



## Ballarat Central Uniting Church

A Parish Mission of the Uniting Church in Australia

### Mission Statement

To share in the mission of God,  
Worshipping God, whom we know in Jesus Christ  
Nurturing one another in faith,  
That we might embody God's love for **all** people

23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020.

Dear members and friends of Ballarat Central Uniting Church,

*Jesus final words recorded in Matthew's Gospel:*

***"And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*** (Matthew 28:20)

We are in exceptional times and unparallel territory, as we are impacted by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The church leaders continue to remember everyone in prayer and thought especially those who are most vulnerable. There are also significant decisions being made in a short timeframe about how to respond and maintain our roles as a congregation. We will continue to make those significant decisions as things are unfolding. Over the last days and weeks, we have received frequent updates and are heeding advice from Federal and State Governments and recognised expert public health authorities, as to how to minimise the spread of the virus. Our focus as a congregation is on the continuing holistic wellbeing of our church members and friends. We have received valued guidance from Synod and Presbytery leaders as to how we can apply this trusted advice in our congregational contexts, along with some resources to assist us along the way. Now in Victoria, we are on Stage 1 shutdown which includes pubs, clubs, nightclubs, Crown Casino, and licensed venues in hotels and pubs. It also includes gyms, indoor sporting venues, places of worship, cinemas and entertainment venues.

The Church Council had planned their regular meeting for Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March but it is now postponed to another date with a different way of meeting. The Council has authorized the Executive and Finance Committee to make church decisions until the Council next meets.

The Church Council Executive has postponed all church worship and activities until further notice and has arranged and will experiment with other ways of worship, education and remaining connected with each other as a community.

Here are some of the ways that we have arranged and will be experimenting with:

Church Pastoral Carers will be allocated a few members (as Carees) to be regularly connected by phone, email, facebook etc. We need more Pastoral Carers who can contact/connect with few church members regularly via phone, email or facebook.

---

Minister: Rev. Lauleti Tu'inauvai

Phone: (03) 5331 7882 ~ Mobile: 0413 115 711 ~ E: [lauletitui@gmail.com](mailto:lauletitui@gmail.com)

Please contact Rod Devenish or myself for more information about this special ministry. *(We need your email address, if you have one, so we can contact and update you with church matters. Please send your email address via your Pastoral Carer or Sabine Handreck, the Office Admin person - [admin@bcuc.org.au](mailto:admin@bcuc.org.au) or myself – [lauletitui@gmail.com](mailto:lauletitui@gmail.com).*

Livestreaming our weekly Sunday worship service at 10 a.m. We will start with audio livestream (sound only) and upgrade to video livestream (sound and picture) in due course. *(Please check the link for the live streaming on our Web page).*

Updating regularly our church website (and facebook page) with church information and continued sharing of joys, concerns and notices;

Setting up a church facebook page for improved and alternative communications amongst members especially our younger generation;

Holding meetings and other small group gatherings through teleconference, zoom, skype;

Inviting members to participate in “Spiritual Unity in Prayer” at 7 am and 7 pm daily, where we pray about Covid-19 and its impacts on all people.

Explore other ways of continuing to be the church/congregation during this Covid-19 pandemic.

The *Victorian Government Health and Human Services* and *Australian Government Health Department websites* remain our best sources of up-to-date information about covid-19. We urge you to keep checking for important updates as the advice will keep changing.

Remember - keep “good hygiene”, “self- isolation” and “social (physical) distancing”.

Please also check our church website - <https://bcuc.org.au/> and the church facebook page – *(which is under construction)* for updates on our church matters and notices.

If you have any questions or other concerns please contact Rod Devenish (Chairperson of Congregation, phone – 0428945721, email - [redevenish@bigpond.com](mailto:redevenish@bigpond.com)) or Adri Stickland (Chairperson Church Council, phone – 0407813146, email - [stickland@bigpond.com](mailto:stickland@bigpond.com)) or myself.

***“And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:7)***

Blessings to you all and take care.

***Rev Lauleti Tu’inauvai***

NB: Please pass on this message to other church members and friends.