



**BALLARAT CENTRAL  
UNITING CHURCH**  
“OPEN CHURCH”  
held each Thursday,  
10am—2pm

Space for Prayer ... Reflection/Contemplation  
... Conversation... Or just be yourself!  
For more info contact Rev Lauleti Tu'inauvai  
(0413115711) or Office (0491  
706 667).

“Special Time for Prayer”  
during Open Church at  
10.30am . Please join in  
prayers and/or request for prayers.



**Notice to Group leaders and  
congregation**

If you are the last person to  
leave Church premises, please  
ensure all heaters/airconditions  
and lights are  
turned **OFF** and  
check that **ALL**  
doors are locked.  
Thank you.



**Weekly Brown Hill Uniting  
Church  
Communion Services**

are held on Wednesdays at  
1.30pm.

We invite you to join at this  
combined Ballarat Central and  
Brown Hill Service.



The Uniting Church in Australia  
**Ballarat Central Congregation**

— a pilgrim people — on the way



**AUGUST/SEPTEMBER Notice Sheet**



**TO HOPE AND ACT  
WITH CREATION**

SEASON OF CREATION 2024

*The firstfruits of hope*  
(Rom 8:19-25)

**Season of Creation September 2024**

The theme for Season of Creation this year is To hope and act with Creation, and the symbol is The firstfruits of hope, inspired by Romans 8:19-25. The biblical image pictures the Earth as a Mother, groaning as in childbirth (Rom 8:22).

Saint Francis of Assisi understood this when he referred to the Earth as our sister and our mother in his Canticle of Creatures. The times we live in show that we are not relating to the Earth as a gift from our Creator, but rather as a resource to be used. “Creation is groaning” (Rom 8:22) because of our selfishness and our unsustainable actions that harm her. Along with our Sister, Mother Earth, creatures of all kinds, including humans, cry out because of our destructive actions causing climate crisis, loss of biodiversity, and human suffering as well as Creations’ suffering.

We hope that this Season of Creation renews and unites us by the one baptism and call to care for our common home.

Hope is an instrument enabling us to overcome the natural law of decay. Hope is given to us by God as a protection and guard against futility. Only through hope we may realize the gift of freedom in fullness. Freedom to act not only to achieve enjoyment and prosperity, but to reach the stage in which we are free and responsible. Freedom and responsibility enable us to make the world a better place. Only when we work together with Creation can the firstfruits of hope emerge.

**Contact Information**

**Ministers:** Rev Lauleti Tu'inauvai (Monday—Day off)  
In BCUC office: Thursday 10am-4pm

A: P.O. Box 700 Ballarat VIC 3353 P: 5331 7882

E: lauletitui@gmail.com M: 0413 115 711

**Admin &** Sabine Handreck H: Tuesday— Thursday 8.00am- 2.00pm

**Finance Officer:** A: P.O. Box 700 Ballarat VIC 3353

P: 0491 706 667 E: admin@bcuc.org.au W: bcuc.org.au

**Youth/** Andy Gault H: Weds—Thurs 9am-3pm, Friday 9am-12pm, 6.30-9.30pm

**Family Worker:** P: 0476 880 394 E: youth@bcuc.org.au

**Sudanese Services:** Services currently led by Nyalip Pal, please phone Nyalip for more information 0413 416 896

**Pastoral Assistant:** Ross Jones P: 0417 108 508



DATE	SERVICES & LEADERS	READINGS
<b>AUGUST 4</b> <b>PENTECOST 11</b>	10am <b>Communion Service</b> Rev. Lauleti Tu'inauvai 5pm Taize Service at Anglican Cathedral	2 Sam. 11:26 - 12:13a Psalm 51:1-12 Ephesians 4:1-16 John 6:24-35
<b>AUGUST 11</b> <b>PENTECOST 12</b> <i>Formal Welcome of new members to Ballarat Central UC</i>	10am Service Rev. Lauleti Tu'inauvai 2.30pm Sudanese Nur Service	2 Sam. 18:5-9, 15, 31-33 Psalm 130 Ephesians 4:25-5:2 John 6:35, 41-51
<b>AUGUST 18</b> <b>PENTECOST 13</b>	10am Service Rev. Lauleti Tu'inauvai	1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14 Psalm 111 Ephesians 5:15-20 John 6:51-58
<b>AUGUST 25</b> <b>PENTECOST 14</b>	10am Service Rev. Lauleti Tu'inauvai 2.30pm Sudanese Nur Service 5.00pm Evening Service	1 Kings 8:(1,6,10-11), 22-30, 41-43 Psalm 84 Ephesians 6:10-20 John 6:56-69
<b>SEPT 1</b> <b>SEASON OF CREATION</b> <i>Planet Earth Sunday</i>	10am <b>Communion Service</b> Rev. Lauleti Tu'inauvai 7pm Taize Service at Ballarat Central UC	Genesis 1:1-25 Psalm 33:1-9 Romans 1:18-23 John 1:1-14
<b>SEPT 8</b> <b>SEASON OF CREATION</b> <i>Humanity Sunday</i>	10am Service Rev. Lauleti Tu'inauvai 2.30pm Sudanese Nur Service	Genesis 1:26-28 Psalm 8 Philippians 2:1-8 Mark 10:41-45
<b>SEPT 15</b> <b>SEASON OF CREATION</b> <i>Sky Sunday</i>	10am Service Rev. Lauleti Tu'inauvai	Jeremiah 4:23-28 Psalm 19:1-6 Philippians 2:14-18 Mark 15:33-39
<b>SEPT 22</b> <b>SEASON OF CREATION</b> <i>Mountain Sunday</i>	10am Service Rev. Lauleti Tu'inauvai 2.30pm Sudanese Nur Service 5.00pm Evening Service	Isaiah 65:17-25 Psalm 48:1-11 Romans 8:28-39 Mark 16:14-18

## Information

### Spirituality in the Cinema

**Sunday 18th August at 4pm**

**"Finding your Feet"**  
After Sandra learns



about her husband's affair with her best friend, she escapes to her sister's house in London. Later, she meets a group of third agers who help her cope with the situation.

**Sunday 15th September at 4pm**  
**"Scoop"**

An insider account of how the women of "Newsnight" secured Prince Andrew's infamous 2019 interview about his friendship with convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.



Followed by Discussion & Light Refreshments .

If you are interested to know more, please speak with **Mary Hollick** or **Bron James**.

### BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Sunday 29th September at 10.00am

5th Sunday combined with Brown Hill Uniting Church.

*Followed by morning tea.*

**All Creatures Welcome!!**

*Please ensure small animals, fish, birds and reptiles are in cages and large animals are restrained.*

RSVP to Lauleti by text  
M: 0413 115 711  
by 22nd September



Join the Choir!

**Join the choir!**  
(Practice is in the Peart Wing during the cold months.)

Make a Sunday morning musical contribution. Compose or suggest a psalm setting or other music for the coming months. Questions? Ask Helen Duggan ([helenmd@activ8.net.au](mailto:helenmd@activ8.net.au))

**The Australian Boys Choir**  
**Saturday 3rd August 3.00pm—4.30pm at Ballarat Central Uniting Church**



**Concert: Mystical Songs**  
Saturday 3 August 2024  
3:00 – 4:30pm

Ballarat Central Uniting Church  
103 Lydiard Street South

Don't miss Australia's first and finest choir for boys and young men in this special performance. This concert will also feature The Vocal Consort, baritone Lachlan McDonald and organist Calvin Bowman.

Tickets: [www.trybooking.com/CPBKM](http://www.trybooking.com/CPBKM)  
[www.australianboyschoir.com.au](http://www.australianboyschoir.com.au)  
excellence in Ballarat

## Season of Creation



### TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION

SEASON OF CREATION 2024

*The firstfruits of hope*  
(Rom 8:19-25)

#### To hope and act with Creation

In the letter of Paul the apostle to the Romans, the biblical image pictures the Earth as a Mother, groaning as in childbirth (Rom 8:22). Francis of Assisi understood this when he referred to the Earth as our sister and our mother in his Canticle of Creatures. The times we live in show that we are not relating to the Earth as a gift from our Creator, but rather as a resource to be used.

And yet, there is hope and the expectation for a better future. To hope in a biblical context does not mean to stand still and quiet, but rather groaning, crying, and actively striving for new life amidst the struggles. Just as in childbirth, we go through a period of intense pain, but new life springs forth.

#### Season of Creation 2024 Prayer

Triune God, Creator of all, we praise you for your goodness, visible in all the diversity that you have created, making us a cosmic family living in a common home.

Through the Earth you created, we experience love and nourishment, home and protection. We confess that we do not relate to the Earth as a Mothering gift from you, our Creator. Our selfishness, greed, neglect, and abuse have caused the climate crisis, loss of biodiversity, human suffering as well as the suffering of all our fellow creatures.

We confess that we have failed to listen to the groans of the Earth, the groans of all creatures, and the groans of the Spirit of hope and justice that lives within us.

May your Creator Spirit help us in our weakness, so that we may know the redeeming power of Christ and the hope found in him. May the groans of the Spirit birth in us a willingness to serve you faithfully, so that we may hear and heal Creation, to hope and act together with her, so that the firstfruits of hope may blossom.

Loving and Creator God, we pray that you will make us sensitive to these groans and enable us to have the same compassion as that of Jesus, the redeeming Lord.

Grant us a fresh vision of our relationship with Earth, and with one another, as creatures that are made in your image.

In the name of the one who came to proclaim the good news to all Creation, Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

DATE	SERVICES & LEADERS	READINGS
<b>SEPT 29</b> <b>SEASON OF CREATION</b> <i>Blessing of the Animals</i>	10am Service Rev. Dr. Graeme Sutton <i>5th Sunday—Combined with Brown Hill UC</i>	Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22 Psalm 124 James 5:13-20 Mark 9:38-50
<b>OCTOBER 6</b> <b>PENTECOST 20</b>	10am <b>Communion Service</b> Rev. Lauleti Tu'inauvai 5pm Taize Service at Anglican Cathedral	Job 1:1 2:1-10 Psalm 26 Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12 Mark 10:2-16
<b>OCTOBER 13</b> <b>PENTECOST 21</b> <i>UCA Older Persons Sunday</i>	10am Service & Uniting Agewell Info & Q&A afterwards Rev. Lauleti Tu'inauvai 2.30pm Sudanese Nur Service	Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Psalm 22:1-15 Hebrews 4:12-16 Mark 10:17-31

#### 2024 OFFERINGS Weekly Budget - \$4000 per week

Offering	Weekly Offering	Year To Date	Budget to date
<b>30th June</b>	<b>\$4,625.60</b>	<b>\$115,379.12</b>	<b>\$104,000.00</b>
<b>7th July</b>	<b>\$4,758.05</b>	<b>\$120,137.17</b>	<b>\$108,000.00</b>
<b>14th July</b>	<b>\$2,949.00</b>	<b>\$123,086.17</b>	<b>\$112,000.00</b>
<b>21st July</b>	<b>\$3,770.45</b>	<b>\$126,856.62</b>	<b>\$116,000.00</b>
<b>28th July will be included in the October Notice Sheet</b>			

**Please note the Office will be unattended from**  
Tuesday 30th July to Tuesday 10th September.



**Ballarat Central UC Weekly Giving**  
**We invite you to be involved—either by** direct transfer to Bendigo Bank **BSB 633 000 Account 133779470**  
(enter "Pledge & your name; or speak to Eileen Devenish to be assigned a pledge number)

OR please post Cheques to Treasurer, BCUC, PO Box 700, Ballarat 3353.  
**Thank you for your Offerings.**

## Information



**Youth Group is meeting each Friday 7-9pm week.**



**(only during School term)**

Please contact Andy on 0476 880 394 for more information.

**The Friday group allows a safe space for our young people to come and have**

**fun and our youth space offers them an area they can call their own to relax in.**



**Uniting Threads Quilting Group**

Meets **Wednesdays** in the old Manse 11am – 3pm.

All materials and machines supplied - BYO lunch. New and experienced quilters are invited. Quilts made are for *thomeless through Uniting, WRISC and women and children coming from domestic violence.* Contact Eileen Devenish M: 0400 816 820.



*UNITING FRIENDS*

**(For people who live alone)**

The Uniting Friends' lunch will be held on **Sunday 4th**

**August and Sunday 1st September**

The location for each month will be listed on the notice sheet in the Peart Wing where those attending can write their names. For any queries contact Lesley Lyons or Janice Cook.

**INFORMATION UPDATE** - If your contact details have changed, please contact the Office or speak with one of the Elders, to update your records. Thank you.



**Drawing Breath** meets **EVERY SECOND FRIDAY** at 9am in the Peart Wing. Contact Andy Gault for dates.



**CIRCLE OF FRIENDS**

Meeting in the Peart Wing on the first Tuesday of the month. We're taking a short winter break & there will be no August meeting. Our next meeting:

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September.

"Two Treasures" -

Please bring along two treasures and their stories for sharing with others. All Welcome. 7.30 pm at the Peart Wing. Contact Rod Devenish for more info.

**Name badges**

Please see Helen Peart if you wish to purchase a BCUC name badge. Cost is \$10.

## Ballarat Central Activities



**RELAXATION & VISUALISATION**

**Thursday 1st August & Thursday 5th September**

10am—11am

wear comfortable clothes, bring a light covering. Held in the Vestry, For further information, speak with Bron James.



**Sunday 18th August and Sunday 15th September**

12pm at "Lake View"

Restaurant,

Wendouree Parade,

**RSVP Charlotte Withers**

**Lake Walking Group**

meeting 9.30am Wednesday at Pipers, Lake Wendouree. Coffee



drinkers welcome at 10.30am.

All welcome. Speak with Anita Hinton for more information.



**MEN'S BREAKFAST Meeting last Sunday of the month - Sunday 25th August and Sunday 29th**

**September at 8.00am**

Come and share food, fellowship & fun.

Cost \$5 for a cooked breakfast.

Contact Lauleti for further information.

4th Sunday of month

**SUNDAY**

5 PM SERVICE



**Next Services:  
25th August at 5pm  
22nd Sept at 5pm**

**Taize Service combined with the Anglican Cathedral, Lydiard St, 1st Sunday of the month.**

*Ballarat Central - every odd month at 7pm & Anglican Cathedral - every even month at 5pm.*



**SUNDAY 11th AUGUST 10am Service**

*We will be welcoming new Members to Ballarat Central UC during our morning Service.*

*We are pleased that you've made Ballarat Central your new Church community/home.*