

Uniting



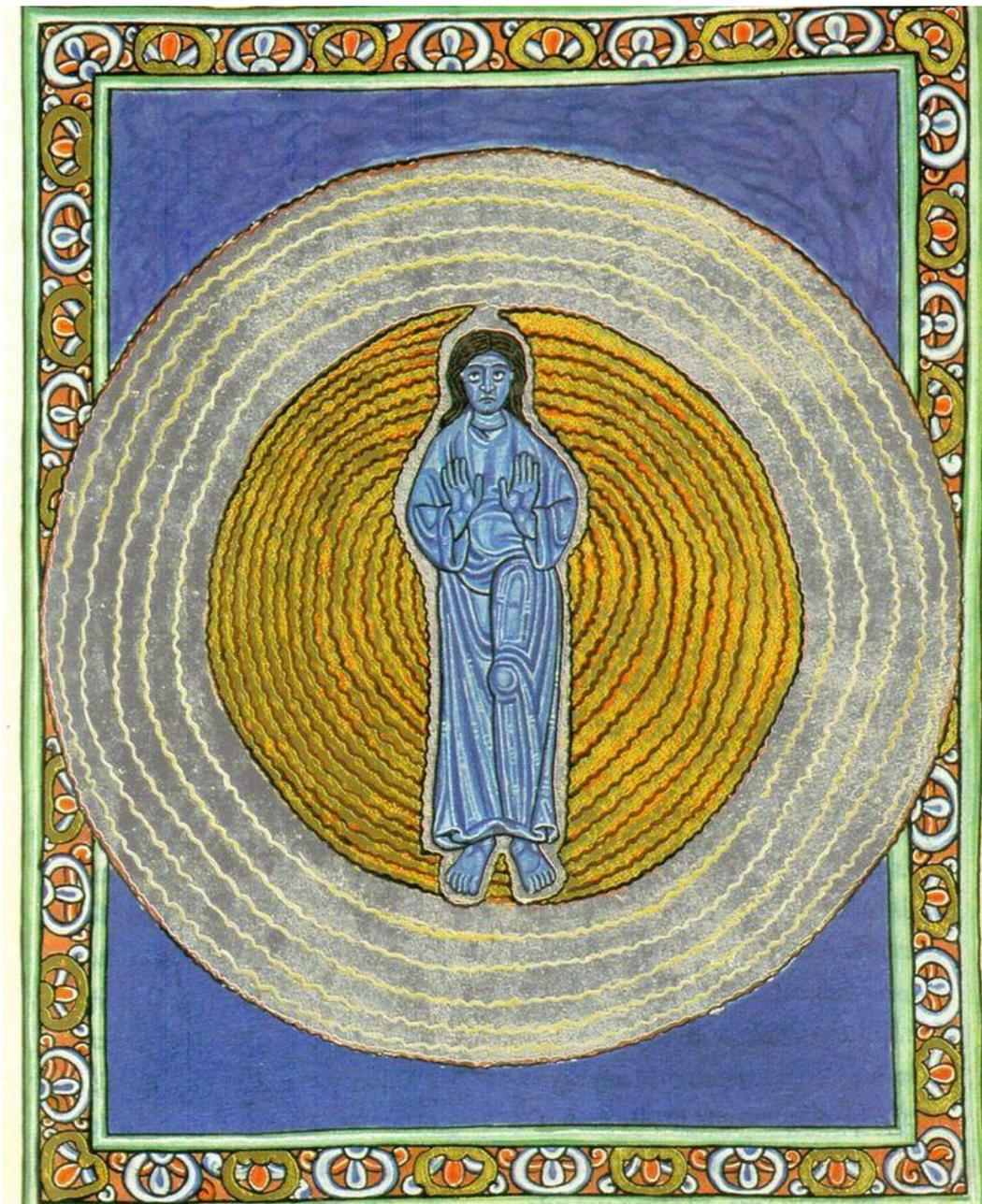
Tasmania

Presbytery of

<https://ucatas.org.au/>

Issue No. 169

February 2019



Trinity in Unity, Hildegard von Bingen, c1165

For more see *Reflection* on page 3

Opportunities

Refresh - save the date

9.30am Saturday 6th April @ Scotch Oakburn College, Launceston
Terrence Corkin: **Building Consensus, Managing Conflict**
Former General Secretary of the Uniting Church Assembly
co-author of "The Church Guide for Making Decisions Together"

Code of Ethics/Safe Church

✚ Saturday 16th March – North

✚ Tuesday 9th April - South

Code of Ethics 9.30am-12.30pm

Safe Church 1.00pm – 4.00pm

Specific locations will be advised later.



Safe Church Training is for anyone who has not yet attended a Safe Church session or one since June 2017. All those in designated leadership positions are **required to attend** and others with Working with Vulnerable People Cards are **encouraged to attend**.



Presbytery Gathering 2019

9.45am Saturday 16 February 2019
Hobart North Uniting Church

- Cameron Walker – Occupational Health and Safety
- Election of Presbytery Committees
- Election of Synod Members
- Recommendations on a candidate for ordained ministry, and a new Presbytery Minister – Mission Development
- Memorial Minute for Rev. Ken McLaughlin

Reflection

I always wanted a blue God.

When I was growing up in Castlemaine and Maldon there were a lot of hippies everywhere. On the news and “A Current Affair” and “60 Minutes” there was always a story about a cult or a new age thing community or an Eastern religion where people were devotees, not just normal people. Where there were always great controversies, abuse of power issues and cover-ups. It was the 1970’s and early 80’s and there was a lot of people still finding themselves after the 60’s and adults were weird!

My friends at school were a mixed bunch, but for the most part they were European in origin and practised or didn’t a variety of variations of Christianity. Yes, there was a great divide between Catholic and Protestant, one I still fail to really understand, but I didn’t find out about that till high school.

Many of my teachers at primary school were hippies, escaping life in the burbs of Melbourne. I was fascinated with all sorts of ethnic mythologies. My grandfather was to blame for this. I was his “Celtic Princess” and he would tell me stories of faeries and castles and what it was like to be from Scotland, though as far as I know he never went there. On his walls were paintings of Australian gums, Highland cattle, our family castle in Scotland and many other different bits and pieces in amongst the clocks he collected and mended.

The Hare Krishna’s were often in the news. Opening vegetarian restaurants which fed lots of people for little money. Farming in collectives and singing, dancing and praying to a blue skinned God. If I was honest I loved the blue of Krishna’s skin from the very beginning. All the other trappings of Eastern faith disappeared from thought when I saw the beautiful blue of their god’s skin. I was kind of disappointed in my God. Yes, he lived a good life on earth just like Krishna and was taken up into heaven too, but he was so boring to a little girl when compared to a blue skinned god. I ended up falling in love with my own boring skinned God. As I grew up I realised that there were far more interesting things to get to know about them. That they were a them was just one of the cool things about my God. There was a moment for everyone to connect with God in the Christian God, not just those who were exotic just like me.

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Then one day I happened upon an image of Trinity by Hildegard von Bingen and although I still don't know an awful lot about her or her life, I know she painted the "Trinity in Unity" with a beautiful blue Christ in the centre of golden and a silver circles which are representative of the Holy Spirit and God the Father. Imagine my surprise when I discovered it as painted in the year 1165, by a German abbess! Painted as an illumination to one of her manuscripts, it is a miniature in the Romanesque style. At last I had my blue God! A God who was sufficiently human, but obviously by his colour divine. One that was not only available to ordinary people of one race or cultural background but was uniting in his humanity as he was liberating in his originality. Of this world, but not of this world. Truly human for me, as well as truly divine. A myth and a man.

In the 21st century, at a time when the Christian churches are full of devotees, abuse of power issues, and their corresponding coverups. So many have been lost and what has happened is not just unbelievable, but tragic to so many. It is nice to have an idea of God that transcends mere humanity. It is nice to have a God who is blue.

Matt 16:3 "and in the morning, 'Today it will be stormy, for the sky is red and overcast.' You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times."

By Annetia .J. Goldsmith 2018

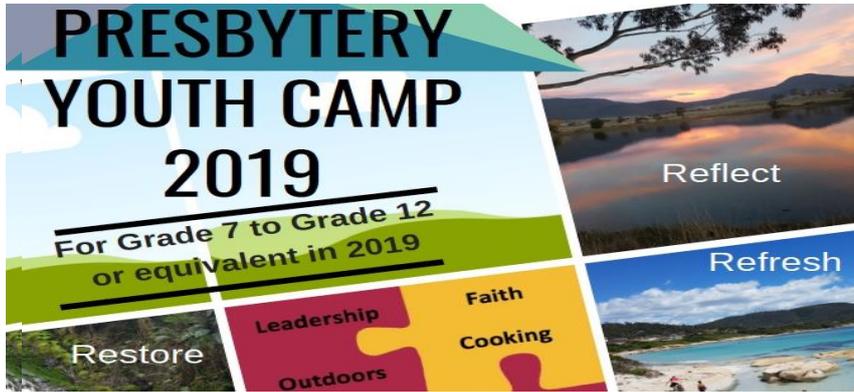
Candidate for Ministry of the Word

Following the Assembly meeting in 2018

Assembly Circles are a new platform (or set of networks) for learning and sharing, where you can contribute to the national work of Church. It is a space for deepening faith and listening to where God is leading us. Together we can make a difference in God's mission in the world.

More information can be found at
<https://uniting.church/circles/>





The 2019 Presbytery Youth Camp was a fun, relaxed and enjoyable event for the 12 campers who attended. It fostered a positive community of young people open to exploring questions about God. Some details are summarised below:

- Camp Director Bobbe Solager wrote that PYC was. . . “a ton of fun, great to see campers develop group interest over self-interest as the days unfolded. Something for everyone. Problem solving was a hit. Time to chill. Great group play and water activities. Wonder of the waves & ocean. Kids developing camp ethics was enlightening and pleasing. Dance party was a fantastic celebration of inhibition in God's glory”
- The camp directors (Bobbe Solager and Jeff Savage) provided excellent faith-filled leadership, wonderful organisational skills and an engaging program.
- Two young adult leaders (Isaac Beswick and Zeinab Eldayar) assisted in leading sessions, organising activities and accompanying the campers.
- Judy Partridge was the caterer for the camp and graciously and thoughtfully fed us all.
- Glenn Noble (Hobart North UCA) was our bus driver and went beyond the call of duty to collect/return the Scotch Oakburn bus from Launceston, as well as drive us over 500km on day trips.
- Strathaven UnitingAge Well provided a 12 seater Bus, saving us over \$1000.
- Spirit led moment – The campers that were less enthusiastic about polishing the Fingal Valley church pews moved to the nearby hall. Joan Lowe seized the opportunity to engage these campers in questions about their feelings about church and their place in it, Jesus being the living word and how the bible feeds/nourishes us and invited them to make their faith their own!

Voices for Justice



President of the Uniting Church in Australia Dr Deidre Palmer has urged Australian Christians to raise their voices for a more just world.

Dr Palmer encouraged a 200-strong crowd of members from the Micah Australia movement gathered in Canberra to lobby their local federal politicians to do more to alleviate extreme poverty.

“As Christians who follow the way of Jesus, our values are shaped by God’s vision for all people and the whole creation,” said Dr Palmer.

“We are here to give voice to those who may be denied a voice, or whose voices are diminished - people living in poverty, people displaced by conflicts, and by the impacts of climate change, people living under the oppression and exploitation of modern slavery.”

“We advocate for justice for all, a distribution of resources that alleviate poverty and addresses its causes - a vision of a world where everyone is able to flourish.”

‘Voices for Justice’ is an annual advocacy event run by the Micah Australia organisation. The event this year focussed on efforts on ending extreme poverty, modern slavery and the global refugee crisis.

Participants spent the first two days in policy briefing and training sessions at the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture.

They went on to meet 94 Members of Parliament from all sides of the political aisle, putting their new knowledge on lobbying and advocacy to immediate use.

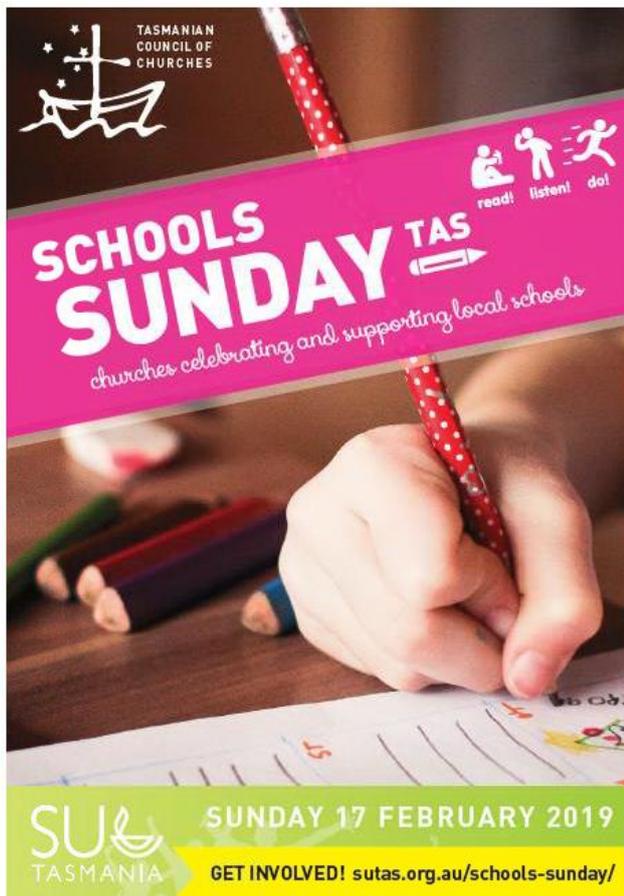
Staff and supporters of the Assembly’s international relief and development agency UnitingWorld were well represented. They conveyed the simple message that ‘Australian Aid works’.

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“We know that Australian Aid saves lives, improves global health and removes barriers that keep communities in poverty,” said UnitingWorld’s Marcus Campbell.

“Voices for Justice has given us the opportunity to tell our stories of impact - of how our projects lift people out of poverty, build peace and strengthen communities around the world.”



TASMANIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

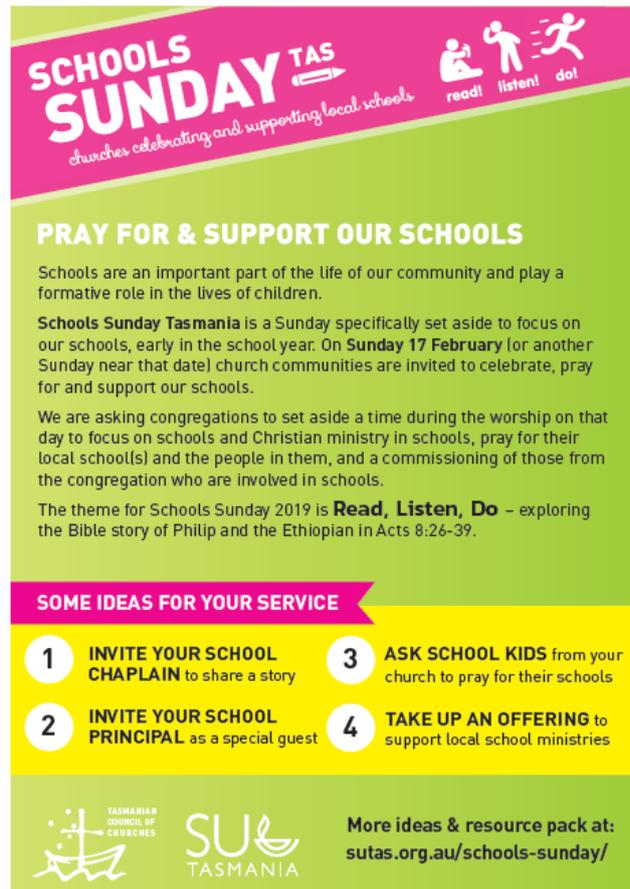
SCHOOLS SUNDAY TAS
churches celebrating and supporting local schools

read! listen! do!

SUTAS TASMANIA

SUNDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2019

GET INVOLVED! sutas.org.au/schools-sunday/



SCHOOLS SUNDAY TAS
churches celebrating and supporting local schools

read! listen! do!

PRAY FOR & SUPPORT OUR SCHOOLS

Schools are an important part of the life of our community and play a formative role in the lives of children.

Schools Sunday Tasmania is a Sunday specifically set aside to focus on our schools, early in the school year. On **Sunday 17 February** (or another Sunday near that date) church communities are invited to celebrate, pray for and support our schools.

We are asking congregations to set aside a time during the worship on that day to focus on schools and Christian ministry in schools, pray for their local school(s) and the people in them, and a commissioning of those from the congregation who are involved in schools.

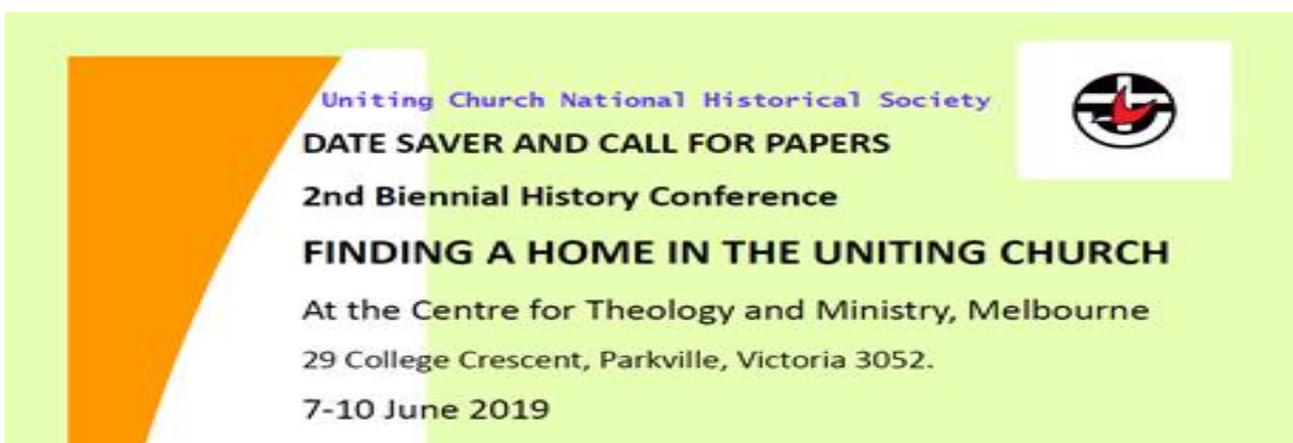
The theme for Schools Sunday 2019 is **Read, Listen, Do** – exploring the Bible story of Philip and the Ethiopian in Acts 8:26-39.

SOME IDEAS FOR YOUR SERVICE

- 1 INVITE YOUR SCHOOL CHAPLAIN** to share a story
- 2 INVITE YOUR SCHOOL PRINCIPAL** as a special guest
- 3 ASK SCHOOL KIDS** from your church to pray for their schools
- 4 TAKE UP AN OFFERING** to support local school ministries

TASMANIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES **SUTAS** TASMANIA

More ideas & resource pack at: sutas.org.au/schools-sunday/



Uniting Church National Historical Society

DATE SAVER AND CALL FOR PAPERS

2nd Biennial History Conference

FINDING A HOME IN THE UNITING CHURCH

At the Centre for Theology and Ministry, Melbourne
29 College Crescent, Parkville, Victoria 3052.

7-10 June 2019



For a flyer please contact the UCA Tasmanian Office or for further information, please contact robert.renton@bigpond.com 0427 812 606



Leadership Formation

Think about a time when someone was incredibly important to your faith journey. What was it about who they were that mattered? What did they bring to you? How did they engage with you? Where did they enable you to grow? What did they do, or say that opened up faith differently for you?

We all have people who have been at different time a mentor to us in our faith. Someone we've been able to raise questions with. Someone we've been able to test out our ideas of God and how we show God's love to others in the world. Someone who can remind us that there is something more.

Mentors are important people in the journey of faith living. They encourage us, challenge us, and quite often are also praying for us. Would you be where you are today without their input? I suspect possibly not. Or perhaps if one person hadn't done that work for you, another did at another time.

One of the privileges I've had over time and in many different places, has been the opportunity to intentionally be a mentor with someone as they grew in their faith. I saw them come to life in new ways and explore God through different lenses. I heard them ask questions they might not have asked before, or come to new insights in ways that were deeply transformative. Some of them were young people, some of them closer to my own age at the time. To share in the journey with another was an incredible gift to my own faith journey. I learnt a lot alongside those I was mentoring.

Mentoring can be informal as well as formal and intentional. It can be spontaneous as well as scheduled. But it will always challenge and grow people. One on one sharing of faith creates a dynamic that is different to any other opportunity.

Some questions to think about and work with as a challenge in your own journey: Who is mentoring you? Who are the ones who are raising questions of faith with you? Who are the ones who you can explore faith with? Who are the ones who challenge you?

Who then are the ones that you are praying for? Who are you gently challenging, encouraging, supporting as they grow in their faith?

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Who is your mentor, and who are you mentoring? They might not even be connected to a faith community, but a fellow disciple of Christ anyway. If you would like Denise to visit your congregation, to listen and share around leadership formation, contact us via the Presbytery Office 6331 9784 or Denise 0427 647 395 or denise.savage@victas.uca.org.au

A Day of Inspiration and Renewal



**BOOK
NOW**

PÁDRAIG Ó TUAMA

Recognised international speaker will present

Spirituality in our Changing World

Hobart – 7 February 2019 ... 10am – 3pm

-
- Do you provide spiritual and pastoral care in your community?
 - Do you support others in finding meaning in their lives?
 - Are you challenged by our changing spiritual landscape?
 - Do you feel disconnected from your faith community?
 - Do you feel lost in your own faith journey?

Spend a day with Pádraig Ó Tuama on Thursday 7 February 2019.

Padraig inspired many SCA members and friends during the 2016 SCA Conference in Melbourne. Now we Tasmanians have the opportunity to start our 2019 year by joining him for a day of reflection, challenge and inspiration.

Pádraig Ó Tuama is an extraordinary person, whose influence extends quietly and gracefully across the world. His poetry bears these same qualities and brings him close. It is a gift to us all.
Krista Tippett Creator and host of 'On Being'

Compassionate, Resolute, Confronting, Challenging, Wonderful, Comforting.
Mary McAvooy – *Irish Independent's Review of Books*



Spiritual Care Australia

RSVP by 4 February:
carmel.fader@gmail.com

Clarence Uniting Church, Cambridge Rd, Bellerive
SCA Members \$50; Non members \$70
Includes lunch and morning tea

Payment Methods: Pay with cash on the day
OR by Direct Deposit to Spiritual Care Australia (Tas)
BSB: 633-000 Account Number: 151363926
(NB. Evidence of payment online must be shown for entry)

Praying for the Presbytery

This month please remember
in your prayers:

- ◆ For the people of Zimbabwe. The social situation has been extremely volatile and there is the risk of civil war. Many people have been shot and injured. No shops are open. Food is scarce. Electricity is shut down. Very little medical supplies and medical personnel are facing extreme difficulty in reaching hospitals to treat people.
- ◆ For Annetia Goldsmith as she enters her third and final(?) year of formation in ministry
- ◆ For Karen Woolford as she enters her first year of formation in ministry
- ◆ For Rohan Pryor's family as they settle in to Tasmania



This
'n
That

■ The Tasmanian Office has a **large Photocopier** in perfect condition and a **Data Projector Screen** available as well as a bracket for hanging a data projector from the ceiling. For more information contact the UCA Tas office.

■ **Congregational contact with backpackers?** The Synod Justice and International Mission cluster has received evidence of terrible exploitation of some backpackers working in

Australia. They are interested in talking to any congregations that have contact with backpackers in Tasmania, to learn about the experience of the backpackers, good or bad. If your congregation has had contact with backpackers, please contact Mark Zirnsak on (03) 9340 8807 or e-mail mark.zirnsak@victas.uca.org.au

- Get yourself a copy of Social Justice Dates for 2019 from https://www.justact.org.au/2019_social_justice_dates
- To receive Chris Barnett's Tasmania Children and Families Update by email please contact Chris.Barnett@ctm.uca.edu.au
- Please contact the UCA Tasmanian Office if you would like some of the A4 flyers below for your church.

A SAFE PLACE FOR ALL PEOPLE

The Uniting Church is committed to providing safe environments where everyone is cared for, respected, nurtured and sustained by:



Promoting strong leadership and governance and a culture of child safety



Promoting access, equity and diversity



Promoting appropriate behaviour



Recruiting, training and supervising workers well



Managing risk, promoting safety and responding to concerns



Promoting child, family and community participants



Uniting Church Synod of Victoria and Tasmania

For more information: <https://ucavictas.org.au/keepingchildrensafe/>



Keeping Children Safe

what's On

February

Fri 15 10.30am Resource & Development Committee, Hobart
Sat 16 9.45am Presbytery Gathering at Hobart North UC
Tues 19 9.30am Pastoral Relations Committee, Launceston

April

Sat 6 9.30am Refresh at Scotch Oakburn College, Launceston

July

Fri 5 to Tues 9 Synod Meeting, Melbourne

Please check our Presbytery Calendar of events on the [Presbytery website](#)



Reflect the Light – the Light that gives Life

This photo was sent in on behalf of Cameron Gurteen, Launceston Pilgrim. Cameron attended KUCA Campout in October where the theme was **Reflect the Light – the Light that gives Life**. Cameron

participated in an activity that involved transplanting cuttings because plants grow in and to the light. He has obviously taken great care and pride in his work. Well done Cameron!

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Presbytery of Tasmania website: <https://ucatas.org.au>