



Bathurst Uniting Church

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

Newsletter Sunday 18 October 2020

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?pwd=S3ArMXVkJMkp1UXJ2ZCtaNjMveXd6UT09>

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

'Sunday at 6' on Zoom

Our informal evening 'Sunday @ 6' service meets via Zoom at 6.00pm 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 BUConnect@gmail.com and we'll put you in touch with someone.

Sunday Morning Worship: 18 October 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: Giving our Life over to God.

Scripture Readings

- Psalm 96: 1 – 9
- 1 Thessalonians 1: 1 – 10
- Matthew 22: 15 – 22

One of the most important questions we face as we seek to follow Christ and manifest God's reign in our world in some way, is how we respond to the God we're seeking to serve. All of the readings this week challenge us to keep God in the place in our lives and thoughts that is rightfully God's.. In the Psalm people of all nations are called to honour and worship God as God deserves, and in the epistle, the Thessalonian Christians are celebrated for their faithful worship and service of God and God's purposes which reveals their true acknowledgement of God. In the light of all this, Jesus' response to the attempted entrapment of the religious leaders is a powerful and challenging word. Where they have missed God and God's new, creative work among them, and have fallen into domesticating God to their purposes, Jesus challenges them to put God into the proper place of sovereignty and majesty in their lives. Essentially Jesus turns their question on its head and bypasses the tax question, confronting the leaders with the insignificance of things like taxation in the face of God's greater claim on our worship and our lives. In a faith culture in which it is often popular for God to be reduced to simply a divine friend, or "the man up there", or a "higher" part of ourselves, this call to recognise God's transcendence is important and life-giving.

Reflection from John Van de Laar <https://sacredise.com/proper-24a/>

There will be a **GATHERING IN MACHATTIE PARK** at 1pm this Saturday 17 October. The current limitations will apply.

The gathering must not exceed 20 people. Small groups may be asked to move away a little if there are too many people.

There will be a sign on sheet and sanitizer.

Please wear a face mask if possible.

Great News!

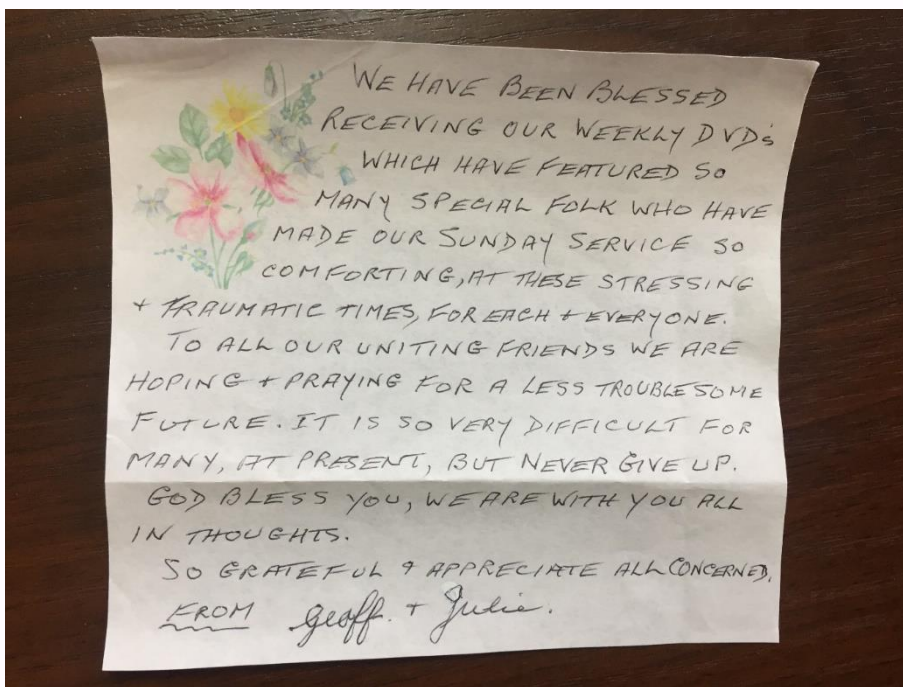
Our Church will be regathering for worship, face to face from Sunday 8th November. We are really looking forward to seeing each other again.

This regathering will be subject to strict adherence to all the conditions relating to being COVID Safe.

- Masks are to be worn
- Those attending can sit in the Galleries as well as Downstairs to maintain the separation of 1.5M as required
- No singing
- Communion will be celebrated in such a way that all conditions for COVID Safety are maintained
- Collection plates will be placed in the Foyer by the Stewards for offerings to be given as people leave at the end of the Service

The COVID Response Team

Thanks and Appreciation from Geoff and Julie



Meet the congregation

For many weeks we have been learning more about someone from the congregation however we have come to a bit of a standstill. Please consider being part of this. Don't assume that everyone already knows all about you and never think that you have nothing interesting to say.

There are many people we haven't heard from so If you need the five questions to guide you contact BUCconnect@gmail or contact Ruth directly.

UNITING SAFE SHELTER CAFÉ UPDATE

On Thursday a group of children came from Scallywags child care to present paintings they had done to display in the area we are using for the café. They will certainly brighten the walls!



The café will continue operating four days a week until Sunday, 1 November. We have had excellent community support again this year with community volunteers and paramedic student volunteers. At this stage we are not sure what next year will look like.

NOTE NEW TIME FOR SUNDAY AT 5.

It has now changed to Sunday at 6pm

VIRTUAL MORNING TEA - Slight change

Zoom has changed its security settings which changes the way we do things slightly. Please click on the following link to join

<https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/98096879145?pwd=S3ArMXVkMkp1UXJ2ZCtaNjMveXd6UT09>

If you are asked for a Passcode it will be 1234. If you don't use this passcode you will go to a waiting room and you can only join the meeting when the host allows you to.

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.)

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!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT UNITING FINANCIAL SERVICES

Due to the Banking Royal Commission, Westpac have notified Uniting Financial Services (UFS), that they will no longer be continuing their Agency agreement from October 29, 2020. UFS has approached the other Big 4 Banks and Mutual Banks with a view to instigate a new agency agreement, but this has been declined. Further negotiations have taken place and Australia Post has agreed to take on the Agency Agreement.

This means that the way we do our physical banking of cheques and cash will change, with deposits being taken at Australia Post Offices and Agencies. There will, however, be some limitations in how this is done.

The Finance Committee will be working through these limitations, and will be addressing how best we can serve the congregation in this area

There will be no changes to internet banking transactions eg: direct debits, electronic transfers, and payments

The Finance Committee will provide updates in a timely manner on this matter

Deb (Treasurer)

‘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 (up until 29 October after that Australia Post) 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

As we are no longer able to donate food or money as we used to on Communion Sunday, our Welfare Fund has become rather depleted. If you would like to help replenish the fund, which in turn helps less well off members of our community, you may do so by depositing/transferring money to:

Reliance Bank

BSB: 882000

Account/Member No: 1125

Account Name: Council of Elders

Money in this account is used to purchase supermarket vouchers which the recipient can then use to purchase food and other basic necessities