



Bathurst Uniting Church

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

Newsletter Sunday, 19 July 2020

Physical Distance - Social Connection - Community Care

'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!

Sunday Morning Worship: 19 July 2020

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

Theme: Growing relationships

For many people the Church has not been seen as a place of hope. Rather it has been seen as a place which offers hope only to a select few, while condemning the rest of the world to hell. The list of reasons and causes that Christians offer for why others are not acceptable to God is long, and seems to grow constantly. However, the Lectionary offers an alternative narrative this week. While Jesus does speak about weeds and wheat, he does not allow the weeds to be pulled up, because they may not be recognised, and some wheat may appear to be weeds. Only God, when the time comes, has the ability and the right to make this distinction. In our time, we are called to live together – "wheat" and "weeds" together – trusting in the hope that the time will come when evil and injustice are removed from our world. What this means is that we cannot judge anyone as "weeds" or "wheat", because we might be seeing wrongly and missing what God knows about the heart. All that is left for us, then, is to embrace our hope and make it available to all. This means that we can welcome those we might be tempted to exclude, we can support and defend those who are vulnerable and marginalised, we can support those who are in need, and we can live – in our communities and our homes – the inclusive, gracious, merciful and generous hope that God offers us. The question this raises for us is this: in what ways can our worship this week proclaim God's hope and help us to live it through the week? In what ways can we, as a community called by the name of Christ, demonstrate the hope of God's reign in our worship and our mission? And, in what ways can we hold out this hope for others, inviting them to share it with us, without seeking to make judgements prematurely?

John Van de Laar

<https://sacredise.com/lectionary-resources/proper-9a/>

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.

LECTIONARY READINGS

Genesis 28:10-19a: Psalm 139:1-12,23-24:

Romans 8:12-25: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43:

Staying Connected

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

Meet the congregation

Each week we plan to learn more about someone from the congregation. One will be included each week so who will be next?

Send in your answers to these questions and a photo to BUCconnect@gmail.com so people can meet you:

- 1. When did you move to Bathurst and where else have you lived?**
- 2. What do you enjoy about Bathurst?**
- 3. What do you enjoy about going to Bathurst Uniting Church?**
- 4. What is something lots of people know about you?**
- 5. What is something not many people know about you**

Ellie

1. When did you move to Bathurst and where else have you lived?

I was born at Denistone East in Sydney and lived there until I was five years old. My parents who were both teachers went as missionaries to Fiji in 1954. I attended the grammar school in Suva with my brother and my Dad was principal of Lelean Memorial High School for six years. In 1960 we returned to Australia and after a year in Sydney my Dad became a minister in the Methodist Church.

His first appointment was Grenfell where I started high school and then after two years we moved to Armidale for five years. After doing the first HSC in 1967 we moved to Sydney where I did an Advanced Secretarial Course and then went to work at ATN Channel 7 for the Film Director. It was while I was working there that I saw the first man walk on the moon. Brian and I were married in 1970 so that was when we moved to Bathurst.

2. What do you enjoy about Bathurst?

I love Bathurst. I first worked as secretary to the City Engineer at Bathurst City Council for three years and then we started our family.

Karen and Tanya were born here and then we moved to Tamworth with Brian's work where Nicky was born. We were so pleased to move back to Bathurst because we love the people, four seasons and the musical and educational opportunities. I was able to start my primary teaching degree at CSU in 1985 which I really loved and to do my practical teaching in so many schools in Bathurst.

3. What do I enjoy about going to Bathurst Uniting Church?

I love being part of Bathurst Uniting Church because we are a multi-cultural church. Growing up in Fiji I have always felt close to people from the Pacific. Our Uniting Church in Bathurst started Lifeline, Seymour Centre, Uniting Safe Space and is now involved with Refugees.

Children and young families have always been my passion and working with a great KUCA team, PALS and baptismal families has been great. Thank you everyone.

4. What is something lots of people know about you?

Most people know that I love working with children and young families. As well as working with KUCA and PALS, I teach SRE at Bathurst Public and Eglinton Public Schools. Music is also a great love of mine and I love doing the Kids Praise Musicals that we do with our KUCA Kids at the end of each year. I am also a member of Eclectica, a wonderful choir led by Tracey Callinan from Arts Out West.

5. What is something not many people know about you?

My great great grandfather, John Charles White whose plaque is in our church was a lay preacher in this church, editor of Bathurst Free Press from 1858-1882 and a wonderful orator who was trusted and revered by the whole Bathurst Community. He is now a pillar of Bathurst.



Report from COVID Response Team

Following careful consideration we have agreed that we will not gather in the church at this time, and will revisit this decision in August.

The particular reasons that we took into account were:

- We have many elderly folk
- We are not allowed to sing at present
- The weather is very cold
- People are engaging really well with our online services and if we streamed any gathered worship it would not be as good as the current recording.

We are considering having a gathering in Machattie Park similar to Claire's farewell.

Could people please provide feedback on whether Saturday 1st August or Sunday 2nd August would be your preference to:

Email: BUConnect@gmail.com or phone Julie.



Brian Mowbray Chairperson ,Church Council

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 BUConnect@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 BUConnect@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’ or ‘closes down’ as the situation with Covid 19 develops.
- For all of us as we hear news of fresh outbreaks of the virus and wonder what that means for the future.
- For those who are facing economic hardship as businesses struggle and jobs are lost.
- For those in Aged Care who are still living with restrictions on visits and are feeling isolated and anxious.
- 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 BUConnect@gmail.com

‘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 BUConnect@gmail.com to obtain a Direct Debit form to send to Uniting Financial Services