



Eltham Montmorency Uniting Church in Australia



810 Main Road, Eltham

www.elthammontmorencyuca.org

Worshipping on Sundays at 9.30am

Welcome to our Newsletter

14th December, 2025

Leader Today:

Paul Chandler

Lectionary Readings:

Isaiah 35:1-10

Psalms 146:50-10 or

Luke 1:46b-55

James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-11

Rosters

Worship Leader

Vestry Assist.

Welcome

Bible Readings

Prayers o/t People

Sound/Projector

Music

Morning Tea

Lock Up

Flowers

Counting

14th December

Paul Chandler

Merilyn

John W & Theo

Natalia

Jamie

Theo

Elizabeth

Gwenda & Rex

John W

Annette

Steve & Bill

21st December

Paul Miles

John W

Glenys & Heather

Steve

Andrea

May & Natalia

Elizabeth

Margaret & Ron

Paul M

Margaret

Maree & Heather

Bike Ride Today - Sunday 14th:

There is a bike ride planned following Church on Sunday all welcome to join in the fun.
See Jamie for details

Blue Christmas Services:

The Christmas Season can highlight our griefs and losses. There are a couple of safe and gentle spaces for remembering:

Wed 17th at St Johns Anglican in Diamond Creek, 7.30pm

Or Thursday Thursday 18th at Heidelberg Uniting Church at 7pm.

Jill

Australian Advent Wreath:

This year our Advent liturgy is using the symbols of native seed pods (Hope), leaves (peace), flowers (joy) and bark (love). Please, if you are able, collect some native leaves and bring them with you to Church this Sunday.

Jill

Crosslight:

The December edition of Crosslight is now available.

Baptism of Maryam:

When Maryam Mary Salehi was baptised last Sunday, she responded with these thoughts. The words she used were Persian.
We were also given this English translation, shared here for those who did not see it on Sunday.

Hello everyone,

I would like to share a little about the journey that has brought me to this moment. When I was 23, while translating a book, I first encountered the message of Christ. That small beginning was like a seed that slowly grew in my heart.

Throughout my life, I have lived through difficult events: a revolution in my country, an eight-year war, many years of unrest, and even the recent conflicts between Iran and Israel. All this violence and instability were never what I wanted for my life. During all those years, my heart was searching for peace, calm, and genuine love.

A few months ago, I was in a car accident and lost consciousness for a short time. Two women who were coming from church were there and cared for me with kindness. In that moment, I felt the real and comforting presence of Christ. That incident could have been much more serious, but it wasn't—because Christ was with me.

Little by little, I realized that God had been speaking to me through people, through circumstances, and through the kindness I have received throughout my life. My heart became clearer, and I saw that the peace and salvation I had always been searching for were in Christ.

This year, during the season of Advent—a season of hope, expectation, and new birth—I feel that baptism has a deeper meaning for me. Life is short and unpredictable, and I don't want to leave this world without saying "yes" to God's invitation.

That is why I am here today—to declare my faith and to be baptized.
A new beginning, with a heart entrusted to God's love.

Thank you for listening and for being here.
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Christmas Lunch:

Please find attached information regarding the Christmas Lunch provided by Diamond Creek Uniting Church. Also included is a list of items required for the lunch. If you can offer any help please see Annette.
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Contact list update:

The final date for updating the contact list is 21st Dec. So let me know by then any changes
The new list will be circulated early 2026. Annette.

December Church Council Report:

Council met on the 9th of December and we rounded up items for completion as we end 2025.
We look forward to sharing this Christmas season together and wish to thank the Advent planning group for their preparations.

We also want to thank everyone for their ongoing support and to wish you all a very happy and safe Christmas.

"May the spirit of love and peace warm your heart as we celebrate the miracle of Jesus' birth and may you feel God's presence surrounding you always". Annette

McCrae SUFM:

Hi, Naomi Bruinsma here. I am one of the team members at McCrae SUFM, and we are looking for donations towards one of our meals. If you are able to help please let Naomi (or Fiona/Steve) know.

Please also join the McCrae SUFM for Church in the park at 4pm on Sunday January 4th in the Section 6 Park opposite McRose Caravan Park. Come for lunch/afternoon tea beforehand with Fiona and Steve at 34 South Road, Rosebud. Fiona

Coming Up:

Every Sunday: Worship: 9.30am @ the church
Every Thursday: Reflections: 9.30am @ the church
Every Thursday: Community Coffee: 10.30am-12noon
Every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday: Op Shop: 10am -4pm

December:

Sunday 14th: Bike Ride after church.
Thursday 18th: Story Time for children: 11am @ the church
Saturday 20th: Food for Thought: 9am @ the church

Finance -Bank Details:

If you would like to make payments or direct debits to the church account the information is as follows.
Bank – Westpac. BSB 033091. Account No. 121959.
Account Name. Eltham Montmorency Uniting Church.
Don't forget to put a reference name and what the payment is for.

***For any pastoral care concerns please contact Fiona on 0417 164 503
Or Jill on 0421504749 or email Jill at infulife@iprimus.com.au***

Items for newsletter.....Please send items to Heather by 8pm on Thursday. Phone 94391882 or email heatherjoy20@hotmail.com