



# UNITING MATTERS



BENDIGO CENTRAL & AXEDALE

UNITING CHURCH

Minister: Rev Di Esbensen

WEEK COMMENCING 8<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2026

<b>St Andrew's Bendigo</b> 26 Myers Street Bendigo, 3550	<b>Forest Street</b> 21 Forest Street Bendigo, 3550	<b>St Andrew's Axedale</b> 80 High Street Axedale, 3551
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*We recognize that we meet on Jaara land, the traditional home of the Dja Dja Wurrung People. With respect we acknowledge their living culture and their unique role in the life of the Region & pray for reconciliation & justice.*

Welcome to the Sunday service for the Bendigo Central & Axedale Uniting Church. We extend you a very warm welcome and invite you to join us for morning tea following the service.

**Today's Services:** 9.30am Worship Service at Forest St led by Rev Di Esbensen  
2.30pm Communion Service at Axedale led by Rev Di Esbensen

## THIS WEEKS UPCOMING EVENTS...

Monday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Labour Day Public Holiday Office Closed
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm Going Deeper at Forest St
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	9am Uniting Threads at St Andrew's – Small Hall
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup>	10am – 1pm Cuppa with Company at Forest St
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup>	9am Meditation Group at St Andrew's
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup>	
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am Worship service at St Andrew's led by Rev Di Esbensen



- **Lectionary readings this week March 8<sup>th</sup> (Lent 3):** Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11; John 4: 5-42
- **Lectionary readings next week March 15<sup>th</sup> (Lent 4):** 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9: 1-41

## SUNDAY MARCH 8<sup>th</sup> DUTY ROSTER – Forest St

**Church Openers and Welcomers:** David and Jenny Shield

**Vestry:** Barb Fordham

**Readings and Prayers:** Judy Causon, Bill Lidgett

**Morning Tea:** Janice West (please bring milk), Susan Clarke, Jenny Bursill

## SUNDAY MARCH 15<sup>th</sup> DUTY ROSTER – St Andrew's

**Church Openers and Welcomers:** Bruce Johnson, Nathan Morsillo

**Vestry:** Gwenda Watson

**Readings and Prayers:** David Shield, Lorraine Castles

**Morning Tea:** Jenny Shield (please bring milk), Marion Allan, Gwenda Pratt

### **Notes from Church Council and Congregational Meetings:**

- At the Congregational Meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, Isabel Thomas Dobson was elected as our Congregational Representative to Presbytery. Isabel brings vast experience to this role, and we thank her for being willing to undertake this task.
- At the February meeting of Church Council, Carol McKinstry was elected as Treasurer, replacing Gwenda Watson who had resigned at the end of 2025. Thank you, Carol, for accepting this important role!
- The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2026. More details will be published closer to the time – please mark the date in your diary!

## NEWS AND NOTEWORTHY...

- **AXEDALE MARCH SERVICES**

The services at St Andrew's Axedale will be on the 2nd and 4th Sundays for this coming month - March 8 and March 22 - at this stage at the usual time of 2-30pm, with Communion on March 8.

- **GOING DEEPER**

Going Deeper will be held at Forest Street vestry on Tuesday March 10th at 7.30 pm. We will continue with 'What do I believe?', by asking at "Who is God?" and "How do I know and share this?"

- **SILVERBAND CAMP – HALL GAP**

This year the annual camp is booked for the weekend of 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> August. Please make a note of this date in your diary and further information will be available closer to the date.

- **INTERFAITH FORUM: CARE OF THE ENVIRONMENT:** Thursday, March 19, from 5.30pm - 7pm, in the Bendigo Library. The forum is to be held in conjunction with the City of Greater Bendigo as part of the Cultural Diversity celebrations. Panellists from 4 different faith groups will discuss what their faith teaches about care of the environment and how this informs the way they live. A Q&A session will follow and light refreshments will be served. This is a free event.

- **UNITING HOUSING PROJECT**

Many of the new residents have now moved into their new homes. If you are wondering what the apartments look like on the inside there is a virtual tour available by clicking this link: <https://www.unithousing.org.au/our-developments/st-andrews-bendigo/>

- **MODERATOR'S EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND**

We have all been shocked by the recent bushfire emergency and many of us are looking for ways to support those whose lives have been upended by this event. While there are numerous ways to assist that some people have already undertaken, it seems that monetary donations which can then be used where they are most needed seem to be particularly effective.

One way in which we can respond is through the Uniting Church's **Moderator's Emergency Response Fund**. The fund has been established in response to the

identified need to be able to react quickly to support communities in times of major disasters, such as bushfires, floods, storms or other crises. As always, Uniting Church communities and our Community Support Agencies have been swift to respond. Where support services are available through Uniting, or indeed any other existing services, these agencies will continue to provide that support. The fund will be accessed primarily to support communities within the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania.

There are a couple of ways in which you may wish to contribute to the fund:

1. By providing a direct donation through their website:  
<https://victas.uca.org.au/product/moderators-emergency-response-fund/>
2. By providing a donation in the retiring offering that will be available for the next three weeks at our Sunday services. These offerings will be passed on directly to the Moderator's Emergency Response Fund.

- **BENDIGO INTERFAITH DINNER:** Thursday 26th March in the **Lansell Room**, All Seasons Hotel and Resort, Mclvor Hwy, Bendigo - **Please NOTE the new venue**

Our guest speaker this year is Bishop Philip Huggins, who has a long association with Interfaith action and dialogue, in particular combatting racism and discrimination.

Bookings are open at just \$65 per ticket thanks to our partners, Remembrance Parks Central Victoria who support the dinner generously.

To book, go to <https://www.trybooking.com/DHJNS>. Tables of 8 are available by booking 8 tickets.

We look forward to seeing you on 26th March and to a great night together.

**St Andrew's** office is normally open Mondays: 8:45am-11:45am, Tuesday and Thursday: 9:00am - 3:00pm. Please contact Belinda Smith on 5441 3100 or email [bendigocentralaxedale.uc@gmail.com](mailto:bendigocentralaxedale.uc@gmail.com)

**Forest Street** office is normally open Thursdays from 11am. Please contact Judy McCarthy at [foreststuca@bigpond.com](mailto:foreststuca@bigpond.com) on 5442 4123 or phone her on 5435 2099 on Wednesdays.

Congregation Website [bendigocentralaxedale.ucavictas.org.au](http://bendigocentralaxedale.ucavictas.org.au)