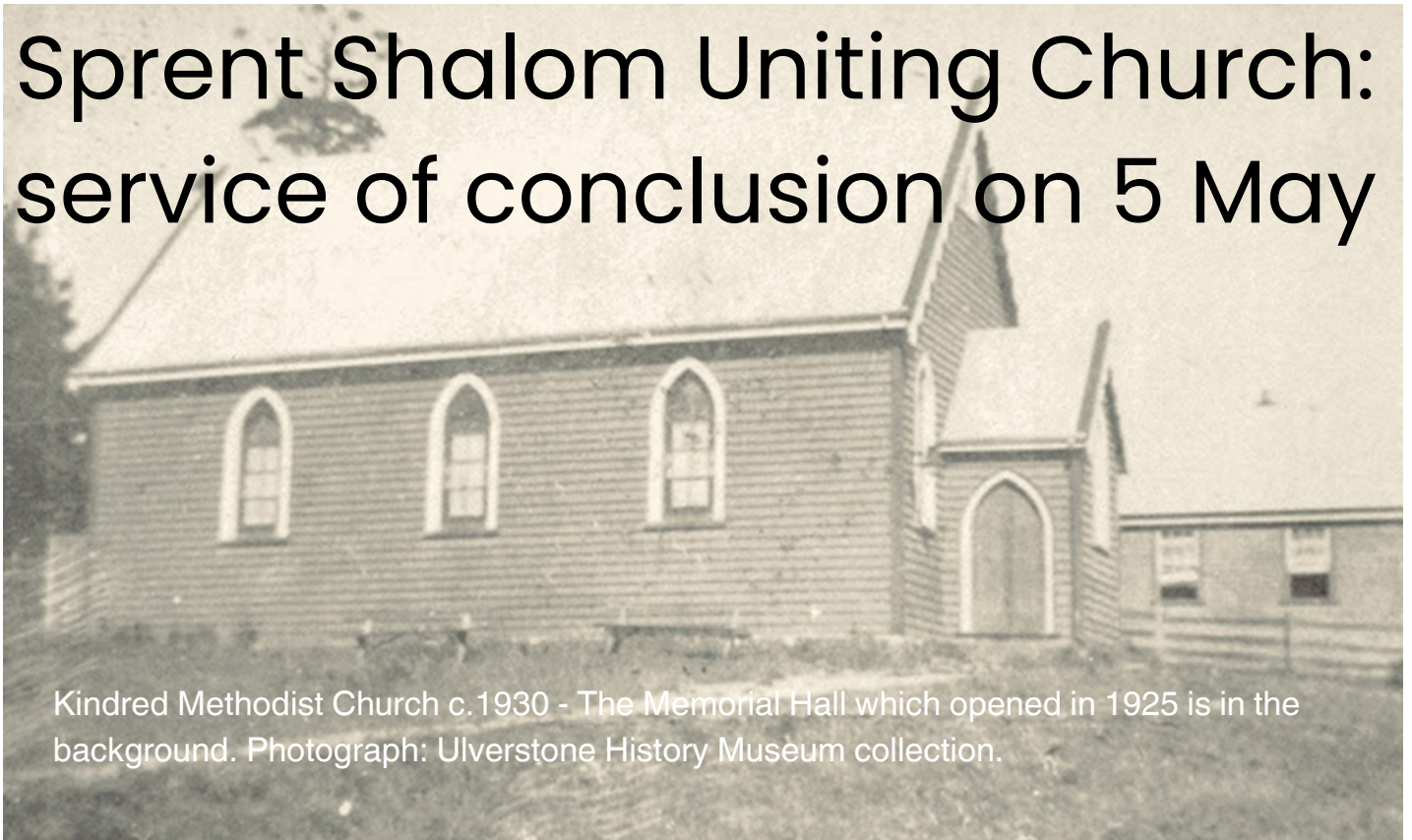




Uniting Tasmania

Issue No. 224 | April 2024

Sprent Shalom Uniting Church: service of conclusion on 5 May



Kindred Methodist Church c.1930 - The Memorial Hall which opened in 1925 is in the background. Photograph: Ulverstone History Museum collection.

Join the Leven Roland Uniting Church and the Presbytery of Tasmania from 2:00pm on Sunday 5 May 2024 to recognise the conclusion of the Sprent Church building.

Sprent church members will continue to gather for fellowship at other facilities in the local area.

The weatherboard church building was constructed by the Wesleyan Church at nearby Kindred in 1891, and served there for successive generations until 1984 when it was moved to 1265 Castra Road, Sprent to serve the Shalom congregation of the Uniting Church.

Parish Chairperson and third-generation Lay Preacher, Keeton Miles, will conduct a service with Rev. Brian Cole and Rev. Gospel Ralte, to give thanks to God for the generations of faithful gathering for worship, and witness to the wider world of the love of God.

The Presbytery Chairperson with others will recognise the contribution of faithful people and simple structures in bringing good news and care to the community.

Guests are invited to bring a plate of afternoon tea to share, and to **RSVP to Keeton Miles (phone 6429-1260) or the Ulverstone church office (6425-4446 or email ulverstoneuca@gmail.com).**

CARING IN GRIEF AND CRISIS

Some related resources that you may find helpful to work through with others:

- Susan Silk’s “ring theory” article on responding to grief situations: comfort in, dump out (an effective starting point, even if a bit basic): “How to not say the wrong thing”, Susan Silk and Barry Goldman, Los Angeles Times: <https://www.latimes.com/opinion/op-ed/la-xpm-2013-apr-07-la-oe-0407-silk-ring-theory-20130407-story.html>
- Deborah Davis develops Silk’s ring theory by adding a spotlight (“never steal the spotlight!”) with 10 tips to offer real care.
- “Ring Theory helps us bring comfort”, Elana Premack Sandler, Psychology Today: <https://www.psychologytoday.com/au/blog/promoting-hope-preventing-suicide/201705/ring-theory-helps-us-bring-comfort-in>
- “Compassion Fatigue”, Andrea Risi, <https://www.goodtherapy.org/blog/compassion-fatigue-can-you-care-too-much-0301174>
- Uniting Church “Do It Yourself” (DIY) training modules, no-cost download: <https://victas.uca.org.au/diy-do-it-yourself-modules/>

Caring for others in times of grief and crisis is an important witness to God’s love for every person, and God’s love for the whole of creation. *For God so loved the world ... Jesus Christ came that all might have abundant life* (John 3:16 and 10:10).

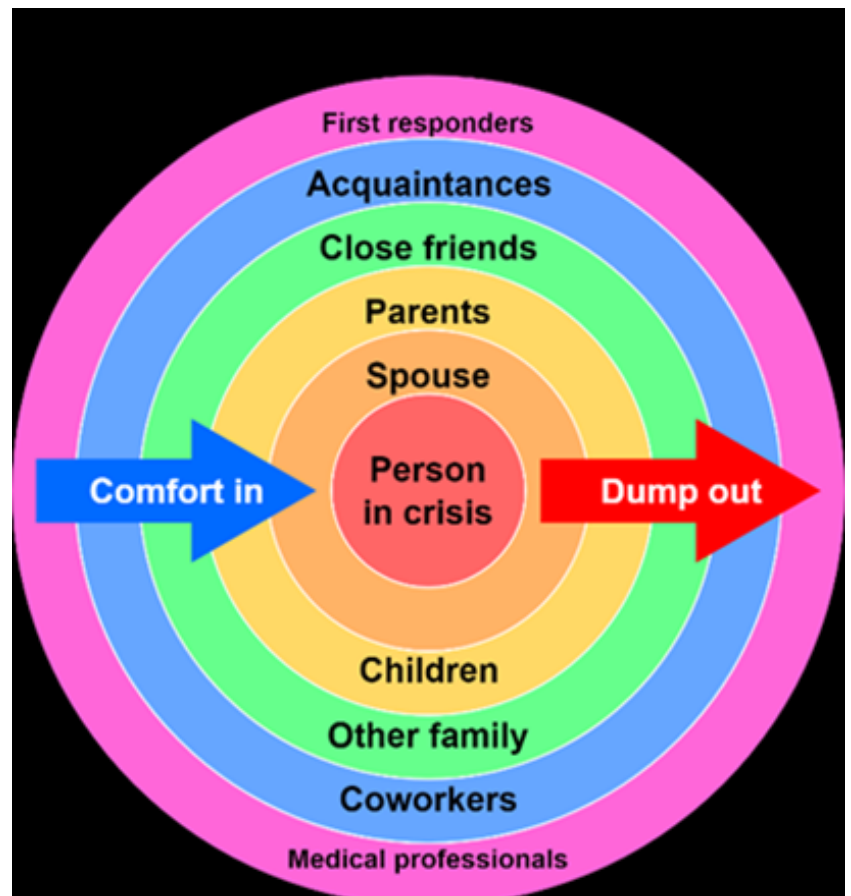
As communities of the Uniting Church, we are located in many places around Tasmania. Local congregations and faith communities are central to networks of care – not only for church members and regular attenders, but also for local communities. This is not to say that the care depends all on us, but the Church can demonstrate care in everyday situations as well as times of crisis, and has done so over generations past, and can do so long into the future.

Our basic approach to care in times of need: follow their lead, help them find their own solutions to address their needs (rather than ours).

Cont. page3

Diagram below from:

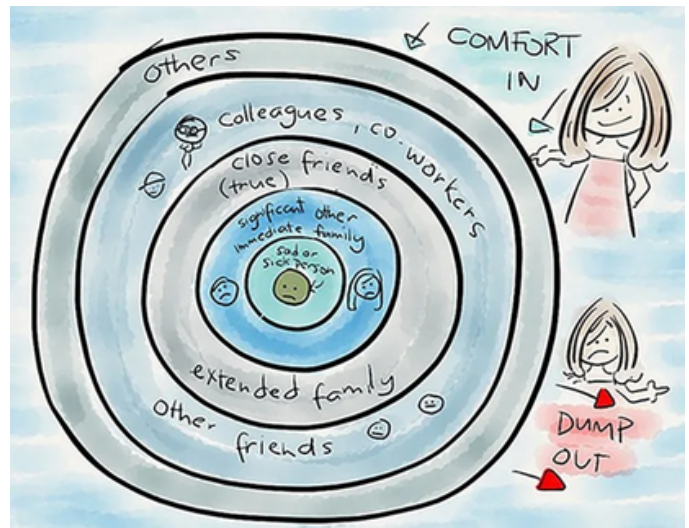
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ring_theory.svg



“Pastoral care’ is not only the personalised care for an individual, but also the systems of intentional care for communities of faith, and our wider communities. Whether for individuals or communities, we can show presence and patience in which pastoral carers support people in their pain, loss and anxiety, and their triumphs, joys and victories.

There are various different models and metaphors: some of the Uniting Church’s “Do It Yourself” (DIY) training modules explore pastoral care with older people (E11), people with dementia (E12), grief care (E4), crisis care (E6), and the pastoral ministry of elders in visiting (E5). All of these no-cost resources can be downloaded from CTM Resourcing: <https://victas.uca.org.au/diy-do-it-yourself-modules/>

In situations of grief and crisis care, psychologist Susan Silk talks about the “ring theory” where the key principle is “comfort in, dump out” (or “comfort in, unload out”). The person in grief or crisis in the middle of the rings should receive comfort and support from others, and those people should “dump” or “unload” their own concerns or needs out to ensure they receive support, but do not need this from the person in the middle.



Source:

<https://www.scenicnews.com.au/column-relationships-kvetching-circles>

The purpose of coordinated pastoral care is so that together we can help pastorally care for the individual/s and the whole congregation, and so that the person in the middle does not need to cope with people unloading their own stories and emotions, but instead feels comfort and uplifting support from everyone.

When you need to dump or unload, please find a caring person in an ‘outer ring’ – including each other – but not the one in the middle.

Vale David Webster

It is with much sadness and grief that we share the news that Rev. Deacon David Webster died on the 26th March 2024.

We give thanks to God for the life of David Webster and his ministry, passion and gifts in life. We offer our prayers of support to all his family, his adopted family members, his dog Sammy and all his friends.

David has been a gift to the Devonport congregation in particular, and has contributed much to other congregations in the Cradle Coast cluster and across the wider Presbytery and Synod of the Uniting Church in Australia.

May the faith-full Easter stories and rituals remind us again that life includes death, and that death is not the end – in the fullness of God’s eternal embrace, love overcomes all.



Making Cans

Canned Lessons

When I was a teacher and videos were the latest thing (that's a long time ago), a lesson with a video was called a canned lesson. On a few occasions we would simulate a news team and produce a news broadcast with everyone from information gatherers to news readers and camera operators. This was referred to as making your own cans.

Our congregation has a video licence from CCLI which allows the use of some clips to be used in worship. There are other sources of videos, both free and subscription, that come with permission to use in worship.

One would choose to use these based on their connection with the lectionary or other readings and/or with the various stages of a worship service. There seems to me that there is a line to walk; between, on the one hand, the motivation of the congregation to be present in body to engage in embodied worship and on the other hand to have them sit back and watch content that merely

requires absorption. (Come to think of it, some sermons are like that.)

I suppose that one trick is to keep the video content brief and embedded in the "theme" of the worship service with clear links to other aspects of the service. Another would be the familiarity with the technical aspects of the situation so that the video operates seamlessly at beginning and end.

Some Cans

In the last eighteen months I have made two videos using congregational members with the intention to present them in worship. One was for a Men's Service and the other was in preparation for an election of elders.

Can the First

The Men's Service. Yes, I know that is probably inappropriate in these days of

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gender diversity and the need to enable the voices of women. However, there are less of the men there, as in many church settings, and they tend to keep silent regarding their spiritual connections while being quite happy to discuss the weather, sheep prices etc.

Back to the Men's Service. I was asked to lead this and involve the men in the presentation of the service. The temptation here is to do all the work, hand out things for people to read and then wrap up with a bit of a talk on the theme.

The theme was love. How original for a service of worship?!

I gave the men two tasks. One was to provide a photograph of themselves as a baby/child. The other was to write one sentence beginning, "Love is..."

The photograph was related to an early reading that looked back over life and the way in which the path of a life had connected with others and with God. The congregation also had an interesting time guessing the subject of the photo.

The sentence was an opportunity for the men to take the theme as briefly and as deeply as they felt comfortable. These sentences were videoed and strung together with music to become the sermon. Each sentence was powerful, an insight into the character of the person and a reflection on their life. Together they were that and more.



As an aside – one of the contributors was a man in his nineties for whom I have recently led a funeral service. With the permission of family, I used his four-word sentence video during my reflection at the funeral. His, "Love is a gift," gave him an opportunity to speak at his own funeral and to connect with a broader range of people.

Can the Second

The Elders. One of our elders was retiring and a couple of others were coming up for re-election. At such a time it is useful to clarify the role of an elder and to give those considering the role an insight into what the experience can hold.

We could have written a long screed of information from the regulations and some written comments by an elder or more. Instead, I decided to produce a video based on a few questions posed to each of the elders with answers spliced together and held together with musical interludes between questions.

As above the replies to questions revealed the depth and variety that is a feature of our elders. Again, the combination was greater than the effect of the parts.



Continued P6



Processing Cans

Each time started with an idea that might be possible and that involved gaining permission and giving permission not to participate. For different reasons, one person in each group decided not to participate – it can be a scary experience. Involved with this permission giving was a guarantee to use the video in a particular way and not for general use.

For most speaking to me in a comfortable place of their own choosing and at a time that was suitable enabled them to communicate in a new way – some would run a mile from speaking up front in a church service.

Overall, it was important to keep the process simple. Keeping answers as brief as possible enabled the content to be a starting point for thinking and to be short enough for powerful, but not dominating, use in worship.

Constructing Cans

I used my Canon digital camera. This is not the most basic, but nowhere near the most expensive camera. I see no reason why this couldn't be done on a smart phone.

I downloaded the individual clips to my computer.

I used Microsoft Clipchamp to trim and place the clips in order. This program also allowed the making of Title Page, Question

pages, and credits pages.

I used Pixabay Music to get a suitable piece of copyright free music to enhance the time during which the above pages were displayed.

Microsoft Clipchamp enabled me to incorporate the piece of music in the appropriate places. The program enabled me to save the finished video in a version that could be embedded in my PowerPoint presentation.

Purposeful Cans

These cans were neither to fill space in the service, nor make anyone look good.

Liturgy is "The work of the people." These cans enabled people to participate in worship in a meaningful way; those filmed and those watching. They enabled voices that might not otherwise be heard to come across clearly and respectfully.



A space for silence.

MODERATOR: EASTER MESSAGE

Rev David Fotheringham, the Moderator of the Victorian and Tasmanian Synod, has recorded an Easter message. He is joined in this by his chaplains Rev Jinseon Park and Rev Simesi Tauali'i. You may find this Easter message at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LJSqMb6Sq6o>



Community Pacific Festival

This event aims to showcase the talents of the seasonal Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) workers employed on local berry farms and in local abattoirs (Mountford, Burlington Berries, Dricolls, JBS Swift and Tas Quality Meats), and to encourage local community members' engagement with these visitors who are significantly contributing to our economy. The festival is being held Saturday 13 April 2024, 4-7pm on the Longford Village Green and in the Memorial Hall.

The five cultural groups will each perform their music and dances on the rotunda between 4-5.30ish, followed by dinner and informal games

eg. soccer, cricket.

The event is under the auspice of Northern Midlands Council (i.e. Council's public liability will cover the event) and our Club will be recognised as the event's sponsor as we will cover the cost of the dinner ingredients that are not being donated, ukeleles for the performers, soccer balls and cricket sets.

The planning team includes Mayor Mary Knowles, Lorraine Green, President Ockie, the PALM Committee Connections Coordinator Tauga Ritiata, Denise Talbot, Shellee Newell, and representatives from each of the workers' sites.

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

Standing alongside Palestinians

While some have been seeking violent solutions and others throw up their hands in despair, Tom Leydon and some others have faithfully sustained attention to the Gaza invasion and continuing devastation, and have faithfully sustained calls for peace as part of a local network and global movement.

They regularly meet at 12pm on a Saturday in Launceston, have a range of speakers and occasionally have a brief walk as part of their event.

To find out the latest information contact Tom: tomeleydon@protonmail.com.

Some information from the wider networks, including pilgrimages in other parts of Australia – but none in Tasmania at this point:

Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage | Walk in prayerful solidarity

For more background, please also go to:
PCIA Home - Palestinian Christians in Australia

METHODISTS IN MT. PLEASANT

**Dr Bill Garner presents research on
this Ballarat church community.**

SUNDAY 28 APRIL, 2.00PM

Free event at Canterbury Uniting Church,
72 Highfield Road, Canterbury.

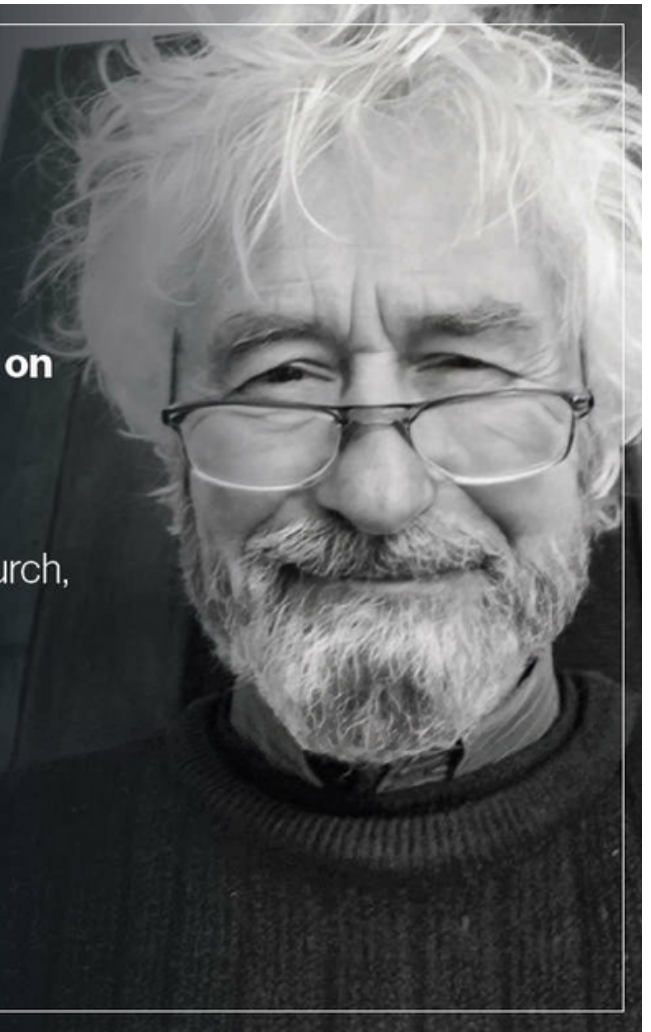
Or for a Zoom link, email:

ken.barelli@bigpond.com

For enquiries call Ken on

0418 317 942

VICTAS UNITING CHURCH HISTORICAL SOCIETY





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



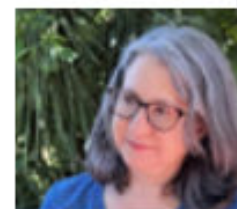
Hebrew
Bible topic

Rev Assoc Prof
Monica Melanchthon



Preaching
Beyond the
Choir

Rev Paul Clark



Chaplaincy
and Pastoral
Care
Guidelines

Rev Lauren Mosso

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

A Prayer for after the



Fundamentals of Transitional Ministry - Leader

About the course

Fundamentals of Transitional Ministry - Leader is a 3-day program designed to give participants an introduction to the key concepts and practices of ministering with congregations and agencies in times of transition.

While it is a stand-alone program, it is also the first phase of training that leads to being qualified as an Intentional Interim Minister. Thus, it is useful in itself for anyone in lay or ordained ministry, and also for those exploring whether they are called to Intentional Interim Ministry.

Who is this course for?

- ✓ People in Presbytery leadership roles
- ✓ People in the latter half of Third Phase of Ministry
- ✓ Ministers intending to do significant amounts of supply
- ✓ Ministers moving from chaplaincy/agency roles into congregational ministry
- ✓ Ministers in placements going through significant transitions, such as looking for new mission directions, contemplating combining/closing, moving to resource ministry.

Facilitators



Rev. Dr Niall McKay
Educator for Lifelong Learning



Rev. Lyn Burden
Intentional Interim Minister, Redlands Uniting Church



Rev. Linley Liersch
Mission Development Strategist and Education

Course details

1, 8 & 15 May 2024
10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (each day)

- Day 1 of 3: Wednesday, 1 May 2024
- Day 2 of 3: Wednesday, 8 May 2024
- Day 3 of 3: Wednesday, 15 May 2024

This course is delivered fully online via Zoom. This is a nation-wide training, and people from all Synods are warmly welcomed to register.

Learn more



tinyurl.com/ftml-may



umeinfo@nswact.uca.org.au



WHAT'S ON!

APR - MAY 2024

**APR
01**

Easter Monday
Presbytery Office Closed

**APR
18**

Presbytery Standing Committee
10am - 3pm

**APR
09**

Pastoral Relations Committee
10am - 3pm

**APR
25**

Anzac Day
Presbytery Office Closed

**APR
09**

**Resource and Development
Committee** 10.30am - 2.30pm

**MAY
07**

Pastoral Relations Committee
10am - 3pm

**APR
12**

Families' Getaway begins
Fingal

**MAY
23**

Presbytery Standing Committee
10am - 3pm

As we continue in the Season of Easter may the eternal possibilities of transformed life sustain you, and inspire all of us to peacemaking, justice and new communities of solidarity, care and love.

MONTHLY CHECKLIST



Annual Report of all activities and financial statements sent to UCA Tasmanian Office



Review of Safe Church Policies