

UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA



BELMONT CONGREGATION

42 Thomson Street, Belmont Vic. 3216

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



SUNDAY 22nd APRIL 2018

WORSHIP LEADER: Rev. Ikani Vaitohi

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

UNITING Uniting Barwon: Education Assistance Program

Join us to hear about this program which helps hundreds of students in the Geelong area each year.

Belmont Uniting Church,
Thomson St, Belmont
April 29th at 5pm.

How is this program funded, who receives help, what help is given.

Listen to examples of the positive affects this help has produced.

How can we help?

Speakers will include volunteers who run the program plus a school wellbeing staff member.

A light meal will be provided and a contribution of \$5 is suggested.

All money collected will be donated to the **Education Assistance Program.**

TONGAN CYCLONE APPEAL

Cyclone Gita has wreaked havoc on the country of Tonga, the homeland of the Vaitohi family, causing devastation.

Many people are homeless, crops and plants have been lost and the loss of infrastructure is making life very difficult indeed.

There will be a Retiring Offering

TODAY

Sunday April 22

so we can help.

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.

FAITH SHARING GROUP: meets every **Tuesday at 10.00 am.** in the main hall. Everyone is welcome to come along and have a cuppa from 9.45 a.m.

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.

WORSHIP ROSTER – At a recent meeting, the Worship Committee decided that an extra person was needed on the first Sunday of each month to assist with the distribution of the Holy Communion elements.

To cover this, the following people have been rostered for the Sundays shown:- **May 6th** Lynne Rankin; **June 3rd** Graeme Allen;
July 1st Brian Couper.

Would the rostered leaders on each of these days please note the tenth person you now have on roster.

BOOK SALE Uniting Barwon will be holding its end of month book sale at the Grovedale site (272 Torquay Road, cnr Reserve and Torquay Roads) on **Friday 27th April 2018**. Time: **10:00am – 2:00pm**. Call in and browse through the great selection of books on offer - **nothing over a \$1!!**

EVENING FELLOWSHIP – MOTHERS & OTHERS EVENING with HIGH TEA – Wednesday 2nd May commencing at 6p.m.

RECENT DISASTROUS EVENTS

Due to the recent disastrous events in Tonga and the Western District in Victoria we will be holding two retirement collections to enable you to give, if you wish, to these appeals. *Please think seriously about the Tongan Cyclone Appeal and the Bushfire Appeal as our Church Council believes they are two very worthwhile appeals.*

TODAY, Sunday April 22nd we will collect for the people of Tonga. If you wish to donate you may place an envelope with your donation in the collection plate. If you wish a receipt, please make sure that the envelope is clearly marked with your name inside.

In the same way money will be collected next week, **Sunday 29th** for the Bush fire Relief. Once again money can be placed in the collection plate in a marked envelope. The recent bushfires in our Western District have caused devastation and loss. The suddenness caught so many unaware with no time to rescue pets, livestock or personal items. It is impossible to imagine what it would be like to lose everything you own.

We will also make available a collection plate in the foyer of the church on those two Sundays and you may place your donation in there if you wish...

These are both worthy causes, and we are aware that some of you will already have given as you can. Thank you for your generosity to those who are often in need of the Church's loving support..

THANKSGIVING SUNDAY, May 29th 2018

On May 29th we will be celebrating Thanksgiving Sunday. On that day we will gather together the work of our hands and hearts and bring them to be blessed and then handed to those who have need of our care. If you wish to contribute in any way you are very welcome.

We will be distributing goods to Uniting, nursing homes, Cottage by the Sea and Geelong Preps. You can speak to members of the Mission and Outreach Committee if you need further information.

PRODUCE STALL Fresh to the stall this month are: *Crab Apple Jelly, Quince Jam & Quince Jelly.*



Song and Story Sunday:

Over the coming weeks, we will hear stories that shaped the early church community as recorded in the Acts of the Apostles. We, too, love to tell stories about ourselves. Stories define us. Those with creative flare share their stories through songs. Our hymns are great examples. On the 29th, the fifth Sunday of this month, at our 10.00am service, we will worship God in music and stories. We will sing songs that reflect the Christian seasons of Easter and Pentecost and reflect on some of our common stories of faith, mission and service. You are most welcome to attend and please invite your friends and family to join us for this time of worship. If you have any questions, please speak with Brian, Lorraine, Cliff or Ikani.

Easter 4 (22-28 April) Offering protection; selfless service

John 10:11-18 Jesus is the good shepherd, who lays down his life for his sheep. He knows his sheep, just as the Father knows him. There are others who will listen to him, and they must be brought into the fold too.

Today's readings are about care of the needy. In Acts, Peter has healed a lame man in the name of Jesus. In 1 John, we are told to love in truth and action by helping our brothers and sisters in need. And John's Gospel offers us the image of Jesus as the good shepherd who protects his flock from the dangers outside the fold. Psalm 23 celebrates reassurance of God's protection.

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE The Fellowship Committee is seeking new members. Any member of the Congregation who is interested in joining this Committee would be warmly welcomed.

The Committee meets at **4pm. on the first Tuesday of every second month.** We organize fellowship events which are generally linked with fund-raising events for an organisation connected with the Uniting Church.

If you are interested please see or contact Sue Jennings (Convenor)

The Curious Thing about God's Work

Deuteronomy 26:1–27:26; 2 Corinthians 6:14–7:1; Psalm 40:1–17

Doing God's work is a curious thing. It requires both mad rushes and patiently waiting.

Christ followers are meant to think like the psalmist did: "I waited patiently for Yahweh, And he inclined to me and heard my cry for help" (Psa 40:1). Yet Jesus' followers are also meant to do His work at breakneck speed, as described in Deut 26:1, where the Israelites are told to take possession of the promised land and settle it.

We're meant to recognize where the answers and timeframe come from: God. Giving the first of what we make to God's work indicates this understanding: "You shall take from the first fruit of all the fruit of the ground that you harvest from your land that Yahweh your God is giving to you ... and you shall go to the priest who is in office in those days, and you shall say, 'I declare today to Yahweh your God that I have come into the land that Yahweh swore to our ancestors to give to us.' Then the priest takes the basket from your hand and places it before the altar of Yahweh your God" (Deut 26:2–4). In ancient Israel, the first fruits wouldn't be wasted. This sacrifice would provide the priest with a livelihood so that he could serve Yahweh by serving others.

God has asked His followers to listen and to act, but to leave the timeframe of doing both up to Him. Giving after we complete both tasks shows that we realize that God has given us all we have, and it requires us to understand the purpose of sacrifice.

Just as the Israelites were a wandering people (Deut 26:5), we were also once wandering sinners. It's for this reason, and many others, that we must trust our God in our patience, in our speed, and with our giving.

What is God asking you to be patient about, and where should you make haste? How are you currently neglecting to give? - John D. Barry

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

CHURCH COUNCIL

The Church Council met on Tuesday, April 10, and reports that:

- Very positive comments have been received about the Lent, Holy Week and Easter activities, particularly the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services, the labyrinth, daily prayers, and the Lenten Bible Study.
- Terms of Reference for the Strategy Committee were approved. The members of the Committee are Rev Ikani Viatohi, Jeannine Oman, Ian Henricus, Ray Ferguson, Julie Ferguson and Glen Coomber. Hugh Collins was appointed as Chairperson. The task of the Strategy Committee is to develop a 5-10 year plan for the congregation.
- Frontier Services Sunday and Sausage Sizzle will be celebrated on July 15. Special Guest will be Patrol Padre Rev Benjamin Quilliam, from the Centralian Patrol (Alice Springs).
- A letter was received from the General Secretary of the UCA VicTas Synod about the new Reportable Conduct Scheme. The Scheme requires all religious bodies to report to the Commissioner for Children and Young People on allegations of reportable conduct or misconduct in relation to offences committed against children, and applies to all members and employees of the Uniting Church. Any allegations must be reported to the General Secretary.
- Thanks were received from persons attending recent funeral services about the outstanding work done by the funeral Catering Teams
- Retiring offerings in support of the Cyclone Gita appeal and the Western District bushfire appeal were approved
- Presbytery's draft complaints management process was reviewed and feedback provided.

SERVING THE BELMONT CONGREGATION

Next Sunday 29th April 2018
Worship Leader: Rev. Ikani Vaitohi

Duty	8.30 a.m. HC	10.00a.m.
Stewards	N Phillips (M)	B Dickie (M)
Readers	B & E Wood	L Moss, G Coomber
Porch	C Nolte (P)	B Jones (P), P Jones,
Stewards	B Coomber	T Yates, J Hill
Host/ess		D Ives, C Rankin
P.A.	C.Fyffe	W Harper
Flowers	H McCann	
Morning Tea	E & M Richards	J & R Ferguson, A Jones, J Hewitt, J Briggs, R Pearson
Transport	1.R.Buckwell 2.B.Wood	3.L.Main



PRAYER POINTS

Thank you, Lord God, for showing us the fullness of your love in the person of Jesus, who was willing to give his own life for others. Through him we have the boldness to approach you with confidence as our loving father.

Lord, we pray for the young women and children assisted by our church's Accommodation Project. Bless those on the committee who visit them in their homes to give out the cheques, and grant them the sensitivity to have a friendly approach and a listening ear as they proclaim your gospel in this practical way.

Lord, we continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in Tonga, as they struggle to rebuild their lives after the devastating Cyclone Gita in February. Prompt us, we pray, to be generous in our prayers and financial support for those who continue to suffer.

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

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AFTERNOON COMMUNION SERVICE & FELLOWSHIP – Wednesday 2nd May at 1.30p.m.

A welcome awaits all comers. *Leader:* Rev. Ikani Vaitohi.

Minister's Stewards: B.& S. Jennings. *Tea Hostesses:* B. Coomber,
2nd name TBA. *Transport can be arranged by phoning 0423 712 398.*

SERVICES IN AGED CARE HOMES

Kalkee – Nangatta: Thurs. 2p.m. 26th April Pastor Geoff Aitken

Kalkee Murray Hostel: Thurs. 3.30p.m. 26th April Pastor G. Aitken

Opal South Valley: Wed. 10.45a.m. 25th April Pastor Geoff Aitken

Alan David Lodge: Wed. 2.45p.m. 2nd May Pastor Geoff Aitken

LECTIONARY

Sunday 29th APRIL, 2018

Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22: 25-31; 1 John 4:7-21; John 15: 1-8

CONTRIBUTIONS for the NEWS SHEET

Please include author's name & phone number, number of repeats required and **email** to Pamela Duthie, place in the Church Letterbox at the top of church steps next to the meter box on the right, or phone her **before 4p.m. on Wednesdays.**