



Toorak Uniting Church

Update 10 June 2018



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Phone: 9829 0300

Sunday services 9am & 10.15am



From UCA Media Release
05/06/2018:

The President of the Uniting Church in Australia Stuart McMillan has announced that the Uniting Church will opt in to the Federal Government's National Redress Scheme for people who have experienced institutional child sexual abuse. "We acknowledge the impact of child sexual abuse in the lives of those who have been abused in our institutions or those of our predecessor Churches. To each survivor and all of their families, I am truly sorry," said Mr McMillan. "It is our sincere hope that this National Redress Scheme will allow survivors of institutional child sexual abuse to access support to help them in their lives," All seven Uniting Church Standing Committees have resolved to opt in to the National Scheme. ... "Our motivation in joining the National Redress Scheme is so that more survivors across all institutions might have equitable and consistent levels of support. "I want to specifically acknowledge the pain and the courage of survivors who retell and relive their experience whenever there are changes to redress schemes or public discussion on child sexual abuse. "I emphasise the public pledge I made to the Royal Commission in 2017 – that the Uniting Church will apply the lessons of the Royal Commission, and remain open to the insights of survivors and professionals. "We will keep listening to survivors, and we will work constructively with the Federal Government and other Scheme members to try to make sure this Scheme works for survivors."

If you or someone you know needs help, please call:
1800 RESPECT / 1 800 737 732
Lifeline 13 11 14
Kids Helpline 1800 551 800
MensLine Australia 1300 789 978
Suicide Call Back Service 1300 659 467

Still thinking – Illness – Christopher Page

I am very grateful to the Rev John Edwards for taking the 10:15am service for me today and Rev Wal Baker for his commitment to the 9am service. All seemed to be going well last week. But after the service I was exhausted. I went to the knee surgeon this week and while the knee joint is doing well, I have a very inflamed tendon on the outside of my leg which is making walking and general movement very difficult.

So, I am sorry to miss the service this Sunday. It is very counter-intuitive in our over active society to see that rest and even illness are advantageous to our physical and mental health. While I am not technically ill, rather I am recuperating from invasive surgery, and I also have the advantage of good medical treatment and the knowledge that I will fully recuperate – hopefully - I have caught a brief glimpse of deep suffering.

Long-term illness with its uncertainty of recovery is a very different matter. However, illness can take us into places within ourselves where we are often reluctant to explore. It can raise, confusion, despair, disappointment, pain (of course) and a myriad of difficult emotions for us. These are often emotions that we don't experience when I am well. I am certainly not saying that this is easy or just grin and bear it. It can be a very great struggle.

In the last few weeks of my recuperation I have prayed and meditated more often than usual. Each night as I get ready for bed, I name the members of TUC who are in great pain, distress or loneliness. Then I move to others I know and finally the pain in the world in which we live. This is not a duty but heart-felt response to their suffering.

The Catholic theologian Fr Henri J.M. Nouwen wrote: "Who can listen to a story of loneliness and despair without taking the risk of experiencing similar pains in his own heart and even losing this precious peace of mind? In short: "Who can take away suffering without entering it?" ~**Henri J.M. Nouwen, The Wounded Healer: Ministry in Contemporary Society.**

Blessing Christopher



Following the Whole Church Family Service on June 24th there will be a fellowship lunch of hot soup and fresh bread. Please contact Jaki, Carlo or Barbara for contributions of cakes/slices.



Baptism, Confirmation, Membership: If you're considering one of these Christian practices, please see the Minister to discuss it further. There's no age or time limit on any of them!



We really hope you'll join us for this stunning performance of Carmina Burana, with Victoria Chorale, 2 grand pianos, Art of Sound Percussion Ensemble.

5pm Sat 23 June at MLC, Barkers Rd, Kew. Tickets at

www.trybooking.com/TUXB or 9525 0072.

Enq: Anne Page. Cost: Adult \$40 | Conc \$35 & \$5 off before 13/06. [Under 30 (\$25), Student (\$20) and Group tickets (\$28) available.]

Progressive Christian Network Victoria & Common Dreams On The Road Present:

“JUSTICE WITH OR WITHOUT GOD: THE PRIORITIES OF PROGRESSIVE THEOLOGY”

Lecture series by distinguished US theologian & writer Prof. Joe Bessler



Ewing Memorial Centre,
Cnr Burke Rd & Coppin St, E. Malvern
7pm Fri 20 July & 10am-4pm Sat 21 July

An introductory address (Fri eve) & four lectures with a light lunch & morning & afternoon refreshments (Sat) on how creative shifts in biblical studies, philosophy & Christian thought have launched a new age of progressive theologies through which to reimagine the contours of faith & faithful practice.

Registration Essential: <https://joebessler.eventbrite.com.au>.
Enquiries to Anne Page.

In our thoughts and prayers —

- Christopher Page.
- Ted and Margaret Billson.
- Judith Lee.
- Charmaine Cornford.
- Victims of Volcán del Fuego in Guatemala.

Church Council reminder: If you have made arrangements to use a Direct Debit system, please take one of the laminated cards from the small box on the table at the rear of the church, to place in the offering plate at the appropriate time. This will help the Elders on duty and be a witness to others of our freewill giving.

***** SAVE THE DATE *****
TUC's Election Day Fair & Campus Open Day
Saturday, 24 November 2018

Rev John Edwards can be contacted on 0401 828 765.

The deadline for Update notices is 12pm (noon) Thursday.

Diary Dates

Tue	19 Jun	4.30pm	Management Team meeting	Wettenhall Rm
Thu	21 Jun	10.00am	Morning Group. Speaker:	Faichney Rm
Sun	24 Jun		Whole Church Family Service & Lunch	
Thu	28 Jun	10.00am	Prayers for Christian Unity	Church
Tue	17 Jul	4.30pm	Management Team meeting	Wettenhall Rm
Thu	19 Jul	10.00am	Morning Group. Speaker:	Faichney Rm
Thu	26 Jul	7.30pm	Church Council meeting	Faichney Rm
Sat	11 Aug	2.00pm	Wedding of Stephanie & Jamil	Church
Tue	14 Aug	4.30pm	Management Team meeting	Wettenhall Rm
Thu	16 Aug	10.00am	Morning Group. Speaker:	Faichney Rm
	Aug		Church Council Retreat - details TBC	
Sat	18 Aug	11.00am	Wedding of James & Yvette	Church

Welcome to Toorak Uniting Church

We welcome all people irrespective of race, religion, political views, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, or age. Wherever you are on your faith journey, wherever you have come from and wherever you are going to; whatever you believe, whatever you do not believe, you are welcome here at Toorak Uniting Church.

Please come and join us after the service for fellowship and a cup of tea or coffee.

Toorak Uniting Church has been a proud member of the Toorak Ecumenical Movement since signing the Ecumenical Agreement in 1980. We pray for our partner churches: St Peter's Roman Catholic Church, St John's Anglican Church and the Swedish Church.