DIARY

**Thursday 25 May**

10.00am Morning tea in the Community – Smelly Cheesecake Café at Charlestown Square

1.30-2.30pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb

**Sunday 28 May** **– Pentecost**

9.00am Worship Service – Leader Sue Warren, Preacher – SFED group

*Numbers 11:24-30; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Acts 2:1-21; John 7:37-39*

**Tuesday 30 May**

10.00am Morning tea in the Community – Frankie & Co Café at Lake Macquarie

12.00pm Garden Suburb Ladies Fellowship

3.30pm Worship meeting at Charlestown

**Thursday 1 June**

10.00am Morning tea in the Community – Smelly Cheesecake Café at Charlestown Square

1.30-2.30pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb

**Sunday 4 June** – **Trinity Sunday**

9.00am Worship Service – Leader & Preacher Rev Tom Stuart. Children’s Corner with Cathy

*Genesis 1:1-2:4a; Psalm 8; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20*

**Monday 5 June**

10.00am Visitation to Garden Suburb Aged Care Facility

**Tuesday 6 June**

10.00am Morning tea in the Community – Frankie & Co Café at Lake Macquarie

3.30pm Church Council meet on Zoom

**Thursday 8 June**

10.00am Morning tea in the Community – Smelly Cheesecake Café at Charlestown Square

1.30-2.30pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb

2.00pm Worship at Garden Suburb Aged Care Facility

**Saturday 10 June**

TBA Friendship Circle

**Sunday 11 June – Pentecost 2**

9.00am Worship Service – Leader Beryl Gaul, Preacher Rev Tom Stuart

*Genesis 12:1-9, Psalm 33:1-12, Romans 4:13-25, Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26*

**Tuesday 13 June**

10.00am Morning tea in the Community – Frankie & Co Café at Lake Macquarie

**Wednesday 14 June**

TBA Ladies Fellowship at Charlestown

**Thursday 15 June**

10.00am Morning tea in the Community – Smelly Cheesecake Café at Charlestown Square

1.30-2.30pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb

**Saturday 17 June**

8.00am Men’s Breakfast at Charlestown

Today, 28 May is Pentecost Sunday.

If you are able, please wear something **RED.**



Scripture Passage for Lectio Divina during Worship today

Acts 2:1-21 (NRSV)

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. **2**And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. **3**Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. **4**All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

**5**Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. **6**And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. **7**Amazed and astonished, they asked, ‘Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? **8**And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? **9**Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, **10**Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, **11**Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.’ **12**All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, ‘What does this mean?’ **13**But others sneered and said, ‘They are filled with new wine.’

**14**But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: ‘Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. **15**Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. **16**No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

**17**“In the last days it will be, God declares,  
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,  
    and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
and your young men shall see visions,  
    and your old men shall dream dreams.  
**18**Even upon my slaves, both men and women,  
    in those days I will pour out my Spirit;  
        and they shall prophesy.  
**19**And I will show portents in the heaven above  
    and signs on the earth below,  
        blood, and fire, and smoky mist.  
**20**The sun shall be turned to darkness  
    and the moon to blood,  
        before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day.  
**21**Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”



[**Together, Yes - Register Now!**](https://comms.nswact.uca.org.au/ch/47004/2f692/2897673/inde8314w6abEPSKTQz0c1AajowGb0fw6vlcG4oe.html)

The upcoming referendum is a historic opportunity for Australians to acknowledge and honour First Nations people in this land and to walk together as a nation toward a better future. Uniting Church people have an opportunity to be a part of this. Together, Yes is looking for people to act as conversation hosts, bringing together small groups in their homes or in communal spaces. With the support of high-quality, curated materials, leaders facilitate conversations that will build empathy and connection to the historical and contemporary issues underpinning the case for a Voice. An online information session dedicated to Uniting Church members who want to know more will take place on Thursday 1 June at 12pm AEST, during National Reconciliation Week. Register for UCA information session [here](https://comms.nswact.uca.org.au/ch/47004/2f692/2897809/inde8314w6abEPSKTQz09PjH8oddN9z1cnxjcDYb.html).



**From Anne Threlfo**

I read an article recently titled “Why So Many People are Unhappy in Retirement”, by Arthur C. Brooks who writes a column titled “How To Build a Life” in The Atlantic magazine. Brooks had a good deal of anecdotal and research evidence that many people who have enjoyed successful and fulfilling working lives are unhappy, aimless and bored later in life.

The lives of many of us who work, pursue careers and raise families tend to follow what is often called “the hero’s journey”, with each of us being the hero of our own story. This cycle was first identified in the 19th century as a recurring theme in literature as well as life, and remains the basis of many books and movies today. There are three parts to the hero’s journey. The first is the **call to adventure** where the hero – you or me – is inspired by desire or necessity to go out into the world. This might be to tertiary education, to work, to marriage, raising children, travel or a hundred other things. The second is **the ordeal**, in which the hero is tested and has to work and fight hard to gain the degree, the promotion, etc. The third is **the victory**, where the hero beats the odds, achieves his goals and is triumphant. In the movies, this is usually the closing scene, and all ends well!

Then there’s real life. Our hero’s journey is fine when we have the desire and strength to meet the next challenge, but what happens when the hero comes home and has to settle into ordinary life, for example at retirement? I think of the feeling upon returning home from a wonderful holiday (the victory), with a vague dissatisfaction that the joy of being in a different place seeing new things every day has to give way to the mundanity of everyday life. In this coming home is the place of the greatest ordeal. This is the internal battle, the one we wage within ourselves as we allow our being to rest in who we are, rather than a doer of deeds. This is difficult if most of your life has been defined by a career, a job title or a particular role.

If we find this challenging, we’re in good company. In the arc of King David’s life we see his journey from shepherd boy to King. But what happened to him after the victory? He found himself hanging around the palace with a lot of time on his hands. Then he spied his neighbour’s beautiful wife Bathsheba, pursued an adulterous affair with her and sent her husband off to die in battle. If ordinary post-victory life was a test, he scored a big fail!

So can we do better than King David? I guess it depends on where we choose to attach our narrative. If we continue to hark back to our “glory days”, attempt to hang onto power and job titles and lash out when we can’t do the things we used to be able to do, we’re going to have a tough time. If we can follow the example of Jesus and continue to die to ourselves, and if we can truly believe how loved and valued we are by God, then we’re in with a chance. In the striving, a hero’s journey itself, if we serve others as we are able and love our family and friends, we can be an example to those who are still in the midst of the “ordeal”, that the coming home to God and ourselves is actually the most beautiful triumph – and it’s available to us all.