



# Uniting Tasmania

Issue No. 225 | May 2024



## National Reconciliation Week 27 May - 3 June 2024

National Reconciliation Week (NRW) is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.

NRW ) is an annual celebration that builds upon the respectful relationships shared by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous peoples of all cultures in these lands now called Australia. During National Reconciliation Week all Australians are invited to learn more about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and histories, to share that knowledge and help us grow as a nation.

National Reconciliation Week sits alongside other significant dates such as Aboriginal Sunday the Sunday before January 26, January 26 a day of mourning, invasion, and survival, and NAIDOC Week a week of celebrating the world’s oldest living continuing cultures from the first to the second Sunday of July.

The theme for 2024, Now More Than Ever, is a reminder to all of us that no matter what, the fight for justice and the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people will —and must —continue. There have been many moments in Australia’s reconciliation journey that make us want to turn away. But when things are divisive, the worst thing we can do is disengage or disconnect.

*Cont. P2*



# RECONCILIATION AUSTRALIA

Now more than ever, we need to tackle the unfinished business of reconciliation. We know that the 6.2 million Australians who voted YES are committed to better outcomes for First Nations people, and are with us.

Reconciliation supporters must stand up to defend and uphold the rights of First Nations peoples. To call out racism wherever we encounter it, and to actively reinforce the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across this continent.

Now more than ever, the work continues. In treaty making, in truth-telling, in understanding our history, in education, and in tackling racism. We need connection. We need respect. We need action. And we need change.

Now more than ever, we need reconciliation.



More information, images, and text in this article from <https://www.reconciliation.org.au/our-work/national-reconciliation-week/> and [https://www.commongrace.org.au/national\\_reconciliation\\_week\\_2024](https://www.commongrace.org.au/national_reconciliation_week_2024) (Includes worship resources - sign up needed.)



## Pray with Common Grace

Common Grace: Reconciliation Through the Cross

This National Reconciliation Week Common Grace is inviting our movement to reflect on our theme focus of 'Reconciliation Through the Cross' and the important responsibility we have in deeply listening and taking action together to see the healing and flourishing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Please join us in prayer during National Reconciliation Week for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander justice.

COMMON GRACE

Pursuing Jesus and justice together  
for the flourishing of all people  
and all creation.



Photo: Rohan Pryor

As our local Church communities adapt to changing times, fellowship can continue, and both good news and care can still be shared with the wider community.

We always have feelings of sadness when a church building is no longer needed for its original purpose, and it is good to remember our forebears who raised funds and often literally sweated over the construction, or relocation. It is appropriate to shed some tears when a church building is closed for regular worship. But we know that all things work together for good, for those who love God (Romans 8:28).

Sprent congregation concluded that the burden of building maintenance including insurance costs and property responsibilities were too heavy to carry. Following a great service of gratitude, celebration and closure (above), Sprent church folk will still gather for Christian fellowship and care.

Similarly, the Wilmot congregation continues to regularly gather at the Wilmot Memorial Hall, directly over the road from the old church building in Wilmot. While no Sunday gathering occurs in the Sheffield Church building, there are regular Christian activities as well as many local community groups who continue to use that property every week.

Leven Rowland Uniting Church is the formal oversight and governance structure formed in 2023 by the amalgamation of the former congregations at Sheffield, Sprent, Ulverstone, and Wilmot. That regional leadership structure now only needs one Church Council (not the previous four) and one member of the Presbytery of Tasmania.

In each of these situations, and others, local leadership is faithfully able to make difficult decisions to adapt, with the Presbytery committees and staff for support.

## Congratulations and welcome to Valentina

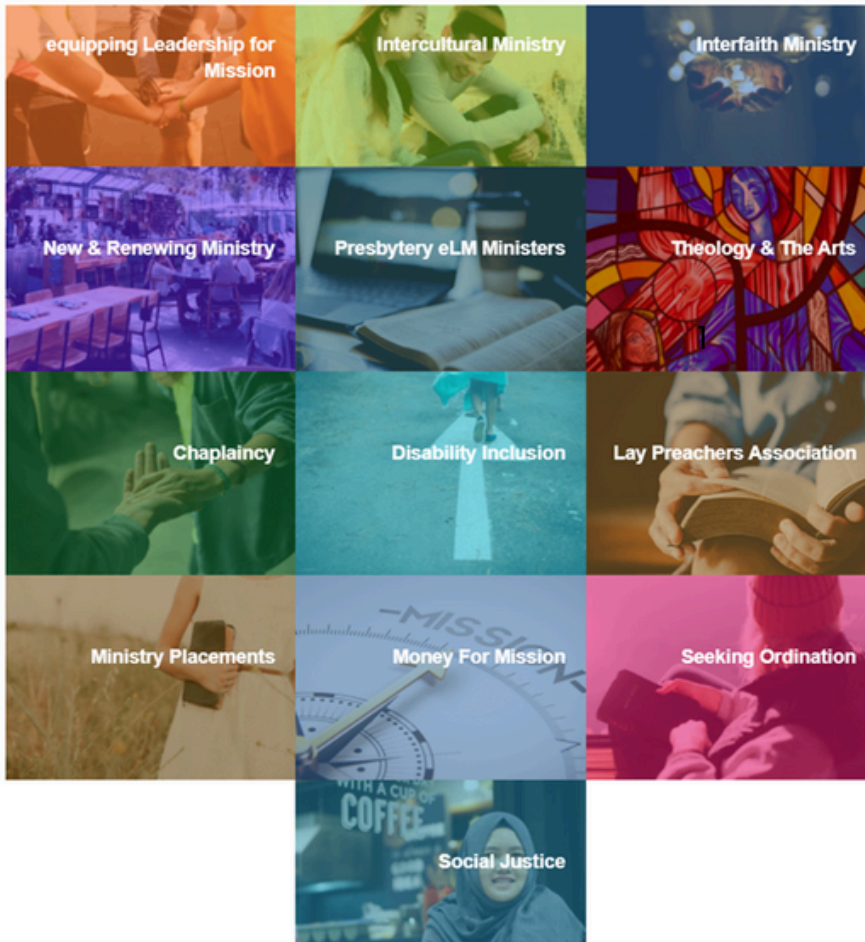
The Admission of Ministers Committee and the Synod Standing Committee have confirmed the admission of Rev. Valentina Satvedi Leydon to the Ministry of the Word in the Uniting Church, which is great news for her and for Pilgrim and the wider UCA.

A service of recognition is yet to be scheduled, but please congratulate Valentina on this step; it has been a long and at times challenging process.

## Advanced Care Directives

A Sunday afternoon session on 19th May, 2-3.30pm at Hobart North Uniting Church, led by Andrew Glenn. What is an advanced care directive? Why does this matter for me? What do I need to do about it? Andrew Glenn is a Director on the Board of Palliative Care Tasmania.

An Advanced Care Directive (ACD) is a legal document where a Tasmanian can record their values and wishes for a time when they are unable to make or communicate these decisions themselves. You can also document the medical treatment you do not want to receive and the circumstances in which you refuse that treatment.



## M&M

The M&M Committee has oversight of the following areas of work across the Synod:

- eLM equipping Leadership for Mission
- New & Renewing Ministry
- Chaplaincy
- Ministry Placements
- Intercultural Communities & Leadership, Intercultural Ministry
- Presbytery eLM Ministers
- Disability Inclusion
- Money For Mission
- Social Justice
- Uniting through faiths, Interfaith Ministry
- Theology & The Arts
- Lay Preachers Association
- Seeking Ordination

<https://victas.uca.org.au/mini-stry-mission/>

**“Reflecting Forward”**  
 Conference – May 13 & 14  
 at RACV Hotel, Hobart  
 For chaplains, and pastoral and spiritual care providers. Keynote speaker: Dr Michael Paterson. Guest speaker: Susan Marcuccio. Presented by the Tasmanian Association for Supervised Pastoral Education (TASPE). For more details and registration go to: [www.taspe.com.au](http://www.taspe.com.au)

## Exercise your faith and passion for the Uniting Church: join the Synod’s Ministry and Mission Committee

The Church seeks a range of members of all ages and backgrounds who reflect the diversity and gifts of the Church to be part of the Mission and Ministry Committee. The core purpose of the Committee is to ensure the activities of Synod based ministries and operations remain focussed on the agreed missional directions. The Committee is made up of a diverse group of people who desire conversation, reflection and action on current and emerging mission and ministry across the life of the church. The Ministry and Mission Committee provides the important oversight role of the Synod based ministries and operations and the strategic directions adopted by the Synod meeting. The Committee consists of ten members appointed for three years and it meets at least nine times a year on the third Wednesday evening of each month.

<https://victas.uca.org.au/committee-expression-of-interest/>

# INTERGENERATIONAL RESOURCES

Intergenerational resources are for people of all ages. Even when our demographic may be in the senior years those people can still have generational perspectives that vary.

Even adults appreciate varieties of ways in which to learn and express their faith.

This set of resources provides seasonal and other resources for worship, explore issues from the intersection of worship and community, Messy Church materials and ideas for digital communities.



In order to receive regular monthly updates contact the group that collect these resources together at [YGTeams@victas.uca.org.au](mailto:YGTeams@victas.uca.org.au)



Uniting Church President Rev Sharon Hollis, three Uniting Church Moderators and several other senior UCA leaders are among 106 signatories to an Open Letter calling for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza. Signed by religious leaders across the country, the letter urges parliamentarians to advocate for an end to military support for all parties, the immediate and secure flow of aid into Gaza, and the return of hostages held by Hamas and Israel.

“The war is inflicting immense pain and suffering on Israeli and Palestinian communities across the globe, including Australia,” said Rev Hollis. “It’s vital that our politicians show courage and wisdom by uniting to calm community tensions and call for a permanent end to the horror unfolding in Gaza.” Uniting Church Moderators Rev David Fotheringham (Vic/Tas), Rev Bruce Moore (Qld) and Rev Peter Morel (SA) also signed onto the letter, alongside other senior leaders from UCA agencies and theological colleges.

The Uniting Church Assembly has been calling for an immediate ceasefire and the urgent protection of civilians since war broke out in October. We will continue to pray and advocate as our hearts ache and cry out for a just peace in the land of Jesus' birth.

## Exploring the New Testament, and Worship in the UCA

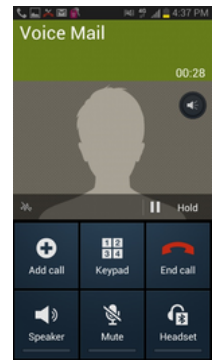
An introductory online course for anyone who wants to know more about the New Testament: Monday nights 7:00-9:00pm, from 15th July to 30th Sep 2024 via Zoom, with Mel Perkins and Rev. Linley Liersch. Cost \$50, grants available. Details: <https://events.humanitix.com/exploring-the-new-testament>  
Also “Exploring Worship in the UCA” in Semester 3 from 21 October to 25 November.



## Pastoral impacts of incorrect contact details

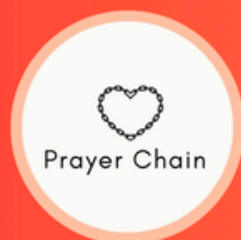
When people are seeking urgent assistance, such as pastoral support for end-of-life care for family members, the information we provide online can assist – or can add to distress. Local leaders in each congregation are encouraged to check for current and correct contact details in online information systems including Google, WhitePages and YellowPages. For assistance with updating systems, please contact the Tasmanian Office: [Tas.Office@victas.uca.org.au](mailto:Tas.Office@victas.uca.org.au) or (03) 6331 9784.

Image: public domain: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:TouchWiz\\_2012\\_phone\\_call.png](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:TouchWiz_2012_phone_call.png)



# UNITING IN PRAYER 2024

19 May - 22 June



Through Uniting in Prayer different parts of the Uniting Church will be connected to each other through a national prayer chain.

The prayer chain has been sent by email and is now available in full on the Act2 website. If your community didn't receive it or you're not on the list, please email the Act2 team.

**Prayer Chain Now Available:** [act2uca.com/unitinginprayer2024](http://act2uca.com/unitinginprayer2024)

# GAZA CEASEFIRE PILGRIMAGE

**What:** The Gaza Ceasefire pilgrimage walk has been a worldwide movement seeking to follow Jesus' footsteps of peace and healing. It arises from a profound yearning for an end to the suffering of the people of Gaza and to witness to nonviolent means of resolving the conflict. The walk has been co-designed by Palestinian Christians in Australia, who wish to educate Australians about the suffering of many of their brothers and sisters.

**When:** Saturday 18th May - dawn to dusk.

**Where:** NW Coast - 41kms (the length of the Gaza strip).

**Who:** The event is unapologetically for and by followers of Jesus who seek an alternative to the support of so many worldwide Christian churches for the mass destruction in Gaza. It is inter-faith in spirit and invites people of all beliefs to join the

walk, while maintaining its core Gospel values (see below) at root.

**Why:** Tom Leydon encourages everyone to browse the pilgrimage website.

<https://www.gazaceasefirepilgrimage.com/>

There are four key purposes and eight core convictions underlying the pilgrimage's purpose. Please read them, no matter what your stance on the conflict is. This walk will be simple, meditative and quietly going near the main roads to draw attention to the cause. It doesn't involve fundraising (lack of capacity) - only the willingness to walk from dawn to dusk, while stopping for shared prayerful moments and (hopefully) music, as well as sustenance, at designated stops along the way.



# Photos from the Family Getaway: ‘Weekend with a Purpose’



Photos: Denise Savage and Rohan Pryor





“Women  
who walked  
with Jesus”

Professor Amy Jill Levine will present this lecture on 14 May, 2024 at the UCA’s Centre for Theology and Ministry, Parkville.

This is an in person event interstate and costs \$90.

Amy-Jill’s lecture will focus on the women in the New Testament who walked with, followed and supported Jesus in his public ministry and what their role has to say to women and men in the Church today.

Amy Jill Levine (“AJ”) is Rabbi Stanley M. Kessler Distinguished Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies at Hartford International University for Religion and Peace, and University Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies Emerita and Mary Jane Werthan Professor of Jewish Studies Emerita, at Vanderbilt University.

For registration and more information go to

<https://www.maristformation.org/amy-jill-levine-speaking-engagements>

# Mentor Training Day

Saturday May 4th

10am-4pm

Launceston

 Fostering Hope  
caring for kids in care



## Which Lectionary do you use?

The advantage of a lectionary is that it forces us to take texts that we might normally avoid and provides us with a sequence to follow over time ensuring that our listeners are exposed to a broader range of texts.

The disadvantages of a lectionary are that it may not be as flexible to current events and one can learn much about the lectionary creators by the texts that they leave out. A lectionary also has the effect of breaking up scripture into disconnected bite size pieces rather than appreciating the greater arc of scripture.

Two alternatives used by Uniting Churches in Tasmania are the New Revised Common Lectionary and the Narrative Lectionary.

### New Revised Common Lectionary

This is the one that is published each year and available at the Assembly's website at <https://ucaassembly.recollect.net.au/nodes/view/931> where it can be downloaded for free. It follows a three year cycle based on the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke) with segments of John distributed at different parts of the cycle. It also provides a Psalm, Hebrew Bible reading and a reading from the wider New Testament.

### The Narrative Lectionary

This is published through Luther Seminary in Minneapolis, Minnesota. It follows a four year cycle with the gospels each appearing in their own year. Usually one reading is provided and it follows what is intended to be a more flowing story format. When the gospel is not the focus text a gospel alternative is provided to supplement the chosen reading.



Cindy Derrenbacher, Library Manager at the Dalton McCaughey Library (DML), has advised that the library will be open from 9.00 a.m. to Noon on Saturday, 11 May for all interested UCA ministers.

## The Vision and Mission Principles

seek to invite discussion, provoke questions and provide focus for discerning the renewing work of the Spirit.

- Following Christ,
- walking together
- as First and Second Peoples,
- seeking community, compassion
- and justice for all creation

God in Christ is at mission in the world and sends the Church in the Spirit to:

- share the Good News of Jesus Christ
- nurture followers of Christ in life-giving communities of reconciliation
- respond in compassion to human need
- live justly and seek justice for all
- care for creation
- listen to each generation and culture so as to live out the Gospel in fresh ways pursue God's mission in partnership

# JUST ACT

ACT WITH JUSTICE IN MIND

First People

Climate Justice & Creation

Compassion for People Seeking Asylum

Economy for Life

Inclusive and Equal Society

Flourishing Communities

International Peace

Just Act continue to provide great justice resources at <https://justact.org.au/> Check them out and explore the foundations above at more depth.

## BOYCOTT QUKES



Perfection Fresh is a company where workers have faced **sexual violence, bullying, unsafe work practices and harassment.**

**YOU** can support workers at Perfection Fresh in their fight for a safe workplace by boycotting **Qukes.**

'Qukes' are baby cucumbers trademarked by Perfection Fresh. So no matter how they're packaged or where they're sold, these mini-cucumbers are lining Perfection Fresh's pockets.



The key sellers of Qukes are Coles, Woolworths and ALDI. These major supermarkets have the **market power** and **responsibility** to fix the rot in their supply chain.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO!

1. Boycott Qukes
2. Scan the QR Code and register your boycott
3. Tell your friends to boycott



Authorised by C. Cinarmi, Farms Director, United Workers Union  
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[uwu.org.au/qukes](http://uwu.org.au/qukes)



# WHAT'S ON!

JAN - FEB, 2024

**MAY**  
**05**

2pm  
Service of Conclusion for Sprent  
Shalom Uniting Church

**MAY**  
**07**

10am - 3pm  
Pastoral Relations Committee

**MAY**  
**07**

10.30am - 2.30pm Resource  
and Development Committee

**MAY**  
**23**

10am - 3pm  
Presbytery Standing Committee

**JUNE**  
**04**

10am - 3pm  
Pastoral Relations Committee

**JUNE**  
**10**

All day - Presbytery Office closed  
King's Birthday Public Holiday

**JUNE**  
**22**

10am - 3pm Presbytery Meeting:  
Launceston North Uniting Church

**JUNE**  
**27**

10am - 3pm  
Presbytery Standing Committee

## MONTHLY CHECKLIST



**Insurance premiums sent  
out from Synod to  
congregations**



**Online church surveys -  
Community Life Church  
Council secretaries**



**Online church surveys -  
Financial - Treasurer's  
questionnaire**