

Who are we?

Uniting Faith and Families is a faith community formed from a group of families from all over Victoria, who gather once a year for an annual camp over the March long weekend.

We play music, cook together, learn more about what it means to live out our faith, share our lives with each other, play games and engage in times of worship.

We are families of all types, ages and sizes, from those including young children to those with adult children.

Some families also gather in person at other times such as attending the Palm Sunday Rally in the City together, gathering for worship and lunch in a regional location and for other events across the year.

Many families also gather regularly online via 'zoom' for a monthly **Saturday Morning Brunch** – which includes fun, input, discussion and sharing together. Other online gatherings include discussions, book groups or idea sharing opportunities.

A steering committee meets monthly to provide governance and direction. People are elected to the steering committee each year at camp. **Uniting Faith and Families** also currently employs a part-time project worker to keep things happening.

Why do we exist?

It's challenging to find ways of practicing faith as a family when everyone is busy, when kids don't have friends who go to church, and when you are the only family who attends your local congregation.

But we can come together throughout the year and support each other. We find ways of sharing faith that feels relevant to where we are at, and meaningful for our lives and how we live them. That's how we began and why we continue.

Spiritual disciplines



As we stay connected we encourage each other in various spiritual disciplines such as prayer and contemplation, and ways of supporting our children to grow in their relationship with God and the Christian faith.



"Without my faith I don't know what else I'm leaning on other than myself and its exhausting – by being part of this community, I get to do that with others which enables me to do lots of things better"

"I'm looking to understand others better and feel like everything belongs"

"It's a space to connect with others living modern issues in their life"

*"Family camp is an opportunity to **BE** in a supportive community space without having to **DO**"*

"Family camp is fun – better than normal church"

"It provides a supportive environment for growth and deeper connections"

What we believe

We are called to be God's authentic people who are filled with hope and courage - who trust that life is oriented toward good.

We are called to be present to God's Spirit living in us and through the complexities in our own lives and communities.

We are called to be truthful disciples who live in the tension between personal and political engagement. Fear will not dominate. We will see Christ in our neighbours and respectfully challenge injustice.

We are connected to God's energy and filled with light and hope. We stand alongside others in love and live together in community.



Becoming involved

We welcome those who would like to be involved in any of our events or gatherings – Families of all sizes, ages and types are welcome!



Contact

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Uniting Faith and Families Community



a Faith Community
within the Uniting Church in Australia
Synod of Victoria and Tasmania
Port Phillip West Presbytery