

UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA



BELMONT CONGREGATION

42 Thomson Street, Belmont Vic. 3216

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



TRINITY SUNDAY 27th MAY 2018

WORSHIP LEADER: Rev. Ikani Vaitohi

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

THANKSGIVING SUNDAY

TODAY we celebrate our annual thanksgiving service where we gather together the work of many hands and hearts and bring them to be blessed as we gift them to those who have a need.



This year we will distribute through Uniting Barwon, various aged care facilities, Cottage by the Sea and Special Care Nurseries.

In this service we also welcome staff and volunteers from “Uniting Barwon” as they participate in an annual service of commitment.

This combined celebration

highlights the strong and supportive relationship that has been fostered between our Belmont Congregation and Uniting through various aspects of volunteering; and giving through appeals and donations.

A warm welcome to all as we celebrate this day of thanksgiving and commitment.

“Uniting Barwon” formerly known as “Uniting Care Geelong” and “Concern”. Each year they rotate around our local UCA congregations to share this annual commitment service.

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.

THE MISSION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE will meet this
coming **Tuesday, 29th May**, at 2.00 pm in the church hall. Any
interested folk are welcome to attend! Jean Murray, (new) Convenor

ACCOMMODATION PROJECT MEETING

There will a short meeting after the service **next Sunday 3rd June.**

CRAFT FELLOWSHIP will meet on **Tuesday 5th June** at 10
o'clock. All welcome. Please bring your own craft and enjoy the
fellowship.

AFTERNOON COMMUNION SERVICE AND FELLOWSHIP

Wednesday 6th June at 1.30 p.m. A warm welcome awaits all who attend. **Leader:** Rev. Ikani Vaitohi. **Minister's Stewards:** L. & H. McCann. **Tea Host/ess:** J. & D. Stephens. **Transport** is available .

CHURCH COUNCIL

Church Council will meet on **Tuesday, June 12th**, in the Meeting Room at 7.30pm.

Items of business and reports from Council Committees should be sent to the Secretary or placed in the "C" pigeon hole **by Sunday, June 3rd**.

Agenda papers will be available on Sunday, April 10th.

Bushikori Student Sponsorship

The Geelong Bushikori Committee is **seeking new sponsors for students** at the Bushikori Christian Centre, Orphan Support, Uganda. Because of the passing of previous sponsors, and the inability of some other sponsors to continue their support, the following four boys require new sponsors:

Tony: 18 yrs Primary 7,

Ivan: 16 yrs Primary 6

Johnstone: 18 yrs Sec. School Yr3,

Emmanuel: 21 yrs Sec . School Yr 6.

There are also 9 Primary School girls and boys on the Bushikori Waiting List for sponsorship.

Please contact Pamela Ferrar ph: 0407576441 or Rex Foord:

sponsorship@bushikori.org.au if you can help.

If you are seeking more information contact Bill or Sue Jennings:

CUMQUATS NEEDED: Would anyone who has excess cumquats please let Pam Duthie know. About a bucketful would be good.

N.T. Wright on Trinity Sunday

“In the church’s year, Trinity Sunday is the day when we stand back from the extraordinary sequence of events that we’ve been celebrating for the previous five months—Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Good Friday, Easter, Ascension, Pentecost—and when we rub the sleep from our eyes and discover what the word ‘god’ might actually mean. These events function as a sequence of well-aimed hammer-blows which knock at the clay jars of the gods we want, the gods who reinforce our own pride or prejudice, until they fall away and reveal instead a very different god, a dangerous god, a subversive god, a god who comes to us like a blind beggar with wounds in his hands, a god who comes to us in wind and fire, in bread and wine, in flesh and blood: a god who says to us, ‘You did not choose me; I chose you.’

You see, the doctrine of the Trinity, properly understood, is as much a way of saying ‘we don’t know’ as of saying ‘we do know.’ To say that the true God is Three and One is to recognize that if there is a God then of course we shouldn’t expect him to fit neatly into our little categories. If he did, he wouldn’t be God at all, merely a god, a god we might perhaps have wanted. The Trinity is not something that the clever theologian comes up with as a result of hours spent in the theological laboratory, after which he or she can return to announce that they’ve got God worked out now, the analysis is complete, and here is God neatly laid out on a slab. The only time they laid God out on a slab he rose again three days afterwards.

On the contrary: the doctrine of the Trinity is, if you like, a signpost pointing ahead into the dark, saying: ‘Trust me; follow me; my love will keep you safe.’ Or, perhaps better, the doctrine of the Trinity is a signpost pointing into a light which gets brighter and brighter until we are dazzled and blinded, but which says: ‘Come, and I will make you children of light.’ The doctrine of the Trinity affirms the rightness, the propriety, of speaking intelligently that the true God must always transcend our grasp of him, even our most intelligent grasp of him.”

N.T. Wright, in *For All God’s Worth: True Worship and the Calling of the Church* (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1997), p. 24.

BASIS OF UNION: THE WAY INTO UNION

4. CHRIST RULES AND RENEWS THE CHURCH

The Uniting Church acknowledges that the Church is able to live and endure through the changes of history only because its Lord comes, addresses, and deals with people in and through the news of his completed work. Christ who is present when he is preached among people is the Word of God who acquits the guilty, who gives life to the dead and who brings into being what otherwise could not exist. Through human witness in word and action, and in the power of the Holy Spirit, Christ reaches out to command attention and awaken faith; he calls people into the fellowship of his sufferings, to be the disciples of a crucified Lord; in his own strange way Christ constitutes, rules and renews them as his Church.

This paragraph is about the Word (the heading in the 1992 edition is somewhat misleading - these headings are later interpolations).

Christ is present today in the Word, through the Spirit. Human witness to this Word, even though imperfect, is necessary, and God uses our efforts.

It is worth remembering that, in Reformed theology, the Word comes to us in 3 ways (and the sequence is important):

(1) the Word made flesh;

(2) the Word proclaimed; and (3) the written Word.

Christ rules in a “strange” way, i.e. not by force but by the way of suffering love. This is a unique “rule”. It can be rejected not only by this world but in the Church as well.

Rev. Dr D’Arcy Wood comments from series of lectures given to the Presbytery of Port Phillip West.

Next Sunday, June 3rd, 10.00am

Launch of the Biography of the Reverend Andrew Love
AT St. Andrew's Uniting Church,
corner Sydney Avenue & Sydney Parade, Geelong

Worship and presentation on Reverend Andrew Love - 10.00am
Book launch - 11.15am
Morning Tea - 11.30am.

RSVP: 28.05.18 for catering purposes:

standrewsgeelong@bigpond.com

The Congregation of St. Albans-St. Andrews Uniting Church **most warmly invites you to the launch of 'Love By Name, Love By Nature'**, the long awaited biography of the Reverend Andrew Love, first minister of St. Andrew's UCA (formerly Presbyterian) Church, and one of the founders of the University Hospital, Geelong.

**We hope you can come along to all of this celebration,
OR as much as you are able. Welcome!**

Following the book launch there will be an optional complimentary short tour of five significant graves/monuments in the Eastern Cemetery namely:

WILLIAM SIMPSON, Old C of E section

The others, all located in the Old Presbyterian section, are

JOHN GEDDIE, Father of Presbyterian Missions in the South Seas

FRANCIS ORMOND MLC, pastoralist and philanthropist,
founder of The Working Men's college

ANDREW LOVE, pioneer Presbyterian minister,

ALEXANDER THOMSON, medical doctor, first Mayor of Geelong,
active in church affairs and aboriginal well-being.

There are only 10-15 minutes of walking involved as locations are close together

FOR MORE INFORMATION, contact: Alwyne Merritt (walk leader)

PRAYER POINTS



Dear Lord, we thank you that we can join together today to celebrate our annual thanksgiving service when we are able to acknowledge the diverse gifts of members of our congregation. May the beautiful quilts, knitted rugs, beanies, gloves, babies' and children's knitted garments bring joy and comfort to the recipients,

Loving God, we pray for the Uniting Church, it's leaders, the clergy and all its members. Help each one to know the importance of unity, fill us with your living Spirit so that we may learn to love as you love us, sharing your peace and joy with others.

Dear Lord, we ask a blessing upon Christians who volunteer in many different organisations sharing their love, skills, time and resources to help people in need.

SERVING THE BELMONT CONGREGATION

Sunday 3rd June 2018 HOLY COMMUNION
Worship Leader: Rev. Ikani Vaitohi

Duty	10.00a.m.
Stewards	P. Woods (M &HC) G. Allen N. Woods (L) J & D. Stephens, B. & P. Jones, K. & M. Moore, A. Jones
Readers	R. Buckwell, H. Collins,
Porch Stewards	B. Dickie (P) D. Woods, G. Chapman B. Couper
Host/ess	M. Bullock, E. Wood
P.A.	B. Jones
Flowers	J. Kelly
Morning Tea	S. & W. Jennings, M. & K. Moore, J. Briggs/M. Bullock
Transport	(1) B. Dickie (2) P. Woods, (3) K. Cameron

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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SERVICES IN AGED CARE HOMES

Kalkee – Nangatta: Thurs. 2p.m. 31st May, Mr. Alex. Page

Kalkee Murray Hostel: Thurs.3.30p.m. 31st May, Mr. Alex. Page

Opal South Valley: Wed. 10.45 a.m. 27th June Pastor Geoff. Aitken

Alan David Lodge: Wed. 2.45 p.m. 27th June Pastor Geoff. Aitken

LECTIONARY

Sunday 3rd June, 2018

1 Samuel 3: 1-10 (11-20) Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18

2 Corinthians: 4: 5-12 Mark 2: 23- 3:6

CONTRIBUTIONS for the NEWS SHEET

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