



Uniting Church in Australia
Synod of Victoria and Tasmania
Presbytery of Yarra Yarra

PO Box 4308
Balwyn East VIC 3103

16th May 2022

Notes and news for Yarra Yarra Congregations and Institutions

As usual, the newsletter contains a number of items which may be of interest to your congregations. Please identify other items relevant to your community, and promote the issues and events listed below through your own newsletters and other communication channels as appropriate. There is much going on, so please take a few minutes to review. Please ensure that items for the next edition are sent in by the end of the month. It is helpful if you can provide text, rather than copies of fliers which need to be transcribed and summarised. Please include contact information for those seeking more information.

PRESBYTERY NEWS

Presbytery meeting – May 2022

Our pattern of alternating Zoom and face-to-face Presbytery meetings has now started, and an interesting meeting in April explored the Period of Discernment. All congregations have received information about this, and we hope that it has featured in your church announcements and been spoken about during worship.

The next meeting will be on Saturday 28th May, at the new Manningham worship centre. We look forward to being able to see the venue as we meet together for the first time in two years.

LIVE LECTIONARY THROUGH GREEK SESSIONS RESUMING

Following the return from his leave, Rev Dr Sunny Chen will resume his illuminating Zoom lectures exploring the lectionary through a Greek lens. The first of this new series is at 12 pm on Tuesday 17th May, covering readings from 22nd May to 12th June. Everyone is welcome to join and explore these fascinating insights. To join via the Zoom link, [click here](#), or contact Sunny at sunny.chen@victas.uca.org.au

NEW COURSES WITH ELM

Visual Exegesis: How visual mediums inform and converse with written scripture. Presented by Rev Sandy Brodine at CTM, Parkville, and online on Sunday 29th May at 1:30 pm

Preaching as story: Preachers as midwives of the story. Presented on Zoom by Rev Deacon Denise Savage on Wednesday 1st June at 7 pm.

Chairperson	Lisa Carey	03 9857 1006	lisa.carey@pyy.victas.uca.org.au
Presbytery Ministers	Liz McMillan	03 9857 1002	liz.mcmillan@victas.uca.org.au
	Sunny Chen	03 9857 1001	pyy.pmc@victas.uca.org.au
Secretary	Geoffrey Grinton	03 9857 1003	pyy.secretary@victas.uca.org.au

For information about these programs, contact: Mel Perkins (Lay Leadership Development) by email to mel.perkins@victas.uca.org.au

REQUEST FOR A COMMUNITY KITCHEN

The Synod has received a request from a group called “It’s the Little Things”, asking if any congregation in the North Balwyn area would be willing to allow them use of a commercial kitchen to cook meals for donation to charities. About 400 meals are cooked each week on Monday and Tuesday and donated to five charities. They would like the free use of facilities but are willing to consider rental arrangements. Please contact Jan Stewart on 0414 589 036 if you can help.

ONLINE STUDY SERIES: “SABBATH AS RESISTANCE”

The Congregation of Mark the Evangelist (UCA North Melbourne) is running an online study series over May-June on Walter Brueggemann’s “*Sabbath as resistance*”, and would welcome others to join! Brueggemann takes cues from various Old Testament themes and applies them to the ethics of life in the contemporary “now” culture. This book is available in paper and electronic form ([Amazon](#), [Koorong](#) [epub format], [Book Depository](#), and elsewhere). The study groups will meet online for 60-75 minutes on Wednesday nights, 7.45pm and Friday afternoons, 1.30pm. The groups commence Wednesday May 11 and Friday May 13, and will run for 6 weeks – a chapter per week. To register and obtain the Zoom link for the sessions, go to the [Mark the Evangelist homepage](#) and follow the link from there.

HOW THE CHURCH’S SONGS SHAPE US

The musical heritage of the Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian churches has given a rich resource for community singing. On 12th June Rev Dr D’Arcy Wood, a leader in church music in Australia, will introduce hymns that enrich all Christian worship – an opportunity for all to sing, led by invited choristers and accompanied by Bruce Macrae on grand piano.

Celebrate this free event with the Uniting Church Historical Society and join in the singing live on the day or register for Zoom link option by email:

ken.barelli@bigpond.com. Enquiries: Ken Barelli – Mobile 0418 317 942

Sunday 12 June 2022, 2:00pm at Stonnington Uniting Church, 57–59 Burke Road Malvern East

BOOK LAUNCH: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AFTER CHRISTENDOM

Dr Doug Hynd has had a long career as both a public servant and a theologian, lecturing at St Mark's Theological College in Canberra. In his retirement, he is deeply involved in supporting asylum seekers. He has just written a book on how the churches (and Christians more generally) should engage with the wider community and with government. While this book is particularly relevant to those people who are involved in obtaining government funding for church programs, it is of much wider interest as we all reflect on how we should relate to the wider society.

The book will be launched on Tuesday 24th May 2022 at 4:30 pm at St Pascal's Hall, University of Divinity, 90 Albion Road, Box Hill.

Doug Hynd will speak about the book, followed by Dr Wilma Gallet, the former CEO of the Salvation Army's Employment Plus program, and Denis Fitzgerald, the former director of the Victorian Catholic Social Services.

For information, contact Philip Hughes on philipjhughes1@optusnet.com.au.

*If you have information that you wish to have distributed through this newsletter, please ensure that it is submitted by the start of the month in which the item is to appear. I plan to try to send newsletters out in the third week, so that means if your event occurs early in the month, you will need to have it submitted by the start of the **previous** month.*

The newsletter is sent to Church Council Secretaries and Presbytery members. If you should not be receiving it, please contact me at pyy.secretary@victas.uca.org.au with the name of your congregation and the name of the correct person.