

Toorak Uniting Church Newsletter

Update 8 February 2026

office@toorakuc.org.au
03 9829 0300

Sunday services:
9am & 10:15am

Deadline for Update submission is 3pm on the Wednesday prior.



Request for Annual Reports

It's that time of the year again! The Office is beginning to prepare the 2025 Annual Report and will need reports from all of the TUC Committees by **Friday, 27 February.**

If you are the chair or convenor of a Committee, please email your report to **office@toorakuc.org.au** by this date to ensure that we can complete the report in a timely manner.

Spire Fundraising Committee

We need a creative team to lead a campaign to raise funds to repair the spire - expected to cost more than \$3 million - so that TUC can continue to operate in the way that we all currently value.

Expressions of interest sought ASAP to **chair@toorakuc.org.au**

Bring out the Light: Creative Day at Cornish College 65 Riverend Rd, Bangholme on Saturday, 14 February

The Presbytery of Port Philip East invites you to our "Bring out the Light" Creative Day at Cornish College on Saturday, 14 February. We have now confirmed eight facilitators and are looking forward to a day of shared creativity, with interactive workshops running throughout the day in creative writing, craft, liturgy, music, and dance.

The day will begin at **9.30am** with worship and conclude at 2.30pm. A catered lunch will be shared midway through the day, during which we will also launch the first volume of the poetry anthology by Rev Dr Denham Grierson.

Attendance is limited to 70 people. A \$5 contribution per person is requested to help meet the cost of lunch. For tickets, visit **<https://events.humanitix.com/creative-day-workshops>**

Garden Working Bee at Argyle House Sunday, 15 February, following the service

There will be a short working bee to bring the garden at Argyle House back into shape on Sunday, February 15 following the services. Unfortunately, the watering system has failed, and the garden has suffered over summer. Volunteers to assist with watering would also be appreciated.

Report on Food for Friends 2025 Christmas Appeal

Thank you to all who contributed to our annual Christmas Food for Friends Appeal. In all we raised \$41,161. This included a one-off donation of \$30,000 which we have been asked to spread evenly over three years. So \$10,000 of this amount will be allocated to this year's spending and the balance carried forward to the next two years. We are extremely grateful for all these donations as are the agencies we assist. These funds will now be used to purchase food items for the nominated agencies of St Peter's, St. John's and Toorak Uniting Churches.

Last year TUC provided assistance to Burwood Heights Emergency Relief, and the Church of All Nations in Carlton. As these agencies continue to face increasing demand for their services, we would like to invite anyone who missed the opportunity to contribute before Christmas and would now like to do so, to donate directly to

The Toorak Ecumenical Fund account at

BSB: 063 177

Account Number: 1002 6147

Thank you again for your continued support.

- Deirdre Heffernan

Request for Photos of TUC People and Activities

TUC is compiling a 2000 - 2025 update to its last history publication, to bring us up to date in our sesquicentenary year. The editorial committee seeks photographs of the people of TUC, and the activities of the congregation over that period. Congregation members and families may have photos of both formal and informal events over the years, which will be of interest if included in our current publication. So we ask you to sift back through photograph albums, boxes and computer files for items which provide visual connection with TUC. Photographs can be shared with:

Michael Kenihan - michael@michaelkenihan.com.au

Chris Legge - chris.adella@gmail.com

or **Pamela Wilson** - wilsonpf@optusnet.com.au

Or please contact us to discuss your treasure trove! Many thanks.

15 February - Communion Sunday

Each month on the third Sunday we come together to celebrate Communion. It is these Sundays we have the opportunity to donate towards our four Outreach programs we support. These programs are all under the umbrella of the Uniting Church and greatly rely on and appreciate our support. They are The Homework Hub in Pakenham, The Cranbourne Food Truck, the Boroondara Community Outreach in Kew, and SOSK (Skills, Opportunity and Survival in Kenya).

You may either donate cash into the Outreach offering bowl at the rear of the Church or you may donate electronically at any time to Toorak Uniting Church, marking your donation as "Outreach".

BSB: 033 086

Account Number: 911 892

Educate 10,000

The Jewish Community Council of Victoria has initiated a campaign to build awareness of Jewish culture and history in which it is aiming to increase attendance at museums, synagogues and other cultural events by 10,000 during 2026. If you are planning a visit to one of the Jewish museums and/or a synagogue, consider encouraging others to join you – maybe put a call out in Update - to help the Jewish community meet this important target.

Christian Meditation Group - Tuesdays at 7.30pm

A Christian Meditation Group is starting at Toorak Uniting Church which began in 2007 at Gardiner UCA, then transferred to Armadale UCA and now is moving to TUC. Our sessions begin at 7.30pm and go for approximately an hour and take in a short talk aimed at deepening our understanding of the way Christian meditation can work in relation to Christianity as a whole and prayer in particular. We then meditate for 25 minutes and finish with spoken prayer.

Christian meditation is a faith journey that aims to bring our minds and hearts together at a depth where we are enabled to better experience the presence of the Holy Spirit within, and in turn to better express this in the way we live our lives. The first, third, and fifth Tuesdays will be held in the Church and the second and fourth will be on Zoom.

We warmly welcome anyone who would like to join us. Please feel free to talk to me at church or you can contact me via email at lirpa@comcen.com.au or phone on **0419 807 892**.

- April Blackwell (Group Leader)

23 February - TUC Sewing Circle

Whether you're new or a seasoned stitcher, TUC Sewing Circle is a place for sharing ideas, learning new skills or just having a chat.

Please arrive between 11-11:30am with a finish time of 2:30pm. BYO lunch, coffee and tea provided. To RSVP, contact either

**Margot 0409 361 877 or
Angela 0407 887 596**

February Diary Dates

Sun	08 Feb	9:00am	Worship in the Round	Rev Sylvia
Sun	08 Feb	10:15am	Worship Service	Rev Sylvia
Sun	08 Feb	11:15am	Morning Tea	Faichney Room
Mon	09 Feb	9:30am	Pastoral Care Group	Faichney Room
Tue	10 Feb	7:30pm	Christian Meditation Group	Online
Wed	11 Feb	7:00pm	Handbells	Wettenhall Room
Sun	15 Feb	9:00am	Worship in the Round (HC)	Rev Sylvia
Sun	15 Feb	10:15am	Worship Service (HC)	Rev Sylvia
Sun	15 Feb	11:15am	Morning Tea	Faichney Room
Mon	16 Feb	10:30am	Exploring the Bible	Kinross Café
Tue	17 Feb	7:30pm	Exploring the Bible Online	Zoom
Tue	17 Feb	7:30pm	Christian Meditation Group	Church Space
Wed	18 Feb	7:00pm	Handbells	Wettenhall Room