



Bathurst Uniting Church

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

Newsletter Sunday, 23 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 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.

Sunday Morning Worship: 23 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.

Theme: 'What kind of people does God use?'

Bible Reading: Romans 12: 2-21

² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. ³ For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. ⁴ For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. ⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your^[a] faith; ⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸ if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead,^[b] do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

⁹ Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. ¹¹ Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. ¹² Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. ¹³ Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position.^[c] Do not be conceited.

¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹ Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay,"^[d] says the Lord. ²⁰ On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.

In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."^[e] ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

The Worship Service today is being led by Monday Lunchtime Bible Study: Lilian, Janet, John, Meryl, Rocelyn, Leila

MESSAGES FROM THE COMMUNITY

Thank You Card from Bathurst Academy of Dance

The Bathurst Academy of Dance lease our South Bathurst property in Rocket Street. During the earlier lock down for the Coronavirus pandemic the Church agreed not to accept any money for that period of time.

The Bathurst Academy of Dance has sent the Church a "Thank You" card noting their gratitude for the Church's "generosity, patience and understanding – helping to keep their small business afloat."

They also sent a box of chocolates which have been given to the Uniting Safe Shelter Café to give to their clients.

Smart Recovery Group

The Smart Recovery Group, run by the local Drug and Alcohol Team, has been meeting in our Activities Hall for the last month. I was at their meeting this morning and the leader asked how they were feeling about meeting in the church hall and I was delighted by the responses. They feel the hall is much more comfortable than the hospital room they used to meet in, but more importantly, they feel that they aren't judged when they come to the church hall as no-one is watching them come in or at the meeting. There were no negative feelings expressed at all and they asked that I pass onto the church how much they are enjoying the meeting space. It is great to be able to use our facilities for important groups such as this one.

Julie

NEWS from BRYAN

An update from Kaye:

I'm sure many of you will remember Bryan (affectionately known as Chinese Bryan) who was part of our Church family some years ago, until he had to return to China to be with his Mum. (It was his Mum who made the beautiful tapestry which hangs in the church foyer)

Through the wonders of Facebook I was in contact with Bryan a couple of weeks ago and thought I would pass on his message:

"G'day Kaye! It's been a long time. I post this video to reassure those who care about me, I am safe and happy in China, though there is flood and plague in this country, I am not afraid, because I trust in Jesus. I shall not be harmed. Many churches have been torn down in China, my church has been shut down for half a year for security reasons, tyranny in China is witnessed by the whole world, God is exerting His power in my country. I miss all of my brothers and sisters in Bathurst, and my Perth family. ...Beautiful places in Australia don't attract me, it is all of you guys that make me feel nostalgic."

Prayer Matters

We pray together:

- For the people of Melbourne who have now been in lockdown for several weeks and are struggling with the isolation and disruption.
- For the families of the many people who have lost loved ones from Covid .
- For all health and aged care workers.
- 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

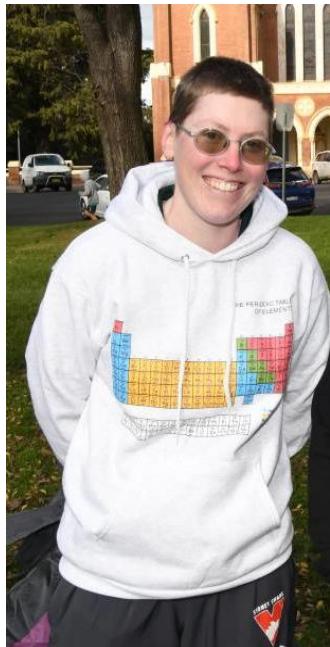
Meet the congregation

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 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 ?

Nikki



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

I actually don't live in Bathurst – Wallerawang is my home. I was born in Bathurst and lived there until I went to ANU in Canberra for uni in 2008. I spent four years there before moving back in with Mum and Dad in December 2011. I got my job as a Chemist at the Power Station in April 2012 and moved to Wang in May 2012. I have been here ever since.

What do you enjoy about Bathurst?

I probably should say my family, but honestly the best thing about Bathurst is the Bathurst 1000 Race Week. This is my favourite week of the year and I spend it all at the track watching the Supercars.

What do you enjoy about going to Bathurst Uniting Church?

We really are a family. We can laugh together and cry together. I feel like I have 50 Grandparents I absolutely love seeing each week and giving a big hug to. It is really hard not having that at the moment.

What is something lots of people know about you?

Everyone knows that I am SPORTS MAD!!!! Everything revolves around my beloved Swans...I think everyone can tell if they won or lost based on my mood without even having to ask. I currently play hockey, golf, netball, futsal and touch but over the years I have played just about everything else. I will watch any sport on TV.

What is something not many people know about you?

Other than sport, my biggest hobby is collecting and building Lego. I am not creative at all, so I build the sets. I am currently working on a Mack Truck which is pretty cool because it looks like the one Dad owned.

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 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.)

UNITING SAFE SHELTER CAFÉ UPDATE

The Café has now been running for 50 days – Thursday to Sunday each week. It now runs from the Shelter space.

The average number of guests per day is between 3 and 4 although the number has recently increased to between 4 and 8. We are continuing to purchase meals from local cafes so that all health requirements are met.

We are supported by 25 community volunteers and 13 paramedic student volunteers.

We have given out around twenty sleeping bags as well as clothing and blankets when needed.

The café will continue to run through September and a decision will be made in September about how long to continue.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the café in a variety of ways.

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THIS WEEK:

Exodus 1:8-2:10:

Psalm 124:

Romans 12:1-8

Matthew 16:13-20:

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!

'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