



# CONTACT



Charlestown & Garden Suburb Uniting  
Church Multi-Centre Congregation

**19 May 2024**

## From Rev Tom

Well, it was an interesting journey over the past two weeks. On the 7<sup>th</sup> of May, our daughter Neralie gave birth to Vera Dawn Gamblin who is now a week and one day old! Neralie had been admitted to hospital so that she would be induced into labour. The procedure was meant to begin at 8 am Tuesday. As it turned out Vera was born at 7:54 am! So that has been an exciting time for the family, particularly as both mother and daughter are well and Vera has been as kind as a baby can be toward her mother's sleep patterns. However, life changed directions on Saturday afternoon when Kathy decided it appropriate to do a RAT test for COVID-19. The test was positive. It was planned that Kathy would be leading worship the next day! So, after a few phone calls, Margaret White graciously took on the responsibility. At that stage, it was uncertain as to whether I should be at the service. I continued and completed preparing the sermon I intended to deliver. The next morning, I got up and did a RAT test. The result was negative. However, I had a sore throat. I decided it wasn't worth risking the risk of possibly communicating COVID-19 to congregation members and stayed home. Fortunately, we could draw on the Project Reconnect resources, so the preacher became a recording of Rev Ian Pearson from the Blue Mountains. Now it is Wednesday and Kathy is emerging back from the deeps of her Covid-19 infection, it turns out I continue to test negative to COVID-19, and we are starting to ponder when we might visit our granddaughter (still a way yet!).

So, part of the disappointment (even if only to me) is that I didn't get the opportunity to deliver the message I had prepared for the Sunday. However, all is not lost! The printed booklet of the service sent out with the Contact email includes my message. Undoubtedly, everyone will now enthusiastically turn to the Booklet of Sunday's service and read my sermon. Well, if you are not one of them let me give you a clue. In my preparation, I was reminded that last Thursday was Ascension Day (or the Feast of Ascension), the day we remember Jesus ascending to heaven. Ascension Day occurs 40 days after Jesus' resurrection, Easter Sunday. As you might realise next Sunday is Pentecost (the Greek word "pentēkostē," means "fiftieth."), which is always 50 days after Easter Sunday. Pentecost marks the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles and followers of Jesus. For my sermon, I asked, "What is the intended message, or theme, of Year B Easter 7 (the title liturgical title of last Sunday), the Sunday between the Feast of Ascension and Pentecost?" It turns out that those who developed the Revised Common Lectionary (the set readings for each Sunday of the year) chose passages of Scripture that highlight the transition from Jesus' earthly ministry to the empowering of the disciples for their mission. The key message from the handing over of Jesus' ministry to the disciples (and therefore us) is to affirm that eternal life is ours, the gift of God's salvation already embraces us. So, our ministry and mission are expressed in the confidence of that knowledge. We are reminded that we are not of this world. We are guided by different powers and by a different logic. We are guided by the power of the Spirit and the logic of love. We are tasked, from this perspective, to speak the truth. The warning is that our truth-telling will not be acceptable to those around us. Our experience will be a rejection of the truth, and we who speak that truth. However, amidst the conflict and controversy ours is to walk in the joy of the knowledge of the saving love of God which nothing can take away.

# DIARY

## Thursday 16 May

- 10.00am Morning tea in the Community - common seated area opposite Butcher at Charlestown Square
- 1.30-2.30pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb Church

## Sunday 19 May – Pentecost Sunday

- 9.00am Worship Service with Holy Communion. Leader and Preacher: Rev'd Tom Stuart  
*Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34; Romans 8:22-27; John 15:26-27*

**Please wear something RED**

## Monday 20 May

- 10.00am Garden Suburb Nursing Home Pastoral Care Visitation
- 1.30pm SFED

## Tuesday 21 May

- 9.00am Needlework n Natter at Garden Suburb
- 10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square

## Thursday 23 May

- 10.00am Morning tea in the Community - common seated area opposite Butcher at Charlestown Square
- 1.30-2.30pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb Church

## Sunday 26 May – Trinity Sunday

- 9.00am Worship Service. Leader: Sue Pepper and Preacher: TBA  
*Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 29; Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17*

## Monday 27 May

- 1.30pm SFED

## Tuesday 28 May

- 10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square
- 12.00pm Garden Suburb Ladies Fellowship

## Thursday 30 May

- 10.00am Morning tea in the Community - common seated area opposite Butcher at Charlestown Square
- 1.30-2.30pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb Church

## Friday 31 May

- 10-11.30am Grief, Loss and Change at Toronto Uniting Church (see notice in Contact)

## Sunday 2 June – Pentecost 2

- 9.00am Worship Service. Leader: Margaret White and Preacher: TBA  
Including Children's Corner  
*1 Samuel 3:1-10, Psalm 139:1-6,13-18; 2 Corinthians 4:5-12; Mark 2:23-3:6*

## Monday 3 June

- 10.00am Garden Suburb Nursing Home Pastoral Care Visitation
- 1.30pm SFED

## Tuesday 28 May

- 10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square
- 12.00pm Garden Suburb Ladies Fellowship

# THE PRAYER PAGE



Please join with each other as a congregation, to commit to praying at meal times, for the needs mentioned below.

## Pastoral Prayer Points

- \* those in our congregation whose loved ones have died in recent times
- \* Shirley Elkin
- \* Lorraine Pepper
- \* Vicki
- \* Lesley
- \* Judith Fuller battling cancer
- \* Pam and Ken (home from hospital today)
- \* Lyn Benson
- \* Graeme
- \* Jean
- \* Fred Bryant
- \* June Locker
- \* Ryan Walpole
- \* Kathryn Gray
- \* Jacqueline Fenwick
- \* Isabella
- \* Janice Wright
- \* Eileen Dunn
- \* Mert
- \* Judith and family
- \* Enid Power
- \* Max
- \* Tom and Kathy

## Congregational Prayer Points

- Give thanks for the sale of Whitebridge property
- Pray for guidance and discernment for missional use of buildings into the future
- Project Reconnect
- Worship Services
- Cathy Beeton and SRE classes
- Worship Committee

## Wider Community Prayer Points

- Pray for orphanage as they experience heavy rain and floods
- Tom and Neos
- HCA and ongoing issues of homelessness, affordable housing and climate change
- Praise for the attendance and results obtained from the Founding Assembly of HCA
- Pray for victims and families affected by the recent tragedies in Sydney
- 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
- Thanksgiving for all orphanage children at school thanks to generous donations
- Rohingya people in Bangladesh where 7000 people homeless



Today, Sunday 19 May



## 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:

### 19 May 2024 – Dungog Uniting Church

For the past 20 years, Dungog Uniting Church has operated without an Ordained Minister in placement. It has been able to continue its ministry during this time with Lay Leadership, and together with the assistance provided by Retired Ministers and Lay Preachers from the Hunter Presbytery, along with retired Ministers living in the area, has been able to conduct a weekly service of worship. There is a Sunday School which, though small in number, is a welcome inclusion in our worship. We are a loving community of people who care for and support one another, as well as endeavour to extend that care into the local community.

**Prayer: We pray for the Dungog Uniting Church; for its leaders as they endeavour to meet the challenges that are before them in continuing to provide a place of worship, along with a welcoming environment in which to engage with the local community. Amen**

## Children & Family Worker Update



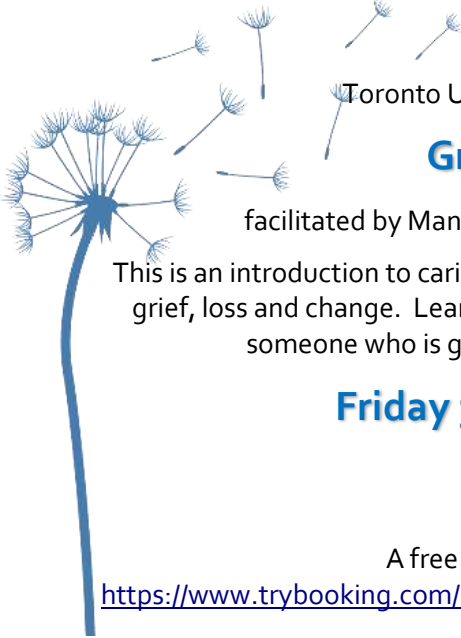
*A belated Mother's Day Blessing to all our beautiful*

*Mothers, Grandmothers & great Grandmothers*

*May God Bless you every day of your life.*

Have a good week.

Cathy



Toronto Uniting Church is hosting a workshop on

## **Grief, Loss and Change**

facilitated by Mandy Cox, Bereavement Counsellor and Educator.

This is an introduction to caring for others, and for ourselves, through the experience of grief, loss and change. Learn about the impacts of loss and change, ways to support someone who is grieving, and when grief gets stuck – what then?

**Friday 31 May at 10am – 11.30am**

Toronto Uniting Church  
118 The Boulevard, Toronto

A free workshop, but please register here:

<https://www.trybooking.com/events/1215499/sessions/4580807/sections/2285709/tickets>  
for catering purposes:



Tom and Kathy will be on holiday from 20 May to 2 June (inclusive).

If you have any concerns during this time, please contact Anne Threlfo, Julie Fenwick, or your Elder.



## **IS IT TIME FOR A CHANGE?**

**Would you like to attend the Sunday Worship Service, but find 9am too early?**

**Would you be more able to attend Worship at 9.30am?**

**Would you prefer worship to remain at 9.00am?**

**Your Elder will be speaking with you soon!**



Tickets for Opera Hunter, who are presenting Bizet's

# Carmen

Were you planning to see Carmen at the Warners Bay Theatre?

Opening night is -

Wednesday July 10th at 7.30 pm

and performances are -

Friday 12th 7.30pm

with matinees on

Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th at 2pm

**We have two tickets donated** for use at the **SRE Silent Auction** (face value \$110) - being offered now - please make your bid (your choice of session) to

Paul Russell on 0411236047



The poster features a vibrant red and yellow color scheme. At the top, it lists performance details and logos for Lake Macquarie City and Opera Hunter. The title 'Carmen' is written in a large, elegant script. Below the title, the venue and dates are specified. The central part of the poster is dominated by a large, stylized illustration of a woman's eyes and a bull's head, both rendered in a patterned, mosaic-like style. The bull's head is at the bottom, and the woman's eyes are above it, looking towards the viewer. The background is a mix of red and yellow, with a sunburst effect behind the bull's head.

Sung in French  
with English Surtitles  
& English Dialogue

LAKE  
MACQUARIE  
CITY

Opera Hunter  
Experience in Music

Book Now:  
[stickytickets.com.au](http://stickytickets.com.au)

Present Bizet's  
*Carmen*

**WARNERS BAY THEATRE ~ JULY 10-21 2024**

Director ~ Stewart McGowan  
Conductor ~ Christopher Bearman OAM  
Music Director ~ Mercia Buck OAM

Anthea Harrington  
Ellen Malone  
Emma Lewis  
Ezekiel Weedon  
James Walker  
Joanna Andrew  
John Campbell

Malcolm Young  
Marian Moroney  
Michael Saunders  
PJ Willis  
Raphael Hudson  
Sam Elmi  
Opera Hunter Chorus

**Some of our Church Contacts:**

**Minister**

Rev Tom Stuart

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**Administration:**

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**Children & Families Resource Worker:**

Mrs Cathy Beeton

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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>