



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.



**CHURCH
OPEN**
for quiet & prayer

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.

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.

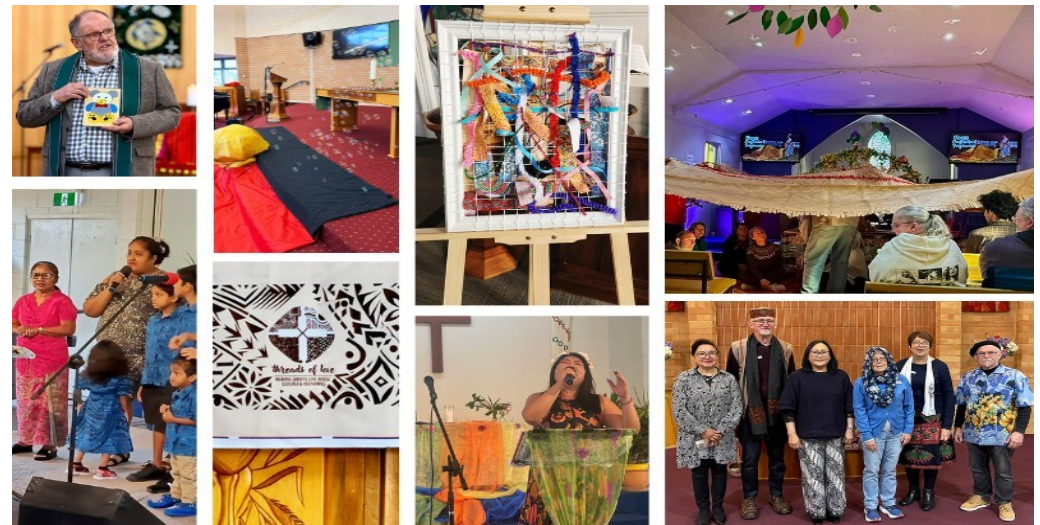
Contact Information

Ministers:	<u>Rev Lauleti Tu'inauvai</u> (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:	<u>Sabine Handreck</u> A: P.O. Box 700 Ballarat VIC 3353 M: 0491 706 667 E: admin@bcuc.org.au W: bcuc.org.au
Youth/ Family Worker:	<u>Andy Gault</u> H: Weds—Thurs 9am-3pm, Friday 9am-12pm, 6.30-9.30pm 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

SEPTEMBER 2026 Notice Sheet



Last month, congregations and communities across the United Church gathered for **Intercultural Neighbouring Sunday (INS)** – a day to celebrate the rich tapestry of cultures and languages that make up the body of Christ and explore what it means to live our faith interculturally.

From worship in multiple languages and shared meals to conversations about racism, reconciliation and belonging, our church communities marked INS in ways that reflected their own local contexts. Some celebrated cultures already woven into their congregational life. Others reached beyond their church walls to build new relationships and create practical spaces of welcome.

Together, these stories reveal that intercultural life is not simply about recognising difference. It is about allowing our lives to be changed by one another, discovering where God is already at work, and learning to live as one body with many parts.

WORSHIP SERVICES

SEPTEMBER SEASON OF CREATION  SEASON OF CREATION	SEPTEMBER 27 RIVER SUNDAY 10am Worship Service Rev. Lauleti Tu'inauvai No Evening Service <i>Genesis 8:20-22; 9:12-17</i> <i>Psalms 104:27-33</i> <i>Revelation 22:1-5</i> <i>Matthew 28:1-10</i>
SEPTEMBER 6 FOREST SUNDAY 10am Communion Service Rev. Lauleti Tu'inauvai 7pm Taize Service <i>Genesis 2:4b-22</i> <i>Psalms 139:13-16</i> <i>Acts 17:22-28</i> <i>John 3:1-16</i>	OCTOBER 4 PENTECOST 19 10am Communion Service Rev. Lauleti Tu'inauvai 7pm Taize Service <i>Ex. 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20, Isaiah 5:1-7</i> <i>Psalms 19, Psalm 80:7-15</i> <i>Philippians 3:4b-14</i> <i>Matthew 21:33-46</i>
SEPTEMBER 13 LAND SUNDAY 10am Worship Service Rev. Lauleti Tu'inauvai 5pm Evening Service Prac Session <i>Genesis 3:14-19; 4:8-16</i> <i>Psalms 139:7-12</i> <i>Romans 5:12-17</i> <i>Matthew 12:38-40</i>	OCTOBER 11 PENTECOST 20 10am Worship Service Rev. Lauleti Tu'inauvai 5pm Evening Service Prac Session <i>Exodus 32:1-14</i> <i>Psalms 106:1-6, 19-23</i> <i>Philippians 4:1-9</i> <i>Matthew 22:1-14</i>
SEPTEMBER 20 OUTBACK/WILDERNESS SUNDAY 10am Worship Service Rev. Lauleti Tu'inauvai <i>Joel 1:8-10, 17-20</i> <i>Psalms 18:6-19</i> <i>Romans 8:18-27</i> <i>Matthew 3:13 – 4:2/Mark 1:9-13</i>	 Living Water Season of Creation 2026 Immersion in Living Water EZEKIEL 47:9, 12

REFLECTION

HOPE FROM FAITH AND ACTION

Ezekiel's vision is ultimately one of hope. As co-workers with the Creator, Christians' relationship with non-human creation should be grounded in the biblical vision of creation as an interconnected community of life. Our relationship is that of sacred partnership and mutual custodianship rather than domination.



Christians are called to confront the aforementioned injustices and to reject a worldview that treats water as a disposable resource. For instance, in the last 20 years, the WCC Ecumenical Water Network has promoted the preservation, responsible management and equitable distribution of water for all, based on the understanding that water is a gift from God, and access to drinking water as a fundamental human right.

On every continent, inspired by our faith, Christians are acting: rivers are being restored, water sources are being protected from pollution and extractive industries - and arid lands are becoming green again. Wells are being dug and water provided for parishes, villages, and health care centres.

All powerful God,
you are present in the universe
and in the smallest of your creatures.
You embrace with your tenderness
all that exists.

Pour out upon us the power of your
love, that we may protect life and
beauty.

Fill us with your peace, that we may
live as brothers and sisters, harming
no one.

O God of the poor,
help us to rescue the abandoned
and forgotten of this earth,
so precious in your eyes.
Bring healing to our lives,
that we may protect the world and
not prey on it, that we may sow
beauty,
not pollution and destruction.
Touch the hearts of those who look
only for gain at the expense of the
poor and the earth.

Teach us to discover the worth of
each thing, to be filled with awe and
contemplation,
to recognize that we are profoundly
united with every creature
as we journey towards your infinite
light.

We thank you for being with us each
day.
Encourage us, we pray, in our
struggle,
for justice, love and peace.

Amen

Pope Francis

SEASON OF CREATION



Living Water
Season of Creation 2026

This year's **theme**, "Living Water", explores Ezekiel 47:9 and 12 as a powerful biblical vision of hope and ecological healing. Set amid exile and loss, the image of living water flowing from God's sanctuary reveals

divine healing that renews land, water, biodiversity, and human responsibility towards the whole creation.

The **symbol** pictures water flowing from the Temple of God - at first a tiny stream which grows deeper and deeper and as it does so it brings life to dead areas and restores fertility to damaged or barren ecosystems. Through living water comes healing, but in order to receive new life we too must step into the water and also become part of God's river of life, taking part in the healing of creation.

The current Water Crisis

Ezekiel's vision stands in sharp contrast to the reality of the water crisis we face. According to the United Nations, 1.7 billion people lack basic hygiene services at home, and 2.1 billion people still lack access to safe drinking water - that is 1 in 4 people on the globe!

As climate change intensifies, and groundwater extraction increases, several countries are now reaching a so-called "point of water bankruptcy" that is a condition marked by irreversible losses of natural water capital.

Although access to drinking water is a human right for all, the multifaceted water crisis disproportionately affects vulnerable communities, future generations, and non-human life that has no voice in political or economic systems. These are some of the many challenges:

Water becomes unaffordable for the poor.

Impact on health of water borne diseases.

Impact of industrial discharge of chemicals and other pollutants into rivers.

Increasing water consumption fueled by the datacentres and energy production required by our digital activities, including for use of artificial intelligence.

Poor governance and corruption by companies and governments.

Impact on food security of droughts, floods, storms and desertification.

Salination of the soil due to sea level rise or overexploitation of aquifers.

Violence over competition over scarce water supplies.

2025 OFFERINGS Weekly Budget - \$4545 per week

Offering	Weekly Offering	Year To Date	Budget
26th July	\$2,409.67	\$127,147.79	\$136,350.00
2nd August	\$3,792.00	\$130,939.79	\$140,895.00
9th August	\$9,259.50	\$140,199.29	\$145,440.00
16th August	\$3,835.70	\$144,034.99	\$149,985.00
23rd August	\$3,700.42	\$147,735.41	\$154,530.00
30th August will be included in the October Notice Sheet			

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

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.



Prac session every 2nd Sunday of the month

Come and join us!

SUNDAY
5 PM SERVICE

Next Date:
13th Sept 2026



4th Sunday of the month



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

INFORMATION



(For people who live alone)

Next meetings of Uniting Friends will be on Sunday 6th September.

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.

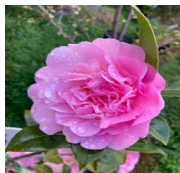
RELAXATION & VISUALISATION

Thursday 3rd September

10am—11am
in the Manse
Lounge.

For further
information,
speak with

Bron James.



TUESDAY STUDY GROUP
meeting 9.30am
every 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.



**MEN'S
BREAKFAST**
**Sunday 27th
September**
at Ballarat Central
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.



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.

INFORMATION



Circle of Friends
now meets on a
bi-monthly basis.
Our next meeting is
on

Tuesday 6th October.

ALL WELCOME.

Further Meetings in 2026:
1st December.

**Please speak to Rod Devenish or
Anita Hinton for further information.**



**Out to Lunch will be
meeting on Sunday
20th September at
Lake View
Restaurant,**

Wendouree Parade, **RSVP Charlotte
Withers and/or Clipboard in PW.**

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



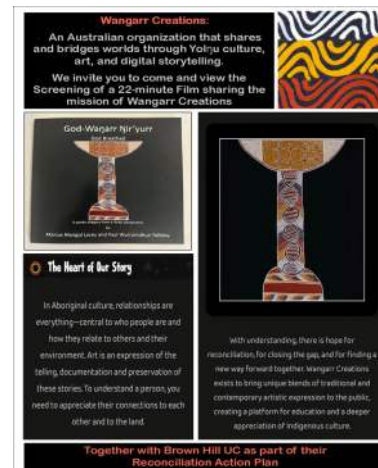
**BALLARAT CENTRAL UC
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**
**Will be held on Sunday 11th
October after the morning Service.**



We invite you to stay
and join us as we
reflect on our
journey during 2026,

Spirituality in the Cinema
Sunday 20th September, 2pm.

*An Australian organization that
shares and bridges worlds through
Yolngu culture, art, and digital
storytelling. We invite you to come and
view the Screening of a 22-minute Film
sharing the mission of Wangarr
Creations*



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.

**Youth meets each Friday
7-9pm week. (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.