



Bathurst Uniting Church

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

Newsletter

February 2023

Physical Distance - Social Connection - Community Care

REFLECTION: RENEWING THE COVENANT

Sunday 5 February we are holding an annual Covenant Service at 9:30 am.

The Covenant Service has a long history. It traces its history back to John Wesley who encouraged the Methodists to hold an annual covenant service, near the start of the year. The Covenant Service was also part of church life in both the Congregational and Presbyterian churches. Indeed in the Congregational church, people would sign the covenant as an act of membership into the church.

The prayer we shall say together is in response to the grace of God. God's grace precedes anything we do. "We love because God first loved us" 1 John. In response to God's grace in the creation, and the recreation through the life, death resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ, and under the influence of God's Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to this church community of faith.

It is a total commitment to God. That commitment to God is expressed in our worship – both in church and our daily prayers, also in our witness to the Christian faith, and also in our service to Christ in right living through ethical decision-making, caring for God's good creation, care for the hurting, people in poverty, dying, as well as celebrating with those who are joyous. It involves our attitudes, behaviours and actions.

At the same time, as we make this commitment to God, which is our response to God's grace, and the work of God's Spirit, drawing us closer to God, we can't keep these promises in our own strength. Our wisdom is not good enough to enable us to keep the covenant. We set a course, and we follow a discipline of prayer and reflection and action, and we trust that God will assist us keep the covenant, and we regularly will need to confess our failure and hear the words of grace and receive the strength to start again.

The Uniting in Worship has this introduction to the Covenant Service. "The covenant prayer is nothing less than an act of complete self-abandonment to the will of God and should not be entered upon lightly".

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.

5 Feb Rev Keith Hamilton – Holy Communion

12 Feb David McLeod
Baptism

19 Feb Rev Keith Hamilton

26 Feb Rev Keith Hamilton

5 March Brian Mowbray

'Sunday @ 6'

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

Here is the prayer we shall pray together:

I am no longer my own, but yours.
Put me to what you will,
rank me with whom you will;
put me to doing, put me to suffering;
let me be employed for you or laid aside for you;
exalted for you or brought low for you;
let me be full, let me be empty;
let me have all things, let me have nothing;
I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things
to your pleasure and disposal.

And now, glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
you are mine and I am yours,
to the glory and praise of your name.
Amen.

Blessings, Rev Keith Hamilton

NEWS

Lent commences on 22 February with Ash Wednesday. We will hold an Ash Wednesday Service at our church 7-8 pm.

The Faith and Worship Team are encouraging our people to join a Bible Study group during Lent. The material we are using this year is from Uniting World, Lent Event. It is available from the web site and free download. If you are interested in joining a group, whether a special Lent Group, or an existing Bible Study Group, for Lent, please speak to a member of the Faith and Worship Team: John Hoye, Julie Fry, Lynne Collett, Tim Collett, David McLeod, Allan Wray, Andrew Alder, Brian Mowbray, Rev Keith Hamilton.

During Holy Week, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday Thursday, we will hold morning prayers on zoom, 7-7:15 am. Access is through the Bathurst UC website, click on the purple button.

It is proposed to hold confirmation gatherings on the Sundays of Lent leading to confirmation on Easter Day. The gatherings would be 11:30-12:30, after morning worship. The dates are 26 February, 5, 12, 19, 26 March, 2 April. Confirmation gatherings are an opportunity to learn and deepen our faith and also to refresh the basics of our faith as a Lenten discipline, and open to all members as well as people considering confirmation. They will be in a discussion format, facilitated by Rev Keith Hamilton and others from our congregations. If you wish to be part of the confirmation gatherings, please contact Rev Keith, or members of the Church Council, or the Faith and Worship Team.

The March newsletter will have further details regarding our Lent, Holy Week and Easter celebrations.

Our Future Directions Team will be meeting again soon and take up the thinking and planning for the future of Bathurst UC beyond 2026. The planning will involve further consultations and discussions with the congregation. Decisions will be made by both the Church Council and the Congregations. A further update will be in the March Newsletter.

The Faith and Worship Team have met and are working on improvements to the IT for our church and activities hall. Future agenda items include accessibility to the buildings. A survey will be conducted on Sunday 26 February to obtain information about people's desires and ideas for faith development, programs, groups, activities. The survey will then inform the work of the Faith and Worship Team, and recommendations it may bring to the church council and congregation. It will also assist the work of the Future Directions team.

The Bathurst UC rolls are in the final stages of the major update provided by the survey of the congregations last year. It has been a mammoth task. Once completed, as promised, contact details of attenders of the congregations will be provided as a directory to attenders who completed the forms. The directory will be confidential to congregation attenders. It will enable people to contact each other and enhance the social and pastoral life of our morning and evening congregations.

This Sunday, 5th February is the closing date for nominations for Church Council. The nomination form is at the end of this newsletter.



Cuppa @ Janet's



Cuppa and biscuits [gluten free available],
a chat and a time to get to know others
from our Uniting Church family

When: Thursday, 16 February, 2023

2.30pm to 4.00pm

Where: For details please contact Janet 0429 316164

Please park on the street.[If you have a mobility issue please contact Janet .

BUSS UPDATE

BUSS is looking forward to a bigger and better year in 2023!

Most of our programs have re-commenced for the year.

The BUSS Cafe re-opened last weekend.

Hot food, clothing, showers and bedding are free between 12 and 2 pm each Saturday and Sunday.



"The Music BUSS" - our music and singing group re-started last Saturday. It is at 10.30am in the Bathurst Uniting Church each Saturday.

Come along if you like to sing or play an instrument. Our next performance will be at the Easter bbq at the BUSS Cafe.



Bathurst Buddies is on at Maccas on Fridays at 10am.

The barbecue at Chifley Clinic and the Smart Recovery group lunch have also restarted.

Frypan Warriors - begins on Monday 6th February at 12 in the cafe rooms.

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.

You can also contact our minister, Rev Keith Hamilton on 0417487446 or email keith.hamilton.bathurstuc@gmail.com

Mowing Roster

11 Feb Ian Browne and Allan Wray

25 Feb Aisea Langi

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

If you have items for the Newsletter please send them to Ruth at revaughan@bigpond.com by 9pm on the last Wednesday of the month .

**UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA
BATHURST CONGREGATION**

CHURCH COUNCIL ELECTION 2023

Each year we have opportunity to elect new Church Council Members who can be a part of a team who assist with "leading the congregation to a fuller participation in Christ's mission in the world." (UCA regulations)

Those nominated can choose to serve for 1 to 5 years.

The Congregation has resolved that the Church Council consist of 12 elected members. There are 7 members whose terms continue beyond the end of 2022.

Five vacancies exist. two members of the current Council will complete their nominated term in February 2023. They are eligible for re-election if they so desire. They are Lillian Beauchamp and Betty Cowan

Nominations close on Sunday 5th February 2023 with the election of councillors to take place on Sunday 26th February 2022.

**Nominations can be submitted either by:

- Placing in a box which will be provided for completed nomination forms in the Foyer, or
- By submitting Online through the church email – bathurstuca@gmail.com
- 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

Please speak to any of the current members of Church Council, if you require more information: Brian Mowbray (chairman) Lilian Beauchamp (Secretary) Deb Mina (Treasurer) Keith Hamilton (minister) Ellie Mowbray, Betty Cowan, Brian Cowan, Marion Perry, Julie Fry, Judy Tyson.

BATHURST UNITING CHURCH COUNCIL NOMINATION FORM – 2023

I am happy to accept nomination as a Church Councillor to the Bathurst Uniting Church Council for a term of

* _____ year(s)

* Please indicate number of years you are prepared to serve (1 to 5 years)

Name.....

Signed Date

Nominated by 2 Confirmed Members or Members-in-Association

Signed Signed

Note: If information relating to the duties and responsibilities of Church Councillors/Elders is required, please contact an existing Church Council member.