



# CONTACT



Charlestown & Garden Suburb Uniting  
Church Multi-Centre Congregation

**21 July 2024**

## From Rev Tom

**Another reason for the importance of community organising!** One aspect of my Neos role is participation and leadership in the Hunter Community Alliance. There are lots of reasons I include that participation as part of Neos. Just one example of why I think such participation is so important is the access the alliance gives me to people across the community. I have developed relationships with union members, shire councillors, members of parliament, people with disabilities, people from environmental groups, homeless people, people from organisations responding to domestic violence, and more. Not only do I have the opportunity to meet these people, but community organising promotes conversations where people discuss their deep-felt motivations for what they do. This means that in community organising I am given an invitation to talk about my faith. Further, I have the opportunity to listen to the deep values and concerns of others. My experience is that a lot of people love talking about spirituality, and I love listening to them talk about MY favourite subject. But the recent event in the US of the attempted shooting of past president Donald Trump reminds me of another valuable aspect of community organising. Community organising aims to increase the common good. So, for example, one of the goals of the Hunter Community Alliance is to ease the housing crisis. The HCA has drawn on the expertise in the community, with the specific housing challenges in the Hunter, and created specific goals. To reach those goals we build relationships between organisations across the community. We reach out to politicians at the 3 tiers of government. We make connections with journalists to make our story known. All of this work is politically non-partisan. That is, a central principle of community organising is to not take sides with a political party. We work with any politician or party who is prepared to help achieve our goals. I have already experienced some surprising allegiances develop to that end. In contrast, what we see happening in the United States, and to an extent in Australia, is the demonising of political opponents. I have read that journalists from the US are saying that it is possible that if Donald Trump had been killed, civil war would have been a very real outcome. Civil war! We see this demonising of political opponents in Australia too. In contrast, with community organising the way we achieve our goals is as valuable as the goal itself. That is, achieving goals is by building relationships, developing cohesion, and valuing all the players, even when disagreeing. I love this so much because it feels like the heartbeat of the religion to which I belong. It allows me to fulfil what I desire so much for the world in which I live. It makes our so-called enemies our friends.

# DIARY

## Thursday 18 July

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

## Sunday 21 July – Pentecost 9

9.00am Holy Communion Service. Leader and Preacher: Rev'd Tom  
*2 Samuel 7:1-14a; Psalm 89:20-37; Ephesians 2:11-22; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56*

## Tuesday 23 July

10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square

## Thursday 25 July

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

## Sunday 28 July – Pentecost 10

9.00am Leader and Preacher: TBA  
*2 Samuel 11:1-15; Psalm 14. Ephesians 3:14-21, John 6:1-21*

## Monday 29 July

1.30pm SFED

## Tuesday 30 July

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

## Thursday 1 August

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

## Sunday 4 August – Pentecost 11

9.00am Leader and Preacher: TBA  
*2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a; Psalm 51:1-12; Ephesians 4:1-16; John 6:24-35*

## **A Men's Breakfast**

## *How does Poetry open us to the Sacred?*

Michael Griffith has recently retired from Australian Catholic University where he taught literature for 45 years. During that time, he also taught literature for the Sydney Clemente Program for the homeless and marginalised.

In all his teaching he has a special interest in the way the language of literature, especially poetry, can deepen our understanding of ourselves, of others and of our connection with the sacred. Brought up as a Catholic, Michael has been a long-time practitioner of the Gurdjieff Work and is also a Member of the Quakers.

He will explore with you some of his favourite poems and discuss the ways in which they can open doors onto the sacred.

**8am Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> August** at Charlestown Uniting Church - 24 Milson St

\$12 RSVP: Paul Russell [pmraus74@gmail.com](mailto:pmraus74@gmail.com),

or 0411 236 047

*Please advise of any special dietary requirements*

# THE PRAYER PAGE



As part of the Uniting Church 35 days of Prayer pray for Luga Brae Bronte Uniting Church and access the prayers available each day on line, by joining Uniting in Prayer 2024.

## Pastoral Prayer Points

- \* those in our congregation whose loved ones have died in recent times
- \* Laraine Chegwiddden
- \* Tony Sellen home from hospital
- \* Liz and Peter
- \* Nelda Marshall
- \* Mike Warren
- \* Elaine Ross
- \* Vivianne
- \* Shirley Elkin
- \* Lorraine Pepper
- \* Vicki
- \* Lesley
- \* Judith Fuller battling cancer
- \* Pam and Ken
- \* Lyn Benson
- \* Jean
- \* Fred Bryant
- \* June Locker
- \* Ryan Walpole
- \* Kathryn Gray
- \* Jacqueline Fenwick home from hospital
- \* Isabella
- \* Janice Wright
- \* Eileen Dunn
- \* Mert
- \* Judith and family
- \* Enid Power
- \* Max
- \* Tom and Kathy
- \* Don Humphries

## Congregational Prayer Points

- Church Council
- 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

- The orphanage
- Tom and Neos
- HCA and ongoing issues of homelessness, affordable housing and climate change
- 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





# 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:

## 21 July 2024 – Mayfield - Stockton Uniting Church

The Port Hunter Parish consists of two churches - Mayfield Uniting Church and Stockton Uniting Church. Mayfield Uniting Church meets each Sunday followed by a cuppa and a catch up. Our women meet weekly on Wednesdays at 10am to discuss the Bible or a relevant book and our men meet on Thursdays at 8am. Our Congregation consists of about 20-25 regulars between the ages of 70 and 95. Stockton church meets each Sunday with an average congregation of 10. The Stockton Ladies meet for coffee fortnightly and bimonthly for lunch and the church is open on Wednesdays from 11am – noon for anyone who wishes to pray.

**Prayer: We pray for our church family and in particular the Church Council and ask you to direct and guide them in the promotion of the Christian faith, the care of your house and the pastoral care of our parishioners. Please Lord we are a hospitable congregation and would welcome new parishioners into our church family to further spread the Good News of your word. Amen.**



A commemoration of Hiroshima Day

6pm Sunday 4 August 2024

*peace*

## Prayers for Peace at Choral Evensong

Christchurch Cathedral, Church St, Newcastle

The guest preacher will be Rev Nicholas Edwards, St James Anglican Church, Morpeth  
People of all faiths are warmly invited to share in this annual service of commemoration as we remember those who have suffered as a result of war, and join together in prayers for peace in the world.

Organised by Christians for Peace Newcastle

Contacts: George Garnsey 4934 2658 or Doug Hewitt 0431 935 097

# Children & Family Worker Update



What a fun day we had at **Holiday Kids Club** last Wednesday, a beautiful sunny day where we could really enjoy our **Crazy Olympics** outdoors. So many fun games like crazy triathlon, sitting volley ball, balloon fencing. Many great crafts prepared by David & Laraine, pizza lunch & a message about Strength, Faith & running the Good Race. The kids loved the outdoor area at Garden Suburb for their games. I have added some photos for you to see the fun we had.



**Safe Church Training** – if you are involved in any children's or Vulnerable people ministry or on the Church Council you are required to do the Uniting Church Training. Two days have been organised for the Hunter area, unfortunately, the Training at Garden Suburb set down for the 24<sup>th</sup> August is now booked out, but you can apply to go on a waiting list, the other is for Morpeth in October. If you have missed the one at Garden Suburb please book in for the one at Morpeth & put your name on the waiting list for Garden Suburb. If you need help with registering please don't hesitate to contact me.

Well I am again doing the '**Bloody Long Walk**' in support of 2 year old, Audrey, who has the most severe form of Leigh's Disease a Mitochondrial Disease. The walk is 35 km long leaving from Redhead crossing the suburbs & ending in the Pacific Park, Newcastle on the 25<sup>th</sup> August. I will be making some homemade sweet to sell in support of my walk, I will bring some along to church when I return on the 28<sup>th</sup> July. I hope you are able to help support me by purchasing a bag or 2.

Have a great week.

Cathy



# SOUL CARE 2024 CONFERENCE

12-13 September 2024 | Wesley Mission, Sydney

## Also Online

### **Explore Mindfulness practice and research as a template for advancing spiritual care**

We are thrilled to be joined by Associate Professor Nicholas Van Dam and Dr Cullan Joyce for their keynote session *Mindfulness practice and research as a template for advancing spiritual care*.

Spirituality and spiritual care are often present in health settings but face challenges from secular organisations due to varying understandings and implementations. Though rooted in spiritual traditions, mindfulness meditation gained acceptance through collaboration with empirical researchers. The development and acceptance of mindfulness provide insights that can enhance evidence around spiritual care practices.

Join us for this informative session that will discuss the practical implications of integrating contemplative research with spiritual care and highlight how contemplative practices support person-centred care and allow for diverse beliefs and the need for collaborative efforts between researchers and practitioners.

Information and registration here:

<https://www.nswact.uca.org.au/calendar/soulcare-2024-12-13-september/>

Early bird registrations end Saturday 20 July – on site \$129, online \$49



Uniting Church The Hunter Presbytery

## PRESBYTERY GATHERING

THURSDAY 29<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2024

Salamander Bay Uniting Church  
174 Salamander Way, Salamander Bay 2317

10 am Morning Tea  
10.30am Programme begins

### Guest Speaker

Rev Faaimata Havea Hiliau  
Moderator Uniting Church  
NSW/ACT Synod



Offering shared between  
Flying Padre based at Broken Hill and  
Yaacaaba Centre, Port Stephens

(This service provides early intervention support and  
counselling services to assist vulnerable people  
who are at imminent risk of homelessness)

Bring your own lunch. Tea and coffee provided.  
Sales Table with Greeting Cards etc.

Supported by UCAF The Hunter Presbytery Committee



## Study Leave

Rev Tom will be on study leave from Monday 22 July to  
Sunday 28 July (inclusive), so won't be available during  
this time.

If you require support or assistance during this time,  
please don't hesitate to get in touch with Anne Threlfo,  
Julie Fenwick or your Elder.

# Small is Beautiful 2



## Thriving as a small Church



Saltbush Minister Yvonne Ghalalas will lead a second workshop on thriving as a small church. At our first gathering, we considered how the unravelling of our traditional ways of being church might actually be the activity of the Holy Spirit inviting us to partner together in new ways. Small is Beautiful 2 will focus on creative worship with the seed parables in Mark's Gospel, conversation around the idea of "thriving" communities, and practising intentional community-building through relationship, inclusivity, justice, and discipleship. Morning tea and materials will be provided at no cost - please bring a +1 along with you if possible.

**Saturday 31st August 2024**  
**9am - 1pm**

**East Maitland Uniting Church - 35 William St**

Register here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/small-is-beautiful-2-tickets-936103269077?aff=oddtcreator>



# Practices That Transform Us

## Hear God's Word

The 1 disciplines stem from a desire to offer others a taste of God's life-changing love. The Son of God came to earth and took on flesh (was incarnate) to show us the face of God's love. While on earth Jesus called his followers to incarnate this show-and-tell love in their own bodies. With the love of Jesus resident within us, our capacity to love grows. Love always gives birth to more love. It is not a depletable quantity but an eternal quality of God. In Christ we are rooted into the depths of God's love. We cannot run out of it.

1. **Blessings Others/Encouragement** - Choose one day this week to bless or encourage as many people as you can. Don't flatter. Ask God to give you divine eyesight. When appropriate, speak your truthful blessing out loud. When you can't speak it out loud, speak the blessing to God and ask God to bless them. At the end of the day, reflect on what it was like to be one who carried the blessing of God into the day.
2. **Care of the Earth** - Take a walk through God's beautiful world. What characteristics of God are revealed in earthly beauty? • Journal your discoveries.
3. **Compassion** - Construct a timeline of your losses. At each point record how you responded (e.g., anger, denial, blame, withdrawal, depression, etc.). How did moments of compassion come or not come into these moments? • Dialogue with Jesus about what you see.
4. **Control of the Tongue** - Since Scripture tells us that we will give an account for every word we have said, spend some time praying about how you use words. • Imagine that all the words you speak are picked up and stored in a receiver somewhere out in outer space. Then imagine all your words being played back to you. What do you hear? • Give the Lord an account of today's words. Confess with your mouth the sins of your mouth. Receive God's gift of forgiveness.
5. **Forgiveness** - In your imagination sit at the foot of the cross as Jesus is dying. Watch him holding the abuse, rage and sin of the whole world. Watch how he does not turn it back on those who deserve it. What does this mean to you in your relationships?
6. **Humility** - In Matthew 11: 29 Jesus says, "Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart." What are the characteristics of a gentle and humble heart? • How are you cultivating a gentle and humble heart?
7. **Stewardship** - How does the way you were brought up affect your stewardship? List the strengths or weaknesses that have been bequeathed to you. • Then consider the legacy you are passing on to others. What do you want people to say about your stewardship of your resources once you are gone?
8. **Solidarity in Jesus' Suffering** - Choose an event in Jesus' life that mirrors an experience in your own: unjust accusations, betrayal by friends, being misunderstood by family or colleagues, becoming exasperated with others, facing temptation and so on. As you read the story of the event, imagine Jesus sharing in your suffering. Pray deeply into this solidarity with him.
9. **Truth Telling** - Practice one of these habits for the coming week: (1) not exaggerating, (2) not gossiping or (3) not rationalizing. • What is it like for you to do this?

*"All new life comes out of the dark places, and hasn't it always been?"*

*Ann Voskamp*

City of Newcastle would like to invite you to attend [two events](#) as part of our Empowering Newcastle program

**Electrify Everything - An evening with Dr. Saul Griffith**

*Thursday 25 July, 5:30 to 7:30pm, City Hall*

An inspirational and informative evening with author, inventor and entrepreneur, Dr Saul Griffith, as we explore an action plan to electrify Newcastle.

**Hunter Renewable Energy Transformation**

*Saturday 17 August, 9.30 to noon, City Hall*

Join NSW Environment Minister, Penny Sharpe and Lord Mayor Nuatali Nelmes to hear about the renewable energy transformation in the Hunter and opportunities for us all to be part of our net zero future

[Register for events here](#) or email [sustainability@ncc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:sustainability@ncc.nsw.gov.au) for more information.

**Some of our Church Contacts:**

**Minister**

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**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>