



Wadawurrung

### Acknowledgement of Country

*For thousands of years Indigenous people have walked on this land. Their relationship with the land is at the centre of their lives.*

*We acknowledge the Wadawurrung People of the Kulin Nations and their stewardship of this land, throughout the ages. We pay our respect to their elders, past, present and emerging. May we offer a safe place for people in all their diversity, to gather.*



### 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.*

**CHURCH  
OPEN**  
for quiet & prayer

### Worship on Wednesday (WOW) at Brown Hill

Each Wednesday at  
1.30pm with  
Holy Communion.  
We invite you to join  
this combined  
Ballarat Central and  
Brown Hill Service.

### Contact Information

**Ministers:** Rev Lauleti Tu'inauvai (Monday—Day off)  
In BCUC office: Thursday 10am-4pm  
  
A: P.O. Box 700 Ballarat VIC 3353  
E: lauleti.tuinauvai@victas.uca.org.au M: 0413 115 711

**Admin & Finance Officer:** Sabine Handreck  
A: P.O. Box 700 Ballarat VIC 3353  
M: 0491 706 667 E: admin@bcuc.org.au W: bcuc.org.au

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

**Sudanese Services:** M: 0439 827 888 E: youth@bcuc.org.au

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



The United Church in Australia  
**Ballarat Central Congregation**  
— a pilgrim people — on the way

## APRIL 2026 Notice Sheet

### This is the invitation of Lent:

*To examine our hearts. To confront what shapes our reactions.  
To sit longer in prayer than in commentary.  
To fast not only from food, but from whatever in us hardens the  
heart – pride that places us above others, anger that  
overshadows mercy, and anything that diminishes our witness to  
Christ's love.*



### What if this Lent we did the same?

*Let us make space each day to be with God, even in the midst of busy lives.  
Let us fast from noise so that we can hear the Spirit more clearly.  
Let us practise generosity that stretches us.  
Let us listen more carefully to those who feel wounded or unseen.  
And let our turning back to God reshape how we pray, what we fast from, and how  
we live out Christ's love in our congregations and the world.*

**Lent is not simply about what we relinquish. It is about surrendering  
ourselves to Christ – and becoming people who love as he loves.**

### The Church does not exist to mirror the noise of the culture.

*We exist to witness to another way – the way of Christ, marked by truth, humility,  
and courageous love. As I reflect on this moment for our Church, I hold this hope:  
In unsettled times, we are called to remain anchored in Christ.  
When voices divide, we become a praying people.  
When hearts grow weary or hardened, we keep mercy alive among us.  
We do not turn away from injustice. But neither do we surrender to fear.  
We follow Jesus.*

### This season is not about spiritual performance. It is about transformation.

*May this Lent shape us into a Church that looks more like Christ – courageous,  
humble and radiant with resurrection hope! We do so in confidence, trusting that  
Christ rules and renews his Church by his Word and Spirit, and that the Spirit of  
Christ will lead us into all truth and forward in hope.*

UCA President Rev Charissa Suli

## WORSHIP SERVICES

**MARCH 29**

**PALM/PASSION SUNDAY**

COMBINED SERVICE CENTRAL &  
BROWN HILL UC

9am Ecumenical Palm Sunday Service  
in Sturt Street Rotunda

10am Worship

Rev. David Carter

*Isaiah 50:4-9a,*

*Psalm 31:9-16*

*Matthew 21:1-11*

**7pm Palm Sunday Service**

led by Explorer's Group

**HOLY WEEK SERVICES**

Monday 30th March, Tuesday 31st  
March, Wednesday 1st April at 7pm

**APRIL 2 MAUNDY THURSDAY**

7.00pm Tennebrae Service  
led by Explorer's Group

**APRIL 3 GOOD FRIDAY**

9am Good Friday Service

Rev. Lauleti Tu'inauvai

*Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12;*

*Psalm 22 Hebrews 10:15-25 or*

*Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9;*

*John 18:1-19, 42*

**APRIL 5 EASTER SUNDAY**

10am Communion Celebration

Rev. Lauleti Tu'inauvai

7pm Taize Service

*Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-6*

*Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24*

*Colossians 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43*

*John 20:1-18 or Matt. 28:1-10*

**APRIL 12 EASTER 2**

10am Worship

Rev. Lauleti Tu'inauvai

11.30am Annual General Meeting

*Acts 2:14a, 22-32*

*Psalm 16*

*1 Peter 1:3-9*

*John 20:19-31*

**APRIL 19 EASTER 3**

10am Worship

Rev. Lauleti Tu'inauvai

*Acts 2:14a, 36-41*

*Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19*

*1 Peter 1:17-23*

*Luke 24:13-35*

**APRIL 26 EASTER 4**

**10am Worship at Brown Hill Uniting  
Church, Thompson St, Brown Hill,  
led by Brown Hill UC**

5pm Family Evening Service

Andy Gault & Worship Team

*Acts 2:42-47*

*Psalm 23*

*1 Peter 2:19-25*

*John 10:1-10*

**MAY 3 EASTER 5**

10am Communion Service

Rev. Lauleti Tu'inauvai

7pm Taize Service

*Acts 7:55-60*

*Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16*

*1 Peter 2:2-10*

*John 14:1-14*

## Easter Reflection

The women who buried Jesus on Friday returned to visit him early Sunday morning. They brought spices and perfumes to anoint the body. What they found is the substance of Easter hope: no stone in front of the grave, no body within the grave. They found an angel, clothed in white, seated on the stone. "He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay" (Mt. 28:6 NKJV).

When they did, they saw the first signs of the resurrection: a vacant slab, an abandoned burial cloth, a folded shroud, and a beaming angel. And, could we examine the empty grave with them, we'd find something else. Languishing in the corner, in the dust, doomed to be sealed and buried forever...your stack of *I can't's*.

God buried your *I can't's* in the grave of Christ. Every last one of them. You say you can't forgive someone? You can't, but with Christ you can. Can't survive the struggle? You can't, but with Christ you can. Can't hang on any longer? Turn to Christ for help. "God's power is very great for us who believe. That power is the same as the great strength God used to raise Christ from the dead" (Eph. 1:19-20 NCV). The same steely, burly force that raised Christ from the dead will turn your "I can't's" into "I cans": "I can do all things through Christ, because he gives me the strength" (Phil. 4:13 NCV).

With Christ you can face the struggles of Friday. Set your mind on the joy that awaits you.

With Christ you can endure the silence of Saturday. Be patient. Christ will come.

With Christ you can celebrate on Sunday. The same power that defeated His death will give you life. Have you asked God to help you?

He will. He will give you strength in this life and eternal joy in the next. All you need to do is ask him. Make this prayer a part of your Easter celebration.

"Dear God, Without you I can't solve my problems, remove my sins, or go to Heaven. But with you I can. I ask you to help me, cleanse me, and save me. In Jesus' name, Amen."

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Please put your phone on silent before the service begins. Thank you.

## Information

### HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Sunday 19th April  
at 10am

Please bring Fresh fruit,  
vegetables and  
non-perishable food to  
celebrate Harvest  
Thanksgiving.

Donations will be  
distributed to Breezeway  
and members and friends  
of our church community.  
Thank you.



The Annual  
General  
Meeting and  
Election of  
Ballarat  
Central  
UC Office  
Bearers  
will be held  
on Sunday  
12th April  
after the  
Service.



### Hymn Singing Every 2nd Sunday of every 2nd month at 2pm

Come and join us as we sing our  
favourite Hymns.

We will end our singing with Afternoon Tea  
at 3pm.

Please bring a small plate to share.



"BCUC Singing, Reflecting & Praying  
with the Hymns", Hymn Singing, will  
be on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April at 2 p.m.

4th Sunday of month

SUNDAY  
5 PM SERVICE

Next Service  
26th April 2026



**TAIZE CONTEMPLATIVE**  
Worship Services are held at  
Ballarat Central Uniting Church at  
7pm the 1st Sunday of the month

## 2025 OFFERINGS Weekly Budget - \$4545 per week

Offering	Weekly Offering	Year To Date	Budget to date
22nd February	\$4,225.10	\$34,688.47	\$36,360.00
1st March	\$4,524.32	\$39,212.79	\$40,905.00
8th March	\$6,431.90	\$45,644.69	\$45,450.00
15th March	\$3,882.00	\$49,526.69	\$49,995.00
22nd March will be included in the May Notice Sheet			



Easter Services  
Ballarat Central  
Uniting Church

**Palm/Passion Sunday 29th March**  
8.45am Leave Central UC for 9am Ecumencial  
Palm Sunday service in Sturt Street  
10am Palm Sunday Service at Central UC  
7.00pm Palm Sunday Evening Service  
**Holy Week Reflections 30th March—1st Apr**  
7.00pm at Central UC  
**Maundy Thursday Tennebrae Service**  
2nd April at 7.00pm  
**Good Friday Service 3rd April at 9.00 am**  
**Easter Celebration Communion Service**  
5th April at 10.00 am

For further information - Contact Rev. Lauleti M: 0413 115711  
E: lauletitui@gmail.com

### Ballarat Central Giving

We invite you to be involved—  
by direct transfer to Bendigo



Bank -  
BSB 633 000  
Account  
133779470

(enter "Pledge &  
your name; Speak to Sabine  
for an assigned pledge  
number) **Thank you for your  
Offerings.**

### Older and Wiser Forum

Sunday 31st May at 11.30am  
following the morning service  
at Ballarat Central Uniting  
Church.

**'What will I do with it all ?'**  
A discussion group conducted  
by Jen Mitchell and Jean  
Miton about what to do with the  
'stuff' we accumulate during  
our lifetime. Everyone  
welcome.

## Information



**(For people who live alone)**  
**Due to Easter the next Uniting Friends will be on Sunday May 3rd.** The location each month will be listed on the sign-up sheet in the Peart Wing where those attending can write their names. Any queries contact Lesley Lyons or Janice Cook.



**MEN'S BREAKFAST**  
**Sunday 26th April**  
**8am in a Café,**  
**venue tbc**  
 Come and share food, fellowship & fun.

Cost \$5 for a cooked breakfast.  
 Contact Lauleti for further information.

**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 the homeless through*



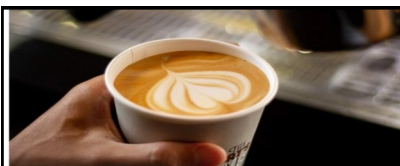
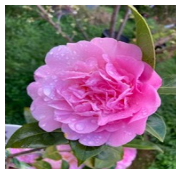
*Uniting, WRISC and women and children coming from domestic violence.*

### RELAXATION & VISUALISATION

**Thursday 2nd April**

10am—11am in the Manse Lounge.

For further information, speak with Bron James.



### TUESDAY STUDY GROUP

**meeting 9.30am on the 1st Tuesday of the Month**  
 at Beechworth Bakery, Ballarat  
**All Welcome.**

(not meeting during school holidays)  
 Speak with Lauleti M: 0413 115 711 or Laura Shearer-for more information.



### Lake Walking Group

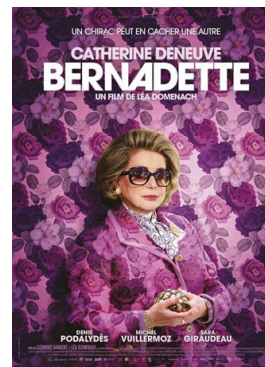
meeting 9.30am

Wednesday at Pipers, Lake Wendouree. Coffee drinkers welcome at 10.30am. All welcome. Speak with Anita Hinton for more information.

**Name badges** see Helen Peart if you wish to purchase a BCUC name badge. Cost \$10.

## Information

**Spirituality in the Cinema**  
**Sunday 19th April at the new time of 2.00pm** in the Peart Wing.



### “The President’s Wife”

*In 1995 Bernadette arrives at the Élysée anticipating she’ll receive the respect she deserves, after tirelessly supporting her husband’s*

*journey to the presidency. Instead, she is cast aside and mocked for being too old-fashioned, cold, and irritable. Undeterred, and with the help of her chief of staff, Bernadette reinvents herself to become an iconic figure in her own right, and claims the spotlight in her role as the First Lady.*

Feel free to bring a friend and stay for a cuppa and chat after the Screening. All welcome. For more information please speak with Mary Hollick or Bron James.



### Circle of Friends

Circle of Friends now meets on a bi-monthly basis and is meeting on 7th April at

7.30pm. **ALL WELCOME.**

Next Meetings:

Tuesday 2nd June, 4th August, 6th October and 1st December.

**If you have any questions please speak with Rod Devenish or Anita Hinton.**

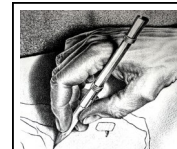


**Youth Group is meeting each Friday**

**7-9pm week.**

**(only during School term)**  
**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.**

Please contact Andy on 0439827888.



**Drawing Breath meets EVERY SECOND**

**FRIDAY** at 9am in the Peart Wing. See Andy Gault for dates.



**Out to Lunch will be meeting on Sunday 19th April at Lake**

**View Restaurant, Wendouree Parade, RSVP Charlotte Withers and/or Clipboard in PW. ALL WELCOME!**