

## August birthdays

2nd Paul Inglis  
3rd Lochie Vosper (14)  
5th Jan Page  
8th Sam Perry  
10th Sylvia Brereton  
17th James-Thordore  
McAlpine (1)  
18th Monty Sweetman (12)  
23rd Andris Karklins  
23rd Will O'Sullivan (16)  
27th Kevin Sellin  
28th Gloria Nicholl  
29th Cooper Stewart (6)

*Happy birthday to you all!  
May you know God's  
purpose for your life. God  
made you special, and  
God loves very much.  
This verse is for you:  
Jeremiah 1: 5*

## August dates at a glance

3 August- Mad Hats High Tea  
6 August- Blokes' Breakfast  
11 August - Church Council  
13 August Inter-church ladies  
luncheon  
24 August - WOW breakfast  
25 August -Holy Communion  
Explorers 11am

## Advance Diary Dates

7 September- Spring Yard Sale  
15 September- AGM  
28 September- Church Picnic

Electronic giving is a good way for you to be disciplined in your giving, and for UCD to budget more efficiently and effectively for our mission to serve. Every gift, no matter how small, helps. Thank you!

### **To give electronically: Bendigo Bank**

Reference: OFFERING

BSB: 633 000

Account: 183102011

**Deadline: for the September 2024 Bulletin is**

**21 August 2024. Email: Warren Rose**

**warrenrose16@gmail.com**

# Uniting Church Dayboro

## August Bulletin 2024



17th UCA Assembly: Weaving threads of love  
President Rev Charissa Suli

*The people of Uniting Church Dayboro are warm, inclusive and welcoming who LOVE Jesus, LOVE each other and LOVE our communities, giving HOPE for the future.  
Our worship, our communion table and fellowship is open to all.  
We simply offer you a place where you will be accepted and loved, and where you can learn about the grace of God.*

**Service times: 9am every Sunday  
22 William St Dayboro**

<https://www.dayborouca.com.au>

Find us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/dayborouniting>

## Pastor's Ponderings

My pondering this month was inspired and adapted from an incomplete internet article, by an unknown author.

All of us, no matter how careful we try to be, bring interpretive bias to the Bible when we read it, or hear it read. Unless we recognise our inherent tendencies and have some nous we will fail to mitigate these biases.

There's a cultural bias that gives us presuppositions & predispositions that differ from those of the writers and audiences of antiquity. Bridging the time, geographical, and social distances between us and the Bible writers and initial audience is a monumental task. Most of us also bring an implicit theological bias to our Bible understanding. We look through the glasses of our denominational/theological perspective & tend to see what confirms what we already believe, while almost subconsciously ignoring what challenges our preconceptions.

Modern Christianity suffers from a bad case of what I like to call "hero theology bias". As each individual reads Scripture, they identify themselves with the hero in every story. They are Esther, but never Xerxes or Haman. They may be Peter or John, but never Judas. They are the woman anointing Jesus, or washing his feet with tears, but never are they the Pharisees. They are the Jews escaping slavery, never the Egyptians.

In the modern so called first world to see ourselves as Israel and not Egypt, or Esther and not Haman when studying Scripture is a perfect example of hero theology. And it means that as people with real or relative privilege, wealth and perhaps power, we have no lens for locating ourselves rightly in Scripture or society - and it makes us blind and ill-equipped to engage issues of power and injustice. It behoves us to remember that we were once "the other", we were once the "outsider".

Hero theology bias is very weak Bible work, it gives us a false sense of entitlement, and it severely hampers our mission work in our communities.

Shalom,

Dan

## BREAKFAST MEETINGS

- **MEN'S BREAKFAST:** Tuesday 6 August at 7.30am for a great BBQ breakfast (\$10) and discussion on how to identify and help other men with mental illness issues. This is a follow-on from Doug's excellent session on his personal journey with depression and anxiety. It will be a practical brainstorming session of 20 minutes when men can share experiences and ideas on this important topic.
- **WOMEN OF WORTH:** Saturday 24 August at 8am. Come along for a great feed and get to know one another better. Please let Carolyn know that you are attending, and what food you would like to bring to share.

*Thus says the Lord: Act with justice and righteousness, and deliver from the hand of the oppressor anyone who has been robbed. And do no wrong or violence to the alien, the orphan, and the widow, or shed innocent blood in this place. (Jeremiah 22:3)*

"I have a problem with the Bible. Here's my problem..."

I'm an ancient Egyptian. I'm a comfortable Babylonian. I'm a Roman in his villa.

That's my problem. See, I'm trying to read the Bible for all it's worth, but I'm not a Hebrew slave suffering in Egypt. I'm not a conquered Judean deported to Babylon. I'm not a first century Jew living under Roman occupation.

I'm a citizen of a superpower. I was born among the conquerors. I live in the empire. But I want to read the Bible and think it's talking to me. This is a problem.

One of the most remarkable things about the Bible is that in it we find the narrative told from the perspective of the poor, the oppressed, the enslaved, the conquered, the occupied, the defeated. This is what makes it prophetic. We know that history is written by the winners. This is true — except in the case of the Bible it's the opposite! This is the subversive genius of the Hebrew prophets. They wrote from a bottom-up perspective."

[Brian Zahnd posted in his blog.

## Uniting Church in Australia 17th Triennial Assembly

**What is Assembly?** Assembly is one of four councils of UCA. The others are Church Council, Presbytery, and Synod. These councils are not hierarchical, but have different responsibilities. Assembly meets only every three years, and is the national council. It has a Standing Committee that deals with Assembly business when Assembly is not in session.

**The 17th Assembly** met in Parramatta 11-16 July - over 200 people and six days of joyful Christian community, worship, prayer and discerning the will of God for the Uniting Church in Australia.

The meeting's most significant moment took place on the first day, when the Assembly installed its 17th President, Rev Charissa Suli, in a jubilant celebration at a packed St Stephen's Uniting Church in Sydney.

In two other major leadership decisions, the meeting elected Rev Dr Paul Dongwon Goh as President-elect of the Uniting Church in Australia, and appointed Andrew Johnson as Assembly General Secretary.

Amongst joyful daily worship and community time, the meeting passed several proposals on Act2, Continuing Witness, transgender, intersex and gender diverse people, Net Zero, and the Beneficiary Fund.

Act2 is an in-depth survey and report into the health and vitality of the Uniting Church, carried out over the past 2 years through church councils, presbyteries and synods. The final report was presented to the 17th Assembly and makes interesting reading. <https://act2uca.com/> It looks at existing structures and governance to identify whether they are fit-for-purpose as we move into the future.

Another important resolution at Assembly was that UCA recognises that transgender, gender diverse and intersex people are beloved by God and full members of the Body of Christ in baptism and invites congregations and councils of the Church to welcome and honour them, and the gifts and skills they bring to all aspects of the Church's life, including worship, leadership, and social justice advocacy."

As a local congregation here in Dayboro, it is good to know what is happening nationally, as we continue to evaluate who we are and where we are going in the future.

## EXPLORERS: 25 AUGUST at 11am

Our August meeting will be led by Dr Shirley Coulson, on the long awaited topic: ***Celtic Spirituality***.

Explorers at Dayboro is a discussion group, open to anyone interested in listening, talking and exploring matters of faith and living in the present times. Meetings are on the fourth Sunday of the month from 11am to 12.15pm. Those who wish can stay for lunch at the Rendezvous Cafe.

## Church Council News

When your Church Council meets in August, it will be considering further nominations to Council to help manage the workload of the team. It will also be looking at reports on Insurance which for all churches is a rising cost. Our survey for the Synod on which they base the premium calculations has shown that we have a lot of contents worth covering but the advice is to make an estimate of what is our priorities in the event of a devastating event. Contents is a small part of the insurance cover with the building being the major part. Synod gathers valuations on all of its facilities which amounts to billions of dollars and then provides the total to a number of companies who bid for the church's insurance. After choosing the company to cover the churches, schools and hospitals, each church is given an allocation related to its value. We should know our figure by late October. We will closely monitor this in the years ahead.

**Paul Inglis, chair**

## Children's Ministry @ Uniting Church Dayboro

- \* *Sunday Space*: Children leave early in the service for their program in the hall.
- \* *Young & Young-at-Heart* message during each service
- \* *Communion Sunday* (25 August)- children are welcome to participate, and will remain in the service. Activities provided.
- \* Activities for our littlest people in the kids' corner
- \* There is no Sunday Space in school holidays.

*UCD is a Kid-Safe Church*

## Rosters for August, 2024

	4 August	11 August	18 August	25 August
<b>LECTIONARY READINGS</b>	<b>Pentecost 11 G</b> 2 Sm 11:26-12:13a Ps 51:1-12 Eph 4:1-16 Jn 6:24-35	<b>Pentecost 12 G</b> 2 Sm 18:5-9, 15, 31-33 Ps 130 Eph 4:25-5:2 Jn 6:35, 41-51	<b>Pentecost 13 G</b> 1 Kgs 2:10-12; 3:3-14 Ps 111 Eph 5:15-20 Jn 6:51-58	<b>Pentecost 14 G</b> 1 Kgs 8: (1,6,10-11), 22-30, 41-43 Ps 84 Eph 6:10-20 Jn 6:56-69
<b>Message</b>	Danny	Danny	Joy	Danny
<b>Young &amp; Young-at-Heart</b>	Danny	Danny	Joy	Danny
<b>Reader</b>	John S	Sue	Christina	Andris
<b>Intercession</b>	Joy	Margaret Ann	Paul	Carolyn
<b>Singers</b>	Lorraine, David	Carolyn, Maria	Maria, Tim	Carolyn, David
<b>Keyboard</b>	Coral	Coral	Coral	Coral
<b>Sunday Space</b>	Carolyn, Paul	Fiona, John S	Carolyn, Robyn	Communion
<b>Greeting</b>	Robert, Judy	Mark, Maria	Sue, David	Andris, David
<b>Cleaning</b>	Andris, Marion +	Surjit, John +	Mark, Maria +	Carolyn, Andris+

*For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2:10*

Whether you serve on the roster, or just sit in the pews, you are a crucial part of our worship together. Without you, our time together is diminished.

And our worship is not just the time we spend together on Sundays. It is our daily life, spent glorifying God through our ministry with our friends and families, our work colleagues and those we meet incidentally as we live out our calling to be God's people. A good motto: "Worship is my life, not my role".

### Smile, it's good for you!

Mum and Dad were trying to console Susie, whose dog Skipper had recently died.

"You know," Mum said, "it's not so bad. Skipper's probably up in Heaven right now, having a grand old time with God."

Susie stopped crying and asked, "What would God want with a dead dog?"

### UCD NEWS

UCD received \$200 for its participation in the Raft Race at Dayboro Day. Paul sees it as welcome relief for the rising electricity costs, and welcomes any further invitations for our members to race for \$\$\$ prizes!

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On 28 July, Marion celebrated a significant -0 birthday with a right royal garden party, held at Karklins Palace Gardens, to which the congregation and their many friends were invited.

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Travellers: Send a travel pic or news of your journeys to the Editor

*The Queen pictured here in her beautiful gardens with two princesses.*