



Bathurst Uniting Church

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

Newsletter Sunday 20 December 2020

Physical Distance - Social Connection - Community Care

'Sunday @ 6'

At 6pm – contemporary, informal, all ages worship in the Activities Hall with Covid Safe conditions.

Our Sunday night services will take a small break over Christmas and New Year. Our last service for the year will be Sunday 20th Dec but we will be back in full swing in 2021 on Sunday 17th January. We hope to see you at one of our non-traditional services.

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.

If you have items for the Newsletter please send them to Ruth or to BUConnect@gmail.com by 9pm Wednesday.

January Mowing Roster

9th Ian Browne and Allan Wray

23rd Aisea Langi and Semisi Langi

Fourth Sunday of Advent



Sunday Morning Worship at 9.30am

KUCA kids will be performing "The Little Christmas Tree" and there will be carol singing.

All are welcome!

LECTIONARY READINGS:

[2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16](#)

[Luke 1:47-55](#)

[Romans 16:25-27](#)

[Luke 1:26-38:](#)

Christmas Day Worship at 9am



Something to reflect on –

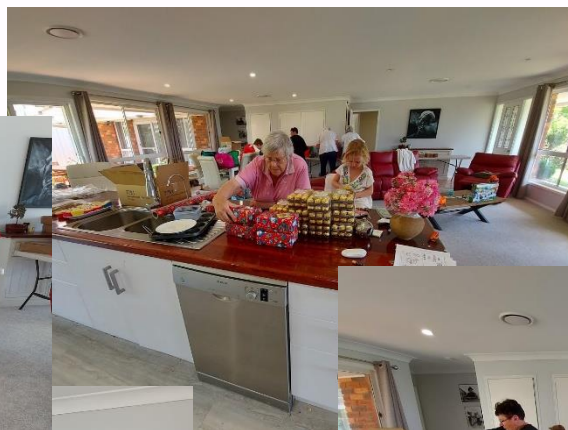
In our homes, churches and communities, we may be tempted to celebrate Christmas as a sentimental holiday which takes us out of “the world” for a time, and gives us a distraction from the pain and difficulties facing us all at the moment. But to do so is to miss a profound opportunity. When we begin to realise that Christmas is not just about the Baby, but about the new order, the new way of being, that the Baby inaugurated, we are open to experience and live this new life now. When we recognise that God’s Reign cannot be understood with the framework of our power structures, we begin to open ourselves to a new reality, and a new experience of God. The Christmas story invites us into more than just an individualised spirituality or a judgemental rejection of materialism. Rather it calls us into a radical connectedness with others – especially the least and marginalised. It calls us into a radical generosity and care for one another. It calls us into a radical simplicity and servanthood. Which means that, even as we share gifts, we are called to share ourselves, and to move beyond simply giving “things” to taking the time to understand one another and give each other the gifts of love, support, protection, acceptance and challenge. The big question is how our Christmas celebrations can manifest the new order of God’s Reign, and how they can welcome and touch others with their life-giving reality.

www.sacredise.com John van de Laar

A small gift can make such a difference.

A dedicated team planned, shopped and packed the Christmas hampers to go to families involved in various drug and alcohol programs in town. There was great fun and laughter as we put them together to hand out this last week (helped by my grandkids). Some of the comments from recipients were, “please thank everyone who has done this”, “I can’t believe you have done this for us”. “Wow the kids are going to love this”.

This is just one way that our Uniting Church is helping to bring a bit of joy to families that are often forgotten or marginalised.



Lots of houses, lollies and excited kids!

A number of families gathered on Thursday afternoon to decorate Gingerbread Houses. There was lots of fun and excitement as the kids tried to get ever more lollies on their houses before wrapping them up and heading home.

Many thanks to Sue Gunter and Sue Gartrell who travelled from Sydney to run the afternoon.



Newsletter Holiday

This is the final Newsletter for 2020 The next one will be at the end of January.

Thank you to everyone who has supported me this year as it has been a big year for making sure everyone was kept in the loop. Expect some exciting changes for the newsletter next year! Ruth

CHURCH COUNCIL/ELDER NOMINATIONS FOR 2020/2021

Over the coming weeks, (up to Sunday 7th February), opportunity will be given to nominate people who may wish to be members of Church Council commencing March 2021.

We ask you to prayerfully consider those members of our congregation who have gifts of ministry that can assist our church fulfil its responsibilities in ministry and mission. Nomination forms will be made available in the church office/foyer/

Those nominated can choose to be designated as an Elder or Church Councillor.
Those nominated can selected to serve for 1 to 5 years

The Congregation has resolved that the Church Council consist of 12 elected members. As there are 10 members whose terms continue beyond the end of 2020, there are 2 vacancies to be filled.

Eight members of the current Council (listed below) will complete their nominated term later this year. They are eligible for re-election if they so desire.

Elders – Lynne Collett, Barbara Webb

Councillors – Tim Collett, Julie Greig, John Hoye, Max McKay, Peter Sackett, Robyn Wray

Nominations close on Sunday 7th February 2021, with the election of Elders and Church Councillors to take place on Sunday 28th February 2021. A candidate will require at least a majority of votes to be elected. All nominees are required to be either a Confirmed Member or Member-in- Association.

If you have any questions about the role of a Church Council member, please speak to Brian Mowbray or Lilian Beauchamp. 'What does it mean to be a Member of Church Council or Elder' sheets are available in the foyer.

Those whose term is continuing are:

Elders: Lilian Beauchamp, Ellie Mowbray, Judy Tyson

Councillors: Nairie Boseto, Betty Cowan, Janet Drengenberg, Deb Mina, Brian Mowbray, Marion Perry, Kaye Price.

HOW YOU CAN DEPOSIT MONEY

The Finance Committee have been addressing the changes needed for the cessation of the Westpac Agency agreement with UFS and have arranged for the following:

If any congregation members wish to deposit cash and/or cheques for offerings, donations and miscellaneous items they can attend any branch of the Reliance or Unity Bank and deposit the funds to

Account no: 100140356 Account Name: Council of Elders

These deposits will remain anonymous

All electronic transactions such as EFT, Direct Debits etc will remain the same, and there is no action needed to be taken with any electronic transactions that are now in place.

Internet transfers can still be made to

BSB: 634634

Account No: 100027964

Account Name: Bathurst City – Giving Direct