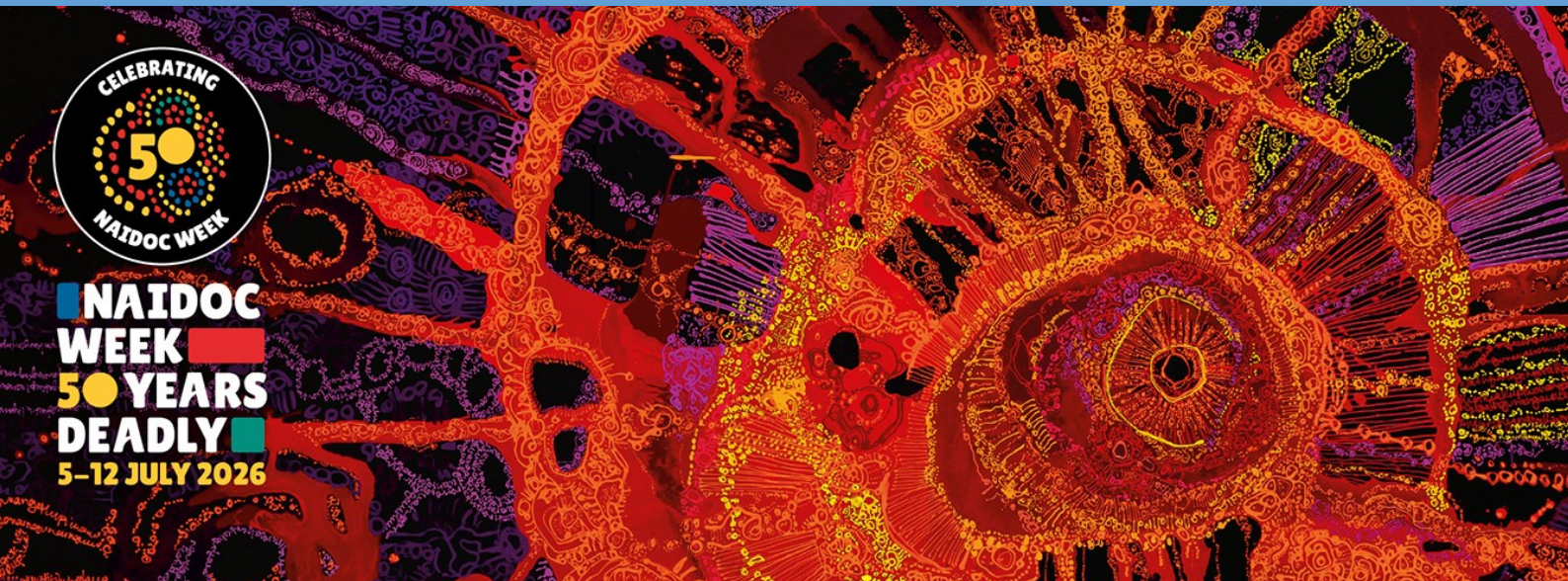




Charman Uniting Church

News Letter

12th July 2026 Vol 7 No 24 Pentecost 7



Celebrating NAIDOC Week 2026

NAIDOC Week 2026 (5–12 July) marks 50 years of honouring the voices, cultures and resilience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The Uniting Church, together with the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC), gives thanks for this significant milestone and celebrates the enduring strength and leadership of First Nations peoples.

Over five decades, NAIDOC Week has become a wonderful national celebration of culture, truth-telling and hope, affirming the leadership, vision and aspirations of First Nations communities.

As we reflect on the past and look towards a future shaped by justice, healing and reconciliation, we pray that Christ will continue to guide and strengthen us as we walk together in truth across this land.

We are honoured to publish the following prayer written by Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress National Co-Chair and Uniting Church Minister, Rev Will Pickett.

Prayer for the 50th anniversary of NAIDOC Week

Creator God, Spirit of the land and Lord of all peoples,

We gather today with hearts full of gratitude as we celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of NAIDOC Week.

For fifty years, this national movement has called Australia to honour and celebrate the history, culture, achievements and enduring strength of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We give thanks for all who have walked this journey of truth, justice and reconciliation, and for the witness of First Peoples who continue to share their wisdom, faith and hope.

Today we also give thanks for the witness of the Uniting Church in Australia, and especially for the sacred Covenant between the Church and the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress—a Covenant born not simply from words, but from truth-telling, repentance, relationship and hope.

Lord, we remember that before there was a Church in this land, there was Your Spirit moving across Country—through the songlines, the rivers, the mountains and the ancient stories of First Peoples.

You were here.

Your presence was never absent.

We acknowledge the pain of the past: the wounds of mission, the loss of language, land and culture, the silencing of voices, and the breaking of families.

Yet we also honour the resilience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, their faith, their survival, and their leadership within Your Church.

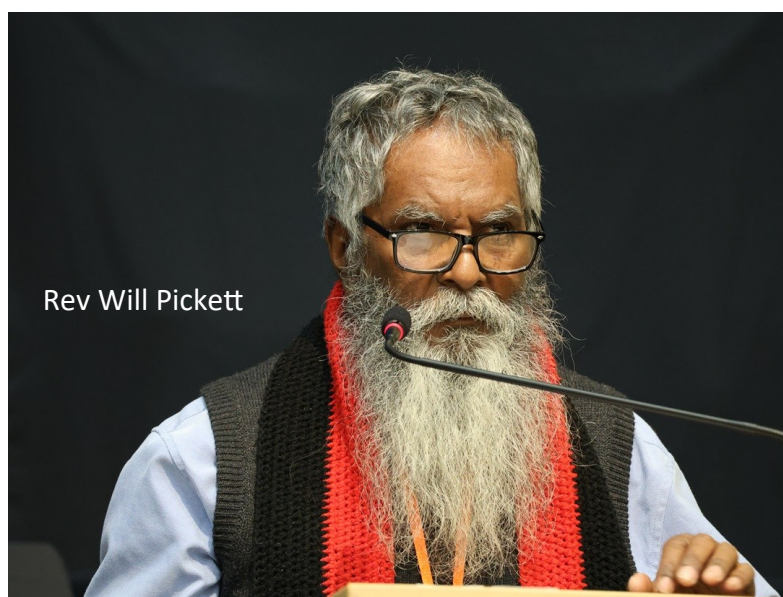
We thank You for the Covenant—for its call to walk together, to listen deeply, to respect one another, and to seek justice, healing and self-determination.

May this Covenant never be reduced to words on paper, but remain a living commitment, calling the Church into truth, humility and right relationship.

As we celebrate this milestone in the life of NAIDOC Week, renew us by Your Holy Spirit.

Give courage to the leaders of the Uniting Church in Australia, strength to the leaders of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress, and wisdom to all who seek to walk this shared journey.

May we continue to grow in justice, deepen our partnerships, seek healing for Country and people, and become a Church—and a nation—that more faithfully reflects the reconciling love of Jesus Christ.



Ground us in Your truth.

Lead us in Your grace.

Unite us in Your love.

And as First Peoples and Second Peoples together,
may we continue to walk gently on this land,
honouring the Creator, following Christ,
and listening to the Spirit.

In the name of Jesus Christ, who makes all things
one.

Amen.

Written by Rev Will Pickett

Proud Noongar man

*National Co-Chair, Uniting Aboriginal and Islander
Christian Congress (UAICC)*

Helpful links

[Explore the UCA's Covenant resources](#)

To mark the 30th Anniversary of the UCA's covenant with the UAICC two years ago, the Assembly released some enriching resources.

[Read Aunty Rev Roberta Stanley reflection](#)

Take a moment to read this piece by the Chair of Muth arrak (UAICC in Queensland) as she calls on Christians to celebrate the resilience, faith and leadership of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples while renewing their commitment to truth-telling, reconciliation and walking together in covenantal relationship.

[Support a local NAIDOC Week event](#)

There are hundreds of NAIDOC Week events taking place across Australia. Find one near you!

[Discover the traditional owners of the country where you live or worship](#)

The AIATSIS map of Indigenous Australia can help you find out about the traditional lands you live on, and is a visual reminder of the richness and diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australia. Following your research, you might like to engage with local Traditional Owners and your local Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community.

[Download the NAIDOC Week toolkit](#)

There is always more we can learn about this important week.

[Watch Common Grace's NAIDOC Week video](#)

Watch conversations with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders as they share their heart, vision, hope and prayers for the next generation. Available from 3 July.



Bible Readings July 2026 (the readings used in our service may differ slightly)

July 5th	Pentecost 6	Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67	Psalm 45:10-17 or Song of Solomon 2:8-13	Romans 7:15-25a	Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30
July 12th	Pentecost 7	Genesis 25:19-34	Psalm 119:105-112	Romans 8:1-11	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
July 19th	Pentecost 8	Isiah 55:10-13	Psalm 65 (1-8), 9-13	Romans 8:12-25	Mathew 13:24-30, 36-43
July 26th	Pentecost 9	Genesis 28:10-19a	Psalm 139:1-12, 86 :11-17	Romans 8:26-39	Mathew 13:31-33, 44-52
		Isiah 44: 6-8 23-24	1Kings 3:5-12 Ps 128 Psalm 119: 129-136		

Calling all Crafty Knitters!

The Social Justice group discussed homelessness and rough sleeping and it was suggested that we form a group of crafty people to knit or crochet scarves for these people. We welcome donations of wool/yarn. Those who are willing should speak to Barbara Shying 0407 277 020 or Joan Lum 0437 397 066

We pray for all in need especially -

Prayers of the People



Robyn
Pat
Adie & Ally
Katherine's cousin David & Family
Tina, friend of Joan Wood
Phillip (Barbara's nephew)
Barry
Adrian
Anne-Maree, Andrew and their daughter, Rachel
Maria
Helen Cole

Gloria, Samson & Family
Jenny and Janine Bartholomeusz
Anita and Kingsley
Joyce Curnow
Stuart - addiction struggles
Helen & Earle Hosking
Grace & Van Rensberg
Joan's friends Robyn & Jemma
Kath Tondorf
Susan Hoskin
Karen

Mark
Margaret Walker
Joyce Carpenter
Andrew
Bronwyn
Teresa
Sybil Bond
June and Grace Fairbank

We give thanks for those whose prayers have been answered..

WEEKLY OFFERINGS: Thanks to everyone who have continued to make their weekly offering.

Direct Debit: Cheltenham / Mentone members note that direct payments can now be made to our Westpac account at Southland, **BSB number is 033 358, Account Number is 664 881** Payee "UCA Cheltenham Mentone Parish"

SOCIAL COLLECTION DEPARTMENT:

BayCISS - collection of goods by Graeme & Joan Wood has recommenced. Leave goods with them at 66 Bernard St. Cheltenham, or call them on 9555 0462

Emerge - Financial help is the best way to help - Cheques to - GPO Box 420 Melbourne VIC 3001 or donate via the website www.emergesupport.org.au Emerge welcomes vouchers for supermarkets or art materials which children could use at home - materials, pencils, colouring books etc. Margaret Bode is happy to collect items if you leave them at her home, 16 Monaco Street Parkdale. **Donations in an envelope marked EMERGE may be left in the collection plate.**



OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL:

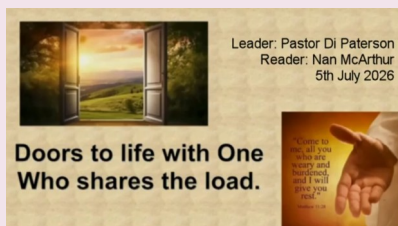


Click on the YouTube logo to view a selection of **over 200** sermons and service preludes

This week's video -

"Doors to Life with One who shares the Load" Pastor Di Paterson 5th May 2026

Click on image or [HERE](#) to view



Church on the Internet - Sunday 10am (virtual doors open 9:45 am)



If you don't have Zoom on your computer/laptop/iPad/Smartphone, click on <https://zoom.us/support/download>

Then click on this link below or the "Sunday Church" image to join our Service

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82004410836?pwd=cU9RWlhVMm8wOUw0TStLV1EvNFdYdz09>

Meeting ID: 820 0441 0836 Passcode: 665 784

You can also join us on your phone by dialling **03 7018 2005** and entering the above meeting details.

Sunday Church
on Zoom



Wise signs of the times ...

