



Uniting Tasmania

Issue No. 216 | July 2023



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

The UCA turned 46 on June 22, a date that also marked the conclusion of Uniting in Prayer - a time of prayer nationally across the Church as part of the Act2 project, as we consider the future shape of the Uniting Church.

Recalling the courageous journey we embarked on 46 years ago, President Sharon Hollis invites us to listen anew to the invitation to find ourselves in God's story, asking ... "What is God's new thing for us today?"

Are we willing to courageously answer Christ's call in this time and place?"

In a video message, Sharon considers the particular call this year to support an Aboriginal and Torres

Strait Islander Voice to Parliament. She reflects on the call to be shaped by God's inclusive life and to receive with joy the gifts of the LGBTIQ+ community. She invites us to seek to be allies of those on the margins and to stand against racism and exclusion.

In our own life as a Church, Sharon asks if we can commit anew to sharing with others what it means to have new life in Christ, and to forge a future of faithful innovation, discipleship and community. The beginning of the video features Rev Dr Davis McCaughey, inaugural President of the Uniting Church, preaching at the Uniting Church service of inauguration at Sydney Town Hall on June 22 1977.

[Click here to watch the video.](#)



WE BELONG TO THE DAY

1 Thessalonians 5:8

Synod
2023

Synod 2023 is fast approaching and you are invited to attend.

The Synod meets about every 18 months to receive reports, discern proposals, and discuss matters that concern the general oversight, direction and life of the Uniting Church in Victoria and Tasmania.

These meetings are important in defining who we are as the Uniting Church in Victoria and Tasmania.

Synod meetings are sometimes faced with challenging matters and important decisions, such as discerning who will be our next Moderator-elect, and such decisions are best made when we gather together to discern God's direction for our Church, and listen to the varied voices that make up our Synod.

This year's guests are:



Brooke Prentis

Aboriginal Christian Leader, international speaker, writer, educator, and poet will preach during the Opening Worship.



Rev Associate Professor Robyn Whitaker

Senior Lecturer in New Testament, Pilgrim Theological College, will lead the Bible Studies.

This year's meeting is at Box Hill Town Hall, Victoria, November 18-21. If you would like to attend, contact our office on **6331 9784** or by [email](#).



Uniting Church in Australia
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

REFLECTION

PIETERPAD

From Graham near Hardenberg in The Netherlands, a wanderer on the Way. To the saints who are in Tasmania, who are faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Greetings from the borderlands.

I am following the Pieterpad from Pieterburen (neighbourhood near Saint Peter) to Saint Peter, a mountain near Maastricht. This is most of the length of the border between The Netherlands and Germany.

Peter was very much a man who spoke out before always putting his brain into gear. Yet the faith of this guy was enough to shove leadership on his shoulders and that he understood some of the implications of Jesus's death is affirmed in the legends about his own death. Something to think about as we are walking.

When we are walking long distances, and this walk is something over 490km, seeing the whole task is daunting. In the face of this we use the teacher's skill of breaking things down into manageable chunks - how much is done in a day, how many hundred metres to the next canal or through that section of woods, and ultimately to at least I can do that next step.

When walking, we follow the path in our mind or that laid down in the guidebook taking note of the markers indicating the correct path or a change of direction.

It's a bit like life really.

How is your walk going? What borderlands are you traversing? What is your next step?



AUGUST
18

Intergenerate Australia and New Zealand



In this face-to-face gathering David Csinos will lead us through his book, *A Gospel For All Ages*.

Alongside David's keynote will be interactive experiences hosted by Tammy Preston (above) that we call "Glasshouses" – a signature piece of the Intergenerate Australia and New Zealand Conferences.

Local facilitators will bring dynamic practical workshops. Morning & afternoon tea is provided and lunch is BYO or pay on the day to order in as a group from a local takeaway outlet.

Having been at events with Dave and Tammy I thoroughly commend this day to anyone wishing to better connect across the generations.

Where: 28 Riawena Rd, Montague Bay, Hobart

Time: 9am-4.30pm

Tickets: \$95 [available here](#).

Grace and Peace, Jeff Savage (Minister Hobart North)

AUGUST
20

Share Sunday



Share Sunday is an opportunity for the whole of the Uniting Church to acknowledge the vital community services undertaken by Uniting's agencies, parish missions, presbyteries and congregations.

It is also an invitation to continue to explore how we can partner together as we respond to Christ's calling to serve humanity seeking to create an inclusive, connected and just world.

This year's suggested date for congregations to hold a Share Sunday Service is on August 20, however you can choose to hold a service at any time if departing from the lectionary is permissible in your context.

Worship resources are available to [download here](#).

These include:

- A complete sample service, with all prayers and responses and some powerful reflections
- Sermon/reflection
- Intergenerational activity resources
- Suggested hymns.

Please adapt the resources to suit your needs.

JULY
13

Yarn For Yes



Lock in this date for an hour of listening, laughing and learning with your Church!

The Working for Justice and Walking Together as First and Second Peoples Circles invite you into some deep dadirri listening around the Voice.

Come and hear Palawa woman Alison Overeem (above), Advocate of the Walking Together Circle, Gamillaroi man and comedian Ben Moodie and Uncle Ray Minniecon, Aboriginal Pastor and a descendant of the Kabi Kabi nation and the Gurang Gurang nations join together and Yarn for Yes.

How: Zoom

Time: 7.30pm

[Register here](#)

July-Aug

UPCOMING



**04
JUL**

10 AM
**PASTORAL RELATIONS
COMMITTEE**

**25
JUL**

11:30 AM
**RESOURCE & DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE**

**27
JUL**

10 AM
**PRESBYTERY STANDING
COMMITTEE**

**01
AUG**

10 AM
**PASTORAL RELATIONS
COMMITTEE**

**08
AUG**

11:30 AM
**RESOURCE & DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE**

**26
AUG**

TBA
REGIONAL GATHERINGS

Save the date

LAY PREACHER HUB DAYS

An opportunity for lay preachers, worship leaders and interested people to get together for learning and sharing of ideas. Kingston Uniting Church, November 11 and Longford Uniting Church November 25. More information to follow.

CROSS THESE OFF YOUR CHECKLIST



Check items in
2023/24 Annual
Maintenance Log
Book.



2022/23 Log book
completed and a
copy sent to the
Presbytery office.



Published and distributed in the week before the last Sunday of each month. Contributions received seven days before publication. Contact Graham Booth, editor, by [email](#), phone 6331 9784 or post: 36 Paterson St, Launceston, 7250.