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
"O P E N C H U R C H"
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).

Worship on Wednesday (WOW) at Brown Hill

Each Wednesday at 1.30pm with Holy Comunion. 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-2pm** (please contact Lauleti if you would like prayertime with him) **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 **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 Uniting Church in Australia
Ballarat Central Congregation
— a pilgrim people — on the way

December/January 2027 Notice Sheet



Dedication of the Christmas Bowl

Australian churches through the Christmas Bowl, have acted together to bring peace and hope into the world for 76 years.

Help us continue to act for peace.

As children of God, we will share this year's bowl with people around the world who are uprooted by conflicts and disasters, searching for a safe place to belong.

May their lives be filled with hope and peace. Gracious and ever-loving God, Open our hearts so we may courageously act for peace in the world. Open our hands to share what we have with those who have little.

May the Christmas Bowl be filled with the fruits of hope, peace, joy and love, so that all people may know Your goodness and receive Your grace.

Amen



Ballarat Central Uniting Church
Advent and Christmas Services 2026
- UCA 50th Anniversary

Sunday 22nd November **CHRIST THE KING/REIGN OF CHRIST**
10am Worship Service & ***Uniting Threads Craft Stall***

Sunday 29th November **ADVENT 1 " Hope"**
10.30am Buninyong Uniting Church, 302 Scott St, Buninyong
Advent of UCA's 50th Golden Anniversary Celebration—
Combined Ballarat UC Service followed by celebration Lunch

Sunday 6th December **ADVENT 2 "Peace"**
10am Communion Service

Sunday 13th December **ADVENT 3 "Joy"**
10am Worship Service

Sunday 20th December **ADVENT 4 "Love"**
10am Carol & Lesson Service

Thursday 24th December **CHRISTMAS EVE**
7.30pm Family Service
11pm Candlelight Communion Service

Friday 25th December **CHRISTMAS DAY**
8am Coffee & Croissant Breakfast
9am Christmas Service

Sunday 27th December 10am Worship Service

Sunday 3rd January 2027
10am Holy Communion & Renewing of Covenant Service

2027— SAVE THE DATE



The Chamber Philharmonia Cologne will again be holding a Concert at Ballarat Central Uniting Church in 2027.
SAVE THE DATE!
Tuesday, 16th March 2027
at 7 pm
More information to follow!

Coffee Cup Challenge.



A small weekly sacrifice can make a big difference.

Concludes Tuesday 9th February 2027, we invite you to take part in the Coffee Cup Challenge by setting aside the cost of one cup of coffee each week.
Thank you for your support.



The Australian Boys Choir will Performing at Ballarat Central Uniting Church on
Saturday 24th April 2027
Program & Ticket information to follow.
SAVE THE DATE!



THE 2027 FESTIVAL PROGRAM IS HERE!

Discover five days of exceptional music in the historic venues of Ballarat and the Goldfields, from 8–12 January 2027.

Featuring outstanding Australian and international artists, magnificent historic organs, Baroque masterpieces, chamber music, flamenco and much more.

An exciting musical journey awaits — we look forward to welcoming you!

Saturday 9th January
11am at Ballarat Central UC
"Crown & Carillion"
Thomas Wilson—Organ
Flyers on PW table

NEW YEAR PRAYER & ACTIVITIES

A prayer for the New Year
Rev Sharon Hollis

God of endings and beginnings,
God first and last, we pray for all who are marking the end of another year.
We pray for those who long for this year to end.
Where there is sorrow, bring comfort.
Where there is brokenness, bring wholeness.
Where there is pain, bring healing.
We pray for those who look back on this year with gratitude.
Where support and encouragement has been offered or received, sustain community.
Where life has been full of joy, sustain wonder.
Where life has been awash with your presence, sustain faith.

We pray for your world in all its glory and terror.
Where there is war, may peace prevail.
Where there is injustice, may your righteousness come.
Where creation is breaking, may it be restored.
God of endings and beginnings,
God first and last, as we stand on the threshold of a new year send us the gift of the Spirit to reassure us that by your goodness we dwell in your love.
By your mercy sin is forgiven.
By your grace your kingdom is coming.
Amen.



UCA DAY OF MOURNING

SUNDAY 24 JANUARY

For 31 years the Uniting Church has been in Covenant with the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC). Made in honesty about our history and in hope for the future, the Covenant commits us to work for a just church and nation.

Bound together by shared faith, witness and a dream for God's justice and healing, we walk together as First and Second Peoples, sharing in solidarity, joy and sorrow on the path to reconciliation.

Since 2019 the Uniting Church has marked a Day of Mourning on the Sunday before 26 January to reflect on the dispossession and ongoing injustices faced by Australia's First Peoples, acknowledge our shared history and renew our commitment to justice and healing.

WORSHIP SERVICES

NOVEMBER 29 ADVENT 1
Advent of the UCA 50th Golden Anniversary
10.30am Combined UC Service held at Buninyong UC
Followed by Celebration Lunch
Isaiah 64:1-9
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:24-37

DECEMBER 6
ADVENT 2
10am Communion Service
Rev. Lauleti Tu'inauvai
7pm Taize Service
Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
2 Peter 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8

DECEMBER 13
ADVENT 3
10am Worship Service
Rev. Lauleti Tu'inauvai
Exodus 33:12-23
Psalm 99
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Matthew 22:15-22

DECEMBER 20
ADVENT 4
10am Lesson & Carol Service
Helen Duggan and Choir

DECEMBER 24
CHRISTMAS EVE
7.30pm Family Christmas Service
Andy Gault
Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)

DECEMBER 24
CHRISTMAS EVE
11pm Reflective Candlelight Communion Service
Rev. Lauleti Tu'inauvai
Isaiah 62:6-12;
Psalm 97
Titus 3:4-7
Luke 2:(1-7), 8-20

DECEMBER 25
CHRISTMAS DAY
8am Coffee & Croissant Breakfast
9am Christmas Day Service
Rev. Lauleti Tu'inauvai
Isaiah 52:7-10, Psalm 98
Hebrews 1:1-4, (5-12)
John 1:1-14

DECEMBER 27
CHRISTMAS 1
10am Worship Service
Rev. Lauleti Tu'inauvai
Isaiah 61:10-62:3, Psalm 148
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:22-40

WORSHIP SERVICES 2027

JANUARY 3 CHRISTMAS 2 10am Communion & Covenant Service Rev. Lauleti Tu'inauvai *Jeremiah 31:7-14* *Psalm 147:12-20* *Ephesians 1:3-14* *John 1:(1-9), 10-18*	**JANUARY 24 DAY OF MOURNING** 10am Worship Service Rev. Lauleti Tu'inauvai *Jonah 3:1-5, 10* *Psalm 62:5-12* *1 Corinthians 7:29-31* *Mark 1:14-20*
JANUARY 10 **BAPTISM OF THE LORD** 10am Worship Service Rev. Lauleti Tu'inauvai *Genesis 1:1-5* *Psalm 29* *Acts 19:1-7* *Mark 1:4-11*	**JANUARY 31 EPIPHANY 4** **COMBINED WITH BROWN HIILL UC** 10am Worship Service Brown Hill Congregation leading *Deuteronomy 18:15-20* *Psalm 111* *1 Corinthians 8:1-13* *Mark 1:21-28*
JANUARY 17 **EPIPHANY 2** 10am Worship Service Rev. Lauleti Tu'inauvai *1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)* *Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18* *1 Corinthians 6:12-20* *John 1:43-51*	**FEBRUARY 7** **TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY** 10am Communion Service Rev. Lauleti Tu'inauvai 7pm Taize Service *2 Kings 2:1-12* *Psalm 50:1-6* *2 Corinthians 4:3-6*

2025 OFFERINGS Weekly Budget - $4545 per week

Offering	Weekly Offering	Year To Date	Budget
25th October	$3,825.47	$186,107.75	$195,435.00
1st November	$3,554.65	$189,662.40	$199,980.00
8th November	$3,565.00	$193,227.40	$204,525.00
15th November	$3,577.00	$196,804.40	$209,070.00

22nd, 29th November will be included in the February Notice Sheet

ACT FOR PEACE CHRISTMAS BOWL

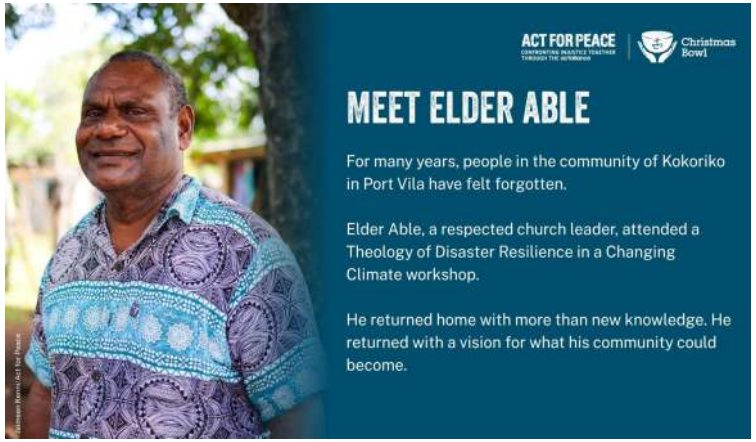
For generations, people across Australia have gathered around the Christmas Bowl as an expression of faith, generosity and solidarity.





Offerings on Christmas Eve Services and Christmas Day Service will be donated to the Christmas Bowl Appeal.

Act for Peace Christmas Bowl offering envelopes are found in the Peart Wing. We thank you for your generosity.



ACT FOR PEACE CHRISTMAS BOWL

Through the Christmas Bowl there is partnership with world communities and a commitment to peace with justice. There is the belief that everyone deserves a safe





Around the world, conflict and disaster continue to force people from their homes and communities. But people closest to these challenges are also leading the response. Act for Peace stands alongside trusted local partners who understand their communities and are working to create safer, stronger and more peaceful futures. Your gift joins that work, helping carry forward the future local people are already building for themselves.
Thank you for your generosity.



Ballarat Central Giving

We invite you to be involved—by direct transfer to Bendigo Bank
BSB 633 000 Account 133779470
(enter "Pledge & your name; or speak with Sabine for an assigned pledge number)

Prac session every 2nd Sunday of the month

Come and join us!

SUNDAY **Next Date: 28th February**

5 PM SERVICE

4th Sunday of the month

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



ADVENT STUDIES

Tuesday Morning Study Group will be studying the Book of Genesis at Beechworth Bakery, 9.30am
Wednesdays 3-4pm at Brown Hill Uniting Church—study material to be advised.
You are invited to join any group as you are able, to share in discussion. For further details, please speak with Lauleti.



Hymn Singing
Every 2nd Sunday of
Every 2nd month at 2pm
Next date: 13th December

Come and join us as we sing our favourite Christmas Hymns.

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



The next Taize Service will be held on Sunday 7th February

INFORMATION

Circle of Friends
Our next meeting is on **Tuesday 15th December at 6pm for CHRISTMAS DINNER**
Please bring a Salad or Dessert, Meat provided.
ALL WELCOME.
Please speak to Anita Hinton for more information.

Youth meets each Friday



7-9pm week. (during School term) and will be in recess during the Summer Holidays. We look forward to restarting at the beginning of February. Please contact Andy on 0439827888.

Staff/Leadership Leave:
The Office will be closed from 22nd December to 6th January, 2027.
Andy Gault will be on leave from 27th December to 6th January and 13th to 22nd January, 2027.
Rod Devenish will be away from 14th December to 6th January.
We wish you God's blessings this Christmas Season and a Happy New Year!



MEN'S BREAKFAST
Sunday 29th November
8.30am
at Buninyong Bakehouse
318 Learmonth St, Buninyong
Come and share food, fellowship & fun.
Contact Lauleti for further information.

(For people who live alone)
Next meetings of Uniting Friends will be on Sunday 6th December.
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.

UNITING FRIENDS

Many Groups are on Summer Break—check with your Group Leader to see when your Group restarts!



INFORMATION



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.



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.*

Out to Lunch will be meeting on Sunday 20th December at Lake View Restaurant, Wendouree Parade, **RSVP Charlotte Withers and/or Clipboard in PW. ALL WELCOME!**





RELAXATION & VISUALISATION
Thursday 3rd December
10am—11am in the Manse Lounge.
For further information, speak with Bron James.



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.



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



Spirituality in the Cinema
Will be in recess until February 15th.

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.