipping God together, giving generously and receiving gratefully, tolerating failures and encouraging one another's vocations, working together to maintain and create life-sustaining social structures that accord with God's will, and praying, both together and by ourselves (and more!)

Diana Butler Bass – justice, healing, beauty, testimony, contemplation, worship, discernment, diversity, reflection, hospitality





Discipleship is about how we live;
not just the decisions we make,
not just the things we believe,
but a state of being.

Rowan Williams

Practices are disciplined in that they are patterned on following Christ. They constitute personal and communal rhythms of life, and they form, inform and transform our lives and our world. Practices are not simply *imitation* of Christ, rather they are a *participation* in the life of God and the Way of Christ.

Growing in Christian Practices

From May 2023 Port Phillip East Presbytery will be offering resources for exploring and deepening our Christian practices as a way for congregations to be intentional about growing disciples.

The Mission & Leadership Development Committee (MLDC) has a team working on resources on these practices.

- Resources for *three Christian practices* will be produced each year from 2023-2025 (a total of nine)
- Each practice comes with *two months of resources* for use in worship, small groups, and personal or household settings
- The resources are recommended for use by congregations between Easter and Advent – you decide when to use them
- You choose how many of the three practices you wish to focus on. Each year we will add three additional practices to choose from.

Resources will be free to download, and will include some recommended, optional resources for purchase from Christian publishers.

This is designed as an optional, whole of congregation discipleship formation focus for a particular period of time. The approach includes exploring the biblical and theological bases for Christian practices as well as learning through experience and from experience. Christian faith and living are formed in community.

We're excited to be providing this approach towards broadening and deepening our intentional faith development in congregations.

Details about the resource offerings for 2023 will be provided in Newsbeat and on our website in March.

Dr Craig Mitchell

Presbytery Minister – Church Development



DUNCAN'S MINISTRY FORMATION JOURNEY

In 2022, Duncan Turuva tells us about 2022, a remarkable year of learnings in his formation and academic journey towards ministry in the Uniting Church.



Firstly, it was good to immerse myself fully into my practical placement after the continued lock downs and restrictions, and secondly, it was beneficial for me to take on subjects that I felt were needed for me to gain a better understanding of issues within our Australian context.

My practical placement was at St. Leonards Uniting Church, Brighton Beach under the leadership of the Rev. Kim Cain. Over the year, I have learnt many aspects of how important it is to ensure that the church's liturgy, reflection, and focus is relevant in our context. I have produced an acrostic to describe my observations and learning in my time there. For me St. Leonards is a **H-O-M-E**:

Hospitable. **O**rganised. **M**inistry to its congregants and community. **E**quipping its members to be relevant in their community.

Secondly, in my academic journey the subject Christian Assembly: Orders of Ministry with Associate Professors Stephen Burns and Geoff Thompson took me to a greater understanding of ordained ministry.

I also was fortunate to sit in on a Queer Theology intensive led by the Reverends Joe Inkpin and Penny Jones. What an eye opener it was to understand our Queer community within and outside of the church, how they read the biblical texts, and even more importantly in my own opinion, how they can enrich the church with their grace and giftings. In the previous semesters, I took more classes on the Old Testament and Womanist studies with Associate Professor Monica Melanchthon whose lectures and material I continue to recommend.

Finally, as I come closer to the conclusion of this phase the formation, I cannot be more grateful for the faculty of Pilgrim Theological College, hands down, one of the best bunch of teachers in the field of theology. They have not only educated me in their relevant areas of teaching but have taken me under their wings, given me the grace to deconstruct and reconstruct my theology, and have given me the space to speak and lead the candidate community.

To me the faculty at Pilgrim is what Jewish philosopher Abraham Joshua Heschel described when he said, 'What we need more than anything else is not textbooks but text people. It is the personality of the teacher which is the text that the pupils read; the text they will never forget'. The faculty of Pilgrim are certainly ones that will be hard for me to forget.

Finally, I am looking forward to the journey ahead and where the Spirit will lead my spouse and myself.

Written by Duncan Turuva

Pilgrim Theological College 2023

Courses – Learning Options

Face to face: come to the Centre for Theology & Ministry in Parkville to be in the classroom for the whole semester

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

Online Asynchronous: study online in your own time.

Blended: study with a mix of 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



DANIEL'S MINISTRY FORMATION JOURNEY

Following ministry overseas, Daniel Sihombing tells his story of searving and learning.



Hi, I am Daniel Sihombing, a candidate for the Ministry of the Word in the UCA and a supply minister at the Korean Church of Melbourne. I went through the Selection process last October and am just about to start the formation program.

Born in Indonesia, I moved to Australia in 2019. I had been in ministry for some time, although I'd never been ordained. I started my theological training in 2005, and carried out various ministry roles since then. I finished my Masters and just recently completed my PhD dissertation.

When I moved to Melbourne four years ago, I realized I had to learn and adjust to many new things. I was excited for the opportunities and the new experiences approaching. One experience that stood out to me was serving in a Korean church this has been a great learning experience thus far in my ministry. The worship was wonderful and I even now love to sing some Korean hymns. Doing ministry in a different setting has also had its challenges.

During my time at KCM I managed to organize a futsal game between Korean Church of Melbourne and Caulfield Indonesian Uniting Church. What a lot fun!

Nevertheless, doing ministry in a different setting also has its challenges. Being able to preach in my native language is something I miss, but thankfully I occasionally get an opportunity to do so at Caulfield.

Within church ministry I have found that there are many experiences and challenges, but as the old saying goes, I'll try to do my best and let God do the rest.

This is part of my story.

Written by Daniel Sihombing & Sarah Manase

Understanding the UCA

eLM and Pilgrim Theological College are combining to give two offerings for those needing or wishing to understand more about the Uniting Church.



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



NEW TO OUR TEAM



At the November meeting of Presbytery 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 became a confirmed member on 4th April 1965. He has been attending worship in the Uniting Church since 2008 when he first visited Melbourne.

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

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

In January 2020 David was invited to provide Long Term Supply ministry for Seaford Uniting Church. This supply is continuing and David has been commissioned in the ministry of Pastor in this role. He 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 and is currently a member of the Mission Leadership Development Committee and the Synod/Presbytery Money for Mission Steering Committee.



Annual Gathering of VicTas Lay Preachers

Fri 24 Feb, 7.00-9.30pm, Sat 25 Feb, 9.00am – 4.30pm

Centre for Theology and Ministry

Face to face and online on Zoom.

Speakers: Rev Dr Sunny Chen, Rev Dr Stephen Burns, Rev Dr Sally Douglas

Cost: Friday evening = no charge. Saturday = \$20 in person or \$10 for Zoom attendance.

Friday evening includes installation of new President of Lay Preacher Association, Mr Graham Booth.

Register by Wednesday 15 March. [Download 2023 Registration Form here.](#)



Presbytery in Council & Committee Meetings 2023

Please put the following dates into your diaries, where relevant.

The **Presbytery in Council** meetings for this year are expected to be face-to-face and/or zoom meetings.

- **Saturday March 18**
- **Wednesday June 21**
- **Saturday August 19**
- **Wednesday November 29**

At the first Presbytery in Council meeting of the year, Saturday 18 March, held at Glen Waverley Uniting Church, we will be discussing vision & strategy for 2023, commissioning new Standing Committee members and dealing with the financial report.

The **Pastoral Relations Committee** (PRC) meets on first Wednesday of each month. Therefore, it will be appreciated by PRC that any profiles, supply forms and any related matters and applications are to be forwarded to Anne Kim, the PRC correspondence Secretary by the previous week of a PRC meeting.

The **Mission and Leadership Development Committee** (MLDC) meets on the first Tuesday of each month. Ennis Macleod is the incoming Chairperson.

The **Synod Placements Committee** meets on the second Wednesday of each month. It is important to allow the Presbytery Pastoral Relations Committee adequate time to deal with requests and any expressions of interest from congregations and ministry agents so that they can forward them to the Placements Committee on time.

The **Property Committee** meets on the third Thursday evening every month. Application forms and inquiries need to be sent to the Property Committee Secretary, Ian Cayzer, a week prior to its meeting date.

The **Standing Committee** gathers on the second Tuesday of each month and their first meeting for 2023 will be on Tuesday 14 February.

Presbytery **Newsbeat** is released in the first week of each month. Your stories, articles and photos need to be sent to Sarah Manase, our Communications Officer, before 25th of every month.

Contact: comms-officer@ucappep.org

Presbytery Minister Team Leader Sought

Port Phillip East Presbytery, Uniting Church in Australia, is looking for applications for the full-time role of Presbytery Minister: Team Leader.

Port Phillip East Presbytery includes over fifty congregations in the South East suburbs of Melbourne and on the Mornington Peninsula. The Presbytery contains one of the most culturally diverse areas in the country.

The Presbytery ministry team, led by a Team Leader, includes the Presbytery Minister - Pastoral, Presbytery Minister - Church Development, Presbytery Administrator / Secretary, and Presbytery Communications Officer. The Team Leader role is pivotal in the oversight of the Presbytery's ministry and operations.

The person in this role oversees, coordinates, and facilitates the life and effective operation of the Presbytery team. The Team Leader exercises an essential liaison and communication role between congregations, the Presbytery and the Synod, particularly in the areas of property and finance. The Team Leader will have strong capacity for strategic thinking and effective management.

For further information or to apply, contact Rev. Sue Clarkson, Placements Secretary, Synod of Victoria and Tasmania, placements.secretary@victas.uca.org.au

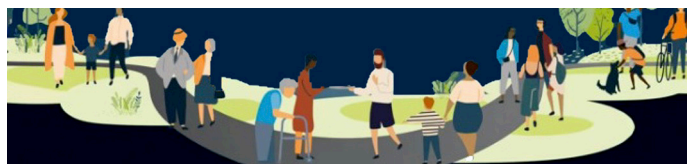
Applications close 10 February 2023 and should include a letter of application, a curriculum vitae, Uniting Church profile if appropriate, and the names of three referees.

Download and read the Port Phillip East PM Team Leader profile/position description (Sep 2022) on the Presbytery web site: ucappep.org/positions-available.





Here are some recommended Lenten Study options for 2023 Lectionary Year A. You will need to make your own decisions about what best suits your congregation. A list of suggested worship and learning resources for Lent and Easter is now online on our website ucappeg.org



JOURNEYING WITH JESUS

ucaql.com.au/projects/projectplenty/lent/

Synod of Queensland
FREE TO DOWNLOAD

Lent Reflections and Worship Materials: A suite of created and created resources focused on practices of discipleship, incorporating the intergenerational [Here2Stay framework](#)

Lent Reflections: Weekly reflection, discussion questions, and challenges to help individuals, groups and families explore Jesus' ministry and consider practices that form people who become lifelong followers of Jesus' way.

Lent Worship Materials: Bible readings, themes and suggestions for prayers, videos, and activities to do in worship, to assist with weekly worship preparation for the five Sundays of Lent.

Lent Journal: A printable journal for Individuals to help process the content and what next steps to take their own walk with Jesus.

PLUS links to five weeks of additional worship and learning resources

THE IMAGINARY DOORWAY

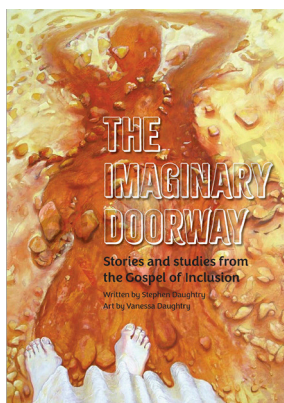
abmission.org/resources/the-imaginary-doorway/

Seven studies based on characters and stories from the Gospels.

Rev Steve Daughtry
\$12 plus postage

Anglican Board of Mission

Hear anew the stories of Legion, the haemorrhaging woman, Lazarus and Martha, the woman accused of adultery, Zacchaeus, the paralysed man let down through the roof – and that post-resurrection BBQ breakfast on the beach.



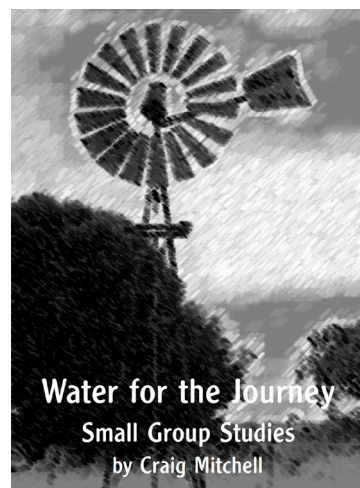
WATER FOR THE JOURNEY

craigmitchell.com.au/water-for-the-journey-group-study/

FREE TO DOWNLOAD
Dr Craig Mitchell

Five Lenten studies draw on the Year A Lectionary texts from the Hebrew Scriptures, the Gospel of John and Philipians.

The discussion invites us to reflect on our vision and calling as the people of God across the generations through the lenses of My Story, God's Story and Our Story.



DISCIPLESHIP FOR ALL SEASONS

mediacomeducation.org.au/shop/discipleship-for-all-seasons/

Six Lenten studies on being faithful followers of Jesus

Rev Dr Chris Walker
\$15.95

Mediacom Education

During Lent, the Church remembers the life and ministry of Jesus and renews its commitment to him in Christian discipleship. In these six studies, Chris uses Scripture passages from year A of the Lectionary. As well as the Bible readings, the study includes contemporary stories and quotes from well-respected Christians, which relate to the theme of a particular study. Questions for reflection are also included.



DIARY DATES

Uniting Church Theology and History

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

Glen Waverley UC Used Book Sale

Saturday March 4, 8.30am-4.00pm
cnr Kingsway and Bogong Ave, Glen
Waverley



Reflective Practice for Intercultural Ministry

Wednesday February 15, 10am-3.30pm
[Online event by Synod Intercultural Forum](#)

Home brewed
A pub conversation on new faith communities
Sun 19 Feb 4pm. The Rogue Squire, Ferntree Gully Rd.
RSVP mission@ucappeg.org or text Craig 0417 323 088

Climate Crisis and a Christian Response
Sundays 19, 26 February and 5 March. 4.00-5.45pm
Ormond Uniting Church. Cost: Donation at the door.
Enquiries: 0411 958127 office@ormond-unitingchurch.org.au

Uniting in Prayer February

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.

February 5 St Leonard's College, Brighton - Principal Mr Stuart Davis, Chaplain Rev Judith Watkins
Wesley College- Principal Mr Nick Evans, Chaplains Mr Bradon French & Mr Peter Rivet

February 12 Berwick (St Andrew's) congregation- Rev Dr Ji Zhang (Supply), Chair Rev Dr Tony Floyd

February 19 Transfiguration of Jesus

February 22 University chaplains in our Presbytery - Ms Mandy Lake, Rev Jay Robinson

February 26 Pilgrim Theological College- Head of College Rev Sean Winter, Faculty staff and students



Prayer of Gratitude

*Thank you God
for creating us with minds
that are bendable to your
dreams for us.*

*Thank you
for opening doors
and offering us visions
of what might be possible
if we put our minds and
hearts to it*

*Thank you for a body
that is geared for change
renewing cells every split
second
to continue to give us life.*

*Thank you for a mind
where connections
keep being made
and understandings
changed and deepened
as we go.*

*Thank you for relationships
that will hold, stretch, challenge
and change
while we journey together
as the body of Christ*

*Thank you
for creating us
in this wonderful
and awe filled way
Amen*

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

Email secretary@ucappep.org

Port Phillip East Presbytery Uniting Church in Australia Staff & Key Office Bearers

Tom Spurling chair@ucappep.org
Anne Kim secretary@ucappep.org
Craig Mitchell pm-cd@ucappep.org
Anneke Oppewal pm-pastoral@ucappep.org
David Highman pm-supply@ucappep.org
Sarah Manase comms-officer@ucappep.org
Jeff Gardner treasurer@ppe.victas.uca.org.au