



In Touch

JUNE 2017

TOORAK UNITING CHURCH

MINISTER: Rev. Dr Christopher Page
603 Toorak Road, Toorak VIC 3142
(t) 9829 0300
(e) office@toorakuc.org.au
www.toorakuc.org.au



On June 22 1977 the Uniting Church in Australia was formed. This new church was an amalgamation of three denominations; the Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregational communities. It was then and remains today a bold adventure in ecumenism. While each denomination shared common Christian values there was the need to find new and innovative ways to worship together and become a unified presence in the Australian religious landscape.



According to the Australian Census in 2011 there are 1,065,796 people identifying with the Uniting Church in Australia, making it the third largest denomination behind the Roman Catholic Church and the Anglican Church. It began and remains a church that prizes innovation and engagement with the Australian culture and society.

The UCA may be unique in its commitment to modern biblical and scientific interpretations. The Basis of Union, upon which the Uniting Church is formed states:

The Uniting Church acknowledges that God has never left the Church without faithful and scholarly interpreters of Scripture, or without those who have reflected deeply upon, and acted trustingly in obedience to, God's living Word. In particular the Uniting Church enters into the inheritance of literary, historical and scientific enquiry which has characterised recent centuries, and gives thanks for the knowledge of God's ways with humanity which are open to an informed faith.

At Toorak Uniting Church on Sunday the 25th of June at 10:15am there will be a special celebration of the 40th anniversary of the formation of the Uniting Church. This will be an opportunity to give thanks for the past 40 years and to pray for God's leadership into the future. All are welcome to attend.

Christopher

Rev Dr Christopher Page

Prayers for Christian Unity

Ecumenical services 10:00-10:30am last Thursday of the month (Feb-Nov). followed by refreshments and a chat.

29 Jun. St John's | 27 Jul. TUC |

31 Aug. Swedish Church |

28 Sep. St Peter's | 26 Oct. St John's |

30 Nov. TUC. All welcome!

To receive *In Touch* via email, contact office@toorakuc.org.au

Toorak Op Shop

Donations and church volunteers very welcome!
Open Mon-Sat. 10am-4pm.
1a Carters Ave, Toorak
ph. 9827 3172.

TUC Office 9829 0300

John Mackenzie Kindergarten 9829 0331

John Macrae Centre 9829 0320

Uniting Arts Toorak / Kinross House 9829 0340

Manse Gallery Café 9829 0341

Alan Watson Centre Dancing Class 9829 0310



We have commenced Term 2 at JMK with a lot of enthusiasm. The 88 children over 4 groups have settled back into the routine of our days and are thriving in such an educationally rich environment.

This term the children have been participating in an inquiry based program in discovering Our World Around Us.



It has been a wonderful experience inviting our parents in for "Parent Sharing Days" to share their various cultures, interests and talents with us.

Thanks to the efforts of the 2016 Social Committee Team we were able to update our playground over the last school holidays. We have added an "outdoor room" to be used for dramatic play and small group experiences. The Rock Garden was revamped and we added synthetic grass to our concrete area. We are truly fortunate to have such a lovely play space for all our families to be involved in.



Each of our groups invited their mums to their annual Morning Tea and Concert. It is a lovely way for the children to say "Thankyou" to their mums.

The Father's Pizza Night is always a huge success with many of our dads and their children having a pizza and play at kinder.

I am very pleased to be working in collaboration with Katrina Szabo from the John Macrae Centre. We are planning more involvement and participation between the two centres, bringing the seniors and the children together on a regular basis. We aim for this program to be mutually beneficial for both the children and the seniors. I am also in the process with working with Lyndel Wischer in planning collaborative Art Projects for the children to also be involved in. It is exciting times!



We are very proud of the work we do at JMK. If you wish to have a tour of the kindergarten please don't hesitate to contact me to arrange a suitable time.

*Dianne Cookesley
JMK Director*

KINROSS ARTS & SPIRITUALITY CENTRE

UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS

June

Anita Traynor Fine Art presents collectable art including works on paper by John Olsen.



July

Artist and art teacher, Philip Wischer presents a solo exhibition of paintings including landscapes with surreal overtones. (Left: *Untitled*)

August

Famous Melbourne artist Nicholas Jones will present a cameo exhibition for Kinross Arts Centre as part of the City of Stonnington's Glow Winter Festival from August 10-20.

Milestones ...

Baptisms

04 Dec - Julian Allan DeSilva

Marriages

11 Mar - Jarrod Scott & Stacey Jackson
25 Mar - Matthew Kalogirou & Anika Jackson
01 Apr - Leigh Iacovangelo & Chenelle Müller
02 Apr - David St John & Jacqueline Moir
27 May - Jung-Hsien Hun & Chrissie Cuong

Funerals

20 Mar - Melinda (Minnie) Law
01 May - David F Smith
18 May - Phillip Garrett
01 Jun - Heather de Crespigny



AN INTRODUCTION TO TUC'S NEW ASSISTANT MINISTER, PAUL DAU

My name is Paul Aleu Dau. I am a South Sudanese – Australian national. At a very early age I left my home country due to civil war in Sudan. In 1987 I left my entire family and joined the exodus to Ethiopia of the Sudanese boys/girls (mainly known as the Lost boys of Sudan). This was a long and tiresome journey with a lot of unforgettable stories. In mid-1991, I left Ethiopia again due to civil war there. I came back to South Sudan in July 1991 and walked across the border to Kenya in 1992 when the war intensified in South Sudan. After eleven years of living in Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya, I became one of the lucky few to be granted a refugee visa to come to Australia in 2003. A struggle has shaped my faith to make sense of life where its meaning and a sense of hope have been diminished or lost.

In 2004, I heard God's call for His ministry. Whilst I was about to start a period of discernment, I was involved in a serious car accident and had to put it off. In 2007, I resumed the period of discernment and did it for two years due to other personal commitments. By the end of 2009, I was accepted as a candidate for the ministry of the Word within the Uniting Church of Australia. I started training at the college in the beginning of 2010 and by mid-2014, I exited at the college after having completed all the required training. During this waiting period for a placement, I have done supply ministries at Kyneton-Mia Mia Uniting Church, St Albans – St Andrew's Uniting Church, Geelong and now at St Andrew's Uniting Church in Sunbury. Besides, I served as a secretary for the Intercultural Reference Forum at the Synod. Also, I have completed Masters of Theological Studies within this waiting period. I think this intern ministry role at Toorak Uniting Church will offer me a unique scope to suburban ministry.

Yours in fellowship,
Paul Aleu Dau.



Paul Dau with his family



Don't forget to pop into Manse Gallery Cafe for your favourite cup of coffee and fresh pastries.

Hot soups, homemade sausage rolls and our popular Spanakopitas to keep you warm.

Love Raz & James x

Manse Gallery Café

Open M-F 8:30am – 3:30pm
(closed school holidays)
Raz Psonis 9829 0341
meetatmanse@gmail.com

REGULAR EVENTS AT TUC

Sunday Worship services

Sundays at 9:00am (informal). Communion 1st Sunday of the month
Sundays at 10:15am. Communion 3rd Sunday of the month

Whole Church Family Worship services (no 9am)

10.15am, last Sunday of February, April, June, August & October
Usually followed by a delicious lunch! Please check our website to confirm.

Morning Group for men & women (Feb-Nov)

10am, 3rd Thursday of the month. Guest speaker & discussion. All welcome.

TUC publishes its calendar online!

You can access our calendar via the TUC website, by clicking on the button marked "Calendar".
Bookings are made through the office.

JOHN MACRAE CENTRE

Our members have been enjoying the refurbished rooms and are very complimentary about the changes. The autumn sunshine has enabled everyone to stroll around the garden and then enjoy activities outside as well.

A few outings were arranged and there was even a BBQ and fishing trip. Various entertainers kept everyone on their toes with music and dancing. Two members commenced their weekly visit to the Kindergarten on Thursday and plan to make it a regular weekly activity. Visits from St. Catherine's and St Kevin's students have been enjoyed and we look forward to the Kinder children's visits as well.

There will be a special opening afternoon tea to celebrate the completion of our renovations, the congregation members will be invited as well as others who have contributed towards the fundraising efforts. Look out for the notices and invitations closer to the date.

Our carers meetings are held quarterly, if you would like information or would like to attend please ring the Centre for details, 9829 0320.

If you, or a family member has a talent for singing, dancing or playing an instrument and if you have any abundant seasonal fruit and want to give some away we would love some to eat, cook or make jam. We would love to hear from you either in person or by calling.

Katrina Szabo, JMC Director



DANCE CLASS

Time has certainly flown as we approach the end of Semester 1 of Dance Class with only the fancy dress and formals nights left. All three groups have enjoyed their dancing and five girls are returning to dance with us again next semester. Class numbers are good for Semester 2 although, once again, we could do with a few more boys.



Rhonda, Edwina, Rachelle, John, Paul and William continue to maintain the positivity of the classes.

Lin Cooper, Dance Class Coordinator

“Live, Breathe, Dance”

UNITING AGEWELL'S **MUSIC FOR DAVID** FUNDRAISING CONCERT: SUNDAY 25 JUNE, 3PM, ASTOLAT. 630 Riversdale Rd, Camberwell. Program includes Elgar's *Sea Pictures*, songs by Noel Coward & Edith Piaf, French harp music, Brazilian guitar music & piano works by Mozart, Schumann/Liszt & Poulenc.

Singers Sally-Anne Russell and Hilary Henshaw; harpist Megan Reeve; classical guitarist Michael MacManus; pianists David Barnard and David Ross-Smith.



Drinks and finger food provided. Book online <https://trybooking.com/PXCI>. \$60 adults, \$55 conc. Proceeds go towards Uniting AgeWell Carer Respite Service's Music For David program, which uses music technology to provide respite for people caring for a family member with dementia. Enquiries: Catriona Milne – 0413 096 228 or Margaret Lloyd Banks – 0417 012 584



COMMUNITY GROUPS currently meeting at TUC :

Aust. Native Orchid Soc.
Stan 9511 4211

Bridge for beginners
Sue 0402 137 143

Dickens Fellowship
Lyndsey 9370 7404

Feldenkrais Study Group
Diana 9510 1757

Ikebana International
Sally 9882 4021

Joanne Brown Bridge
Gary 0418 570 430

Le Club Enfants
Carla 0407 325 919

P. Brown Handbell Choir
Jennifer 0410 844 552

Soozexercises
Sue 9827 2787

Tai Chi
Gary 0407 855 344

Weight Watchers
Sally 0419 316 852

Yoga Mitra
Fiona 0400 404 384

Yoga with Jean
Jean 0417 363 137