



# Bathurst Uniting Church

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

**Newsletter** Sunday, 16 August

Physical Distance - Social Connection - Community Care

## **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 Zoom app.

## **Sunday Morning Worship: 16 August 2020**

Resources for this Sunday's worship will be available by Sunday morning on the website <http://www.bathurstunitingchurch.com.au/blog/> including a video to download.

### **LECTIONARY READINGS:**

**Genesis 45:1-15**

**Psalm 133:**

**Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32:**

**Matthew 15:(10-20), 21-28:** Jesus explains that it is not what we eat that defiles us but the evil that is in our hearts. Then he is approached by a Canaanite woman who convinces him, in spite of his initial reluctance, to heal her daughter who is being tormented by a demon.

## **'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!

## **REFELECTION ON LECTORY READINGS**

The work of justice and compassion is often framed in negative and alarmist ways. Poverty is a problem because of the deaths it causes; climate change could destroy us; war brings about tremendous grief, trauma and social ills. It is right that these realities should cause us outrage. It is also good, though, to emphasise the blessings that mercy and justice offer, if we will only embrace them. Here is where the Lectionary speaks powerfully to us this week. God's welcome – and the diverse communities that we discover as we share it – brings great gifts of creativity and growth, and so we can be inspired to be people of inclusion who welcome all people, including "foreigners and outcasts". God's salvation – God's gift of wholeness and mercy – does not just save us from our sin and brokenness and injustice. It also leads us into a life of vibrancy, abundance and fulfilment. If the motivation for seeking God's reign and working for justice is only our fear and our outrage, we will easily find ourselves falling into despondency, despair and bitterness. When, however, we remember, along with our outrage, the blessing (to use the word from our readings today) that God offers through God's salvation and justice, this dream inspires, energises and encourages us in ways that can sustain us when dark times come. So, the challenge for us this week is to reflect on the world and celebrate both the blessings of God that we see and experience already, and also to celebrate the possibilities that await us as we gather all people, and together open ourselves to God's saving work. As hard as justice and inclusivity can be, they give us many reasons to rejoice and they give us many blessings to be thankful for. Let's take time to focus on these this week.

John Van de Laar

<https://sacredise.com/lectionary-resources/proper-15a/>

## **Staying Connected**

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

## **Reminiscing about our church's history**

At our weekly morning tea, we have enjoyed sharing stories from our past about going to church, Sunday school, picnics, concerts, fêtes, and other events.

This week Norm has provided a photo of the young people at the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the William St Methodist Church (now called Bathurst Uniting Church) (1960). Norm has named a number of the people in the photo (see below). Take particular note of the handsome young man in the middle of the middle row!

Do you know the names of the others in the photo? If you do, please send the names to [BUCconnect@gmail.com](mailto:BUCconnect@gmail.com). Write something like "Middle row (2) is John Smith"

We plan to share more historical photos from our church in future newsletters (and possibly on our website).



**Back row:** (1) Ron Maddox, (2) Rod Wells, (3) ? (4) ? (5) ? (6) ? (7) Brian Letcher

**Middle row:** (1) ? (2) ? (3) Anne Morle, (4) Ron Pearce, (5) Mrs Roberts (6) Norm Sweetnam (7) ? (8) ? (9) Dorothy Millard (10) E. A. Roberts

**Front row:** (1) Peggy Taylor (2) ? (3) Mary Ann Stroud (4) ? (5) ? (6) Pat Hanson (7) Judith Paul (8) Joy Callan

## **Prayer Matters**

We pray together:

- For the people of Lebanon .
- For all health care workers as they do their best for their patients in difficult times.
- 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](mailto:BUCconnect@gmail.com)**

## **Meet the congregation**

Each week we are learning more about someone from the congregation. One will be included each week so who will be next?

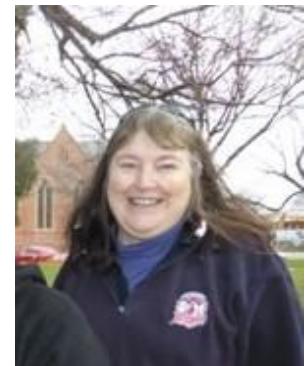
Send in your answers to these questions and a photo to [BUCconnect@gmail.com](mailto:BUCconnect@gmail.com) so people can meet you:

- 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 ?**

**Jennie**

### **When did you move to Bathurst and where else have you lived?**

I moved to Bathurst in December 1985 and started my job in January 1986 at a firm of solicitors after their Christmas shutdown. I went to school at Yeoval (west of here) until Year 10 and then Wellington for HSC. I then went to Canberra CAE for three years to study and then reluctantly left uni as I had finished my degree and had to be a grown up. I worked in offices in Brisbane and Adelaide before moving to Bathurst.



### **What do you enjoy about Bathurst?**

I only moved to Bathurst because I had met Ray at that time and he suggested I move to Bathurst rather than Melbourne, which was my original plan. I honestly could be living anywhere but this is where I am. Although I loved being at CCAE, again it could have been anywhere. My heart will always be in Yeoval.

### **What do you enjoy about going to Bathurst Uniting Church?**

It is actually the people I am finding I am missing far more than sitting up in a Church service, so it has to be the support and friendship I receive from the attendees of Church. Having the Bible Study Group each Monday is just wonderful even if in Zoom format. I also like that it is OK to say ‘no’ to doing something if you are unable to do it at the time.

### **What is something lots of people know about you?**

Everyone knows the close bond between Nikki, Stacey and I and that during wintertime we rarely get to Church with sporting commitments for Nik and Stace as not being there for them to watch them play is not an option. Which led to my famous comment ‘I am only a Summertime Christian’ which was not what I meant at all .. I meant to say ‘I can only attend Church regularly during Summer’ .

### **What is something not many people know about you ?**

Although I moved here in December 1985, I was actually born in Bathurst. My parents were both born here and were locals all their lives until they were married. Mum had trained at the hospital and she wanted my brother and I to be born in the hospital where she trained.

### **WANTED : Your own photos and stories of Harvest Festivals, flowers, vegetables etc. required**

The theme for the service on Sunday 13th September is “Land”. It is part of the Seasons of Creation series during September. Sharynne will be leading the service, and would like to feature photographs and stories of Harvest Festivals you have been involved in, as well as photos of any flowers, vegetables, plants or farmland that are special to you. Please either send a copy of your photo and accompanying explanation or story to Sharynne via [bucconnect@gmail.com](mailto:bucconnect@gmail.com) or you can drop your photo into her letterbox and she will return it (If you drop in a hard copy don’t forget to include your name and address).

The last date for receiving the photos and stories is end of August so there is time to incorporate them for the service.

## 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.)

## Making masks for others

Are you interested in being in a group to make masks using the guidelines from the Government for distribution to people at the Uniting Safe Shelter Café, the Condobolin UAIICC congregation and people in our own congregation who may like to have a washable mask?

Here are the guidelines from the Australian Government: <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/how-to-make-cloth-mask>

Here are the guidelines from NSW Health: <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/factsheets/Pages/how-to-make-a-cloth-mask.aspx>

You don't need to be able to sew to be in the group. You could be the person who:

- \* has fabric/elastic at your house for others to use
  - \* cuts fabric
  - \* threads elastic
  - \* prints off information
  - \* delivers/posts the masks
  - \* organises the group
- OR \* sews the masks

Please contact Sharynne [\(bucconnect@csu.edu.au\)](mailto:bucconnect@csu.edu.au) if you are interested and we'll work out our plan once we know who is interested. (Sharynne has a lot of fabric that may be suitable)

## 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](mailto: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!

## '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](mailto:BUCconnect@gmail.com) to obtain a Direct Debit form to send to Uniting Financial Services