

## CHURCH COUNCIL

### Executive:

Chairperson BOB LOCKLEY  
Secretary ANN BARNES  
Treasurer RAELENNE ASHMAN

### Congregational Reps:

Rev John Dihm  
Norm Green [Grapevine and Website] Gloria Green  
Karen Bain Jodie Dewar  
Irene Beddis Annie Chipfunde

CHURCH CONTACT  
NUMBER:  
0407579349

UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

# THE GRAPEVINE

## FEBRUARY 2026

NORTHAM CONGREGATION

103 Duke Street, NORTHAM, Western Australia 6401



WORSHIP 9.30am  
1st and 3rd Sundays

NEWS - ROSTERS - CHURCH INFORMATION

EVENTS

**HOLY COMMUNION** is on the first Sunday of each month.  
**BETHAVON & THE RESIDENCY (JUNIPER RESIDENTIAL & COMMUNITY CARE )** are supported with pastoral care to the residents, family and staff of Juniper Northam.  
**NORTHAM CONGREGATION** gives financial support for Chaplaincy in local schools.  
**CHAPLAINCY (DONATION DAY)** is the first Sunday of each month.  
(Collect the marked envelopes in the Church foyer.)  
**CAFE FELLOWSHIP** every third Sunday of the month.

## EVENTS

**AGM SUNDAY 15TH FEBRUARY** combined with Cafe Fellowship.  
Please advise Ann if you have any agenda items or are prepared to stand for any of the Executive Council positions.

## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FRIDAY MARCH 6TH

10am at the church

Please tell Ann if you are able to assist with morning tea and/or are willing to assist with reading during the service if needed.

## SUMMER SPIRIT 2026

Walking Together,  
Covenanting Together  
20 & 21 February 2026

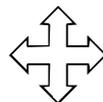


- Friday 20 February (evening) -Lake Gwelup
- Saturday 21 February (day) - All Saints Floreat Uniting Church

**SATURDAY 7 FEBRUARY**, 9.30am to 2.30pm. **Simplicity - Stillness and Silence** at Glen Forrest Uniting Church.

**WEDNESDAY 18 FEBRUARY.** Ash Wednesday.

**MONDAY 2 MARCH.** Labour Day Public Holiday



## \* VALÉ LAURA \*

Laura Fox passed away at Bethavon on Wednesday 14th January. Our love and prayers are extended to the Fox family.

Her funeral will be held on Wednesday 11th February 0930 at Bridgeley, followed by burial at the Northam Cemetery.

Laura, with the help of her family, used to have a dawn service on Easter Sunday each year, on the family property (see photo) until she could no longer manage it. Many people came from all over the area, including the Perth metro, for the iconic event.

We give thanks for Laura's life of giving within the Uniting Church and in the wider community, as an Elder, Chairperson, Secretary, member of Presbytery and Synod, and friend to many.



LAURA on her 90th Birthday



Ready for the Dawn Service at Fox Farm

## BIBLE READERS

1 Feb Jenny Kelly  
 15 Feb Pat Yandell  
 1 Mar Bob Lockley

## PREACHING

1 Feb H.C. Rev John Dihm  
 15 Feb C/F Ann Barnes

## PRAYERS PLEASE

FOR:

Rev. John and Marilyn,  
 Lorna and John,  
 Maurice and Claire,  
 Bev and Owen  
 and Judith.



## INVITATION

**News and Notes** seeks to be a helpful source of news, information, resources and events from the Uniting Church in WA and beyond. We gather information from our Uniting Church community in Western Australia and nationally, as well as from our Agencies and ecumenical partners. It is sent out every Monday afternoon to our subscribers and is a great way to keep in touch with the wider church.

If you would like to receive them go to the website:

<https://unitingchurchwa.org.au/> and scroll down to 'Stay in the Loop', then fill in your email address and click the blue 'Subscribe to the Newsletter' button.

## A BIT OF POLITICS from AI

Who is right?

The side that:

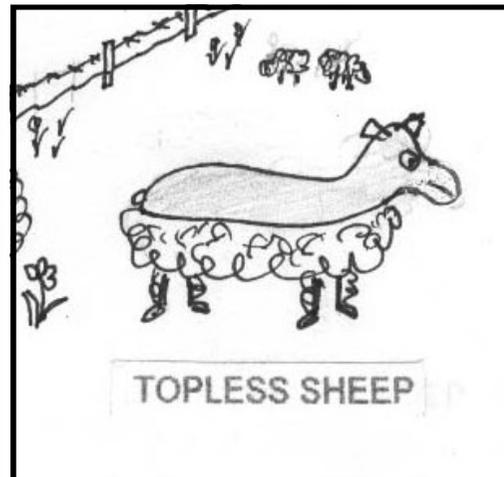
- understands the problem clearly
- uses evidence instead of emotion
- learns from history
- adapts when reality changes
- avoids extremes
- focuses on outcomes, not ideology

Sometimes that's the Left.

Sometimes that's the Right.

Sometimes it's neither. (MSCoPilot)

(However, it was pointed out that a wife is always right!)



## UNITING CHURCH BUILDINGS & ATTENDANCE

A 2025 report noted that the Uniting Church is losing members faster than most other denominations, leading to:

- 1 in 10 Victorian Uniting Church buildings being sold
- Around 80 buildings listed for sale over five years
- 20 abandoned sanctuaries sold in the previous 12 months alone

These sales reflect shrinking attendance and rising costs.

## MIND GAMES

I've not lost my mind - half of it just wandered off and the other half has gone looking for it!

## EVERYTHING IN COMMON GIFT CATALOGUE

Recently I was told that there was a mix up with a particular gift request. Instead of giving a bag of goat poo to an Indonesian family and a thank you card to someone's grandchild in Australia, they got it the wrong way around! (Believe it if you will!)

## THE EPIC OF GILGAMESH

The Epic of Gilgamesh is, perhaps, the oldest written story on Earth. It comes to us from Ancient Sumeria, and was originally written on 12 clay tablets in cuniefom script. It is about the adventures of the historical King of Uruk (somewhere between 2750 and 2500 BCE).

I have a photographic memory. Unfortunately it is out of film!

## PSALM 15:1-2 NRSV

(1) O Lord who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your Holy hill?  
 (2) Those who walk blameless and do what is right and speak truth from the heart.



BIBLE  
 READING

## POPULATIONS

Bangladesh has 36 million more people in the population than Russia, which is 115 times larger than Bangladesh!

**A CHEESE FACTORY** exploded in France. Now De Brie is everywhere.

## OPINIONS FLAGGED

In a Roy Morgan poll, 61% of Australians surveyed say we should keep the current National Flag. Only 39% wanted a new design.

It was hard to believe that my dad stole from his job as a road worker but when I got home, all the signs were there.

I don't understand why we need Birth Certificates. I swear I was born.

What does a storm cloud wear under it's coat? *Thunderwear!* (Groan)

How does the Ocean say "Hi"? *It waves!*

Why did the Teddy Bear say no to dessert? *Because it was stuffed!*

What do you call a guy who's really loud? *Mike.*

What social event do spiders love to attend? *-Webbings!*

## HYBRID AND ELECTRIC CARS

From 1st January 2026 all of these vehicles need to have a small plate attached to both registration plates to denote it has a battery power pack. *WA Government*