



CONTACT



Charlestown & Garden Suburb Uniting
Church Multi-Centre Congregation

23 March 2025

From Rev Tom

I am full of gratitude for the gift of being raised in a faith-filled loving family. Even now I am encouraged by the devotion of my mother as all her circumstances are viewed through the prism of her reliance on God. I suspect she would say the same thing about her family of origin. I have heard my mother recount many stories of the generosity and love of her parents, and I particularly remember the stories about her Dad, as he expressed his goodwill to those who needed his support financially and through his motor vehicle service station. One memory my mother recounts is of a man who came for assistance on a Sunday. The family home was next to their garage. The man came to the house and asked if he could buy some petrol (the reason for the urgency had long been forgotten). The problem is that back then, at least in Parkes NSW, commerce was illegal on Sundays. My Grandfather, a sucker for those in need, took pity on the man and sold him some fuel. However, the transaction was reported and my Grandfather's endeavour to assist in this case of urgency resulted in him being prosecuted and had to pay a fine. I often remember that story and perhaps it might be surprising for me to say, that I am glad that my Grandfather was fined. The reason I am glad is because it now is a reminder to me that there was a time when the economy and convenience were not our gods. Once there was a time when the community valued something more than an economic imperative and personal convenience. Exodus 20 includes these words, "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns." We live in a time of complete reversal of the values expressed in that commandment. Nothing is holy, that is, set apart, for something higher than our immediate desires. Many of us, in our privileged position, do not have to work on Sunday. But unlike in the commandment, where a slave, or a foreigner, nor even an animal, is required to work, we are quite happy for some poor unfortunate to be bereft of the grace of a time of common rest as they are required to serve us at our convenience. The law of the Sabbath not only values God but values all people, even the animals, more than their productivity. Our society seems to only value humans, or anything according to economic benefit. Last Sunday's Epistle was 3:17-4:1. In that passage Paul reminded his readers that their citizenship is in heaven. This is a great metaphor for us Christians. We live in a time when our social, political, and economic systems have truly lost their way. We do well to remember that we don't have our citizenship in this realm, and so as Paul suggests we must work hard to resist the values so endemic all around us. We belong to a kingdom where love is law, where the poor, the alienated, the vulnerable, and the foreigner get preferential treatment. This Lent I invite you to reflect on how you have accepted this world's values, use this Lenten period for repentance, and contemplate how you can resist the osmosis of being saturated in a world to which we don't actually belong.

DIARY

Thursday 20 March

- 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 23 March – The Third Sunday of Lent

- 9.00am The Divine Worship
Leader: Margaret White Preacher: Project Reconnect, Ms Carolyn Sharp
Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

Tuesday 25 March

- 10.00am Garden Suburb Ladies Fellowship visit to Ronald McDonald House**
10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square
3.30pm Worship Committee Meeting at Teralba

Thursday 27 March

- 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 30 March – The Fourth Sunday of Lent

- 9.00am The Divine Worship
Leader and Preacher: Rev Tom
Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Tuesday 1 April

- 10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square

Thursday 3 April

- 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

Saturday 5 April

- 7.00pm Family Fun Trivia Night & Auction – **CCEA SRE Fundraiser**

Daylight Saving finishes tonight – put clocks back one hour



Sunday 6 April – The Fifth Sunday of Lent

- 9.00am The Divine Worship
Leader and Preacher: Rev Tom
Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8

Monday 7 April

- 10.00am Garden Suburb Aged Care Facility Pastoral Care Visit

LOOKING AHEAD

Saturday 12 April – A Men's Breakfast – Give me the Mountain - With Guest Speaker David Stephenson Managing Director of YWAM

THE PRAYER PAGE



Prayer is the Voice of Faith

Pastoral Prayer Points

- * Those who are mourning loved ones
- * Mike Warren
- * Ange
- * Kim
- * Janice and Don Wright
- * Kelly
- * Laraine Chegwiddden
- * Tony Sellen
- * Vivianne
- * 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
- * Don Humphries

Maintained by SFED and Enid Power

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

- Margaret Jurd College and Darren Twist
the Principal
- Young people who struggle to participate
in our school system
- Orphanage in Kenya and Wilfreda
- Neos ministry
- Those affected by climate change in
Australia eg floods, droughts and fires
- The situation in Israel and Palestine
- The situation in Ukraine and other trouble
spots



GARDEN SUBURB

Ladies'
FELLOWSHIP

Visit to Ronald
McDonald House

Tuesday 25 March

12pm

Contact Margaret Barlow



RMHC[®]
Australia

Spiritual Practice of the Week

Solitude: The practice of solitude involves scheduling enough uninterrupted time in a distraction-free environment that you experience isolation and are alone with God. Solitude is a “container discipline” for the practice of other spiritual disciplines.

Practice: Make the time you spend in the shower each morning your alone time with God. Present yourself to your Creator— all of your body, all of the dirt that has accumulated in your soul, all that God has made you to be. Let the water from the shower remind you of the water of life that nourishes and changes you. Let the warmth touch you with love. If you like a cold shower, let the bracing impact call you to live your life to the full. Offer yourself to God for the day. Thank him for the alone time he spends with you.

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

Holy Week and Easter Services



Palm Sunday 13 April

9am at Charlestown Church

Maundy Thursday 17 April

7.30pm at Garden Suburb Church

Good Friday 18 April

9am at Charlestown Church

Easter Day 20 April

9am at Charlestown Church

**FAMILY FUN
TRIVIA NIGHT & AUCTION
CCEA SRE FUNDRAISER**

LET THE GAMES BEGIN!

BYO Snacks
(Nut free zone),
Drinks, Tea & coffee
for Sale

**SATURDAY 5TH APRIL 2025
7PM AT
HUNTER CHRISTIAN CHURCH
20A HILLSCREST PRD, HIGHFIELDS**

**TABLES OF 8 OR INDIVIDUAL TICKETS AVAILABLE
(\$20 PERSON - UNDER 16 FREE)**

Enquiries & booking
Contact Hunter Christian Church
02 4942 1351
Info@hcc.org.au

Come and take part in a
silent auction to raise money
for SRE at
Whitebridge High

Bring a
Friend!



With Guest Speaker

David Stephenson

Give me the Mountain

Stories of reaching Ukrainians and Syrians

Charlestown Uniting Church – 24 Milson Street

8am Saturday 12th April

Cost \$12 RSVP to Paul Russell

0411 236047 pmraus74@gmail.com By 9th April 2025

David Stephenson is the Managing Director of Youth With A Mission (YWAM's) operations in the Hunter.

YWAM locally have trained over 3000 missionaries since inception, and have provided over 600,000 Volunteer contact hours over the last ten years. They have been given the keys to the city, and were recently recognised by the City of Newcastle for their contribution to the people of Ukraine.

Some of our Church Contacts:

Minister

Rev Tom Stuart
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Administration:

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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>