



CONTACT



Charlestown & Garden Suburb Uniting
Church Multi-Centre Congregation

21 June 2026

From Rev Tom

Well, it is that time! The Presbytery representatives will attend our service of worship on Sunday. Then you are invited to stay after the service where we will be led in a time of reflecting on our life as a congregation, and our hopes and dreams for the future.

I remember when I was a youthworker, in the Uniting Church at Griffith, around 1980. Most of the members of the congregation were working age. There were some who were heading into retirement age. I guess that meant they were 60 plus years of age. Some of those 60 plus people were on the church council, or had roles in the congregation. There were others who were even older, with leadership responsibilities. One of the complaints you would hear from some of the, so very old members of the congregation, was that they were starting to feel pushed out of leadership responsibilities by the younger ones. There was a sense of grief among the older ones that their opinions weren't so welcome. They didn't have the same influence. Other people were ready to take up their roles.

Hasn't times changed. I can't help but wonder how many times members of our congregation who have leadership roles, would just wish they could hand over, at least something of what they are required to do, onto someone else. Those people thinking that way, are in their 80s!

Whatever the context life throws challenges at us. If it is not feeling like a wall-flower it is feeling the weight of the world on our shoulders. Whatever the case, it is all part of the journey which is our spiritual journey. Part of the challenge is that we aren't really given a role model of how to do this journey as the circumstances of the previous generation were different to ours.

How do we be wise? How do we be? How do we plan? Do we simply let go? Do we battle on? I don't have answers to the questions? I face them just like everyone else?

When we talk with the presbytery it is for us to be honest. Talk about our hopes, our fears, and desires, and dissatisfactions. They will hear us, and we will hear ourselves. And God's love will find its way.

DIARY

Thursday 18 June

10.00am Morning tea in the Community – common seated area at Charlestown Square
1.30-2.30pm Bible Study in Dudley Room

Saturday 20 June

8.00am Men's Breakfast – see more further in Contact
12.00pm Friendship Circle meeting at Lake Cinema (see further in Contact for more details)

Sunday 21 June – Pentecost 4

9.00am The Divine Worship
Leader and Preacher: Rev'd Tom
Genesis 21:8-21; Psalm 86: 1-10,16-17; Romans 6:1b-11; Matthew 10:24-39

Tuesday 23 June

10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square
12.00pm Ladies Fellowship Wests Cardiff

Thursday 25 June

10.00am Morning tea in the Community – common seated area at Charlestown Square
1.30-2.30pm Bible Study in Dudley Room

Sunday 28 June – Pentecost 5

9.00am The Divine Worship
Leader: Margaret and Preacher: Project Reconnect
Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 13; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42

Tuesday 30 June

10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square

JULY

Thursday 2 July

10.00am Morning tea in the Community – common seated area at Charlestown Square
1.30-2.30pm Bible Study in Dudley Room

Sunday 5 July – Pentecost 6

9.00am The Divine Worship
Leader and Preacher: Rev'd Tom
Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67; Psalm 45:10-17 or Song 2:8-13; Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Monday 6 July

10.00am Pastoral Care Visit to Garden Suburb Aged Care Facility

Tuesday 7 July

10.00am Pastoral Care Visit to Garden Suburb Aged Care Facility
Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square

Wednesday 8 July

10.00am Ladies Fellowship at Milson St Hub

Thursday 9 July

10.00am Morning tea in the Community – common seated area at Charlestown Square
No Bible Study during School Holidays

THE PRAYER PAGE



Prayer is the Voice of Faith

Pastoral Prayer Points

- * Pray for Marion Box
- * Prayers for Grahame Beeton and family
- * Those who are mourning loved ones
- * Mert has moved to Narla Village – continue to pray for Mert and Pam
- * Robyn and Geoff Greaves
- * Jacqueline Fenwick hoping to go home this week
- * Rene Kelly
- * Nelda Marshall
- * Glen and Marion
- * Valmai
- * Janice and Don Wright
- * Kelly
- * Tony Sellen
- * Vicki
- * Pam and Ken
- * Lyn Benson
- * Jean
- * Isabella
- * Eileen Dunn
- * Max
- * Don Humphries

Maintained by SFED

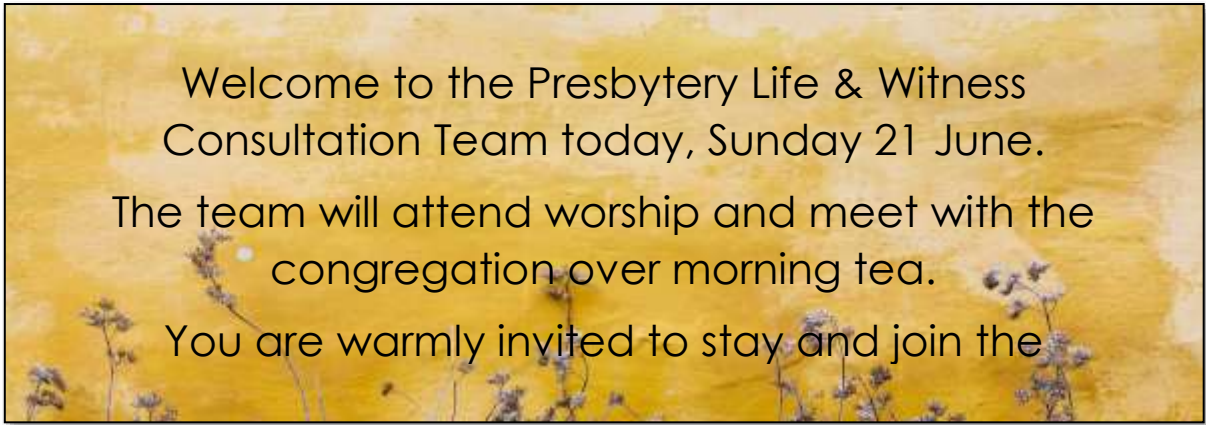
Congregational Prayer Points

- Preparation of NREMA application being prepared by SFED and Church Council
- Life and Witness consultation on 21st June
- the role of Piteeri, our new Communications Coordinator for the Milson St. Hub.
- Major upgrades to the Project Reconnect website
- Worship Services
- Cathy Beeton and SRE classes
- Worship Committee

Wider Community Prayer Points

- H.C.A. Loneliness and Isolation Symposium in May – Milson St. Hub Ministry
- Charlestown Uniting Church
- Margaret Jurd College and Darren Twist the Principal
- Orphanage in Kenya and Wilfreda
- Neos ministry
- Those affected by climate change in Australia eg floods, droughts and fires
- Prayer for those in conflict zones in the world





SPIRITUAL PRACTICE OF THE WEEK

Teachability: Teachability is a propensity and openness to learn from God no matter who the teacher or what the experience may be.

Practice: Become aware of your compulsions to let others know what you think. Notice when you're composing what you will say next rather than listening to the one who is speaking.

- When do you feel the urge to pontificate or otherwise hold forth?
- Ask God to give you a teachable heart and a will to listen.
- What do you learn about yourself? about others? about what God values?

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

Refugee Week was marked from 14-20 June.

The Uniting Church stands in prayer and solidarity with refugees, asylum seekers, and displaced people around the world. May we be a community that welcomes, listens, and advocates for justice, peace, and belonging for all.

Creator God,
We pray for all refugees, asylum seekers, and displaced people around the world. Grant comfort to those who have been forced to leave their homes, strength to those facing uncertainty, and hope to those seeking safety and belonging. Open our hearts to welcome the stranger, to listen with compassion, and to work for a world where every person is treated with dignity, justice, and love. Amen.



Milson Street *Hub*

Hi everyone,

I spoke recently at Uncle Ray Minniecons' Anglican church service in Sydney, on the beautiful story found in Luke 7. After that, I was asked to speak at Berowra Baptist, & chose to share on Psalm 51 & look at the choices David made regarding Bathsheba, Uriah, Nathan & God.

Both of these stories allow us to hear Gods' mother tongue – relationship.

Both contain unexpected 'kinship'.

Kinship is a relationship of 'well-being' with **the Creator**, with **Others**, & with **Land, Waterways, Sky, & Creatures**, involving important mutual responsibilities.

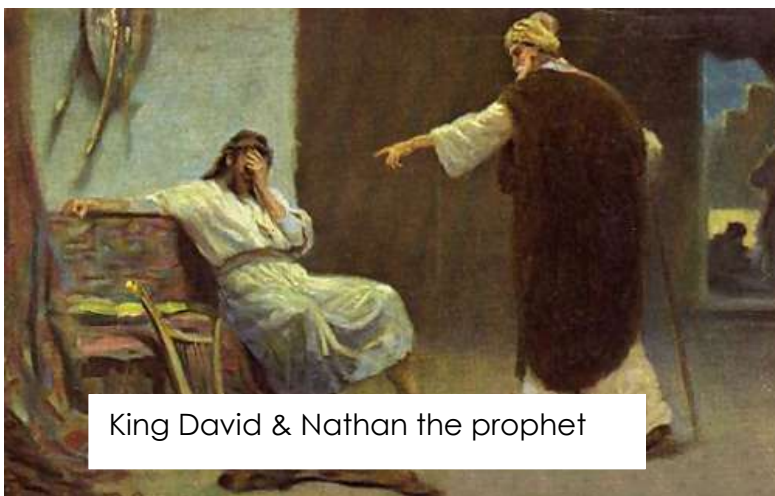
Both stories hold important lessons for our relationship with the neighbours who live next to our church, the people who hire our church hall, & the parents & tradies who use our church carpark.

Through Jesus, we can see the way forward.

To extend radical hospitality & generosity to those we experience as strangers is to walk the Jesus Way.

I pray that Jesus becomes greater in us, & that we become less.

Piteeri



King David & Nathan the prophet



Simon the pharisee, the sinful woman, & Jesus

Save The Date

18th July, 10.30 am - 2.30pm

TORONTO UC 18TH JULY, 10.30AM-2.30 PM



TORONTO UC 18TH JULY, 10.30AM-2.30 PM

**PRESBYTERY
WALKING
TOGETHER EVENT**

LED BY MIKENZIE LING.

anything but Ordinary

A deep dive into the
Abrahamic Stories

25 June	Pentecost 13 Gen. 22:1-14	A command out of the ordinary (Abraham is ordered to kill his son)
2 July	Pentecost 14 Gen. 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67	A marriage arrangement out of the ordinary (Isaac marries Rebekah)
9 July	Pentecost 15 Gen. 25:19-34	A betrayal out of the ordinary (Jacob steals the birthright of Esau)
16 July	Pentecost 16 Gen. 28:10-19a	Encountering the divine out of the ordinary (Jacob and the ladder)
23 July	Pentecost 17 Gen. 29:15-28	Another marriage: it's the wrong sister! (Jacob, Leah, and Rachel)
30 July	Pentecost 18 Gen. 32:22-31	A wrestling match out of the ordinary (Jacob at Peniel)
6 August	Pentecost 19 Gen. 37:1-4, 12-28	A brotherly plot out of the ordinary (Joseph, his dream, and the plot by his brothers)
13 August	Pentecost 20 Gen. 45:1-15	A family reunion out of the ordinary (Joseph and his brothers in Egypt)

Thursday nights 7pm on Zoom
See tuc.org.au for more details

Register Here:

<https://tuc.org.au/ministries/weekly-bible-study>

The studies are led by John Squires and Elizabeth Raine. If you would like to get a feel for what they are like, recordings of studies from previous years are also available on the same page.

Some of our Church Contacts:

Minister

Rev Tom Stuart

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

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

Communications Coordinator:

Piteeri Michail

M: 0493 094 231 E: Piteeri.m@outlook.com

Administration:

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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>