



CONTACT



Charlestown & Garden Suburb Uniting
Church Multi-Centre Congregation

1 September 2024

From Anne Threlfo

ON PRAYER

I have abandoned all particular forms of devotion, all prayer techniques. My only prayer practice is paying attention. I carry on a habitual, silent, and secret conversation with God that fills me with overwhelming joy.

Brother Lawrence

The way that I pray has changed a lot in recent years. Once I would have considered that prayer was only prayer when it is of the “shopping list” variety. Not that there is anything wrong with bringing our needs and requests to God. Philippians 4:6 encourages: *Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.*

Prayer is much more than this, however. Perhaps the root of prayer is paying attention:

Attention is the beginning of devotion.

Mary Oliver

Attention to, for example:

- The morning sun streaming in the window on a winter’s morning
- The first cup of coffee of the day
- A grandchild reaching towards you wanting to be picked up
- A deep conversation
- Reading words which say exactly what you are feeling, but you never would have thought of yourself
- *Spring* from *The Four Seasons* by Vivaldi
- The Archibald portrait of Professor Marcia Langton
- Spring blossoms
- Sitting in silence by the bedside of a dying loved one
- Singing *Fix You* by Coldplay in a choir with four part harmony
- Thinking of a friend with a particular need
- Someone you barely know who remembers your name
- A life story, whether fiction or non-fiction
- Trying to stay awake – in the spiritual sense
- You get the picture!!

Rejoice always, pray continually

1 Thessalonians 5:16-17

DIARY

With Guest Speaker
Rev Graham Perry

Thursday 29 August

10.00am Presbytery Gathering at Salamander Bay Uniting Church

10.00am Morning tea in the Community – common seated area opposite Butcher at Charlestown Square

1.30-2.30pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb – James and Hebrews

Sunday 1 September – Pentecost 15

9.00am Divine Worship

Leader and Preacher: Rev'd Tom

Incl. **Children's Corner with Uncle Tom**

Song 2:8-13; Psalm 45:1-2,6-9; James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Monday 2 September

10.00am Garden Suburb Nursing Home Pastoral Care Visitation

1.30pm SFED

Tuesday 3 September

10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square

Thursday 5 September

10.00am Morning tea in the Community – common seated area opposite Butcher at Charlestown Square

1.30-2.30pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb – James and Hebrews

Sunday 8 September – Pentecost 16

9.00am Divine Worship

Leader: David Preacher: Rev'd Tom

Commencing with **Praise & Worship led by Kathy**

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23; Psalm 125; James 2: 1-10, (11-13), 14-17; Mark 7:24-37

Monday 9 September

10.00am Garden Suburb Nursing Home Pastoral Care Visitation

1.30pm SFED

Tuesday 10 September

9.30-11am Uniting in Books at Garden Suburb

10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square

Wednesday 11 September

10.00am Ladies Fellowship at Charlestown

Thursday 12 September

10.00am Morning tea in the Community – common seated area opposite Butcher at Charlestown Square

10.30am Worship Service at Garden Suburb Aged Care

1.30-2.30pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb – James and Hebrews

Friday 13 September

6.00pm Ladies Night at Kahibah

Saturday 14 September

11.30am Friendship Circle – lunch at Lena's 11.30 then MUSIC @ The Bay 24 for 2pm start

15th September – Pentecost 17

9.00am **The Holy Communion** incorporated in Divine Worship

Leader and Preacher; Rev'd Tom

Proverbs 1:20-33; Psalm 19; James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38



THE PRAYER PAGE



Prayer is the Voice of Faith

Pastoral Prayer Points

* those in our congregation whose loved ones have died, especially the Threlfo's and Stuart's

* Janice and Don Wright

* Cathy Beeton

* Lesley

* Kelly

* Laraine Chegwiddden

* Tony Sellen

* Nelda Marshall

* Vivianne

* Shirley Elkin

* Lorraine Pepper

* Vicki

* Judith Fuller battling cancer

* Pam and Ken

* Lyn Benson

* Jean

* Fred Bryant

* June Locker

* Ryan Walpole

* Kathryn Gray

* Jacqueline Fenwick

* Isabella

* Janice Wright

* Eileen Dunn

* Pam and Mert

* Judith and family

* Enid Power

- Max
- Tom and Kathy
- Don Humphries

Congregational Prayer Points

- Church Council
- pray for guidance and discernment missional use of buildings into the future
- Project Reconnect
- Worship Services
- Cathy Beeton and SRE classes
- Worship Committee

Wider Community Prayer Points

- The orphanage
- Tom and Neos
- HCA Table Talks across the Hunter
- Kahibah Fair
- Local Government elections
- Those affected by climate change in Australia eg floods, droughts and fires
- Pray that a cease fire agreement will be negotiated between Israel and Hamas and that there will be relief from all the suffering
The situation in Ukraine and other trouble spots





The Hunter Presbytery Prayer Diary



This diary provides an opportunity to pray each week for congregations in the Presbytery. By praying together, we can encourage one another in mission, as we grow in faith and unity and develop understanding and relationships across the region. Each week there will be information and a prayer for each of the congregations in the Hunter Presbytery. This week we pray for:

1st September 2024 – Port Stephens Uniting Church

Port Stephens is situated in a beautiful and growing region. The congregation is involved in mission planning and looking for new ways to be present in their community. They give thanks for the visitors at the church for the Christmas services and the contribution of the Port Harmony singers.

Prayer: We pray for the development of a new mission plan and the energy to reach out to the community in new and relevant ways. We pray for the expo that we are working on with the community centre, may it help to build our relationship with the broader community. Amen.

THE BLOODY LONG WALK



Here are some photos taken at The Bloody Long Walk, last week. There is one of Audrey and her Mum and Dad, Cameron and Megan and the others are Leisa at the start and finish and the other of Leisa and my grandkids who joined her at various stages of the walk.

Cathy



New Ventures Gathering!



SEE I AM DOING
A *NEW* THING!

With Rev Dr Karina Kreminski



An invitation to meet with congregations and leaders interested in developing new forms of mission and worship. We will also welcome Karina Kreminski who is exploring Fresh Expressions of Church in the Synod, and who has been an innovator and pathfinder in doing things differently. An important time for networking and finding courage and inspiration for change in your local church.

Thursday 5th September
9.30am to 12 midday

Adamstown Uniting Church
228 Bruncker Road Adamstown

Register attendance with Rod Pattenden:
pattenden@bigpond.com

Spiritual Practice of the Week

Sabbath: is God's gift of repetitive and regular rest. It is given for our delight and communion with God. Time for *being* in the midst of a life of *doing* particularly characterises the Sabbath.

Practice: Begin your Sabbath gently on Saturday evening. Light a candle. • Invite the presence of Christ to guide you through your Sabbath. • Eat with friends and family. • Go to bed early, speaking peace to one another. • Pray for Christ to give you deep, refreshing sleep. Rest in his arms. Commit your dreams to the Lord.

These resources come from Calhoun, Adele Ahlberg. Spiritual Disciplines Handbook: Practices That Transform Us (Transforming Resources). InterVarsity Press



Men's Breakfast recently heard the enthusiasm and knowledge of Michael Griffith as he spoke about the potential of poetry to open us to the Sacred. There's a recording of Michael's talk here: <https://tinyurl.com/yy4ptapc>

If you want more, here's another opportunity for to gain some insight into how poetry can draw us into a deeper understanding of God, Creation, and ourselves. Register here: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1275150>



The Call to Be

is pleased to announce the following lecture series:

How does Poetry Open Us to the Sacred?

Presented by Michael Griffith PhD

All lectures held on ZOOM

To be held on 3, 10, 17 September 2024, 6-7:30pm

Cost \$60.

Please register and pay at <https://www.trybooking.com/CUOIG>

The meeting link will be sent by email from [trybooking](https://www.trybooking.com) once you have booked,

And is the same for all three meetings.

For more information see <https://catalystforrenewal.org.au>

or email thecalltobe@gmail.com

How does Poetry Open Us to the Sacred? Michael shares with us his insights into the poetry of Mary Oliver, T.S. Eliot, Judith Wright, Hopkins, R. S. Thomas, Psalm 23, Rumi and George Herbert.

Uniting in Books

Love reading new books

Like to have a chance to find new books

Exchange your books for something
different

Join us for our new & exciting

Community Book Library

At Garden Suburb Uniting Church

Cnr Prospect Rd. & Marshall St



The next date is 10 September 9.30am to
11am



Church/Faith Crawl

You are warmly invited to explore four diverse Maitland faith communities.

Have you ever wondered about similar and different faith communities in Maitland?

This is your chance to unlearn, learn and relearn about the faith of others.

Come with your questions and get to know your neighbours in a welcoming and open environment.

Date: Wednesday 11th September 2024
in the Maitland Region

Time: 9.30am – 3.45pm

Travel: Drive your car or carpool with others

Food: Lunch will be provided, cost \$15

Church/Faith Crawl Program

Arrival time	Departure time	Worship place	Address	Parking
9.30am	10.20am	Masjid Muhammad Mustafa, Mosque, Rutherford	41 Spitfire Place, Rutherford	Onsite and roadside parking
10.30am	12.00pm Includes MT	The Grainery Church	20 Mustang Dr, Rutherford	Roadside parking
12.15pm	2.00pm Includes lunch	Uniting Church	35 Wiliam St, East Maitland	Roadside parking
2.30pm	3.45pm	Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints	2-8 Ferraby Dr, Metford	Onsite parking

Registration is now open and closes on Friday 6 September
<http://mn.shor.tn/ChurchCrawl24>



Charlestown Ladies Fellowship

Wednesday 11th September

Will be held at Charlestown Church from 10.00am

Join in fellowship

ALL WELCOME

HUNTER COMMUNITY ALLIANCE – LISTENING SESSIONS

The Hunter Community Alliance is organising listening and action sessions across the Hunter.

These sessions are where our communities have a say in decisions that affect them, their families, and neighbourhoods across the Hunter.

We are listening specifically around household energy, housing, energy, and transition; as well as listening to what else is happening for people.

Then we discuss how we act together.

You'll meet other local Hunter Alliance members, organisations, and leaders.

Wear your organisational T-shirts, bring your members, family, friends and don't forget to bring a plate!



HUNTER COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

COMMON GOOD LOCAL LISTENING SESSIONS

MEET * SHARE * LISTEN * LEARN * ACT *

Attend the local Charlestown event **FREE** on Wednesday 4 September at 6.15pm for a 6.30pm start. Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/38vtaypb>

Glenrock Anglican Church
34 Hexham St, Kahibah NSW
Bring a plate



Charlestown Friendship Circle

Saturday 14 September

11.30am - Beginning with Lunch at Lena's,
Warners Bay then

2.00pm - The Willows Uniting Church for MUSIC
@ The Bay 24

All Welcome

Some of our Church Contacts:

Minister

Rev Tom Stuart
M: 0427 625 502
E: tom@thestuarts.id.au

Administration:

P: 4943 4019
E: office@charlestown.unitingchurch.org.au
24 Milson Street, Charlestown NSW 2290
PO Box 449, Charlestown NSW 2290

Children & Families Resource Worker:

Mrs Cathy Beeton
M: 0409 445 933
E: Cath4858@gmail.com
Mrs Cathy Beeton is also our Safe Church Contact Person

Bank Account Details for the Charlestown Garden Suburb Multi-Centre Congregation:

Bank Account held with: Uniting Financial Services
Account Name: Charlestown Congregation General Account
BSB: 634 634 Account No.: 100030837

For Offering please put Ref: Offering

Keep up to date with happenings and info:

Webpage: <http://www.chagsuca.org.au>
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/CharlestownUnitingChurch>
Project Reconnect: <http://www.projectreconnect.com.au>
Worship Services: <https://tinyurl.com/CHaGS-YouTube-Link>