

# Uniting Tasmania



Presbytery of



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

Issue No. 178

November 2019

## Presbytery Gathering

“What does it look and feel like when you are thriving – individually and as a community?”



9.45am @ Ulverstone Uniting Church

### Saturday 9 November 2019

- acknowledging the service of people who have retired after long-term service to the Presbytery, and recognise Rev John Pettman's 50 years since ordination
- hearing stories from the Ulverstone-Sprent and Cradle Coast congregations
- giving thanks for the service of Rev Ann Perrin as Presbytery Chairperson as she concludes her term of office.
- receiving nominations and voting on new Office Bearers for the Presbytery.

## Lay Preachers' Day

How do we do  
Theology in Worship



**Mel Perkins** – Lay Leadership Development Co-ordinator at eLM

### 30 November 2019

Everyone welcome. You don't need to be a lay preacher to come.

*More details about both events on page 2.*

# Opportunities



## Next Presbytery Gathering

9.45am Saturday 9 November 2019

Ulverstone Uniting Church

**(NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE)**

## The Word Among Words

This two-day workshop will explore preaching and lectionary resources for Year A. Scholars and experienced preachers will offer their theological perspectives during panel discussion, workshops and electives. There are keynote addresses by Rev Dr Sean Winter and Rev Dr Sally Douglas.

**Go Grants may be available – see UCA Tasmanian Office**

**WHEN:** 12-13 NOVEMBER, 9-15AM-4.45PM.

**WHERE:** CENTRE FOR THEOLOGY & MINISTRY, PARKVILLE

## Lay Preachers Day “Theology in Worship”

30 November 2019

10am – 3pm

Longford Uniting Church  
BYO Lunch



Everyone is welcome, including Lay Preachers

Facilitator: **Mel Perkins** –

Lay Leadership Development Co-ordinator at eLM

In the recent film “*Yesterday*”, Jack Malik is a struggling singer-songwriter in a small town in England. One night, there is a massive (but brief) global power outage. In the darkness, Jack is involved in an accident while riding his bicycle, an accident which results in his spending a few days in a coma. When he emerges from his coma, Jack learns that the world (other than himself) has totally forgotten about a number of things; one of which is the music of the Beatles.



Jack makes a successful career for himself singing many of the Beatles' old hits, which the public assumes are Jack's own.

One night, two strangers turn up at one of Jack's concerts, a man who was present at one of Jack's performances in Moscow and a woman who was seen following Jack on his visit to Beatles-related sites in Liverpool. Prior to the concert, both turn up backstage. Jack and the others talk. They also remember the Beatles and their music.

In the process of talking, the three strangers form a community of memory. They encourage each other. This community of memory enables Jack to live with integrity, being honest about the source of his material. It also enables the other two to live with a sense of hope, even in the midst of a world which has forgotten a moment of rare beauty which they remember profoundly.

The Christian Church (and for that matter, other faith communities) are also communities of memory, providing us with the occasion and the space to live with honesty, integrity, and hope.

May we realise the potential which accompanies this challenge.

*Rev Bob Faser from Connecting Community,  
a Newsletter from Hobart Congregations*

# KIDS CAMPOUT 2019



Jesus welcomes us into God's family and into God's kingdom. We explored this theme of welcome and hospitality through creativity, celebration and delightful engagement of three biblical stories: Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10), The Woman at the Well (John 4:16-19) and Mary and Martha (Luke 10:38-42).

A wonderful team of youth and adults from across Tasmania hosted a range of craft, challenge, sport, drama and music activities. The youth leaders were an essential and respected part of the team being part of the catering and worship teams, along with leading pilgrimage stations and experience activities (dance, drama, songwriting, thongaphone construction). Their attitude of grace, persistence and willingness to serve was a blessing to everyone.

There were around 21 new or renewed (after many years away) attendees, including 13 under 18 years. Some adults accepted the invitation to step up into key leadership roles (sport/physical challenge activities, catering, and evening program). The faithfulness, wisdom and expertise of long-term Kids Camp Out leaders provided strength and courage.

We missed the presence of Wynyard UCA members this year but we had some campers come all the way from Melbourne to join their friends at camp, while others travelled from Kingston and various places in between.

We are grateful to Uniting Agewell and Scotch Oakburn College for providing buses and accommodation at Fingal Valley.

Thank you for your prayers, support and interest. Let us continue to extend Jesus' transformational welcome to those in our families, neighbourhoods, communities and beyond.



## When Technology Can Bring Us Together



*Photos from the Combined Service August 2018*

Recently, members of the Hobart Scots-Memorial Congregation were reminded that they are part of a worldwide church when they shared a combined service with friends at the Northstead Methodist Church, Scarborough, UK. Thanks to modern technology (Zoom) the two congregations were able to worship together; Scots Memorial at 7.30 in the evening and Northstead at their normal time of 10.30 a.m. The service was led by Graham Sturdy the current minister at Scots Memorial who was minister at the Scarborough church from 1994-2001. During the service the Scots Memorial 'Thirsty Ground' group sang a couple of their newly composed songs. One of the songs, 'will you walk this path with me' related well to the reading from the letter of Paul to Philemon. Two members of the Scarborough congregation read this bible passage and Jeff Gray led the 'Prayers for Others'. The music was provided by the Northstead organist and here in Hobart we sang along with them (almost in time!!). We introduced the UK congregation to two of our favourite songs; The Aboriginal 'Our Father' and TiS 779 'May the feet of God walk with you'.

Apart from a few sound difficulties in Hobart the service was much appreciated by both congregations with the promise that they would 'do it again'. This wasn't the first combined service for the two congregations; they worshipped together last year and two years ago Graham led a Scarborough service from his lounge room.



## Leadership Formation

Dear God . . . .

It's the way most of us will begin a prayer. We close our eyes, we bow our heads. Sometimes we feel confident to speak words for a prayer in a small group of people, sometimes we'll feel confident enough to do so for a large community of faith. Some of us will struggle to enter a time prayer in our own homes. Sometimes we just don't know how we are meant to do that, or even understand why, and what happens when we do so. Some of us, just don't take the time.

But what if we did feel confident, what if we did appreciate the place of prayer in our life. What if we knew how . . . .

Biblical stories have given us clear clues. We often share the Lord's Prayer. The prayer that Jesus taught us. There's a pattern in this prayer. A beginning where we recognise who we are sharing space and time with in this moment - the eternal creator! And one who invites us into intimate relationship. We share hopes, dreams for all of creation. We speak of the fragile edges of life, and declare our place in it.

Prayer is the intentional sharing of time and space with God - the one who has created us, and continues to draw us into life. If we never spent time with the ones who love us, what would that relationship be like? To pray, is to share time and space with God who loves us - intimately and deeply.

We don't have to get prayer right, we just need to let our hearts lean into space and time with God. If you don't know how or don't feel confident about praying just yet, then sit for just a few minutes. Look at the clouds, or a plant, and think for a moment about God who has created it. With a 'thank you God' as you experience wonder or hold questions about their place, then you will have prayed. You will have entered time and space with the eternal Creator. God invites us to share time and space.

I wonder how you might share time and space with God. . . . I wonder how you might share that with others, in your home, with family, with others who also follow Christ.

*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](mailto:denise.savage@victas.uca.org.au).*

# This 'n That

■ **Uniting Church Studies**, 20 – 22 Nov at CTM, Parkville. Equipping you for ministry, work or leadership in the UCA. Cost \$150 – apply for a Go Grant, contact UCA Tas Office.

■ **Uniting VicTas-Annual Public Meeting** is an opportunity to hear about our achievements in the past year and look to the year ahead with our incoming CEO, Bronwyn Pike and a chance to thank inaugural CEO Paul Linossier for all his work in the

first three years of Uniting Vic.Tas. Everyone welcome. **When:** 3 December, 4pm-6pm **Where:** UCA Hobart Wesley Hall.

■ The **Lenten Offering** raises funds for special mission projects of the Uniting Church and its ancillary organisations. The Moderator is seeking applications for projects in the following categories: Victoria metro, Victoria rural, Tasmania and Covenanting. Submissions must be made by 1 November. More information at <https://victas.uca.org.au/resources/grants/lenten-grants/>

■ The **Mental Health Kit for Congregations**, launched on 15 September, is now available for download. The Kit contains personal perspectives, worship resources, sermon starters, a list of community-based resources and checklists to help congregation better respond to people with mental health issues. <https://victas.uca.org.au/ministry-mission/disability-inclusion/>

■ The Lay Preachers' Association Committee of Management is supporting a **history of lay preaching** in the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania. If you have any biographies of lay preachers that you can provide email Daryl Pedler at [darylmargpedler@bigpond.com](mailto:darylmargpedler@bigpond.com)

## Praying for the Presbytery

This month please remember  
in your prayers:

- For Members of Presbytery as they gather in Ulverstone
- For a Lay Preacher near you
- For Presbytery discernment with regard to leadership positions
- For the members of Presbytery Committees

## what's On

### November

Sat 9	9.30am	Presbytery Gathering at Ulverstone UC
Mon 25	11.00am	Resource & Development Committee
Thu 28	10.00am	Presbytery Standing Committee
Sat 30	10.00am	Lay Preachers' Day, Longford UC

### December

Tues 3	10.00am	Pastoral Relations Committee
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Please check our Presbytery Calendar of events on the [Presbytery website](#)

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## Keeping Children Safe



Thanks to the many congregations that have met their ethical and legal obligations by completing the Keeping Children Safe Progress Report.

Did you know that if there is someone in your local congregation or area who has attended Safe Church Training and has the confidence of their Church Council, they can run the training for their local congregation and invite others in the area?

Did you know that it is important to schedule annually a time for your Church Council to reaffirm its adoption of the KCS policy?

This is something we do for all vulnerable people – not only for children.



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