



Uniting Tasmania

Issue No. 223 | March 2024

Living God's Mission:



Devonport

The church community.

Devonport Uniting Church has about 40 members many of whom are retired. The congregation consists of people with a variety of backgrounds and faith understandings. We are part of the Cradle Coast Cluster, which also includes Wynyard, Burnie Regional and Penguin Uniting Churches.

Eight years ago the Devonport congregation made the decision to sell their old building as it was draining a lot of people and financial resources, preventing the congregation from being able to be at mission.

We decided to purchase a series of shop fronts and convert three of them into a worship / general-purpose meeting area. The freedom from property issues has allowed us to become a more inclusive community, welcoming people from the LGBTQI+ community, from First Nations, neurodivergent and people from other faiths.

We have become more outward-looking and take discipleship more seriously, not just on Sunday at worship. Worship has taken on more varied forms. Worship teams lead on a roster which means that

Cont. on page 2

the worship is led by one of three worship teams.

What's exciting?

A member of the Six Rivers Aboriginal Corporation shared with us in the lead-up to the Referendum. To hear firsthand from this community was helpful in deciding how to respond.

The Congregation financially supports one of the Cradle Coast resource ministers to spend one day a week in ministry alongside the local Pride community. This ministry has brought about a real awareness of the needs of some members of the LGBTQI+ community who are facing injustice, poverty and isolation. Some members of this community have been able to declare the Devonport Congregation their 'home'.

We have also introduced the possibility of worshippers have the opportunity to colour in or knit during worship. This has proved really supportive for those who concentrate more when undertaking an activity.

Conversation Group is an opportunity for people to come together to listen to a TED talk and then spend some time in conversation about the talk.

Where is God at work in your community?

Our community experienced having five primary school children killed in a jumping castle incident.

We were able to immediately open our church and allow members of the community to come and have some quiet time, light a candle or to talk with one of our members. This was a humbling experience as we saw first-hand our God moving lovingly and supportively throughout those who gathered there on the days following. We were privileged to have a space which was open, accepting, and safe for people to talk, sit quietly and grieve openly.

Some members were invited to attend the opening of the first Masjid in the North West of Tasmania. To be able to share in faith with people from the Islamic faith in a way that was

open to our differences while at the same time acknowledging the similarities has enabled some of us to see God in a bigger way than before.

On our focus table for worship we have two ceramic hands joined together, one black and the other white. This has come to mean a great deal to members as it seems to symbolise the acceptance of all people before God and a call upon us to act likewise.

What are the challenges?

As a congregation, one of our challenges is to make the scary move beyond the faith we held from Sunday School days to a more theologically diverse worshipping community.

As with all congregations, we are also challenged by the many calls upon our time to keep up to date with regulations at a local, state and national level.

How can the Church pray for you?

*that our faith in God will be enriched and that we will continue our pilgrimage of getting to know our God more and more as each day passes.

* that our contact with the First Nations People and members of the LGBTQI+ community may continue to grow as we minister alongside them.

* that we can continue to live out God's mission for the Uniting Church in this part of the world.



This is my Uniting Church

Devonport Uniting Church

This article is copied and modified from part of a series on the National Uniting Church website.

Read more at:

<https://uniting.church/this-is-my-uniting-church-devonport-uniting-church/>

Uniting in Prayer 2024

19 May-22 June

This popular event will return for Season 2. Resources are being prepared for worship as well as a whole of church prayer chain that will include congregations, presbyteries, synod, agencies and schools.

The team is also currently putting together daily prayers for the 35 days. They are asking you to help in identifying people and communities in your presbytery who may want to contribute a prayer to be shared over the 35 days. In 2024, the daily prayers will have an emphasis on

creativity and include written prayers, videos, images, songs, poetry and art. Please let us know if you have any names or contacts for those who might be interested, simply include their contacts in a reply to this email and one of our team will reach out to them.

Due date for prayers are 31st of March 2024.

For more information and to register check out

<https://www.act2uca.com/unitinginprayer2024>



"It is grace that cannot be defeated..."

The telling of the Easter story in the Gospel of Mark does not skirt around our failings, heartbreak or fear, and so it is a story for all of us. And for all of us, the good news of resurrection life is proclaimed.

This is the reflection from President Rev Sharon Hollis in her 2024 Easter message, filmed at Willoughby and Northbridge Uniting Church in Sydney.

The President's Easter message will be released Wednesday 13 March. Use the form at

<https://form.jotform.com/240638064972866> to sign up to receive the video to your inbox when available.

Got a good news story or a great photo?

Share your good news with the Uniting Church across Tasmania and Victoria!

Send your information to Tas.office@victas.uca.org.au

and Crosslight@victas.uca.org.au



200 Years of Worship Onsite

2024 presents the Scots-Memorial Congregation with an opportunity to celebrate 200 years of continuous Christian worship on site at 29 Bathurst Street, Hobart.

The first service was held in the then newly erected Scots Kirk (now known as St Andrew's Hall) on 12 September 1824. The Reverend Archibald Macarthur was the minister for this occasion.

Note, this is not to be confused with the first service held in Scots Church (the current church building pictured above), then called

St Andrew's Church in November 1835, which as dedicated and opened for regular services in June 1836.

Scots-Memorial Congregation is planning a special commemorative service on Sunday 08 September 2024.

This service will be at the regular worship time of 10:00am, followed by morning tea and lunch. The congregation is in the early stages of planning the service.

Pictures from the Scots-Memorial website <https://www.scotschurch.com.au> where you can find more information on the history of the congregation and building.



Home

At Scots-Memorial Church we see ourselves as an open, welcoming, accepting community of people who offer others the invitation to 'Come as you are'.

 SCOTS-MEMORIAL CHURCH

 2024 VicTas Synod Lay Preachers' Conference and AGM 

When: Friday April 12th 7.00pm - 9.15pm
Friday April 13th 8.45am - 4.15pm

Where: The Centre for Theology and Ministry
29 College Crescent, Parkville

Free or Donation

Onsite or Online



"Which gospel?"

Rev Duncan Macleod



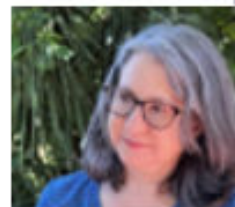
Preaching Beyond the Choir

Rev Paul Clark



Hebrew Bible topic

Rev Assoc Prof
Monica Melanchthon



Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care Guidelines

Rev Lauren Mosso

Register by Friday April 7th
Registration Forms from
dianne.e.wookee@gmail.com

Culture of Safety Updates



Culture of Safety Unit works with people throughout the Uniting Church – whether in congregations, presbyteries or Synod – to make sure every Uniting Church is a safe place for all, including occasional visitors. See website below.

The unit's special concern is to develop a culture and systems to encourage behaviour that helps Church people – both ordained and lay – to consider the conduct, ethics and responsibilities required of them

Candice Coles is the Tasmanian Presbytery Contact for Culture of Safety.

Tasmania now has ten Child and Youth Safe Standards. Anyone familiar with the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations will be familiar with the content of these. See websites below for these ten standards.

Synod policies are designed to meet these standards and the Culture of Safety team is in the process of highlighting where the standards sit in the current policy which can be found on the UCA's Safe Church website.

The Tasmanian framework now also includes a "Universal Principle of Aboriginal Cultural Safety" that is intended to inform all ten standards. This means that Aboriginal children and young people in Tasmania have a right to grow up in a safe and nurturing environment with connections to community, culture and identity. UCA's Culture of



Standard 1: Child safety and wellbeing is embedded in organisational leadership, governance and culture.

This means: All people in the organisation care about children and young people's safety and wellbeing above everything else, and make sure they act that way and lead others to act that way.

Safety team are working alongside the Tasmanian UAICC to ensure that we are meeting this. See websites below for more on cultural safety.

Mandatory Reporting

We must report any conduct related to child abuse involving an adult worker (Minister, leader, employee or volunteer), even if they do not have a role working with children.

Continued P8

This includes any of the following both IN our congregations and OUTSIDE of our congregations:

- Grooming
- Physical violence
- Sexual offences and sexual misconduct
- Significant emotional or psychological harm
- Significant neglect

Failing to report any of the above to relevant authorities is a serious problem. Matters are required to be reported within three days of being notified of them- this is 3 days from when they are reported to anyone within the Church.

The Synod is resourced to conduct investigations on behalf of the head of entity (General Secretary).

Outcomes are reported back to the Independent Regulator. For more information about the Office of Independent Regulator in Tasmania see websites below.

If appropriate internal discipline processes will be conducted (SSMCC, Committee for Discipline... etc.)

Record keeping is crucial to ensuring we can conduct a quick and thorough investigation. This includes WWVP checks, Child Safe training logs, details of volunteers/leader/lay preachers start and finish date. These records will assist with assessing if a Reportable Conduct Investigation is required.

The head of entity is the General Secretary NOT the congregational minister, church council members or anyone at the Presbytery.

This information is transferred from a PowerPoint presentation offered to the recent meeting of the Presbytery of Tasmania.

Websites

Culture of Safety and Safe Church resources for Church Councils, congregations and leaders:

<https://victas.uca.org.au/culture-of-safety/> ;

<https://safechurch.ucavictas.org.au/>

Tasmanian Child & Youth Safe Standards:

<https://www.justice.tas.gov.au/carcru/child-and-youth-safe-organisations-framework/child-and-youth-safe-standards>

Cultural Safety in Tasmania:

https://www.justice.tas.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0007/738403/Aboriginal-Cultural-Safety-Short-Guide.pdf

Office of Independent Regulator:

<https://oir.tas.gov.au/home>



SUPERVISED PASTORAL EDUCATION UNIT

Applications are now open for the Semester 1, 2024 Unit being offered by Uniting CPE – The John Paver Centre, from February 2 to June 25 next year. Applications close on November 8, with interviews scheduled for Nov 16 and 17.

Supervisors are Rev Lauren Mosso and Rev Andy Calder. Contact Andy Calder on 9340 8844 or by **email** for more information.

MAY 3-5 | WADAWURRUNG COUNTRY | QUEENSCLIFF

sacrededge²⁰²⁴

Festival
arts • music • stories

Diversity from the Heart

FIRST NATIONS | REFUGEE | LGBTIQ+
EARTH & OCEAN | WELLBEING



INFORMATION & BOOKINGS

www.unitingqueenscliff.org.au



The Uniting Church is full of wonderful stories. Across the country, there are thousands of faithful people and communities sharing in life and faith, growing disciples, nurturing faith and places of belonging, leading change, experimenting with new things, working for the common good and making God’s mission in the world a reality.

In this regular series, we’re excited to be telling these stories as we invite different people to share in their own words about faith, community, the Uniting Church and how we can pray for them.



Visit <https://uniting.church/humans-of-the-uniting-church/>



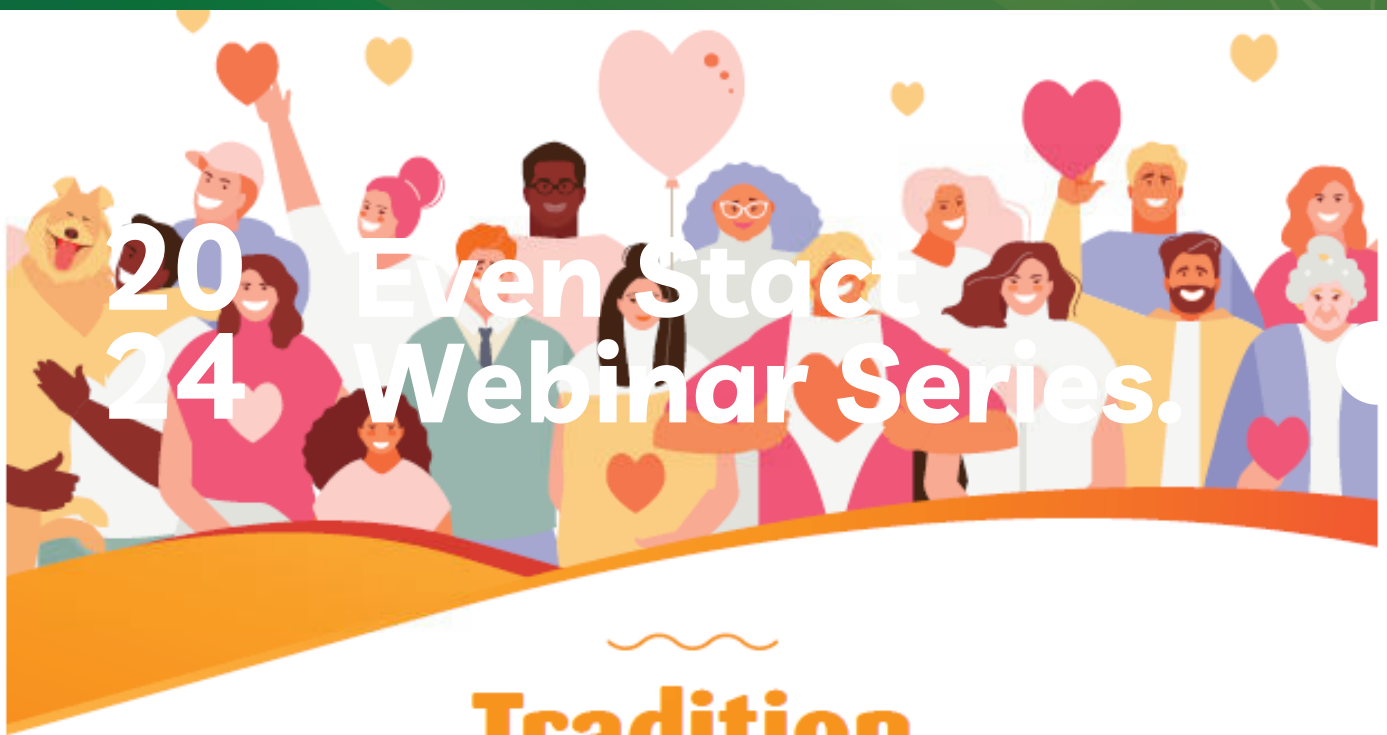
For more information about the Justice and International Mission Cluster contact:
jim@victas.uca.org.au
<http://www.justact.org.au>

CAMPAIGN UPDATES

**TASMANIAN GOVERNMENT
COMMITTS TO RAISING THE AGE OF
CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY TO 14**

In July 2021, we requested that you write to the Tasmanian and Victorian Governments urging that they increase the age of criminal responsibility to 14. There was good news in

late 2023 with the Tasmanian Government committed to raising the criminal responsibility age to 14 by 2029 with no exceptions. In addition, they committed to raising the minimum age that a child can be detained in a youth justice facility to 16. The Tasmanian Government said they would achieve the outcome “by developing alternatives to detention for children up to 15 years that result in better outcomes for young people and the communities they live in.”



Tradition + with a Future +

Webinar Series

Let's make it easy for people to become involved in God's mission through our churches.

Churches who develop an intentional culture of including and a clear pathway for new people to become involved, can expect:

- + A new sense of energy and excitement within their church.
- + New people becoming disciples.
- + Expanded missional opportunities.
- + More transformed lives.
- + Clarity on their Churches future direction.

All who register will receive a Workbook prior to each session.

This will assist to understand your congregations unique abilities and ways in which you can build on who you presently are and the things you presently do.

All sessions will be recorded and a link will be sent so that anyone who isn't able to make a particular session will be able to catch up.

Registrations close at 12pm on Thursday 7 March. Please note the Zoom details will be emailed to you on the morning of the first session.

FREE EVENT

Thursdays
7:30-9:00pm

Dates

March 7th, March 21st,
April 4th, April 18th,
May 2nd, May 9th

To register online, visit
<https://events.humanitix.com/tradition-with-a-future> or scan the QR code below.





WHAT'S ON!

MAR - APR, 2024

MAR 05 | Pastoral Relations Committee

MAR 29 to APR 01 | Easter Break: Tasmania Office Closed

MAR 11 | Recreation Day Public Holiday: Tasmanian Office closed

APR 02 | 7pm - via Zoom
Pastoral Relations Committee

MAR 12 | Resource and Development committee

APR 09 | Resource and Development Committee

MAR 21 | Presbytery Standing Committee

APR 25 | Anzac Day: Tasmanian Office Closed

MONTHLY CHECKLIST



AGM by end of March



Working with Vulnerable People checks up to date



Check items in Annual Maintenance Statements Log Book



Notify UCA Tasmanian Office of any changes to Presbytery Directory eg. office bearers, worship times