CONTACT

Charlestown & Garden Suburb Uniting Church Multi-Centre Congregation

15 November 2026

From Rev. Tom

Our gospel reading this week is the Parable of the Talents from Matthew 25. It comes among several passages about final judgement, and its words are hard to hear: "From those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away." I find that difficult to square with the abundant, reconciling grace of Jesus.

Like last week's story of the ten bridesmaids, this parable leaves me with questions. Perhaps some of its obscurity is deliberate. I can come back to the same story at a different moment in my life and hear something I missed before.

Two servants put the money entrusted to them to work and double it. Their master gives them both the same praise. The third, who received the least, buries it. When the master returns, the servant tells him he was afraid. He calls his master a harsh man who reaps where he has not sown. I sometimes wonder whether the third servant got it right. The master's decision to throw him into the outer darkness rather bears out what the servant says about him.

This time, though, I found myself thinking about where we are as a congregation. We have significant financial resources, and what I hear in the parable this week is an encouragement to get on with it.

I remember representing the Central West Presbytery in a review of a congregation. I was looking through two years of accounts. The first showed a term deposit of $80,000. The next showed no sign of it. I looked up and asked, "What happened to the $80,000?"

"We spent it!" one of the women said. "We knew if we just let it sit there, God would never give it to us again!"

There's more to be said about how the money was spent, of course. What has stayed with me is her willingness to see that money as something the congregation could put to use. And that's what I'm hearing in the parable this week. Where might we put what we've been given to work? Perhaps we can worry a little less about how it will all turn out and have a go.



DIARY

Thursday 12 November
10.00am Morning tea in the Community – common seated area at Charlestown Square
10.30am Worship Service at Garden Suburb Aged Care
1.30-2.30pm Advent Bible Study in the Dudley Room at Milson St Hub
Friday 13 November
6.00pm Ladies Night at Kahibah
Saturday 14 November
9am-12.30pm Quiet Morning at the Milson St Hub (see more further in Contact)
2.00pm Friendship Circle at Milson St Hub – Games and Afternoon Tea (see more details further in Contact). All Welcome

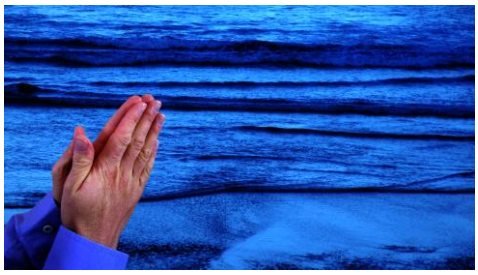
Sunday 15 November – Pentecost 25
9.00am The Divine Worship
Leader and Preacher: Rev Tom Stuart
Judges 4:1-7; Psalm 123; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30
Tuesday 17 November
10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square
Thursday 19 November
10.00am Morning tea in the Community – common seated area at Charlestown Square
1.30-2.30pm Advent Bible Study in the Dudley Room at Milson St Hub
Saturday 21 November
2.00pm Thanksgiving Service for Brian Cox at Charlestown Uniting Church

Sunday 22 November – Christ the King
9.00am The Divine Worship
Leader and Preacher: Rev Tom Stuart
Ezekial 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 100; Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46
Tuesday 24 November
10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square
Thursday 26 November
10.00am Morning tea in the Community – common seated area at Charlestown Square
1.30-2.30pm Advent Bible Study in the Dudley Room at Milson St Hub
Saturday 28 November
8.00am Men's Breakfast at Milson St Hub with Defence Force Chaplain Rev. Allan Johnston (more details further in Contact)

Sunday 29 November – Advent 1
9.00am The Divine Worship
Leader: Cathy Beeton and Preacher: Rev Tom Stuart
Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7,17-19; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

DECEMBER
Tuesday 1 December
10.00am **Pastoral Care Visitation at the Garden Suburb Aged Care Facility**
10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square
Thursday 3 December
10.00am Morning tea in the Community – common seated area at Charlestown Square
1.30-2.30pm Advent Bible Study in the Dudley Room at Milson St Hub

THE PRAYER PAGE



Prayer is the Voice of Faith

Pastoral Prayer Points

* Pray for Marion Joyce and family

* Pray for Brian Cox's family and his Thanksgiving Service on November 21.

* Marion Joyce is having a surgical procedure this week

* Gloria

* Anne Hall

* Jean Witherspoon

* Pray for Janice Wright and family

* Robyn Greaves and family

* Marion Box

* Prayers for Grahame Beeton and family

* Mert and Pam

* Jacqueline Fenwick

* Rene Kelly

* Valmai

* Kelly

* Tony Sellen

* Vicki

* Pam and Ken

* Lyn Benson

* Jean

* Isabella

* Eileen Dunn

* Max

* Don Humphries

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Congregational Prayer Points

- Church Council on 17th November
- NREMA application
- Major upgrades to the Project Reconnect website
- Worship Services
- Cathy Beeton and SRE classes
- Church profile and preparations for Tom's retirement
- Worship Committee

Wider Community Prayer Points

- Churches to pray for this month are Singleton-Branxton, Tarro, Tea Gardens, Toronto and Wangi Wangi.
- pray for Catherine Pepper who has recently been appointed Associate General Secretary, Strategy and Governance for the Assembly of the UCA. Pray that she may receive wisdom and grace as she fulfills her role which is involved with preparing the church for the future in the areas of strategy and governance.
- Margaret Jurd College and Darren Twist the Principal
- Orphanage in Kenya and Wilfreda
- Neos ministry
- Those affected by climate change in Australia eg floods, droughts and fires
- Prayer for those in conflict zones in the world



The service for Brian will be live streamed and can be viewed at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BkZ4dEaAEWE

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE OF THE WEEK

Waiting: Waiting is the ability to sustain a deep desire with patient hope or a shorter-term frustration with equanimity.

Practice: When you end up waiting, practice letting go of your need to control. What happens? Notice what comes up while you wait and talk to God about it. You can use the time that is given— or you can waste it in fretting.

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



Children & Family Worker Update



I taught my first Christmas SRE Lesson this week, 'Jesus Saves' we looked at Names & their meanings, I found the meaning of some of the children's names & then read Matthew 1: 18-23, we discussed how the angels visited Mary & Joseph & how they were told to call him Jesus, we looked at what the name means, Jesus 'he will save people' we also looked at Immanuel 'God with us' I also reminded them that we often hear Jesus called a number of different names when we read the Bible.

Over the next few weeks, we will explore 'What difference does the coming of Jesus make' we will look at the Joy & Hope he brings.

Please pray for SRE lessons over the next 4 weeks, especially pray for Charlestown East School & the SRE Christmas Assembly on the 25th November as this is the only scripture lesson they will have before Christmas, pray that I am able to make a difference in their understanding of Christmas.

Have a great week

Cathy



CALLING ALL WEEDERS!!!!!



Do you enjoy a mindless task? Some say even relaxing!

If you have an hour or so on a Wednesday, would you like to come and help weed the Hub gardens?

We could meet from 9:30am – and even have a cuppa after our hard labors!

Many hands make light work.

Please let Sue Warren know if you would like to help out





Friendship Circle

Will meet at the Milson St Hub

on November 14th at 2pm

for Board and Table Games and Afternoon Tea.

All Welcome





Lay Worship Leaders and Preachers

Refresh and Encouragement

Sunday 22nd Nov
12:30 – 2:30pm

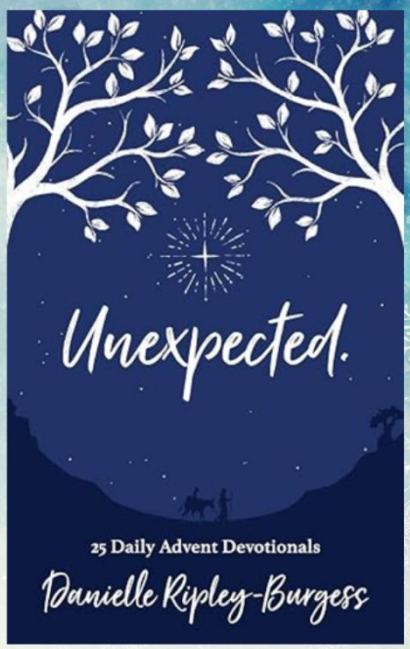
Raymond Terrace UCA

Contact
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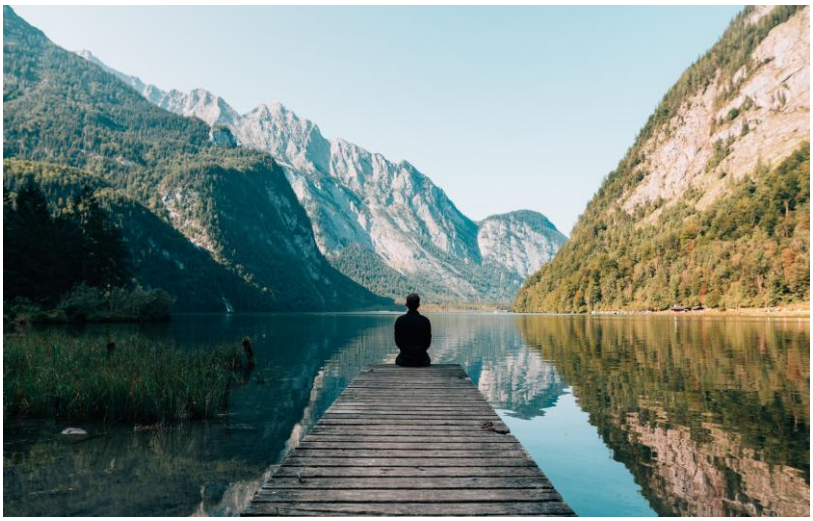
This Advent Daily Devotional booklet is now available in the church foyer

Cost $10

Please place money in the box provided







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 St, 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