

# Newsbeat

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PRESBYTERY OF PORT PHILLIP EAST



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AUGUST 2023 ISSUE



# Port Phillip East Presbytery

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

An insight into what congregations,  
schools & members are doing

### STAYING HOPEFUL WITH HOMEWORK HELP

*Jo Crisp has been running 'Homework Hub' (HH) at Pakenham Uniting Church since 2016. This has helped with the growing need to assist local children from non-English speaking families. However, although Covid seriously impacted the program, volunteers and mentors are being revitalised, and Jo is hopeful for a fresh start.*

Our children come from many cultural backgrounds and have a range of social and educational needs. Homework Hub is a special space where adult volunteers, often retired, come to develop strong relationships with the children, building their self-confidence and tutoring them in the areas they are struggling with at school. In the past we have had local secondary students come to mentor the children. They connect with the younger children, running physical games after a busy day at school, and helping them with their studies. The mentors also gain important skills in communication and leadership. It truly is an intergenerational program. This year we have seen renewal and **hope** for the program as we recover from the Covid impacts.

When I asked the question 'What do you love about Homework Hub'? I wasn't surprised when both volunteers and children responded with such encouraging words as:

- HH is like a big warm hug We are like a family
- Being with the children
- The smiles, no one is ever grumpy
- I get to play with my friends
- Everyone is kind and sharing
- Making friends
- It's really fun and gives lots of help
- Homework Hub is nice and has good food

It's because of these responses that I would say this if I were asked the same question: Homework Hub is more than helping kids with their homework! It is an incredible intergenerational space where we share food, stories, skills, love and fun. Homework has become increasingly important since Covid lockdowns. We have seen many primary-aged kids impacted by online learning, and being able to focus on each individual child's needs has been vitally important. The simple benefits of friendships and sharing meals together has a huge impact on us all. Sharing God's story through the program offers us an opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus in a practical and loving environment.

A warm thank you goes out to Toorak Uniting Church, as none of this would have been possible without their financial support. Their generous contribution means we can provide the children with resources, a healthy snack after school, as well as a small meal.

*Jo Crisp, Intergenerational Ministry Pastor,  
Pakenham UC*





# A MIND-BOGGLING ART PROJECT

*Christine MacDowall accepted the invitation to Reclaim the Void; to join in a bold cross-cultural project aimed at covering one of the gaping holes left in West Australia by mining companies, with the story of country to emphasise the pain caused in both physical and spiritual dimensions.*

When Christine MacDowall, a member of Springvale Uniting Church, was scanning the internet, she discovered an invitation to join in a mind-boggling art project, a collaboration between artists and the Ngalia indigenous community in Western Australia.

Their vision, as stated on their website, is to 'seal' a mining pit with a large-scale 'dot' artwork made up of thousands of handmade circular rag-rugs woven from discarded fabric. Woven by people from all walks of life and backgrounds, the rugs will be joined together into a giant textile artwork which shows an overall pattern that carries the story of the Tjukurrpa country on which the pit is situated.

And so Christine set on her journey.

The website's instructions to make the circular loom were easy to follow. The Springvale UC Op Shop provided many sheets and doona covers (and a friend donated a blue sheet off her bed because it had long been the wrong size – enthusiasm is a marvellous generator of action, don't you think?)

Looking far and wide, Christine invited her family, friends and Springvale UC congregation to weave three circular rag rugs. Once complete they will become part of the giant artwork which requires around 5,000 circular rag rugs.

With teamwork, it's amazing how much weaving can be done by 30 to 40 people. When food, drink and torn up sheets are ready to go, it's wonderful to see how quickly community forms. Several families even took their rugs to work on at home.

In a few weeks time, the three rugs will be brought to church on Sunday morning, where the congregation will pray for their safe journey to Leonora and for the people who will receive them. And then they'll be put in the post.

Christine is immensely grateful and humbled to be part of such a creative life-giving vision that has come from the Ngalia community. She is thankful that her family, friends and Springvale UC community caught the enthusiasm and added their own time and energy to make a contribution to the project..

*Christine MacDowall & Sarah Manase*

*For more details visit [reclaimthevoid.com.au](http://reclaimthevoid.com.au)  
Follow them on Facebook or Instagram or call  
their contact number 0439 039 833.*



Springvale UC 's three circular rag-rugs heading to Ngalia Indigenous Community, near Leonora, WA

## UNITING AGEWELL CHAPLAINS BRING HOPE



*Chaplains from Uniting AgeWell, Rev Ann Simons and Trish Campbell, share their insights into what chaplaincy really means from their experiences.*

Throughout my life, I have heard about the presence of **Hope** and its importance. Sometimes you need to be at life's crossroads and lose it all, to understand the depth of meaning in such a small word.

Many years ago, the acronym of Holding Onto Promises Eternal took on a greater significance when I became the primary care-giver for my mum. and later when I began working in residential aged care.

We sit with, hold space for and hear other peoples' experiences. Providing an environment where the light of hope can flourish, sometimes in the face of challenge and adversity, is a situation where all of us are in familiar territory.

The loss of hope is often faced by people when they can no longer continue living at home and enter residential aged care. Everything in their lives may seem to be in flux or change, and understandably, huge emotional shifts occur.

Hope develops through the building of connection and developing the required trust. This can only be achieved through a combination of 1:1 connection and building friendship groups based on an individual's interests. Hope slowly builds as connections are developed and strengthened.

Being part of a collective community takes time. Maintaining, cementing and encouraging an existing faith connection all aids in this process

*Trish Campbell*

*Chaplaincy, Uniting AgeWell Andrew Kerr Care*







The role of Interim Chaplain at Uniting AgeWell was created to assist with filling vacancies that arise when resident Chaplains go on leave or when there is a gap between vacancies. Over the past two and a half years, I have provided pastoral care to residents and staff at three residential care communities at Box Hill, Forest Hill and now at Noble Park.

The weekly Church Service is a main focus. This is as interactive as possible and adapted to be meaningful to residents living with varying physical and cognitive abilities. Music, singing and recently introduced meditation elements in the service, form a highlight for all.

Every week when I go to Mary's\* room to invite her to worship she asks me the same question. "Who are you? Where are we going?" Nevertheless, when the service gets going she sings with gusto and shares stories and choruses that relate to the weekly Bible reading.

Residents participate by doing Bible readings and, on occasion, will pay tribute during a service to a recently deceased friend. Family members are invited and attend on special occasions such as Mother's Day and ANZAC Day Commemoration services.

A weekly time is designated to residents who gather to pray the Rosary. In addition, residents from other faiths are encouraged to share stories from their traditions.

Pastoral and spiritual care takes the form of gentle listening and being present and visible until residents and staff feel safe enough to share their concerns and joys.

Table fellowship is a highlight. The chaplain participates in the many occasions where delicious food from different cultures is shared and stories told. This is a time of Holy Communion for all.

Sadly, dealing with death and dying is a given in this role. Pastoral and spiritual care for residents, staff and family members forms a significant part of the ministry; one of privilege.

At all times, I see the role as that of holding and offering sacred space in a busy caring environment.

*Rev Ann Simons,  
Minister at Hampton UC & Uniting AgeWell Interim  
Chaplain*

**"Cure sometimes, treat often, comfort always."  
(Hippocrates)**

*\*not real name*



# A NEW BEGINNING CHARMAN UNITING CHURCH

*On Sunday, 9th July Tom Spurling, Rev Anneke Oppewal, and Pastor David and Val Higham attended morning worship at Black Rock UC to officially bless the merger, (or “Marriage”) of two churches: St Andrew’s by the Sea, Black Rock Uniting Church and Cheltenham/Mentone Uniting Church. A new congregation was formed, for the time being known as “Charman Uniting Church”. Di Paterson describes the “courtship.”*

Two plus years ago Cheltenham/Mentone UC came to join us at St Andrews Black Rock UC for just 6 months while their Church was being renovated. Two years later we had grown together as the people of God worshipping at Black Rock. After a time of discussion and prayer, Black Rock decided to merge with Cheltenham/Mentone, but you can’t have a “Marriage” unless both parties say “I do!”

Cheltenham/Mentone were delighted to merge, so we became engaged and began preparations for the “wedding,” which was held on 9th July, 2023 at Black Rock.

Tom Spurling, Chairperson of the Presbytery, led the service of Recognition of a new Congregation. There were several declarations of “I do.” The congregations, Church Council members, Rev Greg Fry and Pastor Di Paterson all declared their commitment to moving forward together, followed by a blessing, the formal announcement and thunderous applause. We then shared in Holy Communion as one Congregation - in the interim called Charman Uniting Church.

After the service we all enjoyed the celebratory lunch with soup, sandwiches, party pies and sausage rolls, accompanied by a slice of the beautiful “Wedding Cake!” It was a time of wonderful fellowship, and it was a joy to have the longest serving members from each congregation cut the cake. We will continue to worship at Black Rock until our building has been renovated, then it will be a new beginning for us all as we join together as the “Charman Uniting Church”.

*Di Paterson  
Pastor, “Charman Uniting Church”*



Rev Greg Fry and Pastor Di Patterson say “I do!” to forming a new congregation, Charman Uniting Church.



Church Council say “I do!”



Sally and Margaret cut the “Wedding Cake!”





# KCM CELEBRATE 50th ANNIVERSARY

*The Korean Church of Melbourne was founded in July 8th 1973, and was the first migrant congregation established in Australia for Korean immigrants. Today it is the largest Korean church in Melbourne with more than 600 adult members, and Sunday schools that continue to grow in numbers. KCM celebrated their 50th anniversary in their three worship services on Sunday 2nd July, and at Homecoming Day on Saturday, 29th July.*

On Sunday 2nd July, Rev Anneke Oppewal together with Presbytery chairperson, Tom Spurling, were privileged to be among the more than 300 people who joined in one of the three services to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Korean Church of Melbourne (KCM). Two weeks later, Homecoming Day was celebrated on Saturday, 29th July. This was a special occasion to honour God's grace, and to welcome back home those who have been part of KCM's journey.

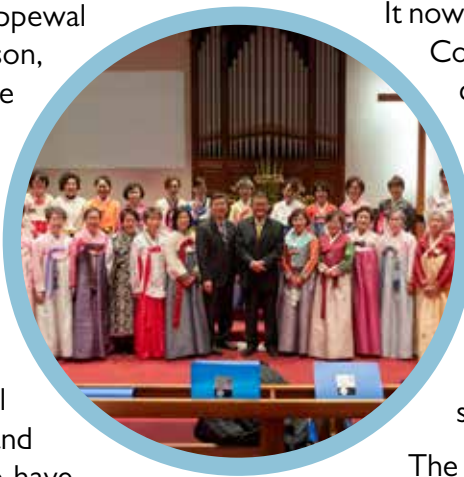
The 50th anniversary celebrations on 2nd July were the culmination of three days of Bible studies with Rev Jim Bob Park at a Bible Conference Movement event hosted by KCM. Rev Park is the Vice-President of Compassion Korea, a Christian, non-denominational organisation that began as a project to meet the needs of children in post-war Korea.

It now has offices in 14 countries, supporting Compassion Children's Centers in 29 countries around the world.

Bible Conference Movement events are an important way in which Koreans gather to hear speakers sharing the Bible. Many people from the Melbourne Korean community attended the meetings on 30th June, 1st July and the three services on 2nd July.

The services on Sunday were conducted by Rev Han Song, with guest preacher Rev Jim Bob Park giving the final sermon of his Bible study series. Each of the three services had their own flavour, but reflected the way in which KCM continues to be a thriving church.

The I I am service was followed by a substantial lunch cooked on site, with our Presbytery Secretary, Anne Kim, expertly directing operations!



For more details visit KCM's website [melhans.org](http://melhans.org) or Facebook pages: English ministry: [facebook.com/cornerstoneministrymelbourne](https://facebook.com/cornerstoneministrymelbourne) and main Korean page: [facebook.com/melhans](https://facebook.com/melhans)



# CHRISTIANITY & CULTURE FORUM



*On Saturday 22nd July, St Luke's and Mount Waverley Uniting Churches hosted a free forum on 'Christianity and Culture', with Uniting Church leaders sharing about the effects in the past and on the present of the history of Christianity in four different countries. The meeting concluded with a summary from Presbytery minister, Rev Anneke Oppenwal.*

Fijians warmly welcomed colonialism rather than resisting it. Eseta explained: 'The Fijians didn't fight against colonialism, because the missionaries were there and Christianity was established'.

When Christian missionaries arrived in Fiji, they had to be very careful not to antagonise the locals, because cannibalism was still practised, and they could have suffered severe consequences if they acted inappropriately.



Rev Eseta Meneilly

Of the four countries, **Fiji** gave Christianity its warmest welcome. Rev Eseta Waqabaca-Meneilly, a retired Uniting Church minister who came from Fiji, gave three reasons for this.

Methodist missionaries first arrived in Fiji in 1835 where most of the tribes had a polytheistic faith that quite easily accommodated a new God.



Rev Devandan Anadarajan

The history of Christianity in **Sri Lanka** has been marred by mistrust and violence, Rev Dev Anandarajan, currently Intercultural Leadership Development Coordinator for VicTas synod stated.

Christian missionaries were seen by the indigenous Sri Lankans, especially the Hindus and Buddhists, as hand in hand with the Portuguese, Dutch, and British colonisers.

In addition, Hindus and Buddhists resented the lack of genuine dialogue. As Dev said, their complaint was 'when the missionaries came they never sat down and spoke to us, they never listened to us, they never understood us. They came as though they had the whole truth.'



Pastor Daniel Sihombing

Daniel Sihombing, grew up in **Indonesia**, which is composed of many different peoples, the majority of whom are Muslim. He explained that the variety of ways Christianity finds expression in Indonesia today is an outcome of how Western missionaries evangelized when they came to Indonesia.



Members of the Namaka Methodist Church in Fiji take part in a Resurrection Day March







Worshippers at an Evangelical Church in Indonesia

Traditional Protestants came to local ethnic groups, so the many different cultural groups in Indonesia have their own churches.

American evangelical groups are often based around universities, whereas Pentecostal groups are based in rural areas, won over by the performance of miracles and exorcisms.

Mega-churches in big cities are often focussed on the religious leader, with leadership passing on to their son or daughter when they retire.

In contrast to Indonesia, **South Korea** has a very homogeneous population. The current population of the country is 52 million, with 98% being ethnic Koreans and only 2% coming from other countries.



Rev Robin Yang

The growth of Christianity in Korea was gradual prior to the Korean War in 1950-53, but grew very rapidly once the war ended. As Rev Robin Yang explained: 'Christianity offered community, strength and hope, in a time of hopelessness, struggle and poverty.'



However, the past two decades have seen this growth stall, reflecting a growing disillusionment with Christianity in Korea.



Rev Anneke Oppewal

Reflecting on Christianity in today's **Australian** context, Robin asked: 'How does the institution of the Church transform to become a place of engagement, welcome, and true belonging for young people?'

The solution cannot be found in plans or strategies. Rather, Robin argues, 'we have to recognise that we have a spiritual issue. It's a question of how we trust and respond to God'.

Examples of the consequences of this lack of confidence are that the power of the Holy Spirit to bring about miracles, transformation and renewal is in doubt; Christianity is reduced to 'head knowledge' rather than faithful action; and finally, there is too great an emphasis of the role of the ordained clergy, at the expense of lay people, in the exercise of ministry and mission. In her summary reflections on the forum, Rev Anneke Oppewal described the importance of religious diversity. Religion does not have to be a source of conflict. She spoke of differences of culture and religion as 'different ways in which God brings the Gospel, and His own presence, into the world in a positive way. We can view Christianity's diversity as a gift.'

Of course, there are moral constraints to the diversity that we can accept as Christians. Persecution, genocide, and violence such as stoning and mutilation should never be accepted as merely parts of the diversity of life.

On the whole, cultural and religious diversity can be seen as a positive sign of God's presence in the world - not something to be feared but something to be celebrated.

The four talks painted a picture of immense diversity both within and between cultures. On behalf of the Adult Growth and Development group I would like to thank all four speakers for their enlightening, thought-provoking presentations.

*John McKie*

*Adult Growth and Development Group, Mt Waverley Cluster*



# THE SYNOD SCOOP

*Want to know more about what is happening at our Synod? Let us take a deeper look into what training they are offering congregations to govern better, what resources we can use in intergenerational worship, and explaining more how we can all have a say in the future shape of the UCA about the Act2 project.*

## ONLINE GOVERNANCE TRAINING VIDEOS

New South Wales and ACT Synod, and Sydney Presbytery have launched a series of online governance training videos for congregations and other church leaders. Good governance is an important part of overseeing the worship, witness and service of our congregations.

The videos offer training in good governance practices and expectations in the UCA. They are aimed at members of church councils and other leaders in the church. You can watch them individually, but they are best viewed by whole church councils, committees or leadership groups. They will prompt questions and reflection on the work of running the church, and will help you in the important role you play in the life of the church.

[Click here](#) to watch the videos.

## INTERGENERATIONAL WORSHIP IDEAS

Synod has many resources for you to try new ways of worshipping intergenerationally; to listen and be challenged in your faith and mission. [Check out the Intergenerational Resource Archive](#)

Or visit our Vic/Tas Synod Website at [victas.uca.org.au/weekly-worship/](http://victas.uca.org.au/weekly-worship/)

## ACT2 LIVE Q&A EVENT 10th AUGUST

The latest report from the Act2 Project, *Act2: In Response to God's Call*, is now available. This is the project generating discussion and plans around the future shape of the UCA.

You are encouraged to respond to the intensive engagement phase running until the end of November. The project team is asking us, whether an individual, council or group of interested members, to respond to the report. The [FULL REPORT](#) is available from the Act2uca website, where you can [CONTACT](#) the Act2 team about the report, make a submission, find Zoom sessions to join, or ask a question.

Of note to many of us is the last section of the report itemising a set of 4 different options for the future governance and resourcing of the UCA. It describes options as to how the 'conciliar arrangements' of the church might change to respond to the current and future needs of the UCA at all levels.

As part of the church's engagement with the ideas in the report, President Rev Sharon Hollis and Act2 Project Lead Andrew Johnson will be going live on Facebook to respond to questions. To submit a question you can post in the [Facebook event](#), use the 'Submit a Question' button, [contact UCA Assembly](#) or simply jump on live and post in the comments. Find the stream on the Uniting Church in Australia page on Thursday 10 August at 11am AEST (10:30am ACST and 9am AWST).



# RUNNING THE RACE

*The following article appeared in the General Secretary's Newsletter and I thought to myself, "What an achievement, what an accomplishment!" Nigel's Marathon demonstrates achieving even more than you thought possible when you believe "You Can Do Anything." This story by Rev Nigel Hanscamp, one of the directors at eLM, illustrates Paul's metaphor in Hebrews 12:3 where he talks of running the race, not growing weary and not losing heart.*

London Marathon. 18 April, 2023. The day began early, cold and crowded as we bustled onto a bus at our hotel. The bus wove its way south and east to Greenwich, the staging post for the three start lines, each precisely measured to the required 42.195 km for the expected 50,000 runners.

Drizzle started as we watched the elite runners take off. The drizzle became rain just after we started a bit later. It was another 15 mins before we were warm enough to discard some gloves and a beanie. Despite the rain, people gathered on the side of the road - first in small family groups (mum or dad and kids), and then increasingly mobs clustered around cafes, pubs, train stations. By the time we ran past the Cutty Sark at around 15km, the crowds were constant, 3 to 5 people deep - and loud!.

The second half of London Marathon has three big party zones: the Rainbow Mile, with drag queens at full voice on a stage; Rasta central, where the person with dreadlocks running in front of me got a VERY loud cheer; and the band singing "YMCA" - with runners doing the actions to the chorus.

Was that an old injury flaring up? The race is a constant dance of problem solving and decision making: staying warm, but not too hot; toilet stops or hold on; pot holes full of rainwater that seemingly appear from nowhere, but always just where we are about to step. Slowing down to what feels like a crawl is not unusual at around 30km in a marathon. You look at another runner who is also grimacing. You laugh together.

Passing Buckingham palace into the final stretch up the Mall and the crowds are willing us to finish. You know there's a camera there somewhere, so you force a smile from the grimace, and feel the rush of last 200m.

Crossing the finish line has a familiar feeling that never gets old: the deep emotion of having finished (with a tear or three), the sore hips and legs, heaving lungs, and staggering lurch towards something or someone that might keep you upright.

And with a deeply, satisfied YES! The London marathon was finished. 4hrs and 17-something minutes – not my best, but enough for today.

Rev Nigel Hanscamp,

Director - Priorities, Focus and Advocacy  
Equipping Leadership for Mission eLM



# JOIN SYNOD 2023

VicTas Synod 2023 will be held from November 18-21 at Box Hill Town Hall.

The Synod meets approximately every 18 months to receive reports, discern proposals, and discuss matters that concern the general oversight, direction and life of the Uniting Church in Victoria and Tasmania.

Those attending the Synod meeting are nominated representatives from all eight presbyteries. The program includes a Tributes Service, which honours ministers who, since the previous Synod meeting, have:

- been ordained, retired or been received from other denominations since the preceding Synod meeting (2021).
- celebrated 50, 60, 65 and 70 years since ordination or commissioning.

The meeting will also be live-streamed and most of the sessions recorded including the Opening Worship on the morning of November 18.

## WHAT IS SYNOD?

Synod meetings are important in defining who we are as the Uniting Church in Victoria and Tasmania. They are sometimes faced with challenging matters and important decisions, including discerning who will be our next Moderator-elect. Such decisions are best made when we gather together to discern God's direction for our Church, and listen to the varied voices that make up our Synod.

## SPECIAL GUESTS

**Brooke Prentis** - Aboriginal Christian Leader, international speaker, writer, educator, and poet will preach during the Opening Worship.

**Rev Associate Professor Robyn Whitaker** - Senior Lecturer in New Testament, Pilgrim Theological College, will lead the Bible Studies.

## YOU ARE INVITED!

If you would like to be a member and attend, speak to your minister and/or contact Anne Kim for details on how to nominate. Any confirmed member of the UCA can nominate as a Synod member.



**WE BELONG  
TO THE DAY**

Synod  
**2023**



**David Fotheringham**



**Brooke Prentis**



**Robyn Whitaker**



# WHY GO TO SYNOD?

## LET'S HEAR FROM PAST MEMBERS

### REV DEACON ANDREA MAYES, Heatherton - Dingley UC

Synod is a time where we come together as a community to make important decisions. We learn to appreciate the diversity of our church as we listen carefully to each area and many different opinions. I always learn something useful, make new friends and deepen existing relationships. I think the most important thing about Synod for me is that it represents everyone. There are people of all ages and genders who attend. There are people who are new to the Uniting Church as well as people who have been in the Uniting Church all their lives. This means it is representative. I'm from the land of the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin Nation



### CONTACT SYNOD LOGISTICS COORDINATOR AT VIC/TAS SYNOD

For further details relating to our Vic/Tas Synod Meeting please contact, Sarah Manase, Synod Logistics Coordinator at [Sarah.Manase@victas.uca.org.au](mailto:Sarah.Manase@victas.uca.org.au)

Want to know more about what to expect at a Synod meeting? Take a quick look at our [online information booklet](#)

Want to share a flyer about Synod to your congregation, these can be printed from our Synod Website or [click here to download](#) or feel free to contact Sarah Manase for more.



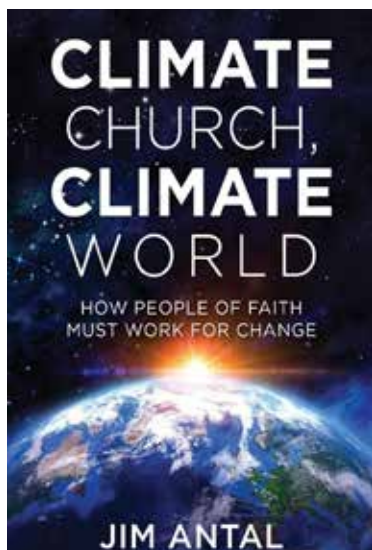
### BARBARA SHYING, Church Member "Charman Uniting Church"

The experience of Synod is inspirational and often leads me to new ways of thinking. Devotions, Bible study and keynote speakers often challenge me. The opportunity to meet new people from urban, rural and interstate spaces is very special. To see consensus in action, where opinions can be freely given within strict guidelines, is a lesson in democracy. Coloured cards express people's responses to questions and ideas. I feel privileged to hear summaries of the proceedings at the end of each day which are thoughtful and insightful. The land on which I sit is the lands of the Bunwurrong people of the Kulin Nation.



## BOOK REVIEW: CLIMATE CHURCH, CLIMATE WORLD- HOW PEOPLE OF FAITH MUST WORK FOR CHANGE

*Vivienne Mountain one of the members of the PPE Climate Action Network and a member of St Leonard's Uniting, Brighton reviews another book for us, Climate Church Climate World - How People of Faith Must Work for Change by Jim Antal, published in 2018*



This book should be read by those wanting to honour God's good creation, and to act responsibly in the face of the effects of climate change on our world.

While Antal is best known as a denominational leader for the United Church of Christ USA, and as an activist, and public theologian, he was recently honoured with the Award for Peace and Justice by the Yale Divinity School. He was recognised for his life-long advocacy for nuclear disarmament, racial justice, Middle East peace, and climate change activism.

In this book, he proposes that the further directives from science and the new developments of technology are insufficient to get us out of the present climate crisis. Antal's words resonate with my own concern and understanding: 'We are in a world wide moral crisis'. There is need for a spiritual, religious, and cultural awakening, so that we take our climate situation seriously.

Antal sees this as a 'theological emergency' for the church, with a new calling for faith and vision, to speak out and take action. We are called to truth. The world has changed.

Antal refers to Walter Brueggemann's understanding of the ancient prophets Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Isaiah. Brueggemann sees these passages in scripture as a call for 'Prophetic Imagination'. In the face of Jewish displacement and suffering, there was need to let go of the world that was known, and to be open to receive from God a new world (Isaiah 43:18-19). In a similar way the people of God today need a new vision and confidence to let go of expectations from our old world and move forward.

The scope of Antal's concerns can be seen in the chapter headings:

- The earth is the Lord's, not ours to wreck
- Taking responsibility – the Anthropocene
- What's at stake? How urgent is the crisis?
- Confronting the end of continuity
- Embracing moral interdependence
- Global warming intensifies all forms of injustice
- Collaboration in place of consumption
- Vision in place of convenience
- What is witnessing?
- Society based on the 'common good'
- Youth cannot be ignored
- Expressing grief- a precondition of hope
- Spiritual practices for cultivating hope

Antal presents three moral imperatives: to have courage to face and witness to the truth; for clergy to preach on the climate emergency; and for us all to take action. In the words of Mahatma Gandhi, we are to 'be the change we long to see'. This means living out the golden rule, to 'love our neighbour as we love ourselves'. That is, to move beyond a focus on personal salvation into collective salvation. Recognising again our calling to take the way of Jesus, the way of reconciliation to God, to our neighbours and to God's precious creation, our common home.

*Please feel free to contact Vivienne if you have any questions about borrowing this book or others from her collection around climate change.*

**M: 0438 19 0438**

**E: [mountainvivienne@gmail.com](mailto:mountainvivienne@gmail.com)**





## WINTER CONCERT AT BEAUMARIS UC

*On 30th July, Beaumaris Uniting Church hosted a "Winter Concert," featuring musical performances by Anton Pokryshevsky and his extremely talented friends and family. Anton was the congregation's pianist for several years before taking up a scholarship in Boston, USA. While the event raised funds to support Anton during his studies, it also enabled the local Ukrainian Community to celebrate one of their favourite sons.*

The promise of incredible music featuring exceptional young musicians was delivered in spades on the afternoon of July 30th when Beaumaris pianist Anton Pokryshevsky, performed at a concert that will never be forgotten. But he was not on his own; it was truly a family affair.

Jazz singer and cousin Michelle Iskhakbaev was accompanied by Anton, as was his friend clarinetist Gabriel Basman. They both performed their own original compositions as well as popular tunes.

Anton's father Alex, a soloist opera singer with Opera Australia, Victoria Opera and Melbourne Opera led the audience in several Ukrainian folk songs and the favourite 'If I were a Rich Man' from 'Fiddler in the Roof'.

The \$3600 which was donated by the grateful and adoring audience of over 250 will support Anton when he returns to Boston to continue his studies at the prestigious Berklee College on Music. He is majoring in Film Scoring and Composition.

Anton's humility and gratitude shone through as much as his skill and talent as he thanked everyone for their support and generosity.

It was truly an ecumenical gathering with friends from St Michael's All Souls, St Leonard's College and St Agnes Anglican churches amongst others. Members of the long-suffering Ukrainian community were well represented, coming to support one of their favourite sons.

Anton performed some of his own brilliant and beautiful compositions, and accompanied Michelle, Gabi and his father during the 75-minute concert.

They all won our hearts and our unanimous acclaim. It was wonderful to witness first-hand the support offered to Anton and his talented family by the Ukrainian community even in these difficult days for them all.

We all agreed that we will be hearing much more from this young man in the years ahead in the musical worlds of jazz, film scoring and composition.

None of this would have happened were it not for the passion, energy and organisation of Church councillor Wendy Hinde. We are also grateful for the commitment and energy of all those who helped on the afternoon of the Concert and the evening before setting up the church.

Well done to all, including those who provided the yummy afternoon tea.

It was a very special afternoon in support of a very special young man and community.

*Nick Toovey, Chair of Beaumaris UC Council*

Anton with family & friends



## RETIREMENT OF REV LINGKY WIDODO FROM THE NEWSBEAT EDITOR



On Sunday, 16 July, the Indonesian congregation at Caulfield celebrated Minister Lingky Widodo's 12 years in placement with the Church. As Lingky retires both he and the congregation are entering into a period of transition. In his final sermon Lingky reflected on the generosity and care of the congregation in practising hospitality and sharing the gospel with people of Indonesian descent. Presbytery Minister Anneke Oppewal conducted the releasing of ties liturgy as part of morning worship.

## GODLY PLAY TRAINING

*In Godly play children learn who God is.*

Godly Play Australia is running their 3 Day core training intensive from 5th September at St Leonards College, Brighton East. Godly Play is a well-regarded way of sharing the Biblical narrative with all ages through listening, wondering and responding.

The intensive is open to lay and ordained people, and provides a pedagogical and theological framework for thinking about and nurturing the spirituality of children. It will meet the requirements of professional development for those in relevant industries, and will be an immersive experience of reflection, developing skills, and sharing resources and ideas.

More information can be found at [godlyplay.com.au/training/melbourne-core-training-2023/](https://godlyplay.com.au/training/melbourne-core-training-2023/) or email Judith Watkins, [judith.watkins@stleonards.vic.edu.au](mailto:judith.watkins@stleonards.vic.edu.au)



For those of you that haven't met me, this is what I looks like! I love a chat, and am open to any stories or testimonies you or your congregation would like to share with the rest of the Presbytery. I work for PPEP on Thursdays, so feel free to contact me then.

Thank you for all your stories, and articles about events, workshops, and testimonies that have been happening around the Presbytery. It is much appreciated.

**This is important!!** If you have photos you want to appear in Newsbeat, please send them as jpgs. Don't send them as part of a Word or pdf document. Send them as separate attachments with an email. If you can't do this, please give me a call and I'll arrange another way for you to deliver them to me.

I will be away from 25 August to 5 September, so unfortunately this will mean our September Newsbeat edition will be delayed until mid-September. However, this doesn't mean you have longer to get your stories, notices and photos to me. It would be appreciated if you submit them by 24 August.

As communications officer, I am also involved with the social media content for the Presbytery. So, if you'd like to contribute to Newsbeat, the Presbytery Website, Facebook page or weekly emails please send them to my email [comms-officer@ucappep.org](mailto:comms-officer@ucappep.org)

*Communications Officer, Sarah Manase.*





# DIARY DATES

## **Creative Spiritual Practice – Endeavour Hills UC**

Thursdays 7-9pm

Hosting Cothumos spiritual art journalling

Further info [cothumos@gmail.com](mailto:cothumos@gmail.com)

## **Mission Meals Project**

Thursdays 5.30 - 7pm

St Kilda South Port, 325 Dorcas St, Sth Melb.

Contact Rev Alex Sangster 0411 292 273

## **Transition into Chaplaincy**

Wed 9 Aug & Thurs 10 Aug 5.30 - 7pm,

9.30am - 4pm at CTM

\$60 (includes morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea each day)

Contact Rev Lauren Mosso, Synod

Chaplaincy Coordinator on 0400 569 330.

## **Safe Church Training**

Sunday 13th of August at 11.30 am.

Murrumbena Uniting Church with Rev Jay

Robinson will facilitate the session

## **Presbytery in Council meeting**

Sat 19 August, Glen Waverley Uniting Church

Further details are to come via email

## **Who Will Join Us for Lunch - PPE Ministers**

Tuesday 29 August at 11.30am-2.30pm

Port Phillip East Presbytery Office

1 Allan St, Noble Park

## **The Food Truck Cabaret Night**

Sat 14 October at 7pm

Balla Balla Community Centre

7-9 Selandra Blvd, Clyde North

\$20 per ticket or email

[thefoodtruck00@gmail.com](mailto:thefoodtruck00@gmail.com) for further info.

## **One Day Retreat for Ministry Agents**

Thursday 26 October

The Balnarring Uniting Church

More details to come!

## **PreachFest**

1-3 November, 2023

Further details go to [PreachFest website](https://www.preachfest.org.au)

## **Vic/Tas Synod Meeting**

18-21 November, 2023

Box Hill Town Hall, 1022 Whitehorse Road

Contact Synod Logistics Coordinator Sarah

Manase [sarah.manase@victas.uca.org.au](mailto:sarah.manase@victas.uca.org.au)

# CASEY CARDINIA EMAIL UPDATE

The Casey Cardinia Regional Mission project is taking shape. If anyone in your congregation is interested in keeping up to date with the latest news on the Casey Cardinia Regional Project, subscribe to our email list using the QR code or [clicking on this link](#). For further details, contact Rev Robin Yang.



## Uniting in Prayer August

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.

<b>August 6</b>	Monash congregation - Rev Eun-Duk (David) Kim (Supply), Chair Catherine Altmann Mulgrave congregation - Rev Kharis Abadani, Chair Kaye Corsham
<b>August 13</b>	Mt Martha congregation - Rev Peter Wiltshire, Chair John Hennekam
<b>August 20</b>	Uniting Mission Directors & Ethos Partner - Rev John Clarke, Director of Mission; Cheryl Lawrie, Mission & Ethos Partner Uniting - Ms Bronwyn Pike, CEO; Ms Silvia Alberti, Executive General Manager-Operations
<b>August 27</b>	Mt Waverley congregation - Rev Semisi Tauli'i, Pastor Cathryn Peppiatt, Chair Colin Adam St Luke's Mt Waverley congregation - Rev James Douglas, Chair Eunice Magee





**WE BELONG  
TO THE DAY**

1 Thessalonians 5:8

Synod  
**2023**

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Expressions of interest are being sought from people interested in volunteering for Synod 2023, November 18-21 at Box Hill Town Hall. Duties might include assisting members in and out of the building, to navigate the meeting app log ins, providing directions and answering questions, helping set up the Hall, or helping with admin. We're looking for people who are over 18, are COVID-vaccinated, hold a Working With Children Check, have good attention to detail, great people-skills and plenty of enthusiasm, patience and understanding.

If this sounds like you, put your hand up and send an email to **Sarah Manase** at [sarah.manase@victas.uca.org.au](mailto:sarah.manase@victas.uca.org.au) by **September 29**.



**Uniting Church in Australia**  
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA



## A Prayer: May we dream

*May we dream of a  
world made new,  
Where together we  
shout for justice,  
And as one we fight  
against oppression.  
May we dream of a  
world made new,  
Where together  
we seek God's  
righteousness  
And as one we sing  
God's praise.  
May we dream of a  
world made new,  
Where together we  
climb God's mountain,*

*And as one we  
enter the promised  
land.  
May we dream of a  
world made new,  
Where together we  
proclaim the good  
news  
of God's kingdom,  
And as one we  
enjoy its peace, and  
abundance and love.*

Prayer supplied by from  
[godspacelight.com](http://godspacelight.com)



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



03 9558 4710



[www.facebook.com/ucappep.org](https://www.facebook.com/ucappep.org)



[www.ucappep.org](http://www.ucappep.org)



PO Box 696, Noble Park, VIC 3174

Email [secretary@ucappep.org](mailto:secretary@ucappep.org)

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

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