



Promoting Faith and Fellowship across Congregations and Beyond



Chairperson's Corner

Contents

Chairperson's Corner3
Let Us Pray5
Pinjarra 'At Home'6
Bee Happy Gardens 8
Tree of Life: The Woman 10
Uniting WA: Wyn Carr House 12
Frontier Services News14
Op shop shopping16
Recipe: Betty's Fruit Slice 18
Devotions: Sewing with love 20
UCAF Registration 22
Celebrating Milestones 23
Diary Datesback cover

Chairperson:

Helen McMillan P: 08 9279 3051 E: norandaunitingchurch@gmail.com

Newslink Editor:

Gill Muir P: 0408 232 047 E: muirj@iinet.net.au

Treasurer/Secretary:

Bob Nicholls P: 08 9255 2567 E: wraxall@iinet.net.au

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Send Newslink material to:

Gill Muir E: muirj@iinet.net.au with NEWSLINK in the subject line. Please include a contact number in submissions.

To register your group or to make a donation, please contact:

The Treasurer Bob Nicholls 2 Wilyan Place, SWAN VIEW WA 6056

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Front cover image: Vibrant hibiscus from Gill Muir's garden.

Welcome to this August edition of Newslink.

No doubt you have noticed there have been some changes to this edition of *Newslink*.

As many will be aware several changes have and are occurring at the Synod Centre; some of these changes have also involved the UCAF WA Committee.

Gill Muir, our Editor, and Amanda Badenhorst (Presbytery Administrator) have worked together to produce *Newslink*. Amanda informed us early

to produce *Newslink*. Amanda informed us early this year she was moving to live in Queensland in June. She will still be doing some work for the Presbytery remotely, but time does not enable her to continue with *Newslink*.

The other person who has been involved with *Newslink* was Nita Kirwan-Ward, whom many would have spoken to when you telephoned the Synod Centre. Nita was involved with printing the magazine ready for the Committee members to distribute via the Church mailout or post. Nita plans to spend more time with her family in her retirement.

The committee appreciated the assistance of both Amanda and Nita and took the opportunity to wish them God's blessing for their future at our meeting in June.

We were delighted to receive an offer from Andrea Garvey to work with the Committee to produce *Newslink*. While working in the Synod, Andrea has prepared the Certificates of Appreciation to octogenarians in recent years. Andrea is not new to preparing newsletters and has already put her creative talents to work in this issue. Welcome and thank you, Andrea.

The other change which has occurred is the location of our Committee meetings. With the Synod Centre, where we have had our meetings, now closed on Fridays, we now meet at Noranda Uniting Church on the **3rd Friday of the month, at 10.00 am**.

Chairperson's Corner (cont'd)

I was recently reading a copy of the Bible Society *Sower* magazine and read an article entitled *'Why Words Matter'*. This was written by Joy Ravela, a radio announcer:

Words are an opportunity to bring splashes of joy and laughter to a friend who has been dealt life's blows.

We can bring a soothing balm of healing to a loved one who needs comfort.

We can raise up a future leader with our words of advocacy or crush the petals of hope if our words are callous and rushed.

One of the mistakes we can make is to assume our words don't have power.

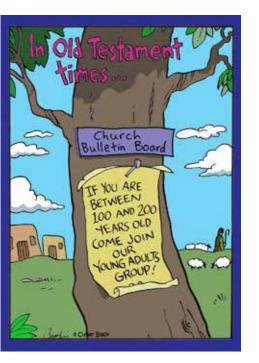
Lord God, help us to understand the power we wield when we speak to others. Help us to allow your wisdom to guide our speech.

Amen

The WA UCAF Committee would be delighted to receive words from our readers about what is happening in your Fellowship, and some photos as well if you have some photographers among the group.

We look forward to hearing from you!

God bless and keep you, Helen McMillan



Let Us Pray

A Prayer for Others:

Loving God

A lot of the time we don't feel up to the challenge of praying for others.

This world is hurting and broken.

Throughout the world, there are people who are homeless,

People who are struggling to make ends meet.

People in the midst of war.

People who are fleeing for their lives with no one to welcome them in a place of safety.

People who are grieving,

People who are feeling lost and alone.

Sometimes it feels all too much, and we are not equipped to help.

But God, you believe in us.

We are inheritors of your great hope for this world to bring Your love and reconciliation to all people.

Fill us with your love and hope so that we may not be discouraged.

Fill us with the courage and strength to be your people in this world.

To be messengers of peace and reconciliation.

In the name of Jesus.

Amen.

Pinjarra 'At Home'

There are few records of the early days of the fellowship (Ladies Guild) at Pinjarra Trinity Uniting Church, though it has had a long and rich history. Church records show Methodist worship services were being held in 1910 and 'Ladies Guild' commenced about the same time.

A 99-year-old member of the congregation remembers "*There has always been a Ladies Guild.*" With members ready to 'chip in' and help. While the fellowship has reduced in numbers over time, there is always willing help from the Council and congregation for the annual 'At Home'.

This year, 2023, about sixty people gathered for fellowship, food and fun. Our guest speaker was a congregational member, Kerrie Birch, who had recently returned from a trip to the Holy Land. This was a visual feast of wonderful sights showing the life of people in Israel and fleshing out social values and conditions in Jesus' life. Interesting and inspiring.

Women and men gathered from the other Pinjarra congregations plus folk from Beddingfeld Aged Care, CWA members and various community groups.

The lovely 'Voices in Harmony' Choir enrich the day and make it quite special. This year they presented three brackets of three songs. So lovely. They have been presenting at our 'At Home' for several years and we look forward to their contribution each time.

After this feast of song and story, we adjourned to a lovely lunch for which Pinjarra Uniting has quite a reputation and never fails to impress.

It was a great day of memories, many blessings and great fellowship.

Aladina Foster Pinjarra UC Adult Fellowship



The harmonious 'Voices in Harmony' Choir



Kerry Birch Guest Speaker



An appreciative audience!



Delectable food -Great company!



The buzzing sounds of bees, the joyous sight of butterflies dancing and the antics of birdlife are amongst the many delights of having a garden – large or small. And providing a pollen-rich environment for bees and other pollinators brings untold benefits beyond your backyard!

Pollinating flowers, fruits and vegetables – bees are vital to the human food supply, we'd literally starve without them. One in three bites of food we eat is derived from plants pollinated by bees. Every garden can create a feeding ground for bees and other pollinators, so it's worth putting some thought into making your garden inviting for them.

Top 6 Tips for bringing more bees, birds and butterflies to your garden

1. Use local native plants where possible

Research suggests native plants are four times more attractive to native bees than exotic flowers. Heirloom varieties of herbs and perennials can also provide good foraging.

2. Choose several colours of flowers

Bees have good colour vision to help them find flowers and the nectar and pollen they offer. Flower colours that particularly attract bees are blue, purple, violet, white, and yellow.

3. Plant flowers in clumps

Flowers clustered into clumps of one species will attract more pollinators than individual plants scattered through the habitat patch. Where space allows in your garden, make the clumps two metres or more in diameter.

Different species of bees range in size, have varying tongue lengths, and will feed on an assortment of shaped flowers. So, providing a mixture of flower shapes in your garden means more bees can benefit.

5. Look to plant varieties that flower at different times of the year

Most bee species are generalists, feeding on a range of plants through their life cycle. By having several plant species flowering at once, and a sequence of plants flowering through spring, summer, and autumn, you can support a range of bee species that fly at different times of the season.

6. Plant where bees, butterflies and birds will visit

Bees favour sunny spots over shade and butterflies, in particular, need some shelter from strong winds. Also, unlike their European cousins, most Australian native bees are solitary, meaning the female will make a nest all by herself by burrowing into rotten wood, dirt or even sparse lawns.

One of the best ways to help these hard-working single mums is to create some 'bee hotels' for the many lodger bee species. You can find practical and quite beautiful bee-hotel-making guides online or support a local industry, and check out your nearest 'Seniors Shed'.

Top 5 favourite Australian native plants to add to your garden for bees, birds and butterflies.

- Bottlebrush (Dwarf varieties: Better John, Little John, Green John, Wee Johnnie)
- Grevillea
- Hibbertia 'Golden Sunburst'
- Lavender
- Silky Emu Bush



'Air Bee & Bee' Karrinyup Men's Shed

The woman: "A wonderful idea of God"

We are beautiful women for God, in every way: sensitive, affectionate, patient, tolerant, wise, cunning, cautious, bold, strong, and at the same time romantic, empathetic, and sororal. We are a masterpiece that only the Master could create. We give a beautiful colour to life, we make you smile, dream, plan, sigh and even cry with happiness.

A woman is synonymous with courage, enthusiasm, goals, and desires, the one that does not stop, because she was born to fulfill God's purpose. We understand that in life we have to be brave and take risks to achieve our goals.

I am blessed by God to have women who have marked my life, the first of which is my mother, that fighting and courageous woman who, even with her limitations, taught me to be a good woman, and many other women who have been a gift from God. In my life, without a doubt, women are a WONDERFUL IDEA OF GOD.

To each of you, may God bless you, to each of you may God keep you, continue to give you more wisdom, support you in your dreams and desires, and may God fulfill the plan He has for each of you. May we never forget how valuable we are, and how important we are, and may we never forget that we are daughters of God. He showed off creating so much beauty in us in every way. We are women of faith. His Word says, "Her children congratulate her; her husband praises her and tells her: 'There are many good women, but you surpass them all.'" (*Proverbs 31:28-29*)

We are fragile when our heart breaks into a thousand pieces when we have been hurt, fragile when we overflow with emotions in the face of events that others do not value. We are fragile when we bathe our faces with tears, often submerged in pain and sadness when we feel incapable of overcoming circumstances. However, being fragile is not synonymous with uselessness, being fragile does not mean that we are weak or powerless.

Women, do you know how much you are worth to God? You are worth much more than gold. Women, you are important to God, because in



your seed you have life, because despite the adversities, that some underestimate us, we get ahead and show with passion that we can. Women, we are important to God, just as Mary the mother of Jesus was, just as Esther, Deborah, Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, Hannah, Ruth were, and so many other women who marked the history of the world, women who put their trust in God – and that is why they not only revolutionized their generation but they are also still changing lives and are worthy of admiration.

Women, stand firm on the Rock so that you can plant yourself and remain in the position that corresponds to you. Do you know that others are going to give you the value that you give yourself?

May God motivate women, mothers, female workers, aunts, and grandmothers, so they will be willing to be examples in their conduct, and wise in their speech and their actions. Like Abigail, we can use wisdom for the benefit of all those who are and pass through our path. And, like Sarah, we can use divine grace to be a blessing.

As women of faith, today we have a commitment to our Creator. Each of us exists for only one purpose: to bring glory to God. We were created by Him and for Him. However, there is a battle inside and outside our hearts. There is an enemy who wants to destroy us with his lies. But we have to follow the TRUTH. Not everything is lost. We serve a God who is redeeming all things and He empowers us through His Spirit to live in a way that brings glory to His name, that points to the gospel of Christ. That same power equips us and sends us out to teach other women the way of His truth (*Titus 2:3-5*).

Today's world and families need more women of courage, faith, vision, and action; Deborahs to rise up to challenge society by modelling and living the principles of the Word of God; women who help restore families through surrendered lives and testimonies that glorify their Creator. We must accompany and show solidarity with so many women who suffer, who are raped, and whose lives are taken away.

Woman, be what you are: the most beautiful work of creation, the image of God for the world.

- Ivonne Pereira Díaz, World Vice-President



Betty's Fruit Slice

Ingredients

- 2 cups of self-raising flour
- 1 cup of lightly packed brown sugar
- 125g of butter, roughly chopped
- ¹/₂ cup of raspberry jam
- 1 egg, beaten
- ³⁄₄ cup of milk
- ¹/₂ teaspoon of mixed spice
- ½ teaspoon of baking powder
- 1 cup of mixed fruit

Method

- 1. Preheat oven to 180°C.
- 2. Line a 20 cm x 30 cm (8" x 12") slice tin with baking paper.
- 3. Blend the flour, brown sugar, and butter in a stand mixer (or food processor) until the mixture resembles bread crumbs.
- 4. Divide the mixture in half and spread one-half into the prepared tin and press it down firmly with the back of a spoon.
- 5. Spread the base with the jam and set aside. **
- 6. To the remaining mixture, add the egg, milk, mixed spice, and baking powder and mix well to make a batter.
- 7. Add the mixed fruit to the batter and again mix well.
- 8. Carefully spoon the batter over the jam base and smooth to the edges.
- 9. Bake for 40 50 minutes or until golden brown, the edges of the slice will also shrink away from the sides of the tin when cooked.

Notes

- ** Warm the jam in the microwave for a few seconds. Use a greased butter knife to make spreading the jam easier.
- Slice when nearly cold. Can also be iced with lemon icing.
- You could also use a different flavour of jam such as plum, strawberry or apricot. Plus, you can just use sultanas or raisins if you don't have or dislike mixed fruit.



Source: Booragoon Probus Group Cookbook

Thank you for being there for those who feel alone





Main image: Erika and Ron planning the day's work Left inset: Volunteers Ron and Gwen Right inset: Erika and Gwen with Erika's chooks.

Frontier Services News

Outback Links volunteers are ordinary people who make an extraordinary difference.

They're humble, hardworking, bighearted people like Ron and Gwen, who drive around the vast expanse of Western Australia, helping people living on the land.

Ron urges everyone to volunteer with Frontier Services.

"You don't need to be an expert. We started by looking on the Frontier Services website, which shows lists of jobs you can search. We found one, and thought, 'We can do that. Let's go!'

I encourage people to really think about getting out there and having a look in their area."

"Frontier Services literally saved my life!" – Erika

One of the farmers our volunteers helped said that without the support of Outback Links volunteers, she would have needed to sell up and leave town. "Frontier Services literally saved my life!" she said.

Erika's property was ripped apart by Cyclone Seroja in 2021.

"She'd only been on the property a short while before the cyclone hit, so it was a devastating situation for her," explains Gwen.

"She lost the roof off her house, her

sheds were demolished and her water tanks blown off their stands."

Erika was there on her own and was still learning the ins and outs of farming. Ron taught her how to use some of the machinery, so she could keep on with jobs after they'd gone.

He gave her real support and encouragement, building her confidence in the tools she needed to use on the farm. Teaching her these skills meant that every day of her working life is now less stressful and more efficient.

"She enjoyed taking us around, just showing us the property and talking about her plans and her hopes for what she could do in the future," says Gwen.

To this day, Gwen continues to knit little woollen jackets for the newborn lambs on Erika's farm. It's a wonderful, warm, and colourful way to stay connected.

That's the power of your support. By helping to fund Outback Links volunteers, you're giving people such as Erika physical and emotional support.

If you'd like to become a volunteer, call Frontier Services on 1300 787 247 or visit frontierservices.org/ outback-links. It's a powerful way to stand with people in the bush and show them they are never alone.

Source: Frontier News

Top tips when op shop shopping

Prices and interest rates are all on the rise, so there's never been a better time to cut costs where you can. And one of the best ways is to visit your local op shops. It's good for charity, good for the environment and great for your bank balance!

From saving pennies, contributing to the greater good and dressing to impress, here are some tips and tricks to navigate your local op shop.

Cull

To make space for new purchases, you MUST do a wardrobe cull before you head to the op shops - and be ruthless. If it doesn't spark joy, or if you haven't worn it in a year, get rid of it and let it spark joy for someone else. Double the good vibes by donating it to the store you plan on going op shopping at.

Shop your wardrobe

After you've done your wardrobe cull, go through what's left and create outfits from the clothes and accessories you already own. Head to the op shops to "fill in the gaps" and get those key pieces you don't have.

Avoid the trap of 'winging it' and go in with a clear budget and goal/outfit/ item in mind and you'll find yourself saving time and money.

Shop mid-week

People typically donate clothes on the weekend and volunteers usually don't get a chance to sort through these until Monday or Tuesday. Shopping mid-week can give you a head start on bargains while also allowing you to avoid the crowds.

Dress appropriately

Wear clothes that are easy to get in and out of because op shopping requires a lot of trying on. Never trust op shop sizes. Try before you buy! Also, when



embracing the spirit of sustainability by buying second-hand, carry your own bags and a bottle of water. Op shopping is thirsty work!

Don't be restricted by gender or age

If you see something you like and you think it might fit you, don't be put off by the label, try it on! What's the worst that could happen?

Furthermore, don't be bound to your sex when shopping. Whether you're a lady searching for a chic men's waistcoat or a man looking for a funky female scarf for winter, spread your wings across the terrific tapestry that is an op shop.

Op shops are more than clothes

Checking the furniture section of an op shop is an extremely worthwhile endeavour, especially before looking at buying something new. Couches, tables, chairs – these sorts of items will generally still be in good condition and are rarely anywhere close to their retail value. Take a tape measure and the dimensions of your rooms at home just in case you find hidden treasures.

Also don't forget that some items may just need a lick of paint or a bit of TLC to turn them into something unique. Just be realistic about the amount of time and effort you're willing to put into the project to decide whether it's worth it.

See it, love it? Buy it!

First, of course, employ the "do you need it" test and should the item pass, make it yours.you leave it for another day, someone equally as frugal as you will no doubt swoop in before your return, leaving you wondering what could've been.

Good Sammy Op Shops (part of the Uniting Church WA's Agencies family) collect and sell goods generously donated by the community and all profits are reinvested to create employment opportunities for West Australian people living with a disability. At Good Sammy, more than 50% of the workforce is made up of people with disability.

Op shops are an Australian staple for good reason. They're a fun and easy way to stop you from spending an arm and a leg on brand-name clothes and homewares. And don't forget a regular visit – people donate their belongings to op shops every single day, which means new items 24/7!

Uniting WA: Wyn Carr House

A WA-first partnership to transform Wyn Carr House into a stateof-the-art space to support older women experiencing or at risk of, homelessness.



A hidden crisis exists

Older women are among the **fastest-growing** cohort of people experiencing homelessness in Australia.

There has been a **55% increase** in the number of women aged 55-75 seeking support from homeless services in the last 10 years.

Many factors contribute to homelessness for older women, including domestic violence, family and marriage breakdown, economic disadvantage, housing stress and instability and workforce participation trends.



A state-of-the-art solution

The transformed Wyn Carr House will adopt Uniting WA's successful Homelessness Accommodation Support Service (**HASS**) model, which provides wrap-around support to people in transitional accommodation across Perth.



The HASS service addresses the drivers of each individual's homelessness, to help them break the cycle and build their capacity to maintain safe, secure long-term housing.

Each resident will be supported by a person-centred care plan that is trauma-informed and strengthsbased.

The original heritage-listed Wyn Carr House will be accompanied by a new two-story residential building, adjoined by a secure courtyard.

The ground floor of the new building will include shared living areas, a communal kitchen and laundry, while 12 ensuite bedrooms will be located on the first floor. The restored Wyn Carr House will also include purpose-built spaces to support residents during their tenancy.

Trauma-informed design

Cox Architecture have reimagined Wyn Carr House based on traumainformed design principles, incorporating elements vital to promoting physical and mental health and supporting residents' overall well-being.

To achieve this, the design delivers safe, private, dignified, accessible spaces which contribute to creating a sense of home that will positively impact the lives of those who utilise it, now and into the future.

For updates on Wyn Carr House, and how to support this project,



please call (08) 9220 1222, email: partners@ unitingwa.org.au or visit: unitingwa.org.au/ wvn-carr-house/

Devotions: Sewing with LOVE



The story of Dorcas from Acts 9:36-42 shows us women marked by God - a testimony, a very beautiful example of what is Living to Serve, what is "sewing with love."

Dorcas was called by Luke to be a disciple, which means that she was a follower of Jesus Christ. Her love for the Master was demonstrated by love and dedication to others, and for this, she used her natural talent as a seamstress, assisting others in the making of clothing. She was a woman sensitive to people's needs. How we need more women like her!

Dorcas had not only a Greek name but also a Semitic one. Tabitha in Aramaic

and Dorcas in Greek meant "gazelle, deer", an animal that walks in high places, protecting the flock and being alert to warn of danger.

This was compared to the request of that woman: always ready to protect someone, from the height of her noble soul. She was a follower of Jesus and that made all the difference. Dorcas, a woman of faith, worked especially for poor widows and children. She lived to serve! She served with other women, with stitches, needles and fabrics, sewing tunics. Her tender gaze made her see the greater needs of other people, with skilled hands, that put her faith into action daily.

One day, Dorcas became ill and died. Her friends who worked with her, cried and called Peter, who prayed for her to come back to life. The coastal city of Joppa was never the same after Dorcas returned to life. By hearing and seeing the miracle of the resurrection of Dorcas, many people converted and believed.

No doubt this generous disciple, gifted with skilful hands and a heart converted to the Lord, took out her needle and stitched again and continued her benevolent and compassionate ministry to all who lived around her. We can all bring hope to people, using a "stitch and needle", women, have sewed a serving history through Societies and Federations, etc. This is the opportunity to praise the Lord of life who gives us His grace and, every day, has confirmed the work of our hands.

When we place our gifts in the service of God, with love, we know that God will walk with us, giving us life. We can make a difference in people's lives, using our gifts, "sewing" the word, and having a life of testimony like Dorcas. How she was wanted! How she was recognized!

I would like to have this desire, of being someone different. And you? But mainly, I want, and I feel in my heart the desire to be a disciple, a follower of Christ, to have Him fully in my heart! May the Lord bless us and keep us! Do not miss the desire to "sew or work", to serve God with joy!

Prayer

Like the testimony of Dorcas: With simplicity in small gestures, Give us, Lord, the opportunity to serve; In welcoming the homeless and abandoned, Give us, Lord, the opportunity to serve; In the hours when the crying seems stronger, Give us, Lord, the opportunity to serve; In the hours when death seems victorious Give us Lord, the opportunity to serve. At all times let us be seamstresses of hope, Placing care and affection in the plots of our history, Making our mission, a joint work of art, Upholstered with goodness, worked with bonds of love ... In the name of Jesus Christ, the Word that gives poetry to life, Amen.

(Rev. Luciano Lima - in memoriam)



sewing the word and love of God to all. We,

UCAF Registration

We invite congregations and groups to register with us so that copies of Newslink and other mailings can be personally addressed to you.

All congregations receive one unaddressed copy of Newslink in the Synod mailout. All registered groups receive an addressed copy/copies of Newslink.

Registration Details:

Group Name	
Contact Person for Group	
(or) Individual's name	
Postal Address	
Email Address	

Phone _____

Donations

We would appreciate **donations** to assist with the running expenses. This assists us in covering the cost of the Certificates of Appreciation for 80-year-olds, Greeting Cards for 90-year-olds, and general administration.

Want Newslink mailed to your address?

For \$8.00 per year, Newslink can be sent directly to you.

Recipients Name _____

Congregation _____

Postal address _____

No. of copies _____ Postage \$8.00

Donation \$ _____ Total \$ _____

Payment details of the Treasurer, for registration:

Internet Banking BSB 036-001 Acc No: 92-1850 Reference: 'Name of group or individual'

22 | Newslink

Celebrating the Milestones of Our Seniors

We offer you the opportunity to recognise the contribution your seniors have made, celebrate with them and show appreciation when they reach their important milestones.

Eighty-Year-Olds: at the UCAF Annual Fellowship Day 2023, Certificates of Appreciation will be presented to octogenarians nominated by their church or fellowship group. All who reach their 80th year during 2023, or missed out previously are eligible.

Ninety-Year-Olds: Our Committee will send a specially designed greeting card to any person celebrating their 90th birthday, and who has been nominated by their group or congregation. The greeting card is sent out as applications are received. Please refer to the application form below.

One Hundred-Year-Olds: The Synod looks after these. A letter to the Moderator requesting a greeting to those turning one hundred years of age will be responded to.

Application form for greeting cards: 90-year-olds

Send to: Kay Lockley, 20 Roediger Drive, Northam WA 6401 Email: kaylockl@bigpond.net.au | Phone: (08) 9622 1152

Please Print

Name of Congregation _____

Date of Birth _____

Name of 90-year-old _____

If there is more than one recipient, please attach a separate sheet. Check spelling and details, please!

Where is the card to be sent? Please (\checkmark) tick

- □ Congregation (if arranging a presentation)
- Nominator (person who is personally delivering the card and/or arranging a special time for a presentation.
- □ The 90-year-old nominated person

Please provide the following:

Contact person
Name:

_____ Phone No _____

The postal address to send the card:

Name: _____

Address _____

Diary Dates

<mark>August</mark> 18 Aug	9:30am	Uniting Generations Network Meeting	
		Trinity North Uniting Church	
18 Aug	10:00am	UCAF WA Committee Meeting (all welcome) Noranda Uniting Church	
27 Aug	9:00am	Service of Admission – Rev Erica Payne Dongara Uniting Church	
31 Aug	9:00am	Ethical Ministry Workshop - Self Care in Ministry Maylands/Mt Lawley Uniting Church	
September			
8 Sep	7:00pm	Synod Opening Worship/Installation of Moderator All Saints Floreat Uniting Church	
9-10 Sep	9:00am	2023 Annual Meeting of WA Synod Scotch College Dickinson Centre	
9 Sep	1:30pm	Multi-Faith Climate Care Forum Hillview Intercultural Community Centre	
9 Sep	5:00pm	Kingswood College 60th Anniversary Trinity Residential College	
15 Sep	10:00am	UCAF WA Committee Meeting (all welcome) Noranda Uniting Church	
October 20 Oct	n/a	Australian Church Manan Mard Community Day	
20 Oct	n/a	Australian Church Women, World Community Day Online service available: www.acw.org.au	
27 Oct	10:00am	UCAF Fellowship Day, venue to be confirmed	
November			
17 Nov	10:00am	UCAF WA Committee Meeting (all welcome) Noranda Uniting Church	