



Bathurst Uniting Church

Sharing God's love by connecting people to God;
people to people; and people to community.

Newsletter Sunday, 7 June 2020

Physical Distance – Social Connection – Community Care

Sunday Worship: 7 June 2020

Resources for this Sunday's worship will be available by Sunday morning on the website bathurstunitingchurch.com.au including a printed liturgy and video to download.

Virtual morning tea will be at 11am on Zoom

'Sunday at 5' on Zoom

Our informal evening 'Sunday @ 5' service meets via Zoom at 5.00pm each Sunday evening. If you'd like to join us, click on this link

<https://zoom.us/j/640626609>
or enter the Meeting ID 640 626 609 in the Zoom app.

All welcome!

Staying Connected

For pastoral support, please contact your Pastoral Partner, or one of the Elders, or email BUCconnect@gmail.com and we'll put you in touch with someone.

The Challenge of Living Out our Faith in our Community.

The broken and weary ones of the world are with us in every family, every community and every neighbourhood. The broken and weary ones are us, and those we live with. This is why Christ's invitation is such a wonderful, life-giving promise. We need only believe that rest can truly be found in a Christ-following life. We need only be committed enough to Christ's invitation that we will not keep it to ourselves, but seek to share it with those around us. It is when we open our arms and the doors of our churches to all – whoever they may be or however we may disagree with them – that we offer rest, instead of the burden of judgement and guilt. It is when we live simply and generously, resisting the temptation to hoard, accumulate and consume more than we need that we bring rest to those who struggle to survive each day. It is when we work within our community to bring change to unjust laws, to take notice of the hurting and vulnerable ones, and to welcome those with whom we would normally not associate that we bring rest to others. These actions make no sense to those who benefit from and buy into the world's systems, but they are the only ones that bring life and grace and liberation to all – both those who do them and those who benefit from them. Perhaps it's time that the Church stopped trying to be wise in the world's eyes (or even wiser than the world but on the world's terms), and embraced a childlike naivety and a gracious, inclusive openness that can offer an alternative way of being in this often burdensome world.

John Van de Laar

This week we read together:

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67: Isaac's servant goes back to Abraham's homeland to find a wife for him. He meets Rebekah, who responds according to the sign he had asked of God, and so he brings her back to Isaac who marries her.

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30: Jesus laments the resistance and misunderstanding of those who judged both John and him, and gives thanks that God reveals wisdom only to the childlike. Then he invites those who are burdened to come to him and receive rest.

COVID 19 UPDATE - RETURN TO WORSHIP

The Covid19 Response team has met and considered the recommendations from the Uniting Church NSW/ACT Synod and the NSW Government regarding face-to-face worship, and their desire for caution in resuming such worship. They have recommended that we do not meet face-to-face at this stage as there are strict requirements which need to be met and many of things that we love to do together, such as singing and morning tea, are not possible.

We will continue to produce services on-line, DVD, USB and in printed form.

Church Council will discuss the next steps at their next meeting on Monday 8th and there will be more details in the next newsletter.

In the meantime if you would like to discuss this further contact BUConnect@gmail.com or ring Julie.

VIRTUAL MORNING TEA

We meet for Virtual Morning Tea (via Zoom) every **Sunday morning at 11.00am**: everyone welcome to join us! Simply click on this link:

<https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/98096879145>

or enter the meeting ID 980-9687-9145 in the app.

LAST SUNDAY'S FINAL MORNING TEA WITH REV CLAIRE



Lots of people came to last Sunday's Zoom morning tea and everyone took the opportunity to say a thank you to Claire for some of the special things she had done for them. It was a happy time but tinged with sadness...there may have been a few muffled tears!

SPECIAL MOMENTS AT PERTHVILLE WITH REV. CLAIRE



As a member of the Perthville Congregation there were many great memories of Claire.

- The Harvest Festivals that she took the services of and the fun we had at the auction of goods.
- The fifth Sundays with combined services with Blayney, Neville, Hobbys Yards, Oberon and Perthville. Wonderful gatherings. Alas, not for long.
- My memory of Claire sitting on the steps at Hobbys Yards Church talking for some time to two small girls and the precious time she gave to them.
- The time we held a special service which included some nuns from the Perthville Convent and the highlight when Claire at the RSL presented a cheque to the Salvos at their annual Christmas party. For me, a moment to remember always.
- In Bathurst last year for the first time to see Palm Sunday and the Easter services. The work that she did and the use of people during that week blew me away.

To you Claire – All the best for you as you start your new challenge in the Taree area. May God go with you and keep you safe and health. May your gifts of music, song and service organisations continue on in this new area.

Brian Cowan – May 2020

Dates for your Diary

Please note that – despite the NSW Government’s easing of restrictions – all ‘in-person’ events and groups of our Church *continue to be suspended* until further notice, following guidance from Presbytery and Synod. Our priority is not ‘resuming activity’, but ensuring the safety and well-being of our church family and community. (See the full-page *Notice: Update on Gatherings* on the website for more details.)

Photos for the Bathurst Uniting Church webpage, social media and newsletter

If you are happy for photos of you to be included on the Bathurst Uniting Church webpage, social media and in the newsletter, please email YES to BUCconnect@gmail.com. Most of the photos have been taken by Sharynne and she will only include ones where you look good!

The Newsletter

The Newsletter will continue to be sent out (and posted on the Website) weekly with updates and resources.

Please contact Ruth at BUCconnect@gmail.com if you wish to be added to the e-mailing list – or to submit prayer requests or good news stories of how you are staying connected and active!

Prayer Matters

We pray together:

- For wisdom and care in our communities as the country ‘opens up’
- For our Shelter Café, its volunteers and guests
- For each other and for your neighbour – whether known to you or unknown

Remember to contact your Pastoral Partner or one of the Elders if you’d like to pray with someone – or contact BUCconnect@gmail.com

‘What’s good about it?’

The Coronavirus Report Team has compiled a report for Church Council about the *good things* that have arisen from the current situation – the lessons learned, the tools developed, the spirit adopted, the good habits embedded – that we’d like to see *carry on* (at least in some form) after the current crisis has ended.

If you have seen or experienced things you have really *liked* or *valued* about this difficult time, we’d love to know. What Good Things from this time would you like to see us maintain as part of the ‘New Normal’ – that might get lost if we just slip back into the ‘Old Normal’?

Email BUCconnect@gmail.com with your responses, and we’ll build them into our report

‘With glad and generous hearts’ (Acts 2:46)

Even though we aren’t physically attending worship, please remember that we rely heavily on your generosity in making regular financial offerings, to enable us to continue to minister to you, and our networks and neighbours - *especially* in a time of widespread distress.

Money can be deposited by calling into any branch of the Westpac Bank and depositing to

BSB: 634634

Account No: 100027964

Account Name: Bathurst City – Giving Direct

Internet transfers can also be processed to this account. Alternatively contact BUCconnect@gmail.com to obtain a Direct Debit form to send to Uniting Financial Services