

Weekly Pew Sheet
The Uniting Church in Australia
ST LUKE'S CONGREGATION, HIGHTON



Sunday 17th February, 2019

Worship Leader: Paul Stephens

What does it mean to be blessed?



Are you new to St Luke's?

If you would like to connect with us, complete a pew card or please let one of the pastoral connections team know (they're the ones wearing a flower on their lapel) so that you can be included in our contact list and invited to join in.

The monthly newsletter, St Luke's Link, is published on the first Sunday of the month. The deadline for submissions is the last Wednesday of the month. Brief, interim notices are published in a single page weekly bulletin, deadline Thursday 9:00 am, and announced prior to services.
e-mail items to news@stlukesuca.org.au

Congregation News

LENTEN STUDIES: DREAMING BIG – WHERE IS GOD CALLING US NOW?



Our first whole church Lenten studies for a long time will commence in the week beginning 10th of March. If you or your group would like to explore this 5 week series, email info@stlukesuca.org.au or phone the office on 5244 5227 to register your interest and availability.

UPDATE FROM THE JUSTICE AND INTERNATIONAL MISSION UNIT – KIDS OFF NAURU

There are just three children and their families seeking asylum in Australia still on Nauru. In the last three months of 2018, more than 100 children seeking asylum were taken off Nauru. This was down from 222 who were on Nauru at its peak in 2014. Minister Dutton has publicly insisted that none of them will be given

permanent resettlement in Australia. Further, 445 refugees who had been detained on Nauru and Manus island have been resettled in the US, through an agreement between the Australian and US Governments. However, 188 applicants for resettlement to the US have been rejected, including 91 Iranians. The US Government paid for the costs of resettlement, including temporary accommodation and



a caseworker for three months — flight tickets were also provided as an interest-free loan. But at the end of three months, the refugees are on their own. There remain around 450 people seeking asylum on Nauru and 600 in Papua New Guinea.

LIBRARY NEWS – GLENIS STEWART

We have acquired several new books (thanks to Robyn!) which are displayed on the small table in the Hall. They are labelled and are ready for borrowing. The borrower's book is on the bookshelf nearest the hall door.

PRAYER AT ST LUKE'S

At St. Luke's prayer is considered an important and valued part of our worshiping community. The Pastoral Connections ministry team offer several opportunities for you to share in this ministry.

1. You can become a member of the Prayer Link.

Submitted prayers are forwarded to those willing to commit time to pray for the joys and concerns of the congregation members and their family and friends, and the community. These prayers are shared only after permission has been given by the person requesting the prayer and are always kept confidential. If you would like to be part of this valued ministry contact Beth Allen on 5243 6874.

2. You can fill in a prayer request form.

These are found in the container on the back of each pew and can be placed in the offering bowl or handed to Pam Seller or Beth Allen following worship. Urgent requests can be emailed to Beth on kballen@bigpond.com at any time during the week.

3. Prayer candles

These are available at the front of the worship space, they can be lit at any time during the service and placed in the prayer cradle. These candles represent prayers offered privately for people or situations we care about.

We are called to uphold one another in prayer, praying both individually and together.

Prayer for the week

President Dr Deidre Palmer has asked Uniting Church members to keep residents in disaster-affected areas in their prayers in the days and weeks ahead.

After heavy monsoonal rain, Townsville and surrounding areas are experiencing major flooding. Hundreds of residents have been evacuated and thousands of

homes have been inundated. The Presbytery of North Queensland cancelled all church services over the weekend to ensure that no one crossed floodwaters. Some churches have opened their doors for people to gather and find support.

In Tasmania, seven homes have been destroyed in widespread bushfires, which have been burning since before Christmas. Firefighters are hoping rainfall in the coming days could help control the blazes which continue to burn out of control across the state.

“We pray for all those who are suffering through adversity, that they might know God’s grace and love and be restored in hope through it. In times of natural disaster, churches are pastoral first responders to people experiencing the pain and grief of loss,” said Dr Palmer. “I pray for our chaplains as they seek to comfort the distraught, and our local church leaders as they seek to support the communities around them.”

The Assembly’s National Disaster Recovery Officer Rev. Dr Stephen Robinson says support is available for presbyteries and congregations through Uniting Church disaster relief funds. “As we pray and wait to see the extent of damage and loss, we will continue to make sure that local Presbyteries are aware of the availability of peer support, monetary support through Synod and Assembly disaster relief funds and the possibility of extra ministry resources which can follow up in the recovery phase.”

The Chairperson and Presbytery Minister of the Presbytery of North Queensland and the Moderator of the Synod of Queensland Rev. David Baker have shared the following prayers of intercession.

God of all comfort and compassion,
We pray for those in our community and our Presbytery
who are being or have been devastated by flood and rain.
We know that while the rain has come as a blessing to some,
particularly those in our outback areas,
for those whose properties are inundated or lives that have been threatened,
we pray for your protection and mercy. Strengthen those who are isolated,
Who lay sleeplessly at night concerned for their own
and their neighbour’s safety. Keep at bay the spread of disease
And show mercy and give strength
to our emergency services and SES volunteers.
Protect those who are trapped in floodwaters,
particularly those who are visitors to our region

and have no home in which to find comfort.

May our response to the suffering of others be generous and bring you praise.

For we ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

***Rev. Garry Hardingham, Chairperson and Presbytery Minister
Presbytery of North Queensland***

Loving God, in the midst of what nature brings us, we thank you for the deep wells of community life; we pray that people will be kept safe; that property damage be minimal, that we might support and help one another through these challenging days. Be with the people of Townsville and district we pray.

Rev David Baker, Moderator, Synod of Queensland

Reminders

NAMETAG ORDERS

Wearing a nametag makes it easier for people to greet newcomers and make them feel welcome, as not everyone has an excellent memory for remembering names.

During the month of February, orders are being accepted. The cost is \$9 and Pre-payment is required. Envelopes for ordering are available from JENNY POOLEY, at church or by calling 5243 4832.

UNITING BARWON BOOK SALE

Uniting

Friday 22nd February 2019 at the Grovedale site (272

Torquay Road, cnr Reserve and Torquay Roads) between 10.00am – 2.00pm.

Plenty of new stock to browse through and all books are only \$1.00!

REV PAUL STEPHENS ON LEAVE

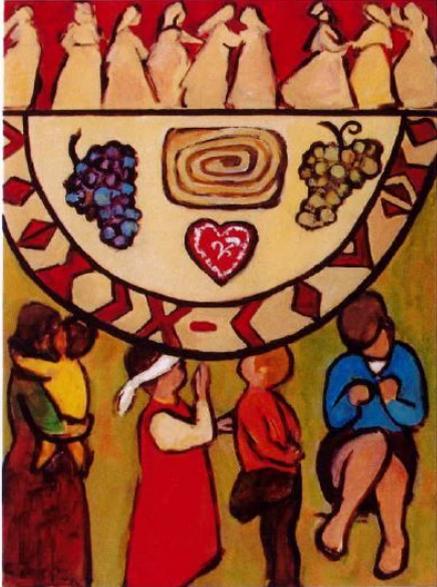
Our hardworking Minister Rev. Paul Stephens will be on leave from Friday the 22nd of February to Monday the 4th of March inclusive. Contact the office on 5244 2997 or Pam Seller 0407 557 933 for any urgent pastoral matters during that time.

SMALL GROUP INFORMATION UPDATE FORMS

A reminder for all small group leaders at St Luke's to please return the blue information update forms to Pam before the end of February if possible.

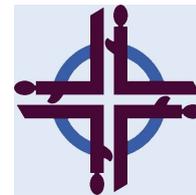
Coming Events

 World Day of Prayer—March 2019
SLOVENIA
'Come—Everything Is Ready'



Date Friday 1st March 2019
Time 11am followed by a light lunch
Place Wesley Uniting Church 100 Yarra St Geelong

World day of Prayer will be held on Friday 1st of March, 2018 at Wesley Uniting Church. The theme of the service is “Come - everything is ready!” It has been prepared by the people of Slovenia. Everyone is welcomed and there will be light refreshments after the service. For further information, please call Sue O’Donoghue 0429 784 331.



Roslyn Primary School
Outdoor Cinema presents



**RALPH
BREAKS THE
INTERNET**

23rd February, 2019



Come along and see Disney's hit movie, 'Ralph Breaks the Internet' at Roslyn Primary School's first fundraiser for 2019! Saturday 23rd February - Gates open at 5.30pm with the movie set to start at 8.30pm. Tickets (\$10) are available from www.geelongtickets.com.au/event/8813. We hope to see you there!

SUMMER SOUNDS CONCERT SUNDAY 24TH FEBRUARY 5PM

Geelong Gallery Presents the Vox Angelica Geelong Chamber Choir directed by Tom Healey, featuring the GSO String Ensemble and soloists Jamie Parker & Emily Frazer. Geelong Gallery, Little Malop Street. Members \$25, Non-members \$30
Booking essential: 03 5229 3645 or www.geelonggallery.org.au



What's On this coming week

What's on @stlukeschurchgeelong 18th-24th February 2019					
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Weekend
	9-12 Men's Shed		9-12 Men's Shed 9:30-11:30 Prayer Space Open (Sanctuary)	9-10 Walking Group (Barwon Edge) 9:15-10:45 Trekkies Fellowship Room	Saturday 9:30-10:30 Level 1 Tai Chi (Hall)
	9:30-11:30 Prayer Space Open (Sanctuary)			2-4:30pm Thriving Ministry Leadership Workshop (Western Heights UC)	
	English Classes (Fellowship Room) 5:30-7:30pm Church Council 7:00pm (Sanctuary)		4-5pm Choir Practise (Jenny's House)		Sunday 9:30am Worship

Sunday Worship 24th February		Lectionary Readings
Worship Leader: Welcomer: Ushers: Sound: Powerpoint: Reader: Morning tea: Connections: Driver/s: Sharing the Journey: Vestry Prayer:	Rev. Dr. Kevin Yelverton J MacRobbie S Anderson & H Swan M Baum & M Robertson P Phelan I Pooley D Seller A & F Safarnejad A Lyons G Boehm J Hicks B McLelland	<p>Epiphany 7 Genesis 45:3-11,15 Psalm 37:1-11,39-40 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50 Luke 6:27-38</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Sharing the Journey in February</p> <p>For sharing at Sunday worship, contact Joy Hicks on 52434284 or email joyh23@bigpond.com</p> </div>

Please note - The weekly bookings calendar is updated and displayed on the noticeboard facing the Sanctuary. Church volunteers can check online or on this noticeboard to see when spaces are available for setup etc.