

From the Minister

Greetings and Happy August!

Here we are in the final month of winter and we can now hope that the days will grow warmer soon. As we have shared lately during our morning teas, the days have been quite cold and windy lately, and the sort of weather that causes many troubles for some people. I do wish that you continue to be well and look after yourselves.

While we pushed through our services through the cold July, I invited you to reflect on the big theme of discipleships: *"What should we learn and do as faithful followers of Christ?"*

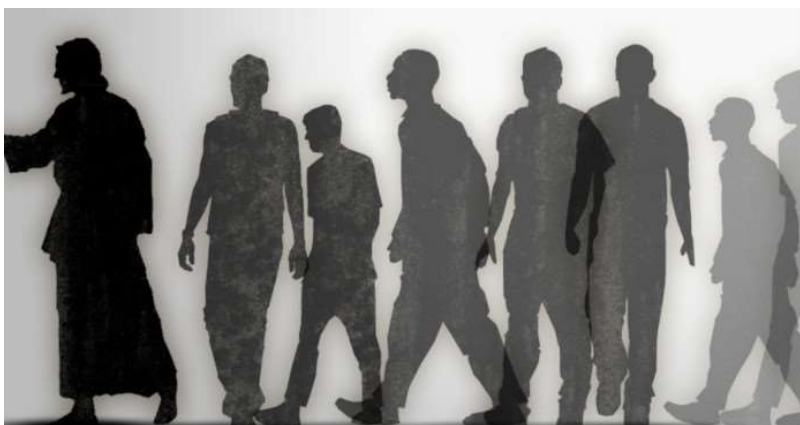
Through the gospel narratives like the Commissioning of the Seventy Disciples, the Good Samaritan, and Mary and Martha, we are inspired and called again to be ministers and agents of peace, love and hospitality in a world where trust, community safety and compassions are gradually decreasing.

We are invited to search through our weaknesses and barriers when it comes to compassion, just as the Pharisee who came to Jesus did when asking, "Who is my neighbour?" Some of the themes that keep repeating in these readings such as deep listening, breaking traditions, and meaningful service, have become some of the key points in our discipleship.

The past month was also a month for reflection for me as I continue to reflect on my ministry practice. Together with Judith Watkins as my mentor, over a couple of meetings, we shared and discussed about balancing responsibilities and calling between ordained church minister and other personal and parental duty recognising the sacred value in both of them. It was a good opportunity for me to discern my calling as an ordained minister.

I also had the privilege to provide home communion for Joan Gouldsmith and David Dinning. In those moments I could see the immense joy and deep gratitude that a simple sacrament could bring to the life of those people who had missed that opportunity for a while. The longings were real and the simple sacraments became something deeply meaningful. It was something profound for me too. It was another reminder of the true meaning of Holy Communion, a deep spiritual connection with the Triune God and recalling God's active presence and nurturing in every season of our lives.

I also had the opportunity to connect with Margaret Wilkins over the phone, who deeply misses the church community at Hampton Uniting Church. As you may know her days are spent caring for her mum and she would appreciate a word of prayer and support.



On other occasions, it was also nice to see Elizabeth and Evelyn looking considerably well. I pray that both of you travel well. It was also lovely to see Malcolm, Zelda and Joan through Zoom last Sunday and had a lovely short chat. I'm hoping to get around to visiting you soon too, and I would welcome contact from anyone who would like a visit or a chat.

Lastly, I continue to pray for all of you in whatever circumstances you are in.

May God continue to bring you joy, and health.

May Christ journey alongside you, guide you with the comfort and fellowship of the Holy Spirit wherever you are.

Kharis Abadani



Hampton Uniting Church




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WORSHIP Sundays 10am

ZOOM <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/4111712080> Passcode uevX5a

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Frontier Services BBQ

On Sunday 6th July we held our annual Mid-Winter Feast consisting of three courses: soup, a hearty roast and a delicious dessert. \$130 was raised and this will add to our yearly donation to Frontier Services along with funds raised from this year's annual Frontier Services BBQ lunch, which is planned to be held on Sunday August 31. Please advise Margaret Ackland or Ian Menzies of any dietary requirements. The suggested donation is \$10+



JIM Convention

I attended the annual Justice and International Mission Convention on 12th July. It is always stimulating and it again provided a range of topics which were well presented and provided time to engage in many stimulating discussions.

Key note speaker, Professor Myra Hamilton addressed the workings of elite privilege and its harms, referencing her co-authored book with Clive Hamilton, *'The Privileged Few'*. Her address was followed by Esme Bamblett, an indigenous elder, pastor, educator and community leader, who pointed out that only 1% of Victoria's population claims indigenous heritage, and asked that we pray for them. She outlined her desire for change in the justice system, focussing on the high levels of indigenous incarceration, out of home care and reduced educational outcomes. Subsequent presentations from the United Workers' Party claimed success in protecting the rights of workers; there was a brief presentation from the Animal Justice Party expressing concern about our moral covenant as stewards of all creation and its creatures; and then an opportunity for many other interesting discussions followed.

Earlier in the month I also enjoyed attending the NAIDOC Week opening of an indigenous Art Exhibition in Wonthaggi on July 5th. Initially envisaged about 20 years ago as a two-day art and craft gathering by a small committee of the Inverloch UCA congregation and campsite, it has grown into a significant annual NAIDOC Week event that is supported by many community and government organisations. An unexpected but well-earned result has been that local artists can now sell their exhibits to overseas buyers due to the exhibition being online.

It is pleasing to note that NAIDOC Week now includes a great range of events and it has become a common feature in local school curricula for indigenous studies, walks, and inclusion.



**THE NEXT
GENERATION:
STRENGTH,
VISION &
LEGACY**

Ailsa Drent

A morning frost

One morning I looked out of the kitchen window and saw everything was white. Frost covered the grass, wood chips and vegetable patch. Jack Frost had been at work. A scene of morning artistry. By morning tea the scene had changed back to its normal colours.



Psalm 147 praises the artistry of our Creator.

He covers the heavens with clouds. He prepares rain for the grass to grow, providing food for cattle and seeds for the birds. He sends snow in season, melts the ice and causes water to flow. He times the seasons. He numbers and names the stars of heaven.

All creatures are under his command.

His timing is perfect and he deals with the affairs of humankind and makes peace amongst the nations. Everything is subject to his command.

The psalmist's response is an outburst of wonder and praise as he considers the artistry of this Creator and his involvement in the affairs of men and nature.

Reflection

Never let us forget that the view from our kitchen window is a small snapshot of the work of the creative artist who is fashioning the design of the creative world sustaining us day by day.

Always, in time and season, we share in the abundance of his fatherly care. With the psalmist our response is praise and thanksgiving:

*Praise the Lord!
For it is good to sing praises
to our God;
for he is gracious,
and a song of praise is seemly.*

[Psalm 147:1]

Bill Pugh

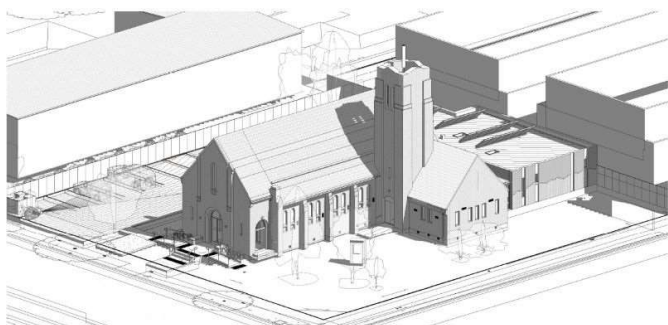
Birthdays

Congratulations and birthday greetings to **Val Jemmeson** for 1st August and to **Judith Watkins** for the 23rd August.

Local church building

Three local Uniting Churches are edging towards the completion of significant building works.

Ormond Uniting in North Road is now putting the finishing touches on a project that has been years in the planning. They have sold off a significant chunk of their large site (now the site of a large apartment block on the right below), demolished their 1950s era hall, kitchen, toilets, and associated spaces, converted the church into a multi-purpose space including new entries, and constructed a foyer area (not dissimilar to Hampton's in size) with adjacent kitchen, new toilets and a couple of smaller meeting rooms. The carpark, fencing and grounds have been professionally landscaped and all is looking great.



St Leonard's Uniting in New Street is midway through another large building project that is creating a new foyer between the 'old church' and the 'new church' and also includes a complete renovation of their halls, kitchen and toilets. The swooping roofline makes a dramatic statement.



Charman Uniting in Charman Road Cheltenham is also edging towards the completion of a complete re-working of their site. The church and halls have been linked by a new foyer entry, all floor levels have been equalised and a new porte-cochere constructed (not shown in the sketch below; it is in front of the building on the right). The newly-formed congregation (consisting of the former Cheltenham, Mentone and Black Rock congregations, amongst others) is currently worshipping at the Black Rock site – but the stained glass windows from there have been relocated into the renovated sanctuary at Charman Road (on left, below). The congregation is looking forward to moving into their new premises shortly.



John Wesley Talk

You are warmly invited to a special talk hosted by the Synod's Uniting Church Historical Society: *"John Wesley's Clock: A Methodist Mystery Tour"* by esteemed historian Professor Graeme Davison AO.

This free event will be held on Sunday, 24 August 2025 at 2:30pm at Queen's College Chapel, University of Melbourne, 1-17 College Crescent, Parkville.

Join us as Professor Davison explores the intriguing history and legacy of John Wesley's clock and its place in the Methodist tradition.

For a Zoom link, please email ken.barelli@bigpond.com, or for enquiries call Ken on 0418 317 942.

All are welcome!



National Tree Day

The 2025 National Tree Day is Sunday, 27 July. The seven trees we planted three years ago on National Tree Day 2022 are still flourishing in the manse driveway. If you have space in your garden, now is the best time of year to plant a tree...



Lectio Divina

Our next Lectio will be on August 13, which is the second Wednesday of the month, at 2pm in the Parish Centre Foyer. All are welcome to join the group.

Monday Meditation

You are also warmly welcome to join in our Monday Meditation group that meet each week at 10am in the Fellowship Room, or even to simply come for Morning Tea in the Foyer following that at 10:45am.

Meanwhile...

Try to imagine how scary it must have been in the olden days, setting off from home knowing that if something went wrong you would be completely stranded, with no way to call for help.



People who lived in the 1980s, before mobile phones, were sooooo brave.

How Shall We Pray?

A reflection on Luke 11: 1-13

In these soul-wrenching days, does God hear our cries?
With what words shall the “created” attempt to speak to the Creator?
Can we risk saying aloud our longing, our loneliness, our indifference, our pain?

Jesus’ friends have been listening, watching, noticing how he goes again and again to quiet places alone to pray. They have seen, too, the results of this practice, the unusual potency of his life, his deepening wisdom and love.

What is his secret? Does he say beautiful words, uttered in holy rhythms?
What is the inner posture of his heart? It is no surprise that they want to learn to pray as he prays, to have the peace and power that come from a more potent connection to the Creator.

Jesus does not brush them aside, does not tell them such a connection is for only a special few. He delights in their sincere hunger and happily shares the secret formula.

Here it is: Just talk to God, he says.

No need to dress up your language or your life; speak simply and personally as to a beloved parent. God is the hallowed one, not you. God knows you are made of dust. Let God be the giver, and you be the asker. God delights in hearing what you need – bread for the body as well as the soul – food and forgiveness enough for today.

God’s kingdom is emerging on earth and in heaven, whether it is visible or not. Praying for God’s will, doing God’s will, helps each realm to grow. Whatever you give out, you will get back. What you persist in, you will receive.

Tell the One who loves you what you need and want

So tell the One who loves you what you need and want. Whether you are happy or hurting, pray. When you are frightened or disgusted or have lost your way, pray.

When friends desert you, when you are jolted awake at midnight by Big Need knocking at your door, remember how capable God is. Keep asking, keep searching, keep persisting. More than your righteousness or capacity to succeed, God will be persuaded by your insistent hungry heart, your admission of need.

Go ahead. Say it out loud. Lean in toward God’s love.
You will find that Love has been there all along, leaning in toward you.

from the blog at inward/outward.org



Agnusday appears with permission of Agnusday.org

Rosters

Worship

August	Kharis Abadani
August 24	Anneke Oppewal
August 31	Sue Dowling and Michele Kennan

Communion Margaret Pollock

Lectionary

August 3	Hosea 11:1-11
Margaret Pollock	Psalms 107:1-9, 43
Colour: Green	Colossians 3:1-11
	Luke 12:13-21
August 10	Isiah 1:1, 10-20
Val Jemmeson	Psalms 50:1-8, 22-23
Colour: Green	Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16
	Luke 12:32-40
August 17	Isiah 5:1-7
Margaret Ackland	Psalms 80:1-2, 8-19
Colour: Green	Hebrews 11:29-12:2
	Luke 12:49-56
August 24	Jeremiah 1:4-10
Gail Dinning	Psalms 71:1-6
Colour: Green	Hebrews 12:18-29
	Luke 13:10-17
August 31	Jeremiah 2:4-13
Ian Menzies	Psalms 81:1, 10-16
Colour: Green	Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-1
	Luke 14:1, 7-14

PRAYER PUPS BY JEFFREY SMITH



The Last Word

It's disconcerting how much alike
'exercise' and 'extra fries' sound.