



Bathurst Uniting Church

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

Newsletter

March 2024

Reflection

On March 3, at the 9:30 am service there will be a renewing of the covenant, and the recommissioning of re-elected leaders Lillian Beauchamp and Judy Tyson as Church Councillors, and commissioning of newly elected leader David McLeod as a Church Councillor.

The covenant service has a long history. The covenant was a feature of the antecedent churches of the uniting Church, Congregationalist, Presbyterian and Methodist. John Wesley, who founded the Methodist church in the eighteenth century, encouraged the renewal of the covenant on New Years Eve. In our era, it seems to work best conducted on a Sunday that marks the commencement of church activities for the year. It so happens that this year the Lectionary readings (a set of Bible readings agreed to by the churches across the world) for the Service on March 3 includes the giving of the ten commandments, which is a type of covenant. This follows on from the previous Sundays (25 February) Old Testament reading from Genesis of God making a covenant to Abram and Sari, and the week before (18 February) of God making a covenant in the time of Noah with creation with the sign of the rainbow.

Covenants are initiated by God. They are a gift, which when we receive it there are obligations. It could be considered as similar to a legal contract.

The response by the people in the covenant service is nothing less than a whole-hearted total commitment. The words of the response are below. You might like to ponder these words and their implications during the rest of the pilgrimage to Easter.

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

Keith Hamilton

The William Davidson organ of Bathurst UC turns 150 on Wednesday 13 March. Celebrations will commence with an organ masterclass on Saturday 9 March and continue through 2024.



Sunday, March 10, 2024

9:30 am: Sunday morning celebration service. The organist will be Internationally renowned organist Christopher Wrench. Dr Kelvi Hastie will speak about organs and about the Bathurst UC William Davidson organ. There will be acknowledgement of Judy Brooke's 62 years as organist, and recognition that Judy has been a faithful custodian of the organ over those years, ensuring it has been regularly tuned and serviced. Special anniversary cake will be cut during morning tea.

2:30 pm: Special Anniversary concert. Bathurst UC & Allegri Singers present *All Stops Out Concert*, featuring internationally renowned organist Christopher Wrench, Allegri sings and the Orange Chamber Choir. Tickets: \$40. Concession: \$35. Commemorative program \$5. Proceeds of the concert will go to both Allegri Singers and to the Bathurst UC organ Fund, to provide for maintenance and funds to restore the organ in 30 plus years' time.

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

5: 00 pm: Special celebration Wednesday 13 March, 5 pm. Unveiling of the organ video featuring Judy Brooke showcasing the organ. On the night Judy will also play a range of pieces that show the capacity of the organ. A plaque will also be unveiled marking the occasion. There will be a cake to cut and light refreshments.

Ongoing recitals and celebratory events throughout the anniversary year

For more information and to stay tuned for the ongoing celebrations, visit www.bathurstunitingchurch.com.au. For ticket reservations to the All Stops Out Concert, visit www.allegrisingers.org.au/product/all-stops-out-pipe-organ-recital-ticket

Dates for your diary

Thursday 7 March - 10-11am

Find out about the Traditions of Easter - Activities Hall

Wednesday 19 March - from 3.30pm

For Families - Easter Biscuit decorating

Downstairs in the BUSS rooms

24 March Palm Sunday 9.30am - worship

Service begins on the front lawn;

Palm branch procession into Church

In the Church and on Zoom

5.00pm - Worship in Activities Hall



Monday 25 March to Thursday 28 March

7.00-7.15am Morning Prayers on Zoom

Zoom link www.bathurstunitingchurch.com.au and press the purple button

March 28 Maundy Thursday

6.00pm - Worship in Activities Hall - soup, damper and Holy Communion.

We remember the Last Supper Jesus had with his disciples.

29 March Good Friday

9.30am worship In the Church and on Zoom

After the Service at 11.15am Hot Cross Buns

Please bring hot cross buns to share

30 March Holy Saturday

Working bee & morning tea: 9.30-11 am

Bring your cleaning cloths etc, dust down the pews upstairs and downstairs, polish the tableware, put up Easter day banners, flowers, etc, share morning tea

31 March Easter Day

Celebration of the resurrec

9.30am - worship In the Church and on Zoom

Congregational reaffirmation of baptism & Holy Communion

5.00pm -worship in Activities Hall



Maundy Thursday we will be having our Annual Community Soup Dinner, Maundy Thursday Service, and Communion, commencing at 6.00pm in the Activities Hall.

I would appreciate it if people could volunteer to cook a soup for dinner, and those who could bring along bread rolls to accompany the soup. We usually have around six people to volunteer to cook soup.

It would also be appreciated if volunteers could help set up the hall for the dinner. Please contact Deb or let her know after Church



The joy on the faces of those who attended the **Bathurst Uniting Retreat Day**, 24 February. We gathered at Perthville Community Hall. The hall has a fabulous mural of scenes around Perthville. The day was delightfully lead by Rev Ann Perrin. We had fun as we got to know each other more. The “would I lie to you” activity was both informative and great fun. We took time to think about our gifts, to encourage one another and become aware of an appreciate the gifts of others. Our thanks to Suzzie Frawley, Judy Tryson and Julie Fry, who organised the day, and Ann Perrin who led the day. Photo taken by Rev Ann Perrin, who led our retreat.

CHURCH COUNCIL ELECTION

Congratulations on their election to the Church Council: Lilian, David and Judy.

From Bathurst SRE:

The annual celebration service will be at 3pm on Sunday 10 March at the Catholic Church.

IMPORTANT – Change of date for next Newsletter.

The next Newsletter will be available at Easter (rather than the first Sunday of April). All items to be included need to be sent to Ruth by 9pm on Wednesday 27 March.



Mowing Roster

Thank you

to all those who keep the grounds mown!

9 March Peter

23 March John and Max

PLEASE NOTE

The newsletter email address is bathurstucanews@gmail.com . Please send items by 9pm on the last Wednesday of the month

Please send news or information for the website to allanwray@hotmail.com

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

AN INVITATION

As most of you would be aware Andrew and I are being married on Saturday 6 April at Bathurst Uniting Church. In case you weren't in church a couple of weeks ago ...we would love to share the celebration with our church family and invite you to join us for the service at 11.30am and the lunch afterwards in the 1837 Hall.

We do need to know numbers for catering so if you could RSVP if you are coming to the lunch by 15 March to Lynne or to me. A contribution of a slice or other sweet finger food instead of a gift would be wonderful although certainly not necessary.

Ruth revaughan@bigpond.com

Worship Services

9.30am in the church.

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

3 March Rev Keith Hamilton Holy Communion

10 March Rev Keith Hamilton

17 March rev Keith Hamilton

24 March Rev Keith Hamilton Palm Sunday

29 March Rev Keith Hamilton Good Friday

31 March Rev Keith Hamilton Easter Sunday

'Sunday @ 5'

At 5pm – contemporary, informal, all ages worship in the Activities Hall.

On the first Sunday of each month there will be Holy Communion and a shared meal.