

The Westerly



PWV& PPW Newsletter No.24 – 20th January 2022



Growing Green – Seeds for Climate Justice

Sue Strong [Geelong Wesley]

PPW Standing Committee recently sought out people to work as at PPW Climate Action Working Group, to be a yeast to life of presbytery.

“We are a small group of people, from within our presbytery, who care greatly about what is happening to God’s created world. It is important to us that we do all that we can, within our own sphere of influence, to care for our beautiful earth and its land, forests and waters. So, what might it mean for us as Christians in our own congregations and other places of ministry, to care for and be good stewards of, this beautiful planet?

We decided to send a letter out to every place of ministry in our presbytery, asking what each is doing to care for the environment and at the same time, offering a suggestion as to how some of the care might take place. Have you received yours yet? We have proposed that congregations take part in the Five Leaf Eco Award Survey which allows congregations to list what they are working on and offers great ideas in case congregations have no idea where to start. We invite you to take a look here: [5 Leaf](#)

Please let us know your good news stories (from across both presbyteries) as we are keen to share and celebrate them, and we do encourage you to embark upon the Five Leaf Eco Award survey to give you a great set of ideas for your community.”

PPW CLIMATE ACTION WORKING GROUP

Contacts Sue: susanannestrong@hotmail.com

Christine: cstorie65@gmail.com



CLIMATE ACTION

New growth - a good news story from St Luke's Repair Café

[St. Luke's UCA in Highton, Geelong] - **Climate Action Working Group**

Have you heard of St Luke's great Saturday afternoon efforts called Repair Café?

Once a month anyone can walk into St Lukes, in Highton, Geelong, with an item that is not working and expect to have someone with great skill, to be able to take a look at it and more often than not, get it back into working order.

Attendees are greeted by a friendly welcomer and offered refreshments while they await their turn. Customers are encouraged to stay and see how the item can be mended, in turn learning skills themselves that they can use at a later date.



Mended items are then weighed, and a celebratory bell is sounded, to which everyone in the building offers a loud cheer.

At day's end, the combined weights are totalled and the number of kilograms that did not go into landfill is recorded and celebrated. THANK YOU to St Luke's for their inspirational work in this area. Is this something that your community could also be doing?



Messy Church Camp

HEROES



March 11th - 14th 2022

Acacia Campsite—Halls Gap

**Arts and Crafts, Games & Sports,
Bible stories, Bush walks... for All-Ages.**

Promo Video: [UYC Messy Church Camp Promo Video - YouTube](#)

Camp Form: [docx \(ucappw.org.au\)](#)

Send registration to:

Email: Linley.liersch@ppw.victas.uca.org.au

Post: Messy Church Camp, c/- Horsham UC,
10 Pynsent St. Horsham VIC 3400

Uniting Faith & Family Camp -

March 11th—14th 2022

Strong Spirit Story:

Pay attention. Be astonished.

Tell about it!

How can we further build our faith practices?

Why should we investigate our faith stories?

*What are the ways we can share these with those
around us?*

All this and more at the 2022 Family Camp!

Registration: Em Chandler

emchandler6@gmail.com 0424 578 153

for further information.

Please Pray for Tonga

As you know the Tongan community in Australia are deeply concerned about their families in Tonga but are unable to get much information at this stage.

The Volcano eruption has caused flooding, gas and ash to fall on Tonga. Communications have been down everywhere. At this stage we only have satellite photos giving evidence to how widespread the damage has been for the community. Smaller islands seem to be hardest hit with rapidly rising waters destroying houses. The tsunami that swept over coastal areas after the eruption was frightening for many but rose only about 80 centimetres (2.7 feet), allowing most to escape. Many people are sleeping in shelters. (Picture: Matangi Tonga On-line)



On-line [news](#) reports: But on Tonga's main island of Tongatapu, perhaps the biggest problem is the ash that has transformed it into a grey moonscape, contaminating the rainwater that people rely on to drink. New Zealand's military is sending fresh water and other much-needed supplies, but said the ash covering Tonga's main runway will delay the flight at least another day. The military said it had considered an airdrop but that was not the preference of the Tongan authorities.

(Picture: Business Standard on-line)

Ways your congregation can help:

Look out for future fundraises in support of Tongan recovery.

Covenant to pray for the Tongan people in the days and week ahead.

Prayers for Tonga:

Creator God,

We pray for the pacific Islands effected by the volcanic eruption and tsunami.

God Bless Tongan people at this time. We pray the vital aid be able to reach Tonga quickly.

We uphold the leaders of this nation at this time asking God to grant them wisdom and understanding to make the urgent decisions to lead their people.


We pray for the environment to heal itself, grant gentle life-giving rain and sunshine to allow restoration.

We pray for Feke Kamitoni as Chair of the UCA Tongan Conference bless him with strength to guide the UCA Tongan community in the weeks and months ahead.

We pray for all UCA Tongan ministers and lay people in our congregations that they experience the love of God, as they wait for the news of family members.

Amen.

FEB 2022




**DEVELOPING A
+ CULTURE OF WELCOMING +**
Online Workshops


Churches will:

- ✦ Develop their own Welcoming Pathway.
- ✦ Learn the typical process of how people come to faith.
- ✦ Understand why ongoing inclusion is the key.
- ✦ Improve entry points into their church.

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS
7:30-8:30pm (4 Weeks)
Commencing 2nd February.
[Register for Wednesday by clicking here](#)

THURSDAY AFTERNOONS
2-3pm (4 Weeks)
Commencing 3rd February.
[Register for Thursday by clicking here](#)

 Uniting Church in Australia
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

 equipping Leadership for Mission
Priorities, Focus & Advocacy

Matt Harry spoke at presbytery and had everyone buzzing about his new on-line workshops:

Developing a Culture of Welcoming

Here is what we learned!

The workshops are based on a presentation
"Can your church improve its welcome?"

By John Jefferies and Mat Harry

<https://youtu.be/qLlmiEyPWaE>

The video is 1 hour long but Linley could not help listening right to the end. It was full of information every congregation needs to know.

**Let's make it easy for people
to become involved in
God's mission
through our churches.**

The importance of the 36 hour rule:

Did you know that if a new comer is contacted by a volunteer within 36 hours, 85% of them will return back next Sunday!

The strengths of these workshops is it thinks about the pathways that lead your people to your door, word of mouth, on-line websites, front entry, social media.

Churches who develop an intentional culture of welcoming and a clear pathway for new people to become involved, can expect: a sense of energy and excitement within their church. New people becoming disciples, expanded missional opportunities, more transformed lives and greater clarity on their churches direction.

Have you every visited a church and felt like you have been hand-balled from person to person because they do not know what do with you? Or worse you stand in the corner with an open disposition and no one comes to talk with you? What is the balance between these two extremes?

Just what are the stages in pathways? These include your entry points, before the service, during the service, after the service and on-going inclusion. What have your experiences taught you about being welcomed and feeling welcome? **How can we feel more confident in welcoming people into the church in inclusive and caring ways?**

Sign up for the Workshops by clicking the links below (for either the day or evening options) ... register as congregational teams e.g. Door stewards, welcomers, elders, ministry agents, church councillors.

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS 7:30-8:30pm (4 Weeks) Commencing 2nd February

Register:- https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEqOGprD8tHdTW_-olWmiEcdvOIA0uJpGS

THURSDAY AFTERNOONS 2-3pm (4 Weeks) Commencing 3rd February

Register:- <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZckc-qurDltG9wYKNggdroCscTA3LuVau6u>

**BOOK
NOW**

2 wks to go

Lay Preacher Training: Worship & Preaching



Also there is an on-line training opportunity for you all through the **Discipleship Learning Community** running next year out of Nhill – but available to you!

Damien Tann (Pastor) will be leading you he has many years of experience as a Lay pastor in congregations and has qualification in education and theology.

This year the subjects are **Worship** and **Preaching**. Brochure: <https://ucappw.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/DLC-brochure-for-2022.pdf>

There are many ways you can participate in this course: eg. seeking Lay preacher qualification, attend classes as part of your continuing education.

While the course looks to be about the basics that you may have done before... Mel Perkins has written this course with contemporary ways of worship, looking at how people learn and grow spiritually. This course will help form you as a Lay leader in your church.

Have you ever thought that your congregations worship is too traditional?

Have you ever thought if the church needs to grow it needs to open up its worship style?

Do you think visuals in worship are important and you need to help other people to understand why?

Do you find writing worship for special occasions challenging? Eg. Anzac day, Devotions for Fellowship Group.

Do you wish your children addresses could have more impact?

Then this course will be a great opportunity for you to grow and learn.

Interested? Check out more at: <https://victas.uca.org.au/community-learning/leadership/lay-resources/>

Register with Mel Perkins on Mel.Perkins@victas.uca.org.au or phone on 0424 142 8147



Education Events

Feb 2nd 7:30—8:30 pm	Developing a Culture of Welcome WEDNESDAY EVENINGS (4 Weeks) Commencing 2nd February Register:- https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEqcOGprD8tHdTW-olWmiEcdvOIA0uJpGS
Feb 3rd 2—3 pm	Developing a Culture of Welcome THURSDAY AFTERNOONS 2-3pm (4 Weeks) Commencing 3rd February Register:- https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZckc-qurDltG9wYKNggdroCscTA3LuVau6u
March 1st 5:30 - 7:30pm	Discipleship Learning Community (Nhill or on-Line) TUESDAY AFTERNOONS March—June EXPLORONG WORSHIP in the UCA. Forms: https://ucappw.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/DLC-brochure-for-2022.pdf
March 5th	<u>Amplify</u> Conference (In person & On-Line at a Hub near you) Ecumenical Conference on Children, Youth and Family Ministry Save the date!