

UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA



BELMONT CONGREGATION

42 Thomson Street, Belmont Vic. 3216

<https://buc.unitingchurch.org.au>

SUNDAY 11th MARCH, 2018

WORSHIP LEADER: Rev. Ikani Vaitohi

*We welcome all who are worshipping with us today,
especially newcomers and visitors.*

CHURCH COUNCIL

A Special Meeting of the Church Council will be held on Tuesday **13th March at 7:30pm** in the Meeting Room.

The one item on the agenda is a discussion of the 'Conversation Starter' provided for the Council by Rev. Ikani at its February meeting with a view to preparing a Strategic Plan to guide our minister and ministries over the next five years.



EASTER CANTATA

The Covenant of Grace

**A work celebrating God's
faithfulness and his everlasting
promises to his people.**

March 25th at 7.30pm

Thank you very much to everybody who contributed in any way to our **Harvest Festival** drive for food and vouchers for **Uniting Geelong**.

The response was wonderful and many parcels of food were delivered to Grovedale to fill up their stock of food. As well as the groceries, the retiring collection enabled us to purchase \$520 worth of vouchers to give to those clients who have specific needs. Once again, Thank you all very much.

The Ministry Team is based at the Belmont Church Office

on most Tuesdays to Fridays from 9.30a.m. – 12.30p.m.

Rev. Ikani Vaitohi will be in attendance on most of those days.

Pastor Geoff Aitken, on some Wednesdays and most Fridays.

They welcome any congregational members
who would like to drop in for a cuppa or chat.

Please Note: *In case of emergency, the Ministry team remains available at any time. See back page for contact numbers.*

CONTRIBUTE TO OUR WEBSITE: Belmont Uniting Church (BUC) website is at <https://buc.unitingchurch.org.au> (or Google us). *Please remember to go there for information, to make a suggestion or make a contribution.*

WELCOME MAT: Operates every week on **Fridays** from 10 a.m. – 1.00 pm. Join us for a cuppa, chat, games and lunch at 12. You are most welcome. Bring a friend and enjoy the fellowship and fun. Any queries, contact Carl Schaller, Muriel Bullock or Fay Harper.

CRAFT FELLOWSHIP meets on **Tuesday March 20th at 10 o'clock.** All welcome. Please bring your own craft and enjoy the camaraderie.

PRODUCE STALL NEXT SUNDAY A small number of *freshly made* items is now offered for self-service (price on lids) on some Sundays, around 9.30a.m. & 11.30a.m.:

Apricot Jam, Fig Jam, Lemon Butter, Plum Jam, Raspberry Jam, Strawberry Jam, and Madras and Tomato Relish.

Silverbeet Seedlings will also be available at \$2 a pot.

Theme: “Journey Within”

The English word for Lent stems from the word for ‘spring’ which refers to the penitential period preceding Easter. Early Christians felt that the magnitude of the Easter celebration called for special preparation. As such, we will mark the commencement of this period with an evening service on **Ash Wednesday** followed by series of daily prayers and meditations to accompany us along our individual and communal journey toward Easter. Our theme for this period is “Journey Within.” The Ministry Team, Education and the Worship Committee have put together these offerings to assist us in that journey. The finer details of these offerings will be made available to you later.

Daily prayer and meditation: 9.30 -10.00am Monday to Friday commencing Thursday 15 Feb – Fri 30 April

Bible Study: Praying the Psalms 6.00pm Sunday evenings 18 Feb – 18 March

Walking the Labyrinth: Mon 26 March – Easter Sunday afternoon.

Stations of the Cross in Belmont: Good Friday Afternoon.

Easter Vigil: A night of prayer over Saturday into Easter morning commencing 9pm – 6.00am

Easter Sunday Service: 10.00am 1 April

WORSHIP ROSTER To those who have served so faithfully on the current roster a very big thank you: Now the time has come to prepare a new roster for the months April to July inclusive. It will be presumed that everyone is willing to continue but, if you have dates you will be unavailable for duty, please advise by leaving a note in the ‘F’ pigeonhole or by calling 0423 712 398. Any information regarding the roster is required by Sunday 18th March and it is anticipated the new roster will be ready by 25th March.

SERVING THE BELMONT CONGREGATION

Sunday, 18th March, 2018

Worship Leader: Rev Ikani Vaitohi

Duty	8.30 a.m. HC	10.00a.m.
Stewards	C Nolte (M & HC) Prep E & B Wood	G Coomber (M) H Collins (I)
Readers	C Schaller, E Richards	L Main, L Yates
Porch Stewards	H McCann (P & HC) R Leitch	N Lyons (P), L Vaitohi K Cameron, A Jones
Host/ess		E Wood, R Buckwell
P.A.	M Richards	B Jennings
Flowers	Jill Jeffers	
Morning Tea	L & R Angus	J & R Ferguson A Jones/J Hewitt J Briggs/R Pearson
Transport	(1) R Jeffers (2) A Merritt (3) L Moss	

PRAYER POINTS

Dear Lord, we pray for family members and church members who are faced with illness or life threatening diseases. Reach out and touch them with your healing power and if it is possible restore them to total health.

Loving God, this world can be a difficult place; help us to give comfort to those in need and to share your love with those who are grieving. May we not be discouraged or overwhelmed but be mindful of your infinite love.

Dear Lord, we pray for unity in your church worldwide. May Christians learn to live in harmony and peace with each other, allowing your Holy Spirit to bind them together in love.

Sent from my iPad

**Reflection from our daily morning prayer and reflective time
9.30-10.00am Monday - Friday.**

HOPE

second week of lent: 40 days: jeremiah. lamentations 3:17-30. ♥

I encourage you in times when you forget what it is to smile, when your heart is so heavy it hurts, and it feels as though no one understands. . I encourage you in your 'lostness', in your dark nights, as you descend the depths of silence, and as you brush the bottom of your soul. . as your voice grows hoarse, as your confidence weakens, as you question-as you doubt, as you wonder who is friend, and who is foe. . I encourage you to passionately wait, to diligently seek, to quietly hope, to grit your teeth, to clench your fist, and to continue on. . for God has not forgotten you, you have not been abandoned. God will renew you each morning and will deliver each promise.

feel yourself held. rest. breathe. trust. and above all else, hope. amen.

SAMMY STAMP

A big thankyou to all those people who support “Sammy Stamp” by regularly placing used stamps in the box situated in the church. In 2017 Sammy Stamp made over \$52 000 and issued grants of \$50 310 to various worthwhile causes. I am a ‘cutter and sorter’ for SS and collect the stamps left in the box.

Please keep bringing your stamps, and if you are someone who has not done it, think about it. There is a sheet showing details of 2017 sales and grants posted on the notice board in the hall.

Wal Harper.

Sunday 11 March: The Power and the Glory

Numbers 1:47–2:34; John 11:28–57; Psalm 2:1–12

In our day-to-day life, we acknowledge God’s power and encourage others to believe in it. Yet sometimes it takes a trial for us to realize the extent and reality of our confession.

The disciples misunderstand Jesus’ reference to death and resurrection (John 11:11–12), so He displays His power through a trial and a miracle—the death and raising of Lazarus. Before Jesus has raised Lazarus, Mary and Martha express, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died” (John 11:21, 32). While their statement is a confession, it reveals their limited view of Jesus’ power. The crowd echoes Mary and Martha’s sentiment: “Was not this man who opened the eyes of the blind able to do something so that this man also would not have died?” (John 11:37). Yet, they don’t realize that Jesus has been planning for this moment to provide them with a chance to believe. (Of course, Jesus knows He could have come earlier; He chose not to so He could use this as an example.)

Jesus uses this miracle to challenge and encourage them while showing them that He is the source of life. The question He poses to Martha should be one we all consider: “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die forever. Do you believe this?” (John 11:25–26).

What trials has God used to show you that He is the true life?

Rebecca Van Noord

Barry, J. D., & Kruyswijk, R. (2012). [*Connect the Testaments: A One-Year Daily Devotional with Bible Reading Plan*](#). Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

THANKSGIVING SERVICE – QUILTS

In preparation for the Thanksgiving Service in May, your help would be appreciated in assembling the fabric quilts for distribution to the UnitingCare agencies. Packs of material squares are available on the table in the Morning Tea Room. Simple instructions are included – anyone who can sew a straight line will be able to assemble one. Please take a set or two and return them to Norma Phillips or leave the completed panel in the storeroom as soon as you are able. Happy sewing!!

CHOCOLATE

If you are purchasing chocolate keep an eye out for an ethically produced product. Supermarkets stock some chocolate with these logos. Buying goods with these labels helps support the growers – usually poor farmers who in the past have not received a fair price for their cocoa.



BELMONT UNITING CHURCH MINISTRY TEAM

Rev. Ikani Vaitohi 0432 680 028
Evenings only 03 5298 3699
Pastor Geoff Aitken 03 5241 2897
..... 0413 585 455
Congregational Coordinator 0423 712 398

CHURCH OFFICE: 42 Thomson Street, Belmont Vic. 3216

Phone 03 5243 4226 Fax 03 5243 4637

Email buc8@bigpond.com

SERVICES IN AGED CARE HOMES

Kalkee – Nangatta: Thurs. 2p.m. March 15th Ms Audrey Kateena

Kalkee Murray Hostel: Thurs. 3.30p.m. March 15th Ms A Kateena

Opal South Valley: Wed. 10.45a.m.

Alan David Lodge: Wed. 2.45p.m.

LECTIONARY

Sunday 18th March

Jer31 :31 - 34, Ps 51:1 – 12 or Ps 119:9 - 16

Heb 5:5 - 10, Jn 12: 20 - 33

CONTRIBUTIONS for the NEWS SHEET

Please include author's name & phone number, number of repeats required to **Raye Pearson**, or or **place in the Church Letterbox** at the top of church steps next to the meter box on the right **before 4p.m. on Wednesday**. Our BUC website is at <https://buc.unitingchurch.org.au> (or just Google us)