



CONTACT



Charlestown & Garden Suburb Uniting
Church Multi-Centre Congregation

24 September 2023

River Sunday

Water and rivers of life are strong images in the Scriptures. The ocean and large bodies of water are signs of chaos and fear. The Red Sea is an obstacle for the Israelites to cross. It is tamed by Moses' staff and kills Pharaoh's charioteers. Also think of Jonah being cast into the ocean to appease the gods or Paul being shipwrecked, and even Jesus calming the storm and walking on the water. Rivers and water can be destructive. The story of Noah reminds us that the rising water not only cleansed the earth but also killed and destroyed many living things, many parts of God's creation. God does not want to do such a thing again. The rainbow reminds us of this promise.

Water and rivers of life are strong images in the Scriptures. The necessity of fresh water for life is emphasised again and again. Moses brings water out of the stone. The deer pants for the water in Psalm 42. In Psalm 23 the LORD leads us to still water and restores our souls. From Jesus, we see streams of life-giving water. Jesus promises the Samaritan woman, an enemy of his people, access to such water. And in the reading from Revelation 22:1-5, coming from Jesus, we see streams of life-giving water flowing on to the fertile plains.

From InterGen resources, Written and compiled by Michelle Cook

Artwork

Artist: Troy Mulvien Mardigan
Language: Ngengi'wumirri
Community: Nauiyu - Daly River

Troy learnt how to paint from his grandmother when he was a young boy. He uses traditional stories and styles to integrate his art and faith. Troy attended his first course at Nungalinya when he was 19 years old. He has completed the foundation study course, music and media and is currently also completing a theology certificate. He uses his growing understanding of the Scriptures as inspiration for his paintings.



Troy is actively involved with the art centre in Daly River and hopes to continue sharing his faith in the art industry and the wider Christian community.

This painting is a story about Jesus and represents Jesus as the truth. The river represents Jesus as the living water. It is flowing from the foot of the cross towards new life. The flowers represent new life.

He is the water of the dry land and the green land. On the top of the cross is the omega symbol - He is the beginning and the end.

DIARY

Thursday 21 September

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

Sunday 24 September – River Sunday

9.00am Worship Service – Leader: David Chegwidde
Reflections by Michael Smith, Lesley Clulow and Jean Page

Genesis 8: 20-22; 9: 12-17; Psalm 104: 27-33; Revelation 22: 1-5; Matthew 28: 1-10

Tuesday 26 September

10.00am Morning tea in the Community – Frankie & Co Café at Lake Macquarie
12.00pm Ladies Fellowship at Garden Suburb
3.30pm Worship Team Meeting at The White House



Wednesday 27 September

Kids Club – ‘The World Around Us’

Thursday 28 September

10.00am Morning tea in the Community - common seated area opposite Butcher at Charlestown Sq
No Bible Study during the School Holidays



Sunday, 1 October
2023 - 2:00am - clocks
are turned forward 1
hour

Sunday 1 October – Animal Sunday

9.00am Worship Service – Leader: Michael Smith Preacher: Catherine Pepper
Genesis 2: 18-25; Psalm 148; Revelation 5: 11-14; Matthew 6: 25-29

Monday 2 October

10.00am Visitation at Garden Suburb Aged Care

Tuesday 3 October

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

Thursday 5 October

10.00am Morning tea in the Community - common seated area opposite Butcher at Charlestown Sq
No Bible Study during the School Holidays

Sunday 8 October – Pentecost 19

9.00am Worship Service – Leader: Beryl Gaul Preacher: David Chegwidde
Exodus 20: 1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Psalm 19; Philippians 3: 4b-14; Matthew 21: 33-46

Tuesday 10 October

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

Wednesday 11 October

10.00am Ladies Fellowship at Charlestown

Thursday 12 October

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

Friday 13 October

6.00pm Ladies Night at Kahibah

THE PRAYER PAGE



'Pray for our country as we continue to engage in conversations over the coming weeks.

Pray for truth-filled, gracious and compassionate conversations that are grounded in humility and respect.

May we stand together for love, compassion, inclusion and reconciliation.'

Pastoral Prayer Points

- * Kerrieann (Tom's sister)
- * Ryan Walpole
- * Kathryn Gray
- * Glenn Pepper and family
- * Sharon MacDonald and family
- * Gloria Booth and family
- * Tony Sellen and family
- * Anne
- * Mac
- * Jacqueline Fenwick
- * Peter Ferguson
- * Nola
- * Isabella
- * Ashley
- * Janice Wright
- * Glenda O'Donahue
- * Eileen Dunn
- * Mert and Pam
- * Judith and family
- * Lorraine Pepper
- * Enid Power
- * Fred Bryant
- * Max

Maintained by SFED and Enid Power

Congregational Prayer Points

- Tom and Kathy on holiday
- Pray for congregational members participating in the spirituality of Age exercises each week
- Project Reconnect
- Worship Services
- Lease of Whitebridge property
- Cathy Beeton and SRE classes
- Worship Committee

Wider Community Prayer Points

- Flooding in Libya
- Earthquake in Morocco
- Consequences of climate change around the world
- Preparations for Voice Referendum – truth telling will be an important priority
- The situation in Ukraine and other trouble spots
- Fabian, children and Wilfreda suffering heart failure
- Tom and NEOS as he follows ideas and opportunities including connections with Wesley Mission at Windale



Children & Family Worker Update

Hi Everyone

Thank you to all who prayed for The SRE Assembly on Tuesday we had a few start up problems which were sorted out & the assembly went really well. I had students from the drama group help out with telling part of the story, the choir sang a song for us, a year 6 did a bible reading really well & most importantly all the kids were fantastic & super excited about the assembly. Ben waters (Whitebridge High School SRE teacher) & Helen Walkom (another SRE teacher) helped out on the day.



Next Wednesday is our **Holiday Kids Club**, some places available if you have anyone wishing to come. Please pray for good weather as I would like to take the children on an outdoor adventure. Should be a great day, watch out for our facebook post after the day.


Cathy



DIANA BUTLER BASS WITH TIM SCORER

EMBRACING SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Diana Butler Bass on the Dynamics of Experiential Faith



Online Study (Zoom)
5 Monday's 7:30 pm
23rd Oct - 20th Nov

Leader - Rev. Tom Stuart
tom@thestuarts.id.au

Charlestown &
Garden Suburb
Congregation
of the UCA

Contact Tom for
details &
registration:

**A Five-Session
Study**

A reminder about the upcoming Church Council Election

Some of our council members have come to the end of their term. Kerrie Dixon (Passionate Worship) and Lesley Clulow (Extravagant Generosity) have agreed to being nominated for another term.

Vacancies currently exist for

"Risk Taking Mission and Service",

"Intentional Faith Development" and

"Radical Hospitality"



If you are considering serving in this way yourself or would like to encourage someone else, outlines of the focus of each of these areas of responsibility can be found on our website under the "About Us" tab, or speak to a member of Church Council.

Nomination forms are on the foyer table, along with a sheet giving information about the vacancies.

Nominations are to be in by 8th October.

Julie Fenwick, Church Council Secretary

**Rev Tom Stuart is on holiday
from Monday 18 September to Sunday 15
October**

**If you need pastoral or other assistance during this time,
please contact**

**Julie Fenwick (0414 411 157)
or contact your Elder.**



Accept what is,
Let go of what **WAS**,
And have *faith*
In what will **be**

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>

Spirituality of Age Exercise



To What Are You Called?

Think of someone you've met personally, or in literature or history, who illustrates the notion of tikkun, the Jewish belief that it is the individual's task to retrieve shattered shards of goodness and light and bring their contribution back to help repair the world. What adjectives, qualities and characteristics best describe the essence of the individual you chose as someone who represents tikkun to you? Take a moment to make a list of these descriptors before reading on.

Analysis

The list you came up with says as much about you as it does about the person you selected. The particular words you chose to describe someone who represents tikkun give you a vivid, concrete profile of the aspirations you hold in regard to what you aspire to awaken to. Not every word you put on the list may apply to you, but the list – as a whole – will provide you with interesting insights about yourself and what gives your life meaning and purpose, regardless of the circumstances you may face over the coming years. In fact, when it comes to retrieving shards of light – doing the sacred work of tikkun – it could well be argued that the greater the shadows with which you are confronted as you age, the greater the contribution toward repair of the world you have the potential to make.