



# CONTACT



Charlestown & Garden Suburb Uniting  
Church Multi-Centre Congregation

**26 January 2025**

## **From Anne Threlfo**

*Last Sunday was the observance of the fifth Day of Mourning, as a precursor to Australia Day. The following thoughts come from UCA Day of Mourning resources, and are written by Rev Charissa Suli, President UCA and Rev Mark Kickett, National Chairperson Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC).*

The Day of Mourning was established by the Uniting Church Assembly at the request of the UAICC, building on Congress' legacy of prophetic leadership including the creation of Congress itself and the Covenant. This day expresses our deep desire that truth, justice, healing and hope will shape our life as First and Second Peoples all across this vast southland.

For countless generations before colonisation, First Peoples lived in this ancient place, custodians of its lands, skies, and waterways. They cared for creation with profound wisdom and harmony, sustained by the Spirit of God who was always present with them.

The brutal settlement of these lands now called Australia devastated the oldest living culture on earth. Since that time First Peoples have known forced intervention, genocide, dispossession, incarceration, the loss of language, culture, family and story. The great wounds at the heart of our nation will remain unhealed until we can reckon with the full truth of our history.

As Second Peoples from many lands, we must understand how we continue to benefit from grave injustices of the past and present.

The Day of Mourning asks us to listen deeply and learn humbly, and bear one another's burdens. It is a moment to receive the outstretched hand of friendship offered in grace and hope, and to trust in Jesus, whose reconciling love continues to mend the brokenness within and among us.

The same ancient Spirit of God which has always been present in these lands has given us 'a destiny together' as the body of Christ in this time and place. This is also a day to celebrate survival and the immense gift we have in each other, giving thanks for the transformative and boundless love of Christ which holds us.

As the President of the Uniting Church in Australia and National Chairperson of the UAICC, we pray that the roots of our covenant will grow deep into the soil of truth and friendship and grow new shoots of justice and healing for our Church and nation.

May the blessing of God - the Ancient of Days, Jesus, the embodiment of justice, and the Spirit, the eternal animator of Creation - be on us and remain with us.

Amen.

# DIARY

## **Thursday 23 January**

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

## **Sunday 26 January – The Third Sunday of the Epiphany**

9.00am Divine Worship  
Leader and Preacher: Pastor Kim Langfield  
*Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21*

## **Tuesday 28 January**

10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square

## **Thursday 30 January**

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

## **Sunday 2 February – The Fourth Sunday of the Epiphany**

9.00am Divine Worship  
Mrs Cathy Beeton / Mr Ben Waters (SRE)  
*Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30*

## **Tuesday 4 February**

10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square

## **Thursday 6 February**

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

## **Sunday 9 February – The Fifth Sunday of the Epiphany**

9.00am Divine Worship  
Leader and Preacher: Rev Dr Judy Redman  
*Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13); Psalm 138; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11*

## **Tuesday 11 February**

10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square

## **Thursday 13 February**

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

# THE PRAYER PAGE



Prayer is the Voice of Faith

## Pastoral Prayer Points

- \* The McLean Family after the death of Fay
- \* Those who are mourning loved ones
- \* Ange
- \* Kim
- \* Janice and Don Wright
- \* Cathy Beeton
- \* Kelly
- \* Laraine Chegwiddden
- \* Tony Sellen
- \* Vivianne
- \* Lorraine Pepper
- \* Vicki
- \* Pam and Ken
- \* Lyn Benson
- \* Jean
- \* Fred Bryant
- \* June Locker
- \* Ryan Walpole
- \* Kathryn Gray
- \* Jacqueline Fenwick
- \* Isabella
- \* Eileen Dunn
- \* Pam and Mert
- \* Enid Power
- \* Max
- \* Tom and Kathy
- \* Don Humphries

## Congregational Prayer Points

- Church Council
- John Lewis and his work with Wesley Mission in Windale and Hamilton South
- 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

- Orphanage in Kenya and Wilfreda
- Neos ministry
- Those affected by climate change in Australia eg floods, droughts and fires
- Pray that a cease fire agreement will be negotiated between Israel, Lebanon and Hamas and that there will be relief from all the suffering
- The situation in Ukraine and other trouble spots





Tom and Kathy will be on holiday from 1 January to 12 February 2025

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



### Guest Preachers during Rev Tom's leave

<b>5 January 2025</b>	Rev Dr Peter Oliver
<b>12 January 2025</b>	Rev Dale Yardy
<b>19 January 2025</b>	Rev Dale Yardy
<b>26 January 2025</b>	Ms Kim Langford
<b>2 February</b>	Mrs Cathy Beeton / Mr Ben Waters (SRE)
<b>9 February</b>	Rev Dr Judy Redman

## Spiritual Practice of the Week

**Unplugging :** calls us to leave the virtual world of technology (computers, email, mobile phones, iPads etc) in order to become present to God and others.

**Practice:** Which relationships in your life need face time? • Plan face-to-face time with several people this week. Do not let this time be interrupted by anything electronic.

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

# Children & Family Worker Update



Happy New Year to everyone, I hope you all had a lovely Christmas & a good start to the New Year.

A busy time ahead for me as I prepare for SRE (Special Religious Education) events, first of which will be our SRE Service on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February, which I will take, I hope you can join me as I take you through SRE in Schools.

Then, the 10<sup>th</sup> I will be involved with Hunter Christian SRE Coordinators lunch, which usually has around 40 Coordinators from as far away as Merriwa, Port Stephens, Hunter Valley & locally attend to catch up on new ideas or regulations & enjoy time together before their SRE year starts.

And for the first time on Tuesday Evening the 11<sup>th</sup> Hunter Christian SRE will hold a dinner for members of SRE Boards across the Hunter, with special guest speaker Tom Eastlake, Executive Officer for ICCOREIS. (SRE state body)

Then you are invited to join me & Paul Russell on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February at 2pm for the SRE Dedication Service this year being held at New Vines Beaches Church - Jewells.

A poster for an SRE Dedication Service. The background is light purple with a row of colorful pencils at the bottom. The text is as follows:  
- Top left: "You're Invited!" in purple cursive.  
- Top center: "SRE" in large white outlined letters.  
- Top right: A logo for "SCHOOL SCRIPTURE" with "Special Religious Education" in small text below it, and "a good thing" in orange cursive below that.  
- Center: "DEDICATION SERVICE" in large white outlined letters.  
- Below center: "2pm, 23rd February 2025" in white.  
- Below that: "at New Vine Beaches - Jewells cnr Ntaba and Dalrymple Streets and Halewood Close Jewells" in white.  
- Bottom: "Come along and support our Primary and High School SRE Teachers!" in white.

A HAMILTON UNITING CHURCH EVENT



EVERYONE HAS A STORY

SAVE THE DATE + DETAILS SOON



# STORIES

Seeing Behind Prison Walls: Learn About Human Rights Violations  
Why Jailing is Failing + Viable Alternatives to Incarceration in Australia



“Expressions of Abuse and Agency: Drawing Lived Experience of Incarceration”  
Video Project + Research + Stories + Alternatives  
+ Organisations engaged in these Issues + Q&A

## 15 MARCH 2025

FROM 4.30PM - 6.00PM

'AT "HAMILTON HIVE" 150 BEAUMONT ST, HAMILTON 2303

FIND OUT MORE [www.hamiltonunitingchurch.com/stories/](http://www.hamiltonunitingchurch.com/stories/) EMAIL [hamiltonuca@gmail.com](mailto:hamiltonuca@gmail.com)





*With Guest Speaker*

**Frank Wortley**

## **The Camino**

### **A Way of Encountering the Divine**

The French Camino is an 800 km journey between St Jean Pied de Port on the French side of the border between France and Spain moving west to Santiago de Compostela the traditional resting place of Saint James the Apostle.

Using it as a retreat Frank has walked this Camino on four occasions since 2013. Each time he has come away having met the Divine in ways that continue to impact him today.

The Camino rightly understood is a symbol of the spiritual journey we are all on and the God of the Camino is the same God we can encounter in the journey of our own lives.

Frank Wortley has been in ministry for over 45 years, first as a Baptist pastor, then thirty years as a military chaplain and a further nine as chaplain to Gosford Hospital. He is an Associate Lecturer with the Sydney College of Divinity in pastoral and spiritual care and supervision and a clinical pastoral educator and supervisor in private practice.

***Charlestown Uniting Church - 24 Milson St***

**8am Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February**

Cost \$12 RSVP: Paul Russell

pmraus74@gmail.com, or 0411 236 047  
or sign-up sheet in the foyer.

**By Wednesday 12th February 2025**



**Embody** is a time and space to engage in embodied practice to explore, express and play with the stuff of life. Anybody can do it. No experience or skill needed. We use the tools and forms of InterPlay which are improvised, incremental, accessible, playful and embodied. A little bit of movement, a little bit of talking, a little bit of stillness.

This is a free offering, and all are welcome to attend.

... and we actually mean that. There is no prescribed or imposed belief system or religion. Come as you are - and no one is going to ask you to change. Engage as you want to.

First Sunday of every month, **5:30-7pm** - in the **Memorial Hall of Adamstown Uniting Church** - entrance from the top of the building on the carpark side.

Initial gathering: **Sunday 2 February 2025**

## Hunter Community Alliance Assembly 2025



**Thursday 6 March, 6pm - 8:30pm**

**Great Hall, University of Newcastle**

The Hunter Community Alliance is inviting you to register for the 2025 HCA Federal Pre-Election assembly.

Join us to demonstrate the power of civil society and to take action on housing, energy and climate ahead of the Federal election.

The Assembly will include a roll call of organisations, testimonies from our communities and negotiations with politicians attending.

Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/2nua9cb2>



*"Be nurtured in nature"*

Max & Bronwyn invite you to

*Fosterton Retreat  
Open Day 2025*

Saturday February 8th  
10am-3pm

It is with great gratitude we want to share our slice of heaven, celebrate 9 years & get a taste of what we like to do here. Come & see what we get so excited about—wildlife—serenity—the views—getting away—the river—our plans—the pool – special deals.

Bring family, friends, lunch, your swimmers, walking shoes & experience Fosterton Retreat. Do a little or do it all.

10am Meet at the Retreat Space,

11am A guided labyrinth walk,

12.00 A reflective creative exercise heading into 2024,

1pm Lunch- bring a picnic lunch, your own or share,

2pm Walk our Bellbird, Lemon tree, cabins &/or Dam trails. Look for our elusive koalas, pull out some lantana.

Let us know you are coming so we can send directions, make plans, pull out the welcome mat & put on the kettle.

*Bronwyn and Max*

**Please RSVP**

**Ph: 0439 500 909 or 0490 663 228**

**E-mail: [fostertonretreat@outlook.com](mailto:fostertonretreat@outlook.com)**

**208 Moylans Road,  
Fosterton. 2420**

**NSW.  
Only 15 minutes from  
Dungog**



**FR**

## Some of our Church Contacts:

### **Minister**

Rev Tom Stuart

M: 0427 625 502

E: [tom@thestuarts.id.au](mailto:tom@thestuarts.id.au)

### **Administration:**

P: 4943 4019

E: [office@charlestown.unitingchurch.org.au](mailto: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](mailto: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>