

THE OLIVE BRANCH

November 2019 Brunswick Uniting Church Congregation Worship - 9:30 am

> Meditation

For all beings without speech

Words : Julie Perrin 2013

Music : Shawn Whelan 2013

For all beings without speech
For plants that sing their silent song
For wilderness in wordless prayer
The spaciousness for which we long.

Who will speak for the wild ones now
And love the more-than-human-world ?
Earth calls in tumult and in peace
Alive in us like leaves unfurled.

Can we hear the voice of God
That solid speech of all that is ?
In rock and water, flowing air
In warmth of fire, a Spirit place.

For all beings without speech

Words: Julie Perrin

Music: Shawn Whelan

This song beautifully encapsulates the wordless cry of the "more-than-human world", and our call to first listen deeply, and then speak up for the earth and all life within it.

Shawn, together with Courtney Rohde and James Balsillie created a sound installation for the recent 'Let the earth speak' exhibition.

You can [listen to it here](#).

[https://soundcloud.com/
user-395259634/for-all-beings-
extended-8-min](https://soundcloud.com/user-395259634/for-all-beings-extended-8-min)

> Worship Calendar

November

Reign of Christ

The liturgical year concludes on **24th November** as we pay attention to the reign of Christ in our lives and our call to follow him in renewing the world with love.

Advent

The four Sundays of the season of Advent begins on **1st December**. Join the worship committee for our planning session on Wednesday 6th November, 7:45pm in the church.



Christmas

Blue Christmas

Blue Christmas will be held on **Wednesday 11th December** at 7:30 pm. This is a quiet service of reflection & meditation for people who want a space to grieve, remember loved ones who have died, look back over a difficult year, seek peace in troubled times or simply take some time away from the busyness of this particular time of the year.



Christmas Eve Pageant

Join us on **Christmas Eve** at 7 pm for '**Climate of Hope**' (working title). We have an excellent script and an enthusiastic group of young people under the direction of Caitlin Mullen.

If you would like to get involved, offer to help or have any questions about the pageant please contact:

- Saide Cameron (producer) 0407 096 743
- Caitlin Mullen (director) 0411 033 153
- Dave Hall (rehearsals) 0417 310 128



Christmas Day

We celebrate the birth of Christ at our regular worship time of 9:30am.

Photos from 2018

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> Happy Birthday

Sheryl Ashley, Patrick Boreham-Delaney, Tim Budge, Barb Collard, Esther Hollis, Pippa Kramer, Fergus Moorhouse, Elaine Potter, Felix Rugel, Janet Watson-Kruse, Darren White

Do you want to receive a birthday greeting? If the answer is yes and I hope it is please send me an email indicating the month of your birth - sайде.cameron@bigpong.com



> Pastoral Care News

Hospitality

If you are new or newish to Brunswick Uniting Church (BUC) and would like to find a pathway to belonging or would like more information about what goes on at BUC, please make yourself known to the pastoral care hospitality team. We would love to assist you - Ian Ferguson, Jane Allardice, Ray Cameron, Sheila Calwell, Graham Lawrence, Clare Keogh and Michael Rigby.

Compassion

The prayer group are praying daily for those requesting prayers and if anyone would like to be prayed for, please contact anyone of the Compassion team (below).

We would invite anyone who wishes to receive assistance of any kind, or to be included in the Prayer Group (as prayed for or as a pray-er) please contact Ian Ferguson, Leanne Salau, Dani Chamberlain, Gwen Arnold or Glenice Cook.

Community

Working Bees



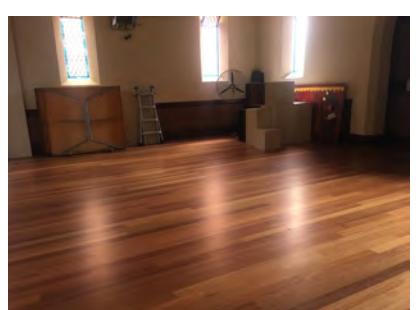
Lots of work was completed on **13th October** with a big focus on the garden.

We enjoyed a sausage sizzle and fruit after all the work was done.

Thank you to everyone who contributed.

A much quieter but not less important working bee took place on **19th October** when Ray, Saide and Shawn organized to take a trailer load of unwanted furniture from the West End of the Hall. Some items were sold prior to this activity which was great.

We hope that the West End can now be a clutter free zone and much more attractive to access. We ask only that the space not be used for incidental storage and that the panelled wall be kept clear for ease of opening as required.



This month we have continued to gather in a wide variety of ways, see JAM News (pages 5-9) for Olive Way stories, Let the earth speak, the screening of 2040 and the Pop-up Op Shops. On the next page we celebrate Blessing of the Bikes.

Also see next page for an invitation to lunch in the Congregation Secretary News.

Blessing of the Bikes

It is always such a joy to see so many people gathered with bikes and other forms of person powered wheeled transport after worship for the annual Blessing of the Bikes, this time on **20th October**. Ian proclaimed the blessing:

*Brunswick Cyclists, ride out and know that God rides with you!
May your wheels turn for life, in peace, on the journey of renewal.
May you meet the Christ of humility and compassion on the road.
And may the Spirit of creation abundantly bless your going out and your coming in
from this time on and forevermore.*



After sprinkling the gathered crowd Ian and Saide went from bike to bike assisted by Rowan and Greta sprinkling more water and saying:
*Ride in joy, peace and safety.
In the name of Christ. Amen*



A small group of BUC Cyclists enjoyed a very pleasant ride to Williamstown during the afternoon.



Coming up in December

Two opportunities to sing Christmas Carols:

Stay on after worship on Sunday 15th or 22nd December (to be confirmed) for **Singing on the Steps** where we sing out our joy to passers-by using the little red Carol book. So much fun.

We will also be **Singing Carols at the Manse**, a delightful evening of carol singing, stories and supper. We make a donation to the Christmas Bowl. Date to be advised next month.

> Congregation Secretary News

Congregational Meeting, Election & Lunch

Our Congregational Meeting for the Election of Elders will be held after worship on **24th November**. The main agenda item will be the Election of Elders. Other matters will also be discussed with details to be provided as indicated:

Our current Elders are: Linda Wannan, Daniel Broadstock, Shawn Whelan, Karlier Kok, Kimberly Fraser, Gwen Arnold, James Balsillie, Helen Rowe, Claire Foley, Amelia Ware.

Nominations for the role of Elder and member of the Church Council opened on Thursday 31st October and close on Sunday 10th November. Please collect a nomination form from Saide at worship or [download here](#).

- The Church Council is made of 10 Elders (confirmed members or members-in-association of the congregation) together with the Minister of the Word.
- The Council has oversight of the ministry and mission of the congregation and is served in this week by an extensive committee structure.
- Seven of the current serving Elders have offered to re-nominate for a further term with Daniel Broadstock, Linda Wannan and Kimberly Fraser concluding their time as Elders and Council members.

- People offering to nominate are asked to indicate their preferred term of service (from one to three years).
- The nomination form requires one person to nominate and another to second that nomination, the nominee must also sign the form.
- Forms are to be returned to Saide Cameron (Congregation Secretary) either in person or be email: sайде.cameron@bigpond.com
- Nominees will be asked to respond to three questions which will become a profile to share with the congregation along with the agenda for the meeting which will be emailed on Sunday 17th November.
- Nominees must receive a majority of votes from those participating in the election to be declared elected.

If you have any questions please call Saide, 0407 096 743.

Everyone is invited to stay on for lunch after the meeting
- pastries and falafel from A1 Bakeries, salad and fruit platters
- irresistible. Offers of assistance will be gratefully received.

Sаide Cameron

> JAM News

Olive Way honoured by the City of Moreland

Recently the [Olive Way](#) was nominated for a [Community Award from the City of Moreland](#). Shortly before the presentation night we were contacted to check whether a representative would be attending – but no firm indication that we might win an award. On Tuesday 1st October a number of us attended the ceremony at Coburg Town Hall and to our surprise we were announced as winners of the Collaborative Partnerships Award.

Congratulations to all people involved in the [Olive Way](#) – the participants, volunteers, our staff Pastor Peter Blair and Peter Murphy, and to the whole congregation for its prayer and financial support.

The text of the application is included below:

Olive Way is about creating a place in which community and a sense of belonging can flourish for those who live or visit in Brunswick. Located in Brunswick Uniting Church on Sydney Rd, it offers a warm and safe place to sit and chat, have a meal or participate in a range of activities. Its primary focus is hospitality and other creative activities.

Founded in 2007, the Olive Way offers meals and refreshments on the days it is open. There is access to computers and phones for people who need them and staff and volunteers can also help direct people to services to help with material aid or accommodation when it is needed.

Alex is one of the regular participants of Olive Way and was recently seen in an article that appeared in The Age. He describes the support he found at the Olive Way.

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/no-lights-no-linen-how-alex-survived-for-six-years-on-newstart-20190717-p5284q.html>

There is also an Art Program in conjunction with Arts Access, a writing program and Sydney Road Opera Company. Piano lessons have also been much appreciated, and those with music skills can utilise the Church instruments.

The [Olive Arts project](#) encourages visitors to explore artistic mediums and learn skills from professional artists in an encouraging environment. One of the Olive Arts participants, Giovanni describes his experience thus;



Ian Ferguson, Mike Denison, Richard Arnold, Alex Phillips, Leanne Salau

"My encounter with Arts Access at Brunswick's Olive Way was fortuitous. I thought I had stepped into a pond but it was an ocean. I was part of an exciting and vibrant network of artistic people. It brings my mates out of their lonely rooms and into the community where they can find companionship and warmth. We have somehow created a multi racial, non-judgemental, mutually supportive community."

[The Sydney Road Opera Company](#) is a grassroots musical theatre in which participants are guided in creatively telling their stories, writing them into plays that are performed during the Olive Way times.

Visitors and participants each find the Olive Way meets different needs and this is vital to ensuring inclusion, social connection, and in building capacity, confidence and strengthening relationships. Volunteers and visitors to the Olive Way have a chance to connect through this meeting place as well. The Olive Way is overseen by a steering committee that is made up of a mix of staff, volunteers and Olive way participants which ensures different voices are heard in management of the Olive Way.

Chandra's voice perhaps sums up what makes the Olive Way unique... "I find this place like a Doctor's prescription... Because of Olive Way we are enriched, we are happy, we have made new friends and moreover we have found kindness, feel welcomed and more."



[The Respect project](#), with postcards created by
'The Olive Arts Collective'



In the Waiting Room - with [SROC](#)
25th October 2019

Olive Way Update

Introducing Bev Evans

For the Olive Branch this month I thought I would introduce one of our Olive Way champions, one of our key volunteers and all round awesome lady, Bev Evans. Some of you have met Bev and know a little of her story, but for those of you who don't Julie Perrin compiled a brief profile for our internal Olive Way newsletter. Here's a snippet:

Bev began at the Olive Way in February last year. She's pretty experienced in hospitality, and volunteers in the kitchen every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Bev is very much at- home in what she does, she says, "I'm doing a lot of things I was trained to do." She had forty years as a teacher of home economics, art and science. She taught in Warrnambool on the south coast and she remembers the kids after school would all ride off down to the beach with their surfboards on their bikes, "That was before the days of mobile phones", she says.

Later Bev came to Melbourne and taught in schools up here in Broadmeadows and Brunswick. It's not hard to imagine what a friendly helpful teacher she would have been, her smiling face is so welcoming. Bev's been known to bring in home-made cakes to share and she's a cryptic crossword genius. Every week she works on the crosswords, both the quick and the cryptic, with Pete-the-cook and Sergio; they have to explain the questions to me!

SROC Performs In the Waiting Room



Last Thursday (15th October) saw the performance of SROC's latest production, In the Waiting Room. As is the custom, the play is made up of the experiences and stories of the participants, woven together into a musical, slapstick, 'dramedy'. This production describes the experiences of our Olive Way people 'in the waiting room of Centrelink, the doctors, the airport, and the hospital'. The stories are told through song and narrated story. This time around the set featured designs by Bev, who did an amazing job of producing things such as the signs and the numbers (just to complete the experience of being in a queue). There was even a lucky door prize! Our cast for this production was Damian

(lifestyle coach, there to make the waiting bearable), Trevor, Cindy, Big Ed, and Gus, with music provided by Graeme. We look forward in anticipation to what SROC will come up with next.

Have a look at the [SROC Facebook page](#) for more details and photos



At her home Bev loves to grow plants from seed and has lots of things growing in pots in her small garden. She also visits her elderly mother in Glenroy and supports her to keep living in her own home. Bev is enjoying working in the art room on Wednesdays and Thursdays, and says she feels she can come in as a learner. Actually I think Bev will always be a teacher, she teaches gentleness and kindness just by the way she is.



Julie Perrin

On another note Bev's amazing culinary skills were on display during my recent absence overseas as she filled in for Peter Murphy in the kitchen. A brilliant meal and dessert was put on for the three Wednesday lunches, leaving some pretty satisfied smiles on guests' faces from what I'm told. Keep an eye out for the ginger bread houses and some other Christmas knick-knacks after church in the months to come.

Peter Blair

Gardening opportunities



Also:

Do you want to grow something but don't have the space?

Do you want to learn some gardening tips?

The church has granted some garden space for Olive Way punters to try their gardening luck and test their green thumbs.

If you are keen please let us know. The more we have involved the more successful our gardening endeavours will be.

This bare space will soon be developed into a garden. What will we grow? Vegetables? Flowers?

All suggestions welcomed. Time to put on those gardening gloves and become a Green Thumb.



Peter Blair, Olive Way Pastor

Beeswax Workshops



Food Co-op hosted two Beeswax Wraps workshops in October. These were attended by Members of the Food Co-op and folk from the congregation. We learned how to make the wraps which are a sustainable alternative to the use of plastic cling wrap for covering stored food in the fridge etc. Our demonstrator Lyn shared about her own household commitment to living sustainably - a wonderful role model with simple ideas for reducing our consumer footprint. There will be lots of wrap making in readiness for Christmas gift-giving I'm sure!

Helen Rowe



BUC Arts

Let the earth speak

The BUC Arts committee is so very grateful for the response and support from the congregation and wider community for the recent 'Let the earth speak' exhibition. The immensity of this exhibition cradled by the Season of Creation through worship has been celebrated in a [special edition of the Olive Branch](#) which was sent out last week.

We hope you enjoyed it.

Olive Arts

The ArtStop program has concluded for the year. Olive Arts now returns to the regular Wednesday session and will continue on this day throughout 2020.

ArtStop will become an NDIS funded program running during term times on Tuesday morning in 2020.

Olive Pesto

The Olive Pesto group has been invited to participate in creating the Advent installation with leaders of the group being invited to attend the planning session on **6th November**. More details in the [monthly newsletter here](#).

Saide Cameron

BUC Arts Co-convenor - Administration



BUC Climate Action Group

The Climate Action Group has been meeting regularly after worship in recent weeks to prepare a motion to present to the Congregational Meeting on **24th November**. The motion has now been prepared and will be presented to Church Council for their commendation. The motion will be presented in the agenda for the Congregational Meeting which will be emailed on Sunday 17th November.



2040

On **Thursday 31st October** more than 80 people gathered to watch the screening of 2040 - a film which offers hope in this time of climate emergency. Camilla Kasker promoted the screening in a wide variety of places (churches, schools, cafes, university etc) and so it was pleasing to see new faces in the audience. Popcorn, tea & coffee were available before the movie and supper afterwards, both providing time to engage in conversation about this important issue of our time.



Tim Budge thanked the many people involved in supporting the evening and invited Camilla to offer her reflection: *I've made a list of the solutions I've gleaned from the film which are: solar micro grids, ridesharing, sustainable agriculture, reducing food miles, marine permaculture, early education in climate issues and family planning.*



I don't think the film really addressed these last two points so much, but they are: feeling empowered to change not only our own lifestyles but also to make sure that our governments plan for green industry transitions."

Linda Wannan invited the audience to offer donations in response which would be used to provide training to empower young people in advocacy and taking action. Amount raised - \$204.40!!



Camilla offered these words of thanks through Facebook '*On behalf of Tim & the climate action group, I'd like to thank all the helpers at the 2040 film screening and all involved in its planning and execution. We couldn't have done it without you! A special thanks to Saide for being on call 24/7!*'

Saide Cameron

FUNdraising

Pop-Up Op Shop

Once again the buzz of people investigating the many treasures offered in the Op Shop demonstrates our willingness to share the items that we no longer want or need and an equal willingness to hunt for a bargain for something 'not new' to take home.

Everything from clothing, shoes, bags, jewellery, books, DVDs, CDs, kitchenware, games, knick-knacks and even a TV have been on offer. There are two weeks left so please buy a bargain or ten after worship on 3rd and 10th November.

Our thanks to Helen Burnham and her many helpers for making this such a fun activity.



Act for Peace Christmas Bowl Appeal

Celebrating 70 years - The [Christmas Bowl appeal](#) is a much-loved tradition through which 1,800 churches from 18 denominations come together in a powerful demonstration of faith and love to help some of the world's most vulnerable people. It is our way of forging a loving connection between our Christian community here in Australia and people around the world who are experiencing dreadful hardship and suffering.

This year's theme is (once again) 'Love thy Neighbour'.

Every year we support the Christmas Bowl Appeal financially by buying beautiful craft, tantalizing treats and delicious preserves at the **FUNdraising Stalls** after worship, this year on **1st & 8th December**, and making our own tax-deductible donations either [online](#) or using the envelopes provided at worship (*available in December*).

All proceeds will support the projects sponsored by the Christmas Bowl. This year the projects identified are:

- Harvesting hop in Zimbabwe
- OfERR supporting SriLankan refugees to return home
- Finding joy in resilience (Tonga)
- Finding strength in love after fleeing Syria
- God's love in action (South Sudan)

Saide Cameron

From the committee

After a two month break we were delighted to once again gather to share good food and conversation as members of the Justice and Mission committee. We have oversight of a number of programs, committees and action groups and greatly appreciate all the work being done by so many people. Much of the work has already been reported through the stories on the preceding pages. So a few highlights from the committee:

Olive Way

- We offered only two days (Wednesday and Thursday) during Peter Blair's leave with Peter Murphy covering his role and Bev Evans preparing Wednesday lunch. All went well
- A mobile laundry service has been setting up on Wednesdays (11:30-1:30) and is being well used.
- We commend the Olive Way Happenings to all, please read it and learn more about the ministry of this program.
- We are grateful to Deb Blackmore for nominating the Olive Way for a Moreland Award and to be delighted to have received it. See page 3.
- We love SROC - 'In the Waiting Room' was wonderful.
- The trial move of the Olive Way into the main hall will take place in January. A relocation task group will be established in the near future.

BUC Arts

- Again thank you for all involved in the bi-enniel exhibition 'Let the earth speak ...'. Read the [Season of Creation OB](#).
- The committee is working on a new proposal format for people wanting to propose programs, workshops etc
- Olive Arts will be working on the creation of a mural for the new sheds during January
- Olive Arts returns to Wednesdays, ongoing through 2020

FUNdraising

- Wow - what an amazing response to Helen's bi-annual OpShop, so much on offer. Grab a bargain after worship
- Planning is underway for the Christmas Bowl Appeal stalls after worship. The possibility of providing a very simple catalogue is under discussion.

BUC Climate Group

- We are inspired by the passion of the people involved in this group and look forward to supporting the motion to be offered at the Congregational meeting
- We are also inspired by the passion, dedication and commitment of Camilla Kasker which led to the successful and very well attended screening of the movie '2040'.
- Thank you to Jamie for the weekly Climate Action news.

ASWC

- Abi will collaborate with Aimee Dare on ways to make our compost bins functional
- Storage matters continue to be discussed.

First Nations

- The recommendation submitted to Council in relation to developing a relationship with First Nations people was approved.
- We look forward to the outcomes of this process and offer our thanks to Dave Hall, Claire Foley, Jenne Perlstein and Shawn Whelan who will be taking responsibility for it.

Medevac Letter writing

- The session hosted by Deb Blackmore and Mikul Denison on 8th September was well attended.
- Our thanks for the advocacy on this important issue.

Lids for Kids

- This Lions International project recycles plastic lids into, among other things, prosthetic hands for kids.
- A recommendation is being made to Council for us to have a collection bin on site.
- [Details here.](#)

Boycott Hewlett Packard

- We have received a request from the Palestine Israel Ecumenical Network to boycott this company.
- We agreed to promote this and encourage the congregation to support this boycott where possible.
- [Details available here.](#)

Bookings policy

- After conversation with Synod the Council has secured permission allowing for the extension of our public liability insurance to cover community groups under certain conditions the key one being that the event is for a purpose consistent with the mission of BUC.
- Thank you to Shawn Whelan and Julie McKinnon for their work on this process

Stewart Lodge Carols

- After many years of organising the carols night we agreed that it was time to pass this responsibility on.
- Richard is contacting Christchurch Anglican congregation in light of their increased role at the same time as our decreasing engagement with Stewart Lodge
- It is worth noting that members of Stewart Lodge regularly attend Olive Way and Olive Arts so our relationship has simply changed not ceased.

Merri Project

- The Council invited all groups and committees to engage in some 'blue sky' thinking with respect to the project.
- Our ideas included (in brief) providing spaces for a wide range of activities, ensuring that project is totally green and has a positive carbon footprint.

Saide Cameron

with the JAM Committee: Kirsty Bennett, Leanne Salau, Abi Benham-Bannon, Ann Soo, Richard Arnold, Gwen Arnold



> CYYA News

Hi there BUC folks,

Here are a few snippets of the last month from my perspective: what has happened, things to look forward to, coming events, starting with the youngest...



Olive Pips (Brunswick UC Playgroup)

We enjoyed another excellent gathering on Saturday 26 October, where pre-schoolers and parents alike enjoyed Nagma's slice, Tim and Kate's freshly baked muffins, Joshua's cuteness and a reading of The Wonky Donkey. Olive Pips will resume in February next year.



Sunday Morning Program (SMP)

Hot chocolate, Tim Tams and great discussion have been a hit with the older group on Sunday mornings, including chatting about why there's suffering (hello Job), activism in an age of Donald Trump, and our own dreams (inspired by Rev Martin Luther King).

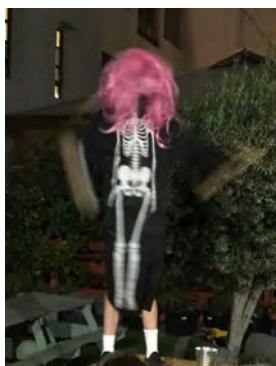
The middle and younger groups (kinder through to Grade 5 or 6) have begun preparations for the Christmas pageant and started work on a very nice sign for the back entrance.

The blessing of the bikes was also pretty fantastic, IMO.



We enjoyed an excellent casting session for the pageant on Sunday 27 October, with plenty of children and teenagers keen to be part of the story on Christmas Eve.

Youth Group every second Friday night



I wasn't expecting Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer to be sung around the campfire for our Halloween youth group... but it was... along with an epic rendition of "Let it Go" from Frozen. Coming up we have Laser Tag and Bowling on Saturday 9 November (note the date change), then the TEAR Justice Conference at the Melbourne Convention Centre on Fri Nov 15, with Rev Tim Costello as guest speaker.

[Term 4 calendar here.](#)



Student House

Oliver Sun has just moved in to the Student House. Welcome Oliver! Oliver is studying a Bachelor of Arts in Creative Writing at RMIT. He was born in Singapore, lived some of his childhood in New Zealand, and mainly heralds from Taiwan where his parents are both academics. Oliver is an avid reader, occasional singer, and is really drawn to the way BUC expresses and lives the Christian faith.



The OG

Amplify is coming up on Saturday 9 November. It's a day of listening to the needs and hopes of young people in the Uniting Church across Victoria and Tasmania, at Aitken College, near Tullamarine Airport. Please contact me if you are interested. I'm keen to connect with the OG (older group), which I'm referring to as those aged about 16 to 22. I realise that Sunday morning worship is a bit of a stretch for this age-group, but please text me directly so we can have a coffee, and I'll listen to some of your hopes and needs.



> Stories

Book Review

Is there such a thing as “The Sociology of Religion?”

What is the link between a Wesleyan Methodist Missionary born in Yorkshire 1795 and a marcher at the Global Climate Strike in Melbourne in 2019, except for the fact that he was her great great grandfather!?

Is there a connection between what motivated him try to bring a message of salvation and hope to what he saw as misguided primitive people and contemporary fervour trying to bring a message of salvation and hope to our own misguided leaders? Or my own daily work of helping individuals wrestle with their personal demons?

And how can this have any connection with the long held but now widely discarded doctrine of original sin? Or the ways it arose, was developed, and changed in the western church?

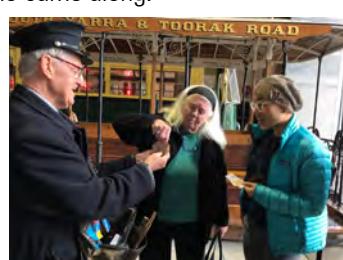
I have often wondered if there was such an area of study as “the sociology of religion”. I haven’t answered that question, but I have discovered a book that I described as “Inspiring”, that would fit in that discipline if it exists.

Out & About

Out and About Group had fun at the Melbourne Tram Museum recently. Mal is an expert on the history of Melbourne’s tramways and made a most informative presentation with lots of old photos.



We clambered over the old trams and cable cars. A wonderful journey back through history. Thanks Mal and to all who came along.



Helen Rowe

Young Adults

It's great to see more and more young adults finding their way to Brunswick Uniting Church, and hopefully connecting in to this community and God. Special mention to Camilla Kasker for the awesome work on the screening of the film: 2040.

5-year review

It's been almost 5 years since Julie Perrin wrote the excellent review in to CYYA ministry at Brunswick Uniting Church, entitled: "Pathways to the River." So, the Children, Youth and Young Adult Committee is starting work on a review of our ministry and work, building on Julie's report. If you'd like to share your thoughts as part of this review, and to help shape the next 5 years, please contact me directly, or Anita Major.

Grace and peace

Dave Hall, Pastor: Children, youth and young adults, 0417 310 128

davehall1373@gmail.com

That book is

“Born Bad: Original Sin and the Making of the Western World” by James Boyce (2014). In it he traces the origins of this theology, the Church and State powers with an interest in maintaining one or other version of the doctrine over time, and how it still influences contemporary thinkers, even the most avowed atheists. He ends with the suggestion that we need “to reject the caricature of God who can only be at home in a sanctified soul or lost paradise” who has been “exiled to heaven”. “Freedom from the bondage of original sin has not come from the throwing off the chains of religion, but it might yet come by bringing grace back to earth”.

We can only live in hope.

This book is complex but very accessible. I would strongly recommend it to anyone with an interest in history, philosophy, sociology, and how they interact with religion.

Meg Orton

> Regular Events

BUC Cycle

Join an enthusiastic group of cyclists after worship every 5-6 weeks and explore Melbourne's bike tracks. We head off after worship and cycle for about two hours and usually stop off for icecream and/or a drink along the way.

Our next ride is likely to be sometime in **January**.

See page 4 or for more information contact Graham Lawrence, 0408 617 416.

Singing The Sacred Harp

The Sacred Harp Singing is a group of people who meet to sing from a book called "The Sacred Harp". This music is participatory, a cappella, loud, folk hymn singing, which originates from the USA. The book "The Sacred Harp" is a collection of shape note songs from various sources, from the 1770's to the present day. All singers of all abilities are welcome to come as often (or as infrequently) as they are able.

The style of music sounds something like a cross between Eastern European and Irish folk music. For more information on Sacred Harp music please visit www.fasola.org

Come along & join us on the **first Sunday** of every month, from 4pm-6pm in the hall. Contact Natalie Sims or Shawn Whelan, ph. 9495 6120, or email sacred_harp@yahoo.com.au

Table Church

We gather to share a simple meal of soup & bread and dessert on **Sunday evenings**, (6-7:30pm), shaped by a liturgy that invites us to reflect on the week that has passed and to pray for each other. The shape of the evening is informal and low-stress.

We are meeting on the **fourth Sunday of the month**.

Everyone is welcome and you can come every month or just as you are available. If you are interested, or just want to know a little more, please contact Helen (0423 009 813).

Mulling

The Mulling Group (for 25-35ish aged people) meets (usually) on the **first Tuesday** of the month, 7-9pm. We share a meal and conversation. Contact Daniel Broadstock, 0479 039 640, for more information.

The Olive Way

Our congregation's outreach program is open on **Tuesday to Thursday** from 10 am - 1:30 pm.

- Meditation - Tuesday
- Writing Workshop - Tuesday
- Community Kitchen & Art programs - Wednesday
- SROC (drama group) - Thursday

New volunteers are always welcome.

Contact Peter Blair, ph. 0431 193 810.

Book Club at BUC

facilitated by Jeanette Acland

7.30 – 9 pm, **Wednesday 27th November 2019**

Youth Hall, Brunswick UC

At our final meeting for 2019, we will:

- Discuss chapter 41, Birth, from Hannie Rayson's biography Hello, beautiful!: scenes from a life.
- Bring a Christmas story (non text, picturebook, chapter book – whatever) to share.
- Bring the name of a book you've read this year that particularly resonated with you.
- Bring a small plate of food to share.
- Consider some books that we might read next year.



If you are interested please contact:

Faye: 9379 1317 faye.findlay18@gmail.com or

Christine: 9386 8919 christine@hornby.id.au

Talk Faith

An opportunity for informal discussion about a bible passage, time to get to know each other. **Thursday 14th November**, 7:30 pm @ The Manse (60 Blyth St, Brunswick). Let Ian know if you would like to attend, 0438 547 842. [Read more](#).

Out and About Group

Out and About is a monthly social group for older, active women and men. We visit places of interest or meet up for lunch or coffee. New members always welcome. Contact Helen Rowe for further information about this month's activity. Ph. 0423 009 813 or email helen.rowe@rocketmail.com

Saturday Coffee

Join us at 2:30 pm on the **first Saturday** each month at a local café. Very informal and all women are most welcome.

Please note - in September we will attend the launch of Maggie Somerville's CD - see p4. Contact Leanne Salau, 9386 1484

Olive Pesto

At Olive Pesto we 'Make, Learn, Laugh, Share'. Come along to the Youth Hall on the **second Saturday** of the month, 10am-noon. Contact Linda Wannan, 0405 470 568.

Brunswick Uniting Food Co-Op

Next Distribution Day – **Saturday 16th November**, 10 am - 12 noon. Members are asked to plan their shopping list and label containers before arriving at Distribution Day. Scales will be available on the day to pre-weigh containers. Further information from Helen 0423 009 813.

> Reports

Church Council

Here's some of the premium goings-on at your friendly Church Council over the past month:

Diversity and Cultural Dialogue

One of Church Council's major strategic goals for 2019 was to do some work thinking through how we can welcome and affirm diversity of all kinds in our community. In that light, we were delighted to receive reports of the success of the recent diversity workshop, and the ideas that it has stimulated. Church Council is now actively exploring the following:

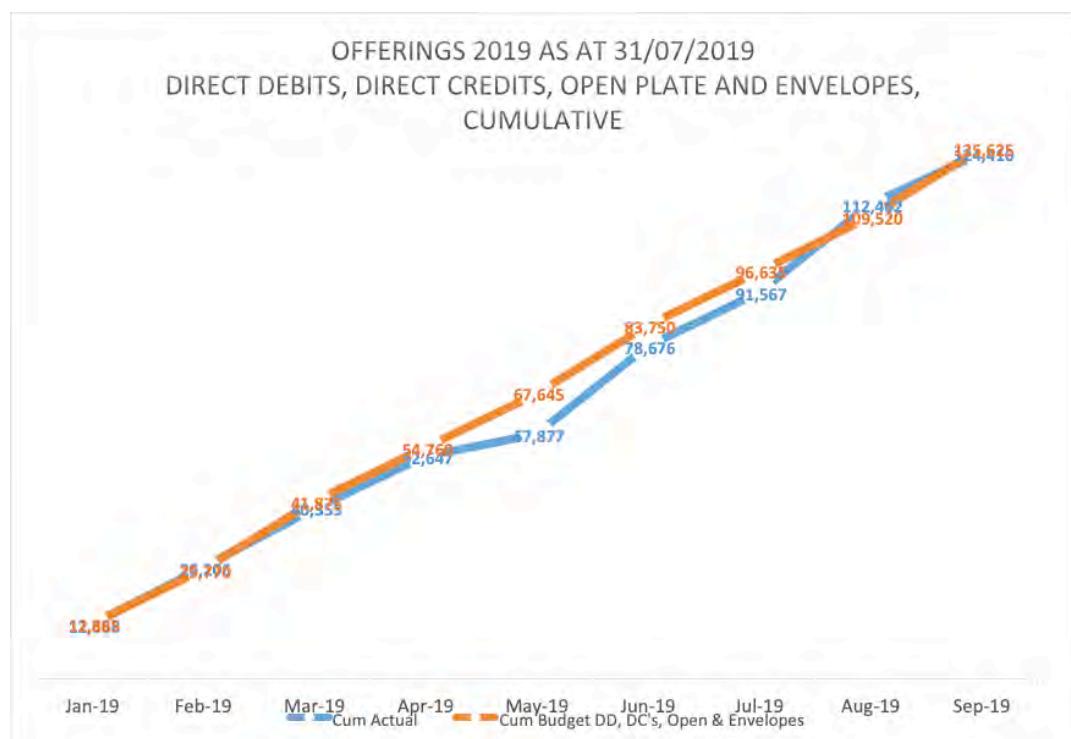
- Strengthening our relationship with BIUC. A group of Church Council members plan to resume regular meet-ups with the BIUC elders and explore new areas of cooperation.
- Making ourselves more visibly welcoming of diversity. We are looking into what opportunities there may be to install statements or symbols of welcome on our property. This may include signs, symbols, art installations, designed to reassure potential visitors that we are a safe church for people of all identities.
- Establishing stronger relationship with First Nation peoples. This month we received a joint recommendation from the Worship and JAM committees that Church Council consider approaching the Wurundjeri-Woiwurrung Tribe to explore establishing an intentional relationship. This may include inviting First Nation elders to Church Council in some Cultural Safety and Awareness training. We think this is a great proposal, and we are moving ahead with discussions with the Wurundjeri-Woiwurrung Tribe around what opportunities there may be for mutual benefit.

Finance Committee

Finance matters

Offerings were below budget around the middle of the year, but after the congregation was informed, we made up the shortfall and are now back on target, with offerings to the end of September just a little below what was budgeted.

The **Financial Statements** - [9 months to 30 September 2019](#) are available here.



Finance Fireside chat (Before the heating goes off!)



You know that Finance pay the bills, reimburse folk, and keep track of income, right? Well, it's a tad more than that.

The Merri Project. Finance have a keen interest in getting good use of the land and buildings in our church's care for mission, and for funding mission. Several on Finance provide the MP Steering Group with analysis and advice.

Recently we assisted the Climate Change Action Group (JAM) gain support from BUC Council. By now you may know that Council moved that the chair (Shawn) and Minister of the Word (Ian) write to the Chair of Origin, to ask Origin to stop their fracking developments in the NT, using the credible threat that we would change electricity supplier worth \$12,000 p.a. to them.

When there's an upset with a burglary or a property accident, Mal Rowe gets involved to help the relevant committee sort out the paperwork and pay the insurance excess if required. That can be a frustrating task for committeees. And there's an asset register for all the big things we buy or have donated; this saves a lot of admin when something goes wrong. Unfortunately, unless we want to secure the place like the Craigieburn Note Printing Plant, we are likely to experience the heartbreak of burglaries every so often.

There's also dealing with Synod and Presbytery offices related to Stipends and Salaries, Land Tax, Work Cover and Insurance – all things Synod do for the 600 congregations and umpteen schools, hospitals, aged care facilities, which are then billed to us. Synod also manage the IOMF interest-only mission fund which gives us an income from gains made when some properties were sold 10 or more years ago.

As an 'Enabler' alongside Property, Finance support the 'Doers' (Ministry team, Justice and Mission, Worship, Pastoral Care, Discipleship and Education, Children Youth and Young Adults) and all the other 'Enablers' like Communications, Property and Council, through reports, analysis, budgeting and advice.

Property Committee

The following activities have been **undertaken/completed** over the past month:

- The paper work has been sent to Presbytery and Synod for the conclusion of the sheds.
- Additional chairs and trolleys have been received and set up in the hall and youth hall.
- Working bee was held and a lot of jobs were undertaken around the church.
- Faulty hall oven has been repaired.

And then there's supervising the church's investments held in U Ethical <https://uethical.com>, some decisions to be made, some transfers in and out to manage our cash flow and deal with large targeted donations. This is an area in which both Emanuel and Naomi have an interest (pardon the pun).

Interesting stuff, what?!

So, if you would like to join the Finance team – we meet briefly (1-2 hours max) at night every 2 months but communicate and chat in between – do consider joining us.

You don't need 'special' qualifications, just a curiosity as to where the money comes from and where it's all going, and a desire to have some say in it, lead by a UCA ethos. (Believe it or not, one member joined because he wanted to know why our ministers were not driving late model BMWs like those of a certain other church with which they had been involved. I kid you not. A very valuable asset, being sceptical.)

My term as Treasurer ends 24 November, but I'll stay on Finance and assist the incoming Treasurer as time permits. Mikul Dennison had me take over April 2016; Mikul and Ray Hardman were before me, and Barry Cook for a lengthy time before that. Each Treasurer brings something fresh and unique – Barry for his painstaking and pastoral caring, Ray for his MYOB implementation and Mikul for his knowledge of maintenance planning and funding to achieve this.

In the coming year it is likely that Finance will (STCA*)

- Move from MYOB to Xero (yes, the Transtasman battle has gone like the Bledisloe Cup), enabling new read-only access for 'Doers' (Ministers, JAM, etc) and other 'Enablers'; plus many other nifty features
- Change Financial year from Jan-Dec to either Apr-Mar or Jul-Jun, making life easier for 'Doer' committees
- Change auditor
- Continue to train and add responsibilities to the Finance Co-ordinator (Abi) and Finance Clerk (Sasha) roles
- And all the great stuff at the top of this page, and maybe more

(*STCA subject to committee and Council approval)

See our Finance Crossword next page.

Peace, and Plenty! **Linda Wannan**

- The last maple tree in the walkway has been removed.
- Batteries replaced in the church heater control unit and its programming re-established.
- The ASWC has agreed to be the contact for access to the defibrillator on the Ambulance web site.
- Leaking ASWC sink has been repaired.

Property continued ...

The following activities are **being attended** to over the coming months:

- The emergency lighting in the church requires replacement due to failing the run-down test.
- Laurie to investigate the requirements to repair:
1) stone capping on west wall, 2) lintel over west door entrance in the welcome space and 3) key stone repairs/replacement in a window in the chapel space.
- Undertake the work on the hall's operable wall skirts.
- Hatch above the east doorway between the church and the Olive Way to be finalised. Latches have been purchased, to be installed.
- Large toilet paper dispensers to be installed in the disabled and youth hall toilets.
- A bird grill will need to be reinstalled on the hall steeple. Bird spikes to be installed to discourage roosting.
- Student House painting quotes being obtained
- Student House maintenance items to be attended to; door handles, towel rails, toilet roll holders.
- Replace the faulty water tank pump in the south water tank.
- Graffiti to be painted over, more has been placed on the property
- Preparing role descriptions for activities the Garden portfolio.
- Finalise the repairs of the damage after the break-in, modifications to the hall door.
- Routine Property Inspections have been received for the two rented properties.
- Finalise the registration of the defibrillator on the Ambulance web site.
- Quotes being organised for the replacement of carpet at the student house.
- Investigating the requirements in relation to Emergency Services Measures reporting.

Ray Cameron

Worship Committee

Amelia invited us to reflect on the changing of the seasons and connections with the liturgical calendar, seasons of the Kulin nation and the colonial calendar. We commented on the variability of Christmas Day weather, first fruits on the apricot tree, daylight savings, the smell of Melbourne in Spring, seasonal fruits, the beauty of bottle brush in blossom at this time of the year, ornamental pear trees, orchids in bloom and so much more.

We then reflected on the previous four Sundays which were by happy circumstance the first four Sundays of our Season of Creation noting

Finance Crossword

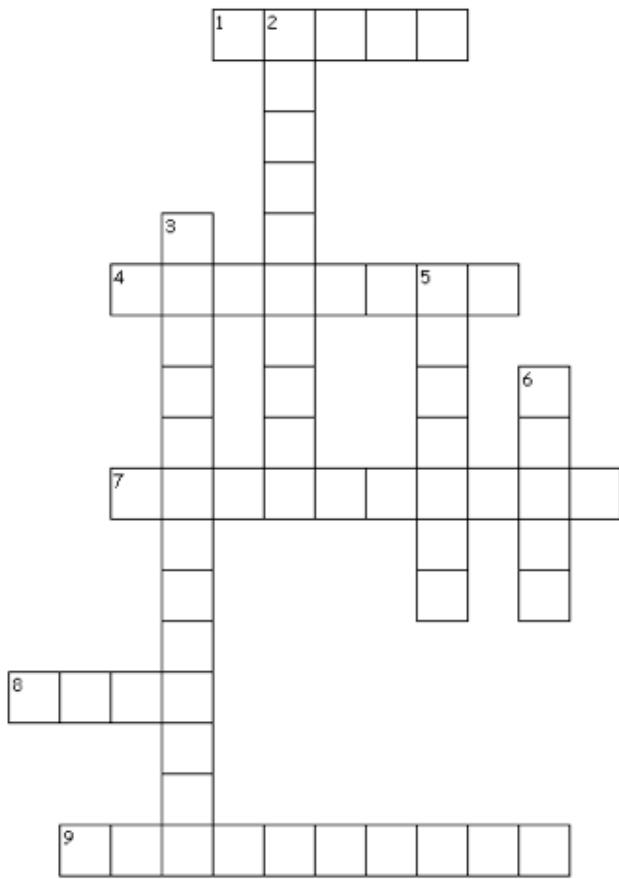
An easy one this month. All answers can be found on the previous pages

Across

1. Three of these came from Drawings from Reserves (5)
4. The new name of UCA Funds (1,7)
7. The 'level' of the UCA church between congregations and Synod (10)
8. Swedish wardrobes in Student House (4)
9. The frustrating follow-up for these is done by Mal Rowe (10)

Down

2. Essential items for worship leaders (10)
3. James Bond's Aston Martin has one, and so has BUC! (13)
5. The outside finance person who checks our annual reports in detail (7)
6. The project about using the land 'out the back' for missional purposes.



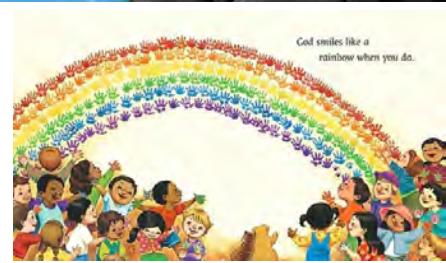
- the building of the Seven Seasons installation (acknowledging Melbourne Museum as the source for this work and many thanks to Amelia Ware for creation the installation),
- the focus on Job with the beautiful poetry and evocative language,
- and the gift of the Let the earth speak exhibition as a focus for the 6th & 13th October. We noted the many connections made throughout the series with the world around us. See the [Seasons of Creation Special Edition Olive Branch](#) for stories about each of the Season of Creation worship services.

We turned our attention to the Season of Advent and noted the theme of our pageant, the many nature references in Isaiah and the focus on new creation and waiting with hope. With these thoughts emerging and the Season of Creation fresh in our minds we agreed that our visual focus should invite us to reflect on new creation, hope, messianic imagery, also the hope in the face of climate change, the coming of Jesus to fulfil our hope. We have invited the Olive Pesto group to join us on this adventure with a planning meeting on 6th November and look forward to seeing what emerges from our shared visioning.

The height of our lectern has long been a topic of conversation and it is likely now that in the not too distant future it will be shortened. Watch this space and even more important watch the lectern!!

27/10 Pentecost 20 Joel 2:23-32, 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18 Dave Hall

invited the children to come and think about dreams and visions with Kirsten Parris. He wondered if anyone knew of anyone who had a dream and after diverting for a moment to Joseph introduced Martin Luther King. We listened to a few short clips from his famous speech in the 1950s and learnt about his fight for justice for African Americans. Dave affirmed that he was quoting from the Bible in his speech. He then introduced us to Archbishop Desmond Tutu and read a few pages from his book 'God's Dream'.



Kirsten's sermon '[Could you be a prophet?](#)' was an invitation to reflect on the prophecies of Joel and what they might mean for us in 2019. Before doing so she offered us the job description for being a prophet and then summarised the role: '*In summary – must have a thick skin, the courage of your convictions, and possibly a willingness to be imprisoned*'. Kirsten also referred us to the work of Rosemary Radford Ruether who states '*Prophetic faith, by contrast (with established religion), sets God in tension with the ruling class by having God speak, through the prophet, as advocate of the poor and the oppressed.*' She commented on the face of established religion in Australia today commenting '*From my analysis, these attitudes appear to arise from a socially conservative worldview that seeks to uphold the power structures that keep white, heterosexual men in charge, that keep genders distinct and binary, that keep the vulnerable oppressed and silent.*'

Kirsten then wondered how we, the Uniting Church, are to respond and turned our attention to Joel's vision of the Spirit pouring out on everyone. Naming Greta Thunberg as a prophet '*speaking out against the worldview of our political leaders*' she commented on how her words have '*inspired millions of people around the globe to agitate for action on climate change*'. Quoting from Greta's '[Our House is on Fire](#)' speech to the United Nations and the backlash from the ruling classes Kirsten concluded '*Now is not the time for silence or inaction. We need to re-prosecute the intellectual, theological case for social and environmental justice. We also need, through practical action, to demonstrate Christian values that run counter to what many people in our society (sadly) now think of as Christianity. ... But as individuals, do we have the courage to be prophets in the year 2019? How will each of us work to speak God's truth?*'

Kirsten and Daniel blessed and sent us out with these words

Go now in the name of the Mother of all love
The son of all mercy
And the spirit of all hope

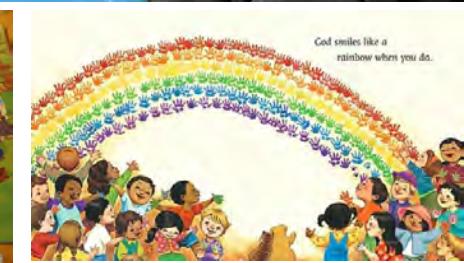
Go and remember:
That the good fight is worth fighting
The long race is worth running
The hard truth is worth speaking
The deep wounds are worth healing

Wait for the Lord. Take heart. Be strong.
Remember that you do not walk alone.
Remember that the day
of justice is near.
Make God your vision and
righteousness your dream. Persist.
In the name of Christ, Amen

We are delighted that the Church Council has accepted the recommendation re engaging with First Nations people put jointly with the Justice & Mission committee. We look forward to the outcomes of the group (Dave Hall, Claire Foley, Jenne Perlstein and Shawn Whelan) working on implementing the proposal.

We responded to the Council's invitation to engage in some 'blue sky thinking' for what could be done with the Merri St. site. Our dreams included: outdoor worship spaces, a chapel space opening onto the gardens, an integrated SMP space, new signage.

We'll be meeting twice in November and not in December. Please see the Worship Calendar, page 2, for details about worship services for the remainder of the year.



> Culture of Safety

Keeping Children and Vulnerable Adults Safe

If any member of the congregation – child or adult - has concerns about the safety of our children, particularly in relation to child sexual abuse, or the welfare of vulnerable adults, you may report this in confidence so that support can be provided. You may speak to Helen Rowe in confidence about your concern. Helen is the Culture of Safety Contact Person appointed by Church Council. Brunswick Uniting Church has a process for following up any concerns raised. Please contact Helen in person or by telephone at 0423 009 813

Seeking qualified First Aiders

There will be occasions in any of our BUC activities or programs when a First Aid person might be required to provide assistance. Do you have a current First Aid, CPR or AED certificate? Would you be willing to respond if the need arose? We will need a copy of your current certificate. Please contact Helen Rowe on 0423 009 813 to indicate your willingness to assist in this way and for further information.

> Preaching Plan

| | | | |
|------------------------|--|---|---|
| November 3 | Fiona Bottcher with Janet Reus-Smit presiding Holy Communion | December 1 Advent 1 Ian Ferguson Holy Communion | December 22 Advent 4 Ian Ferguson Holy Communion |
| November 10 | Ian Ferguson | December 8 Advent 2 Ian Ferguson | December 24 Christmas Eve Ian Ferguson, 7:00 pm Pageant |
| November 17 | Ian Ferguson | December 11 Blue Christmas Ian Ferguson, 7:30 pm Holy Communion | December 24 Christmas Eve Ian Ferguson, 11:30 pm Holy Communion |
| November 24 | Ian Ferguson | December 15 Advent 3 Ian Ferguson | December 25 Christmas Day Ian Ferguson |
| Reign of Christ | | | |

> Lectionary

After Pentecost

A period of time that varies in length depending on whether Easter is early or late. In this period, the Church recalls its faith in the Holy Trinity. It seeks to relate its faith as a people of God to Christ's mission in the world. It commences with Trinity Sunday and concludes with feast of Christ the King

| Date Day | First Reading | Psalm | Second Reading | Gospel | C |
|-----------------------|------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|---|
| 1/11 All Saints | Dan 7:1-3,15-18 | Ps 149 | Eph 1:11-23 | Lk 6:20-31 | W |
| 3/11 Pent 21 | Hab 1:1-4, 2:1-4 | Ps 119:137-144 | 2 Thes 1:1-4, 11-12 Lk 19:1-10 | | G |
| 10/11 Pent 22 | Hag 1:15b – 2:9 | Ps 145:1-5, 17-21 or Ps 98 | 2 Thes 2:1-5, 13-17 Lk 20:27-38 | | G |
| 17/11 Pent 23 | Is 65:17-25 | Is 12 | 2 Thes 3:6-13 | Lk 21:5-19 | G |
| 24/11 Reign of Christ | Jer 23:1-6 | Lk 1:68-79 | Col 1:11-20 | Lk 23:33-43 | W |

Advent

A season of preparation, beginning on the fourth Sunday before Christmas, in which the Church recalls its hope and expectation in the coming of Christ, past, present and future.

| Date Day | First Reading | Psalm | Second Reading | Gospel | C |
|----------------|---------------|------------------------------|----------------|-------------|---|
| 1/12 Advent 1 | Is 2:1-5 | Ps 122 | Rom 13:11-14 | Mt 24:36-44 | P |
| 8/12 Advent 2 | Is 11:1-10 | Ps 72:1-7,18-19 | Rom 15:4-13 | Mt 3:1-12 | P |
| 15/12 Advent 3 | Is 35:1-10 | Ps 146:5-10 or Lk 1:46-55 | Jas 5:7-10 | Mt 11:2-11 | P |
| 22/12 Advent 4 | Is 7:10-16 | Ps 80:1-7,17-19 | Rom 1:1-7 | Mt 1:18-25 | P |

Christmas

The Christmas – Epiphany season includes Christmas Eve/Day and the twelve days of Christmas. It recalls the stories of the birth and infancy of Christ. The church in this time celebrates the wonder of the incarnation; the season concludes with Epiphany.

| Date Day | First Reading | Psalm | Second Reading | Gospel | C |
|-----------------------|---------------|-------|------------------|------------------|---|
| 25/12 Christmas Day 1 | Is 9:2-7 | Ps 96 | Titus 2:11-14 | Lk 2:1-14 (15-2) | W |
| 2 | Is 62:6-12 | Ps 97 | Titus 3:4-7 | Lk 2:(1-7) 8-20 | W |
| 3 | Is 52:7-10 | Ps 98 | Heb 1:1-4 (5-12) | Jn 1:1-14 | W |

November Diary

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---------------------------------|--|--|---|---|----------|
| November 3 9:30 – Fiona Bottcher Janet Reus-Smit HC 4:00 – Sacred Harp 5:00 – Indonesian W'p | 4 | 5 10:00 – Olive Way 7:45 – Worship C'Tee | 6 10:00 – Olive Way 10:00 – Olive Arts 12:00 – Community Dinner 7 | 7 10:00 – Olive Way | 8 10:00 – Olive Pesto 7:30 - YUCY | 9 |
| 10 9:30 – Ian Ferguson 5:00 – Indonesian W'p | 11 7:30 – Church Council | 12 10:00 – Olive Way 7:30 – Olive Arts 12:00 – Community Dinner | 13 10:00 – Olive Way 10:00 – Olive Arts 12:00 – Community Dinner 7:30 – Talk Faith | 14 10:00 – Olive Way 7:00 – YUCY at Tear Conference | 15 10:00 – Food Co-op | 16 |
| 17 9:30 – Ian Ferguson 5:00 – Indonesian W'p | 18 | 19 10:00 – Olive Way 7:30 – Worship C'tee | 20 10:00 – Olive Way 10:00 – Olive Arts 12:00 – Community Dinner 6:45 – JAM Committee | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| Reign of Christ 24 9:30 – Ian Ferguson 10:45 – Congregational M'g 11:45 – Lunch 5:00 – Indonesian W'p | 25 | 26 10:00 – Olive Way 7:30 – Property C'tee | 27 10:00 – Olive Way 10:00 – Olive Arts 12:00 – Community Dinner 7:30 – Book Club at BUC | 28 10:00 – Olive Way | 29 ** – Pool Party | 30 |
| Advent 1 December 1 9:30 – Ian Ferguson HC 5:00 – Indonesian W'p | 2 | 3 10:00 – Olive Way 7:00 - Mulling | 4 10:00 – Olive Way 10:00 – Olive Arts 12:00 – Community Dinner | 5 10:00 – Olive Way | 6 2:30 – Coffee | 7 |