



# Bathurst Uniting Church

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

Newsletter

March 2022

Physical Distance - Social Connection - Community Care

## Worship Services

9.30am on Sundays in the church.

You can join worship on Zoom by going to <http://www.bathurstunitingchurch.com.au/> and pressing the purple button.

Holy Communion 6 March

### 'Sunday @ 6'

At 6pm (during daylight savings period) – contemporary, informal, all ages worship in the Activities Hall.

## Staying Connected

For pastoral support, please contact your Pastoral Partner, or one of the Elders, or email

[BUConnect@gmail.com](mailto:BUConnect@gmail.com) and we'll put you in touch with someone.

You can also contact our minister, Rev Keith Hamilton on 0417487446 or email [keith.hamilton.bathurstuc@gmail.com](mailto:keith.hamilton.bathurstuc@gmail.com)

## REFLECTION

### Luke 4:1-13

1 And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the desert 2 for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing in those days, and when that time was ended, he hungered. 3 And the devil said to him: "If you are the Son of God, speak to this stone that it may become bread." 4 And Jesus answered, "It has been written that humanity shall not live by bread alone." 5 And leading him up he showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the inhabited earth in a moment of time. 6 And the devil said to Jesus: "To you I will give all this authority and their glory, because it has been delivered to me and I give it to whomever I wish; 7 therefore, if you worship me, it will be all yours." 8 And answering, Jesus said to him, "It has been written: You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve." 9 And he led him to Jerusalem and set him on the gable of the temple, and said to him: "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, off from here; 10 for it has been written: 'God will order his angels to protect you,' 11 and that 'they will hold you with their hands so that not even your feet will be hurt on the stones.'" 12 And answering him, Jesus said, "It has been said, you shall not tempt the Lord your God." 13 And having finished every temptation, the devil went away from him, until a suitable occasion.  
(Translation by Keith Hamilton)

We begin the journey of Lent. As we do so, we are mindful that in recent years we have lurched from bushfires, to floods, through covid 19, a mouse plague and now more floods. We are also aware of another disaster, destruction and death being played out, this time in Ukraine. We pray. We help.

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After the commissioning comes the temptations. But with the commission comes the strength to resist the temptations.

Jesus is tempted as we are tempted. Tempted to place relevancy over faithfulness. Tempted towards power and control over love of God. Tempted to be spectacular and draw attention to ourselves, over serving and loving one another. Luke makes clear that Jesus is not alone. Neither are we. The Holy Spirit is always with us to guide, to inspire and to energise. Jesus also had the scripture and the living words of tradition. God can help us to live in joy and peace, love and hope if we follow Jesus.

My encouragement to folks is to use the Lenten devotions by Walter Brueggemann, *A Way Other than Our Own*. It is still fine to start this devotional journey. Each day has a short Bible reading, a reflection, and a prayer. It could be used as part of one's daily devotions, or at another additional time.

**BIBLE STUDY GROUPS FOR LENT 2022**  
***Study -A Way Other Than Our Own - By Walter Brueggemann***  
***Study Book \$20***

**Monday Morning** – 10:00am - 12:pm noon Contact Sandra

**Monday Lunchtime** – 1:00pm – 2:00pm Contact Janet

**Wednesday Evening** – 7:00pm – 8:00pm Contact Keith

**Wednesday Evening** – 7:30pm - Contact Ellie

All are Welcome.

If you would like to join a group, please ring the contact person for more information.

The Wednesday evening group with Keith and Julie will meet at the church.

Julie and I have our daily prayers, in which we also use a variation on the Uniting Church's guide to daily prayers, and *With Love to the World*. During Lent this year, like many in our congregation, we will also be using the daily devotional of Walter Brueggemann. The Bible study groups will review the devotions of that week: highlights; new ideas, questions, agreement, disagreement and how the journey of Lent is going.

Blessings, Keith Hamilton

The Church Council Election last week resulted in all those nominated being elected. Their commissioning will be held this Sunday, 6 March during the 9.30am service.

## **GIRLS' NIGHT OUT**

**Thursday 17 March, 6:30pm at Vanilla Bean, 109 Bentinck Street.**  
Please contact Kaye or Maureen by Monday 14 March if you wish to attend.  
In fairness to the restaurant, bookings are essential.  
A great night of fellowship and fun.



## BUSS Update

- Perthville Cemetery looks so much better!  
A group from the SMART recovery program went out on Friday to help clean up Perthville Cemetery. It was a good morning of hard work and some fun. Often those who are recovering from addictions want to give back to the community that has helped them. An excellent job all round.
- We have been getting quite a number of calls from NSW Health to help families who are in isolation with Covid and don't have food. It has been great be able to take some of the meals that we have for the CAFE to help them out. Thanks to all those who have helped with the cooking and donations to buy food.
- The Bathurst Buddies program is finally starting after restrictions prevented it for some time. People will meet in a small group of 3 or 4 which includes a trained buddy and others from our various programs. Maccas have provided some vouchers so the groups can meet there for a coffee or they might choose to go for a walk or to the movies.
- Volunteers are needed.....helping at the café on weekends, cooking food for the café, helping with programs such as Frypan Creations, Bathurst Buddies and SMART lunches.
- See our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/BathurstBUSS> or speak with one of the Management Team if you would like to help.



**The Silver Tunnel**  
**A hell of a play in a holy place**  
**presented by the Rev Bill Crews Foundation in support of the poor , homeless and**  
**needy.**  
**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April at 8:00pm and Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm and 8:00pm**  
**in Bathurst Uniting Church**  
**Free entry but bookings are essential [www.thesilvertunnel.org](http://www.thesilvertunnel.org)**  
**Flyer is in last month's newsletter**

## **Bathurst Refugee Support Group needs help urgently**

The Bathurst Refugee Support Group has been looking after several asylum seeker families (altogether 9 adults and 6 children) who have made their home in our city some years ago. The breadwinners are all working as casual cleaners, which means they have no job security, holiday or sickness pay. Apart from an Interim Medicare card that needs to be renewed every year, none of them are entitled to any Centrelink support whatsoever.

Thanks to various grants and generous donations by members of the community, the Group has been able to step in when needed and pay for such things as dentist and medical specialist bills, repairs, lawyers fees, other emergencies and occasionally rent such as in the case on one father of two young children who works as a casual cleaner in a school and has no income during the school holidays. And in the case of a couple of other families who have had their work hours reduced due to Covid restrictions.

We are launching this urgent appeal (our second) so that we may be able to replenish our depleted emergency and accommodation fund, and continue to help our families to keep a roof over their heads and food on the table.

If you would like to make a donation, you can either pay it directly into our bank account (details below) giving "Emergency Fund" as description or send a cheque to Bathurst Refugee Support Group, PO Box 81, Bathurst 2795. Your donations are tax deductible, so if you would like a receipt, please let us know by emailing your details to our treasurer Cath: [pcsnc2795@gmail.com](mailto:pcsnc2795@gmail.com). If you'd like to find out more about our group, you are welcome to contact our chair person Brian Mowbray on 0414 886 228.

Our bank account details are:

Name: Bathurst Refugee Support Group

BSB: 637-000

Account No.781 688 746

Description: Emergency Fund

### **How to get information/stories out there**

**For good news stories, upcoming events or updates to be added to the church website email Allan - [allanwray@hotmail.com](mailto:allanwray@hotmail.com)**

If you have items for the Newsletter please send them to Ruth at [revaughan@bigpond.com](mailto:revaughan@bigpond.com) by 9pm on the last Wednesday before the first Sunday of the month.