



THE BCUN

BALLARAT CENTRAL UNITING NEWS



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A big thank you to all of the contributors who provided articles and photographs for this edition of BCUN. As always, they are very much appreciated. If you would like to contribute to BCUN in any way, please email me, Leanne Keem, at:

leanne.keem@gmail.com

Please note, items for the April/May edition of BCUN, to be published on Sunday, April 5, will be due on Sunday, March 29.

SERVICES

- * Every Sunday - 10am
- * 1st Sunday of the month -
- Taize service, 7pm-8pm
- * 2nd and 4th Sunday - Sudanese service, 2.30pm
- * 4th Sunday of the month - Family service, 5pm



All of the Advent Candles burn brightly for the last Sunday in 2025.

Photo: Ron Fleming

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands and waters in the Ballarat area, the Wathaurong People of the Kulin Nations. We pay our sincere respect to their Elders: past, present and emerging. The Uniting Church in Australia commits its members to walk together with compassion and justice as First and Second Peoples. We are committed to continue this stewardship and reconciliation.

Our Peace Pole has arrived

Many of you will have noticed the Peace Pole waiting patiently in the foyer of the Peart Wing for the big day on Sunday, 22nd March, when it will be unveiled in its permanent position, replacing one of the trees in front of the Manse.

Lauleti had already established a Peace Pole at his church in Nunawading and wanted us to have one here in Ballarat.

So finally, here it is!

The idea of a peace pole movement arose out of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki at the end of World War II. In 1955, Masahisa Goi had a simple message for the world — “May Peace Prevail on Earth”.

Today that message is still so very relevant to the world.

Our pole has this prayer written in English, Japanese and Tongan.

The Sudanese language has the Biblical verse “Blessed are the peacemakers” written in Nuer.

Two other quotes have been added: “Peace begins with a smile” (Mother Teresa) and “Where there is hatred let me sow love” (Francis of Assisi). We also acknowledge that this Peace Pole stands on the land belonging to the Wadawurrung people.

So, when you look at the pole, may you too, pray for peace.

— Bron James for the Social Justice Group



A letter to all from our Minister and Congregation Chairperson

Dear Friends,

We write to introduce our Stewardship Programme for 2026.

Some key dates: Sunday 15 Feb – Our Programme starts. Introduction during service.

Pancake Luncheon (Uniting Fund-raiser).

Sunday 15 March - Opportunity to offer our contributions

Sunday 22 March – Celebration Sunday (our programme ends)

Our theme, **Welcoming / Inclusive / Committed**, is derived from our Mission Statement 'Who we are'. We will explore what each of these three words might mean to our current and future ministry and mission.

To achieve our ministry and mission plans we need resources: people, finance and property. We ask you to reflect on your own gifts and talents and ask yourself what you can offer as contributor, and/or in leadership.

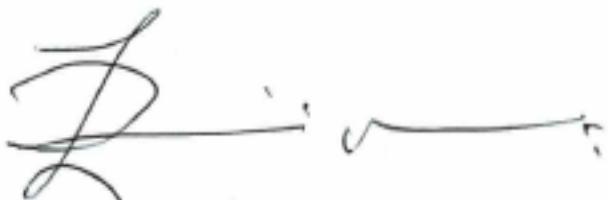
It is also timely that we all take the opportunity to think about our monetary contributions. During the course of our programme we will remind you of how we use our income in ministry and mission. Should we wish to engage in new ministry and mission additional resources may be required.

We have recently completed a major commitment to the maintenance of our property with the repair of gables and roof flashing. To be able to retain it as functional space to support our current and future ministry and mission we will need to continue to engage in ongoing maintenance and some upgrading in relation to building security and fire detection.

You will notice that our stewardship programme overlaps with the liturgical season of Lent, a time of thoughtful reflection, and therefore is a time fully appropriate for us to reflect on all the facets of stewardship.

"The Uniting Church affirms that every member of the Church is engaged to confess the faith of Christ crucified and to be his faithful servant. It acknowledges with thanksgiving that the one Spirit has endowed the members of Christ's Church with a diversity of gifts, and that there is no gift without its corresponding service: all ministries have a part in the ministry of Christ." (Basis of Union)

Yours in Christ,



Minister in Placement

Rev Lauleti Tu'inauvai



Congregation Chairperson

Adri Stickland



It is my hope and prayer as we embark on this New Year to encourage us to discern to re-dedicate our commitments and services for Christ, our Lord and Saviour, during this Seasons of Epiphany and Lent. We have been reminded in Jesus' own baptism and our own baptism that we are "beloved" and "well pleased" by God through Christ.

The Season of Epiphany (January 6 – February 15) is focussed on the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles. It is represented by the Magi (Matthew 2:1–12). It is the Christian festival commemorating the Epiphany and Jesus's baptism on 6 January. It is the manifestation of a divine and supernatural being. It is a moment of sudden and great revelation and realisation. It is a time of expecting special divine events with God's people as it happened with Jesus.

And in the Season of Lent (18th February to 4th April), is the Christian season of spiritual preparation before Easter. It begins on Ash Wednesday, 18th February. During Lent, Christians are encouraged to observe a period of

An invitation to re-dedicate our commitments, services for Christ!

fasting, repentance, moderation, self-denial, and spiritual discipline. The purpose of the Lenten season is to set aside time for reflection on Jesus Christ—to consider his suffering and his sacrifice, his life, death, burial, and resurrection. During the six weeks of self-examination and reflection in Lent, Christians who observe Lent usually commit to fast, or to give up something—a habit, like smoking, watching TV, swearing, or a food or drink, such as sweets, chocolate, or coffee. Some Christians also take on a Lenten discipline, like reading the Bible and spending more time in prayer to draw nearer to God. Strict observers of Lent do not eat meat on Fridays, often opting for eating fish instead.

The goal of these spiritual disciplines is to strengthen the faith of the observer and develop a closer relationship with God.

For our congregation at Ballarat Central, we have planned a Stewardship Program during Lent in which we will plan our Giving Program for 2026 which will also impact on the next few years. This is an opportunity for us to discern our own individual gifts and graces and also our resources and find ways that we can offer them to the mission and ministry of God in and through our community. Our last Stewardship Program was held in 2022.

I encourage you to please take time to read Rod Devenish's article about our Planned Giving Program 2026. Rod is leading this Planned Giving Program 2026 Committee. This program will be launched during our worship on

Sunday 15th February and concluded with a celebration on Sunday 22nd March which will also include the unveiling of our Peace Pole.

The apostle Paul reminded Jesus's followers of the gifts that God has gifted each and everyone of us:

⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, ⁵ and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.

⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

⁸ To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of powerful deeds, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

¹¹ All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses. (1 Corinthians 12:4-11 NRSVUE)

I encourage you to discern the gifts that have been gifted you by God and also discern the service/s that you would like to offer God and others and also to partner with Jesus and people of our congregation.

Continued next page

From previous page**PLEASE NOTE THE UP-COMING SPECIAL SERVICES AND GATHERINGS:**

- **Launch and Introduction of Planned Giving Program 2026 in Lent** – During worship on Sunday 15th February;
- **Hymn Singing Afternoon** – At 2pm on Sunday 8th February 2026.
- **Pancake Lunch** – Sunday 15th February after worship;
- **Ash Wednesday Worship** – Wednesday 18th February at 7:30pm;
- **Unveiling of BCUC Peace Pole** – Sunday 22nd March 2025 @ 11:30am. Special guests are invited.

HOLY WEEK JOURNEY:**29th March – 5th April:**

- **Ecumenical Palm Sunday Gathering** on 29th March @ 9am – Sturt Street Bandstand
- **Palm Sunday Worship**, combine with Brown Hill @ 10am.
- **Palm Sunday Evening Reflection** @ 7pm – Led by The Explorers Group.
- **Monday – Wednesday Holy**

Week Reflections @ 7pm - Led by Lauleti.

- **Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service** @ 7pm – Led by The Explorers Group.
- **Good Friday Worship** @ 9am.
- **Easter Sunday with Holy Communion** – Sunday 5th April.
- **Annual General Meeting** – After church on Sunday 12 April.
- **Harvest Thanksgiving Service** – Sunday 19th April.
- **Worship together with Brown Hill** @ Brown Hill – Sunday 26th April (Marathon Weekend).
- **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2026**: 17th – 24th May.
- **Pentecost Sunday** – Sunday 24th May

Ballarat World Day of Prayer Services – Friday 6th March 2026:

10am – St Columba's Catholic Church - 306, Gregory Street, Soldiers Hill.
2pm – Carmel Welsh Church – 265 Albert St, Sebastopol.

World Day of Prayer Seniors' Services (Aged Care Places) in 2026:

Rosebank Retirement Village; Hailey House; Pineview Residential Care; Kelaston Nursing

Home, Wendouree; Nazareth House Ballarat.

Let us be reminded of what we believe/claim to be who we are in our Mission Statement:

We are a vibrant, active, inclusive Christian church, committed to follow the way of Jesus, and to serve our community and world through both the work of the congregation and Uniting Ballarat. We are a community which is diverse in background, life experience, culture, age and theological outlook. We welcome all people. We are especially committed to being in relationship and community with those who are isolated, ostracised, and disadvantaged by social and political structures. (Please note that the Church Council is revising this mission statement).

I wish you all the blessings of God.

— Lauleti

Lectionary Readings: February 8 to April 5

Feb 8 Epiphany 5: Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12) Psalm 112:1-9 (10) 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16) Matthew 5:13-20

Feb 15 Transfiguration of Jesus: Exodus 24:12-18 Psalm 2 or Psalm 99 2 Peter 1:16-21 Matthew 17:1-9

Feb 22 Lent 1: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 Psalm 32 Romans 5:12-19 Matthew 4:1-11

March 1 Lent 2: Genesis 12:1-4a Psalm 121 Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 John 3:1-17 Matthew 17: 1-9

March 8 Lent 3: Exodus 17:1-7 Psalm 95 Romans 5:1-11 John 4:5-42

March 15 Lent 4: 1 Samuel 16:1-13 Psalm 23 Ephesians 5:8-14 John 9:1-41

March 22 Lent 5 Ezekiel 37:1-14 Psalm 130 Romans 8:6-11 John 11:1-45

March 25 Annunciation of the Lord: Isaiah 7:10-14 Psalm 45 or Hebrews 10:4-10 Luke 1:26-38 Psalm 40:5-10

March 29 Palm Sunday: Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 118:1-2,19-29 Philippians 2:5-11 Matthew 21:1-11

March 29 Passion Sunday: Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 31:9-16 Philippians 2:5-11 Matthew 26:14-27:66 Matthew 27:11-54

March 30 Monday in Holy Week: Isaiah 42:1-9 Psalm 36:5-11 Hebrews 9:11-15 John 12:1-11

March 31 Tuesday in Holy Week: Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 71:1-14 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 John 12:20-36

April 1 Wednesday in Holy Week: Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 70 Hebrews 12:1-3 John 13:21-32

April 2 Maundy Thursday Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), Psalm 116:1-2, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 John 13:1-17, 31b-35 , 11-14 12-19

April 3 Good Friday: Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12 Psalm 22 Hebrews 10:16-25 or John 18:1-19:42 Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9

April 4 Holy Saturday: Job 14:1-14 or Psalm 31:1-4, 1 Peter 4:1-8 Matthew 27:57-66 Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-24 15-16 John 19:38-42

April 5 Easter Day Acts 10:34-43 Psalm 118:1-2, Colossians 3:1-4 or John 20:1-18 or Jeremiah 31:1-6 14-24 Acts 10:34-43 or Matthew 28:1-10



Church Council Report

Rod Devenish, Chairperson

January 2026

Executive & Finance Committee of Church Council met on the 21st of January; full Council will meet on the 28th January.

Worship

We thank Lauleti and all others who led, or contributed to, the ministry of delivering our Advent and Christmas worship services.

It was wonderful to see the range of talents (spoken word, choral singing, organ and instrumental accompaniment) that so greatly enriched these services.

Uniting

Uniting In Ballarat

Christmas Distribution

On Tuesday 16 and Thursday 18 December, Uniting Ballarat's Christmas distribution to clients of

vouchers and toys was conducted from the former OpShop space, with the assistance of several volunteers from the congregation who assisted in several roles including: registration, toy store elf, re-stocking and tea/coffee provision.

Appreciation afternoon tea

On Friday 19 December we held an appreciation afternoon tea for Uniting Ballarat staff.

Like our previous afternoon teas of this type it provided a great opportunity for sharing of information and stories.

Fundraising in support of Uniting

Two key events are planned for February through March:

1. Pancake Luncheon, Sunday 15 February
2. A Book Fair will be held over the Labour Day weekend; Sat 7th, Sun 8th and Mon 9th March

The funds raised will be distributed to Lifeline and BreezeWay. Anyone who would like to assist with the lunch or book fair should please speak with Anita Hinton. If anyone has books, magazines, CDs, DVDs to donate please contact either Alan Hinton or Rod Devenish.

In December we received this message from Belinda Collihole, Uniting Lifeline Manager, Ballarat & Melbourne:

“From all of us at Lifeline Ballarat, a heartfelt thank you for the generous donation of \$5,000 from the Ballarat Central Uniting

Church Book Fair. Because of donations like this and the ongoing support we receive from local community members and organisations, we're able to continue being here for people when they need someone to listen, support, and care.

Your generosity truly makes a difference in the lives of so many in our community.

We are incredibly grateful to the congregation for their ongoing support of Lifeline Ballarat and the work we do.”

***With warmest thanks,
Belinda Collihole, Uniting Lifeline Manager, Ballarat & Melbourne***

Our Building

Our insurance risk advisors have been suggesting to us that we need to improve our current low level of building security.

Church Council is currently planning the installation of smoke detectors and security monitoring devices throughout the buildings. Instalment of this equipment is anticipated to help moderate our future building insurance costs.

A Working Bee will be held soon to declutter the garage and other storage spaces in our buildings. Please look out for an announcement of the date.

We would appreciate your assistance on the day if possible.

Stewardship Program

As advised at the Congregational meeting held on Sunday 23rd November, a Stewardship (Planned Giving) Program will be held during the Lenten period in 2026.

The season of Lent commences on Ash Wednesday, 18th February, concluding on Sunday, 29th March, Palm Sunday.

Continued next page

It's backpack time again

Thank-you to everyone for helping to send 30 backpacks full of school supplies to schools in the Pacific Islands.

Now it's time to do it all again. It's back to school time and the shops and supermarkets have lots of "Back to School Specials".

At the end is the usual list of school needs for each child.

Anne has asked me to remind you all to remove packaging from EVERYTHING. The reason is that, in the islands, there is no real rubbish disposal system. Every piece of rubbish ends up in the sea.

That is no good at all so, we keep the rubbish here where we can dispose of it carefully.

Also, there is no need to provide tennis balls. We can source quality balls that have only been used for one competition match from tennis centres in Ballarat for a minimal cost. These bounce well

and are better for the students.

Anne also suggests we try op-shops for back packs. She does this and puts them through her washing machine. If the zips are okay then the back packs are acceptable.

Thank you for your help.

— Marg Littlehales



Some of the school backpacks which were delivered to Pacific Island schools.

Backpack List:

1 backpack to suit a child 10-12 years
6 exercise books: 2 x 96 pages, 2 x 64 pages, 2 x 48 pages
1 scrap book
1 packet coloured pencils
1 packet felt tipped pens
1 packet crayons
1 metric ruler
1 hand towel, 1 soap box, 1 cake soap
1 drink bottle
1 lunch box

1 skipping rope
5 handkerchiefs boys OR 5 handkerchiefs girls
1 pencil case big enough to hold:
2 erasers
1 sharpener
1 pair school scissors
1 glue stick
4 black lead pencils
4 blue ball point pens
2 red ball point pens
2 black ball point pens

Church Council report, continued

From previous page

We will focus in a relatively low key manner on all aspects of giving - our time, our skills, as well as our financial contributions, over six Sundays from February 15 to March 22.

Elsewhere in this issue of BCUN you will find a letter from our Minister, Lauleti, and Congregation Chairperson, Adri, that more fully introduces this program.

Music in March 2026

We have three concert dates confirmed for noting in your diaries:

- Chamber Philharmonia Cologne,

7pm Tuesday 17th March

- New York Salvation Army staff band, Friday 20th March
- Australian Boys Choir, 2 pm Saturday 28th March

Further details will be made available as they come to hand. We invite you to note these dates in your diary and pass them on to family and friends in the wider Ballarat community.

Annual General meeting

The AGM of our congregation together with election of elders, Presbytery reps will be held after

the service on Sunday, 12 April. Nominations will open on Sunday, February 1st and remain open until Sunday, 1st March.

Sammy Stamp

The UCAF Stamp Fund, better known as Sammy Stamp, coordinates the collection and sale of stamps to offer grants for mission and development work in Australia and overseas.

We have a box in the entrance foyer where you can deposit any stamps – perhaps those from envelopes by which you received 2025 Christmas cards.

— Rod Devenish, Chair of Council



Reflection during the busy Advent Season time led by Ps Andrew Shearer-Cox.



Christmas Eve Reflective Candle lighting and Holy Communion Mid-night Service.



Enjoying morning tea after a dusty working bee cleaning all areas impacted by the repair project are Ron Harris, Alan and Anita Hinton, Rev Lauleti Tu'inauvai, Rod Devenish, Nancy O'Loughlin and Geoff Le Marshall.



Don Smith could not believe his luck when the last pink chair arrived for cleaning during the working bee.



LEFT: Many visitors joined our Church family for the Christmas Morning service.

RIGHT: Jennet Sharp, centre, receives best wishes from Lauleti Tu'inauvai, Lesley Lyons and the congregation for her 97th birthday.



RIGHT: The congregation shares in the Baptism of Jesus.



Worship under the Oak Tree at Brown Hill, transferred indoors due to inclement weather. Photos Ron Fleming.



LEFT: The Brown Hill Church choir; above left, the pre service ensemble; above, church stewards Marie Orton, Glenda Ragg, John Orton, Judy Stone and Ann Brown; above right, Kim Daniel reads from St Matthew's Gospel and Robert Glass lights the Joy Advent Candle.

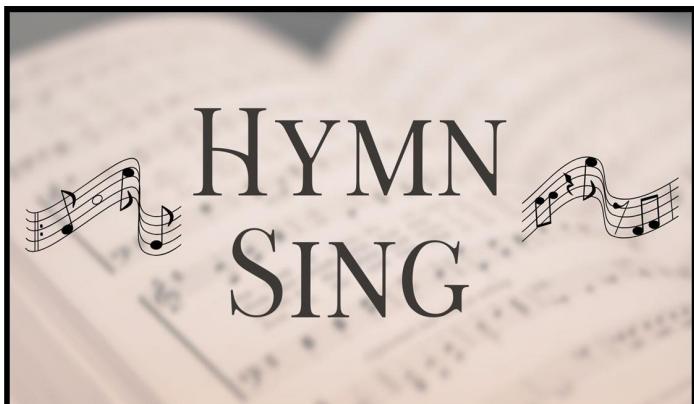


ABOVE: Ardri Stickland lights the Christ Candle.



LEFT: Lauren Martin and Rod Devenish read during Service of Readings and Music for Christmas, featuring an augmented choir (right and below) and Lesley Lyons lights the Advent Candles for the last time in 2025 (below right).





We invite you to join us for a special time of
Hymn Singing
on Sunday 8th February at 2pm
at Ballarat Central

Come and join us as we sing your
favourite Hymns. If you have a special Hymn
request, please email or text Lauleti.

We will end our singing
with Afternoon Tea at 3pm.
Please bring a small plate
to share.



Tuesday 17th March 2026 at 7 pm
BALLARAT
CENTRAL UNITING CHURCH
VIVALDI
CONCERTI VIRTUOSI
Concerto for Violin, Strings and basso continuo »Spring«
Concerto B minor for Violoncello & String Orchestra RV 424
MOZART
Divertimento B-flat major KV 137 »Salzburg Symphony«
MENDELSSOHN
»Herr Gott Abrahams« - Aria from the oratorio »Elijah«
SARASATE
»Gypsy Airs« for Violin and Orchestra op.20
CHAMBER PHILHARMONIA COLOGNE
(Germany)
Sergey Didorenko * Violin Jaime Roda Segrelles * Baritone Dmitrij Gornowski * Violoncello

www.kpk-info.de Bookings at www.trybooking.com/DHSIV
Doors open at Central Uniting Church
30 minutes prior to the concert (cash sales only)



BALLARAT'S BIGGEST BOOK FAIR

Books are flying out the door,
come in and bag a bargain.
Huge variety of books
and Plants

MARCH 2026
SATURDAY 7th March
9am - 4pm
SUNDAY 8th March
9am - 3pm
MONDAY 9th March
9am - 3pm

St Andrew's Church Hall,
cnr Sturt & Dawson
Streets, Ballarat
In Support of Uniting
Ballarat programs.



Uniting

**Adri Stickland**

Dear friends, as we begin another year, I wish you and your families God's blessing and presence with you in this year of 2026. We remember with sorrow those who have left us in the past year and welcome with joy those who have joined our fellowship these past 12 months.

In 2025 our average attendance on Sunday morning was 82,

BCUC Congregation Report

January 2026

steady over the last 3 years but well below the level of 116 prior to covid.

We thank ALL those who participate in leadership and the tasks that keep our outreach going, Particularly Lauleti, Andy, Sabine, Rod, Helen, Ben, and our organists. Also the choir, our Kuca team, stewards, group leaders, welcomers, kitchen gangs and the maintenance people.

As reported last year and clearly visible in this issue, Council has agreed to renew our Stewardship Program during the time of Lent this year. This is a time of reviewing and renewing the aims and extent of our congregational care

and outreach, reviewing the part we each play in that care and outreach and reviewing the monetary commitment we can each make to maintain this outreach.

Our commitments of time and skill and resources vary over the years and are subject to unforeseen changes in health and circumstances but that doesn't mean we should refrain from making them.

As Lauleti said recently, we are called to live and act in partnership with God so we need to commit ourselves and the outcome will be in his hands.

—Adri Stickland
Chair of Congregation

Gambling in Ballarat

People:

- Gambling is not in peoples' DNA or inherited.
- Kids need positive role models and interests other than sport while advertising is rife.
- Ballarat has 651 Pokie machines expected to raise \$68 million by the end of 2025 – but online Sports Bet type companies have no venues and make millions more.
- The CEO of BET 365 has an income of multi millions
- Australia has 600,000 child betters under 18 – interest starting at age 10.
- Addicts can be helped by empathy, new interests and support – not stigma.
- Gambling Industries offer \$50+ to addicts to "help" them.

- Gambling is a Health issue, best counteracted by empathy, friendship and new interests.
- Ballarat City Council is not part of the Victorian Councils anti-gambling body but has a Gambling Harm Policy.

Politics:

- The CEO of the NRL, Peter Bilandrios is a friend of Anthony Albanese.
- The Labor government has sat on anti-gambling recommendations for 850 days.
- Gambling licensing is done in the NT under "Freedom of Information" legislation and by the NT Racing body which has given no reports to government in 31 years.
- Europeans ban Gambling advertising and limit venues to Casinos whereas we license Pubs and Clubs.
- The AFL gets \$50 million from Gambling advertising. The Federal Government does the taxing but

the States do the licensing.

General:

- The Gambling Industry has 26,194 Pubs and Clubs and gains \$200 Billion pa, without Overseas online gains.
- 75% of global gambling is in Australia.

—Jan Souter, Social Justice Group

Volunteers for our Rosters

Our church wouldn't operate so efficiently without our large team of volunteers.

Are you in a position to join them? We need volunteers for Bible reading, carrying the Bible, prayers of the people, welcoming, morning tea, door stewards, flowers and folding the OOS. Please see Miriam Peck (0435 296 636) if you would like to take up any of these volunteer positions.

— Miriam Peck



Presbytery of Western Victoria
Dates for 2026
Education events
and
Other related information

The Presbytery of Western Victoria will be offering the following education opportunities in 2026. We suggest that Church Council's, and other interested parties, save the dates that are relevant to you. There will be event specific advertising relating to these opportunities closer to the actual dates in 2026.

Lay Presider Training/Refresher Days

There will be two offerings relating to Lay Presiders. The full 2-day course for people who are not currently authorized and wish to be and two refresher days for those who are authorised and require the triennial refresher to continue as Lay Presiders.

We ask Church Councils to be aware of the Lay Presiders in their location who might be required to participate in a Refresher Day. We also ask Church Councils to consider who they might approach to take on a Lay Presider role in their church.

Two-day full accreditation course:

Monday 16th and Tuesday 17th March

Bev Pratt Chaplaincy Centre, Brown Hill.
 14 Thompsons St, Brown Hill.

Refresher Day:

Tuesday 17th March

Bev Pratt Chaplaincy Centre, Brown Hill.
 14 Thompsons St, Brown Hill.

Refresher Day:

Friday 18th September

Hamilton Uniting Church.

Worship Resourcing Day

This is a day for any people who are asked to assist in any way in worship. It will be especially useful for worship teams.

Friday May 1st

Mortlake Uniting Church.
 Facilitators Rev Carlynne Nunn and Rev Trevor Bassett.

Preaching and teaching Day

A day to look at the Lectionary year ahead and take a closer look at some of the these and some of the latest thinking. This day is especially for Ministers, Lay Preachers, Worship Leader and anyone interested in expanding their Biblical knowledge with a practical purpose in mind.

We have invited a guest speaker for this event, ut at this stage we are not able to confirm if we have someone lined up yet.

Friday October 23rd

Stawell Uniting Church.

Funeral Training

We know that in many of our congregations we need people other than Ministry Agents who are able to lead funerals. We will be looking for people with experience in worship and preaching and with excellent Pastoral skills to engage in this training opportunity. This will be a two-day training event held over two weeks. The training will be held in two locations on the same dates.

Monday 22nd June and Monday 6th July

Colac and Horsham.

Horsham Facilitators – Susan Hobbs and Harvey Champness

Colac Facilitators – Andrew Shearer-Cox and Rev Trevor Bassett

Worship Resources

The Presbytery is looking at developing either weekly or fortnightly worship resources that can be used in smaller congregations who are unable to find someone to lead worship. It is hoped that a liturgical order can be provided that can be led easily from a small number in the congregation. We also hope to offer a video link that could bring the preaching of a sermon.

As we seek to develop this idea, it is imagined that the content will be put onto the Presbytery's web site and be as simple as a click on a link to work.

We hope that with the number of Placements with no paid Ministry agent and the difficulty of arranging Supply, that this might be an approach that will assist more than just our smaller congregations.

Possible new Presbytery Position

At the November meeting of Presbytery there was a suggestion that the Presbytery consider employing a person who will assist in the final development of the Presbytery Web page and then be responsible for maintaining the content on the page. (This would help us realise the idea of regular worship resources being available). The role would bring other aspects that will enhance and support our congregations.

The Presbytery Standing Committee is looking closely at this suggestion, and we hope we will have something more solid to share at the February Presbytery meeting.

Rev Trevor Bassett
Presbytery Minister Pastoral Leadership and Education



Pancake Day

PANCAKE LUNCHEON

**Sunday 15th February
(after morning Service)**

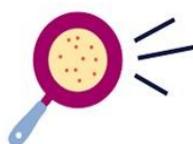
**Enjoy a yummy two-course Pancake
Lunch & help raise funds for Uniting
Ballarat**

COST:

\$15 Adult

**Family (2 Adults, 2 children) \$40
each additional child \$5**

Children UNDER 12 FREE.



Ballarat Central Uniting Church Rosters**February 8th—April 5th 2026**

Regular Leaders	1,2: Readers 3: Bearer See page 5 for Readings	Prayer	Musician/s	1:Elder on Duty 2:Communion Elders	Elder/s 1: General greeter 2: Welcome Support Group representative	Welcome	Door Stewards	Morning Tea
February 8th Epiphany 5	1&2: Helen D. Margaret B. 3.Emily SH-COX	Ron BROWN Roger PECK	Rod DEVENISH	Shirley V. Nancy O'L	Judy STONE Ken JENKIN			Nina N'WAY Heather BROWN Betty STEWART Faye WITHERS
February 15th Transfiguration of Jesus	1&2: Helen PEART Karen COAD 3.Glenice WARNER	Graeme SUTTON Graeme SUTTON	Susan PIEROTTI Charlotte WITHERS	Greta CHRISTIE Jen MITCHELL	Lyn & Ron FLEMING			Andy GAULT Ros SUTTON Miriam GIBSON Judith WHEATON
February 18th Ash Wednesday	1&2: Miriam PECK Manusiu T'VAL	Rod DEVENISH	Miriam GIBSON	Maureen VALLANCE	Bron JAMES LeMARSHALL	Merriel & Geoff LeMARSHALL		NA
February 22nd Lent 1	1&2: Lesley LYONS Chris KYNOCH 3.Angus SH-COX	Chris KYNOCH	Ray HODDER	Anita HINTON	Claudia FORSBERG Marg BENNETT	Nancy O'L Rod DEVENISH		Alan HINTON Mary HOLICK Miriam PECK Barbara SNIIBSON
March 1st Lent 2	1&2: Ron BROWN Rod DEVENISH 3.Andy GAULT	Lyn FLEMING	Evan DUGGAN	Maureen V. Adri STICKLAND	1. Bronwen JAMES 2. Rod DEVENISH Maureen V. Adri STICKLAND			Helen PEART Jan JENKYN Maureen DOONAN Shirley V.
March 8th Lent 3	1&2: Nina N. Atelaita TUPOU 3. Lauren MARTIN	Helen DUGGAN Roger PECK	Margo CUNNINGHAM	Betty STEWART Jen MITCHELL Ken JENKIN	Judy STONE Ken JENKIN			Faye WITHERS Jan TOZER Jan DIMOND Bev HUTCHINSON

Regular Leaders Rev L. T'uivaiua Andy Gault	1&2: Readers 3: Bearer See page 5 for readings	Prayer	Musician/s	1.Elder on Duty 2.Communion Elders	1: General greeter 2: Welcome Support Group representative	Door Stewards	Morning Tea
March 15th Lent 4	1&2: Graeme SUTTON Manusiu T'VAL 3. Fila FIFITA	Karen COAD	Graeme S. Karen COAD Charlotte W.	Adri STICKLAND	Anita HINTON Maureen VALLANCE	Lyn & Ron FLEMING	Alan HINTON Miriam PECK Heather BROWN Glenice WARNER
March 22nd Lent 5	1&2: Claudia FORSBERG Jen MITCHELL 3. Fila FIFITA	Susan PIEROTTI	Ray HODDER	Jen MITCHELL	Margaret BENNETT Bron JAMES	Rod DEVENISH Ken KENKIN	Meriel & Geoff LeMARSHALL Theresa READ Jan SOUTER
March 29th Palm Sunday	1&2: Pam TOOM Manusiu T'VAL Barbara S'SON 3. Emily SH-COX	Mary HOLLICK	Roger PECK	Jean MITON	Meriel LeMARSHALL Adri STICKLAND	Nancy O'LOUGHLIN Nur SISSON	Tongan Families
April 2nd Maundy Thursday	1&2: Kim DANIEL Andy GAULT	Andy GAULT	Evan DUGGAN	Susan PIEROTTI Meriel L.eM Margo C'HAM	Lauren MARTIN	TBA	NA
April 3rd Good Friday	1&2: Glenice WARNER Bron JAMES	Adri STICKLAND	Evan DUGGAN	Meriel LeMARSHALL	Nancy O'LOUGHLIN	Lyn & Ron FLEMING	NA
April 5th Easter Day	1&2: Greta CHRISTIE Margo C'HAM 3. Bron JAMES	Rod DEVENISH	Evan DUGGAN	Nancy O'L Adri S'LAND Jen MITCHELL Anita HINTON	Rod DEVENISH Susan PIEROTTI	Meriel & Geoff LeMARSHALL	Bron JAMES Lesley LYONS Jan DIMOND Mary HOLLICK

OOS/Notice Sheet folders: Lesley Lyons, Jan Tozer, Helen Peart, Betty Stewart

Communion Preparation/Pack-up: Communion Elders

Choir Director: Helen Duggan

Note: If you are unable to undertake a task on the date you are rostered, please go online to **Ministry Scheduler Pro** and request a substitute. Alternatively, arrange your own substitute via personal contact.