



Weekly Newsletter

Barwon Heads, Ocean Grove,
Uniting Church in Australia

Sunday December 29th 2019

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A warm welcome is extended to all visitors today.
God's richest blessings to you all.

SERVICES TODAY

9.00am Barwon Heads
Ms. Jean Murray

10.30am Ocean Grove
Ms. Jean Murray

SERVICES NEXT SUNDAY

9.00am Barwon Heads
The Reverend Robert Thomas
Holy Communion

10.30am Ocean Grove
The Reverend Robert Thomas
Holy Communion

LECTIONARY READINGS

THIS WEEK (1st Sunday after Christmas)
Isaiah 63: 7-9, Psalm 148
Hebrews 2: 10-18, Matthew 2: 13-23

NEXT WEEK (Christmas 2) Jeremiah 31: 7-14, Psalm 147: 12-20
Ephesians 1: 3-14
John 1: (1-9), 10-18

KEY VERSE

**“So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of
Israel.**

Matthew 2: 21

BARWON HEADS NEWS

PRAYER CHAIN: If anyone would like to prayer, could you please contact Marilyn Hanson on 0438 398 506, and she will add you to our prayer chain.

FETE: Amid the busy time which is Christmas, please keep in mind preparing for the Fete on **Saturday January 11th**. A list of stalls is posted in the hall with several needing items to sell and helpers on the day. A fete information sheet is also available today.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS: Thanks to Greg Carruthers who liaised with IGA to convert our Uniting Church "points" into packaged foods for Christmas Hampers to be distributed in the Geelong region, and to Be Smith who delivered them to Uniting at Grovedale Uniting Church along with our personally donated food items.

FOOD LABELS for Cakes and Preserves Stalls along with Food Providers Lists, are available in the church hall until Sunday 22nd December, and then at Church on Sundays, and in the church hall in the days leading up to the church Fete on Saturday January 11th.

THE NEW GARDEN has been completed and looks wonderful. Thanks to the helpers who have watered the plants during the recent hot days. Please let Doug Whan or Geoff Tamblyn know if can assist over the next few weeks.

RAFFLE ticket sellers are needed in the lead-up to the Fete. Please see Marg Isom (5254 3173) if you can assist for a couple of hours.

CONFIRMATION: Laura Hobbs will be confirmed as a member of the church at a **5.00pm** service on **Sunday 12th January 2020**. the service will be followed by dinner in the hall. Please support Laura on this special occasion. There will also be a **9.00am** service on this day.

PRAY FOR THE SUFM Beach Mission Team who are in residence for another season of their engagement with young people in Barwon Heads.

**All welcome to morning tea
in the Church Hall after the Service.**

THINKING AHEAD

In order to make next year's autumn **Harvest Thanksgiving Service** special, **why not plant something** right now?

Even if you are not a gardener or do not have a garden, plant something in a pot. Even if you grow only one zucchini or one potato, the point is that you will have grown it and harvested it, and be truly thankful for the gifts of sun, soil, rain and the magic of God weaves into a seed that makes it sprout and grown and bear fruit.

If your "crop" comes too early, then bottle, pickle or otherwise preserve it for the Thanksgiving Service.

But **start NOW**.

Shalom

Bob.

THE FIVE FINGERED PRAYER

This prayer was displayed in Ely Cathedral in England together with the recommendation that it be photographed and used in "your own homes and churches"

1. **Thumb**—Your thumb is nearest to you so represents people who are closest to you. These are your close friends and family, often the first you think about when you pray. Give thanks to God for the love of your parents, siblings, friends and classmates and ask him to protect them.
2. **Pointer**—The next finger is the pointing finger. Pray for those who teach, instruct and heal. This includes teachers, doctors and ministers. They need support and wisdom in pointing others in the right direction. Thank God for their skills and ask him to help them in their important work.
3. **Tall Finger**—The next finger is the tallest finger. The big people in the world need prayer too. Ask God to give wisdom and guidance to our leaders in business, government, military and police.
4. **Ring Finger**—The fourth finger is our ring finger. Surprising to many is the fact that this is our weakest finger. It should remind us to pray for those who are weak as they are ill, in trouble, live in poverty or are in pain. Pray that God will give them new strength.
5. **Little Finger**—And lastly comes our little finger; the smallest finger of all which represents our own needs. Your little finger should remind you to pray for yourself, to say thank you to God for all the good things that happen and to ask for his help if something is difficult.

OCEAN GROVE NEWS

RETIRING OFFERING: For December we will be supporting the Act for Peace Christmas Bowl Appeal.

PRAYER CONTACT: If you would like our prayer team to pray for you or others (with their permission) call Robin Munro on 4202 0323

SAMMY STAMP: Please save all the stamps from your Christmas mail for Sammy Stamp. They can be placed in the marked box in the church foyer. All stamps need to be trimmed so that they have a border of envelope **3mm or 1/8 inch wide all the way around** to be acceptable for Sammy Stamp sales in Melbourne. Stamps that are heavily cancelled are also unacceptable. If you have difficulty trimming around your stamps please leave them attached to the envelopes and they will be trimmed by members of the UCAF. Please speak to Judy Greer or Joan Billington if you have any queries. Thank you all for your past support of this ongoing UCAF activity.

DATES FOR 2020 CALENDARS

Recycled Treasure Sale

Setting up Friday January 17th 10.00am. Actual Selling day Saturday January 18th 8.00am—12noon It would be great if someone was able to run the BBQ! Please let Dianne Sapwell know if you can help.

Book and Painting Sale

Setting up Wednesday January 22nd 10.00am **Selling days**
Thursday the 23rd 10.00am—4.00pm, Friday 24th 10.00am—4.00pm
Saturday 25th 10.00am—1.00pm Packing up 1.00pm on the Saturday.
There will be sheet for you to put your name on to help with the selling in two hour shifts.

A SHORT EXTRAORDINARY CONGREGATIONAL MEETING was held on December the 8th and the Congregation voted unanimously to proceed to seeking approval from Synod and Presbytery to continue calling a full-time Minister with the 60% Ocean Grove , 40% Barwon Heads spilt of Stipend costs.

THANK YOU: I would like to sincerely thank all those men who so diligently reproduced John's Star. I have had quite a number of favourable comments. Thanks
Joan Billington.