UNITING MATTERS

BENDIGO CENTRAL & AXEDALE UNITING CHURCH

Minister: Rev Di Esbensen

WEEK COMMENCING 8th NOVEMBER 2026

St Andrew's Bendigo	Forest Street	St Andrew's Axedale
26 Myers Street	21 Forest Street	80 High Street
Bendigo, 3550	Bendigo, 3550	Axedale, 3551

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 service: 9.30am Worship service at St Andrew's led by Rev Geoff Barker. We we'll be celebrating and blessing our Red Dove Op Shop as a mission of our church. The service will be held in the hall.

UPCOMING EVENTS…

Monday 9th	
Tuesday 10th	7.30pm Going Deeper at Forest St
Wednesday 11th	9am Uniting Threads at St Andrew's
Thursday 12th	10am – 1pm Cuppa with Company at Forest St
Friday 13th	9am Meditation Group at St Andrew's
Saturday 14th	
Sunday 15th	9.30am Worship service at Forest St led by Rev Bill Lidgett



- **Lectionary readings this week 8th November (Pentecost 24):** Joshua 24: 1-3a, 14-25; Psalm 78: 1-7; 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18; Matthew 25:1-13
- **Lectionary readings next week 15th November (Pentecost 25):** Judges 4: 1-7; Psalm 123; 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11; Matthew 25:14-30

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 8th DUTY ROSTER – St Andrew's

Church Openers and Welcomers: Nathan Morsillo, Dean Shirley
Vestry: David Shield
Readings and Prayers: Kevin Dobson, Bruce Johnson
Creative Corner: Barb and Glenn Fordham
Morning Tea: Janice West (Please bring milk), Jenny Bursill

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 15th DUTY ROSTER – St Andrew's

Church Openers and Welcomers: Doug and Jeannie Turnbull
Vestry: Judy Causon
Readings and Prayers: Peter Judd, Geoff Barker
Creative Corner: Nathan Morsillo
Morning Tea: Jenny Shield (Please bring milk), Isabel Thomas Dobson, Marion Allan.

IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY…

- **NANCY IS 90**: Our dear friend Nancy Bomford celebrated her 90th birthday on Wednesday November 4th. We will extend Nancy's celebrations on Sunday with a birthday cake at morning tea time. There will also be a card to be signed by those who wish to do so.

NEWS AND NOTEWORTHY…

- **TAIZE SERVICE**
  During the Second World War, a small village in France named Taizé became a refuge for the elderly so they could have some moments of peace. A simple form of worship evolved and the word spread. Worship in the spirit of Taizé now takes place in just about every country of the world and involves tens of thousands of people - particularly the young. The worship is peaceful, mediative and quiet, with a bit of loud joy slipped in! It is ecumenical and welcomes not only Christians but people of all faiths (or even none) under the banner of Christianity. Here in Bendigo, we first became aware of Taizé worship when a Priest was being ordained at Sacred Heart Cathedral in the late 1980s. He had chosen a beautiful and simple Taizé chant to be sung during his Ordination Service. This sparked curiosity and Taizé Worship in Bendigo was born and has been hosted by Catholic, Anglican, Uniting and Salvation Army churches. So please feel welcome to join our simple service here in Bendigo. We currently meet at St. Paul's Anglican Cathedral at 6.30pm on the third Sunday of the month (except June, July, August and January). We would love you to come along.

- **CHURCH PICNIC TEA**

  Sunday November 22nd 4pm onwards
  249 Sugarloaf Road, Axedale.

  BYO Fingerfood and drinks to share (bring an esky to free up table space), a picnic chair, and dress for the weather.
  Activities to choose will include baking bread rolls, table tennis, a conversational boardgames, music making (we have a piano), skittles, bocce, a walk around the property or up the ridge, and a swim in the dam…. or simply yearning in the shade.
  Contact Tim on 0400383628 if you need more info. With daylight saving you will still be home before dark.

- **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENTS**
  Uniting are running a number of Community Engagement events for the residents over the next few months and they invite interested members of the congregation to come along, meet the residents and join in on the fun. If you are interested please contact either Bree King (Senior Community Housing Officer) bree.king@vt.uniting.org or Ben Giraud (Community Engagement Lead) ben.giraud@vt.uniting.org and they will be able to give you the details of how you can be involved. Upcoming events are:
  - 29/10/26 - Halloween and movie afternoon
  - 16/12/26 - Christmas celebrations
  - 24/3/27 - Harmony Day

- **REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR CHRISTMAS HAMPER 2026**

  Last year the hampers were a great success with sixty-two hampers being distributed to needy families. Thank you to everyone who put together a hamper. They looked great in church the Sunday before being distributed.

  I think Rev Di's prayer to send them on their way was a good endorsement of us loving one another!

  This year I am suggesting a new way of assembling the hampers.

  The idea is that each week, for ten weeks, people bring one item for a hamper. For Example, week one everyone brings a packet of biscuits; week two everyone brings a soft drink etc.

  By week ten we would have some fine hampers.

  If you are happy to prepare a hamper during Advent as usual that would be great too. You certainly don't have to do both! Many thanks Jenny Bursill.

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

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

Congregation Website bendigocentralaxedale.ucavictas.org.au