



# CONTACT



Charlestown & Garden Suburb Uniting  
Church Multi-Centre Congregation

**13 and 20 October 2024**

## From Rev Tom

On Sunday in my sermon I referred to the "Levels of Consciousness" described by the philosopher and author Ken Wilber. Those levels of consciousness were *Egocentric*, *Ethnocentric*, *Worldcentric*, and *Kosmocentric*. All of us have to travel from one of these to the next, whether or not we even get past *Egocentric*. However, it wasn't that long ago that *Worldcentric* and above didn't exist. On Sunday I said that *Ethnocentric* is the mythic stage. This means that the way we understand things comes from a mythical story. For the Greek creation was an outcome of infighting between the gods. In the Judeo-Christian tradition, was revolutionary as there was one God called *YaHWeH* who created the universe with good intent, and there is a story of a Garden of Eden and a first man and woman. Here the word *myth* means a story with a meaning. There are profound truths built deep into the stories of our religious heritage, which we continue to explore, discovering the wisdom expressed there. But humans have continued to develop and along came *Worldcentric*. The *Worldcentric* is a person where the language of science dominates. To achieve meaning and understanding in their world, their language, is a scientific world, and scientific language. It doesn't need to be the case, but there is a strong tendency that as a person moves from one stage to the next they reject the characteristics, particularly the language and modes of thinking, of the previous stage. That is why there was a time when people postulated "the death of God". As more people entered the scientific world, the *Worldcentric* perspective, many thought "God" and religion would disappear. It turns out that this was far from reality. What happened was that in the *Worldcentric* stage there appeared what is called *postmodernism* where people rediscovered a sense of the spiritual realm, even though no longer confined to mythical thinking. But as the church continues to wonder how we renew the expression and experience of God's love, revealed in the person of Jesus, how do we communicate our message? Once it was easy. Everyone was *Ethnocentric*. We all spoke the same way, understood the world, and understood religion, in the same way – from a primarily mythic perspective – in "story" that is the bearer of meaning. But the mythic representation of God doesn't make sense to people who live in a primarily scientific world. It doesn't make sense when you are taught science, and already understand evolution at an early age, where everything is explained according to a scientific perspective – and the universe began with a big bang! How do we speak the good news of Jesus into that cultural milieu? Well, it is tricky because most of us learned Christianity in an *Ethnocentric* world. We don't know the language, we don't get it, and don't trust it – "Oh, that evil meditation!" One of the elements of Ken Wilber's theory of levels of consciousness is that the *rational* stage in the *Worldcentric* level is not the end of the story. In fact for me his theory is a reason for optimism. Late in the *Worldcentric* stage, and then in the *Kosmocentric* stage people realise that there is something beyond the limited view of scientific discovery. The foundations of science is based on perception ... if we can see, touch, feel, and measure it then it is real and significant. But gradually people have realised that there is something beyond direct experience, in fact science itself pushes us beyond such notions, with things like quantum mechanics, string theory, multiverse theory, quantum entanglement, and dark matter. A growing percentage of the population are returning to accepting that there is something beyond the tangible.

**Continued over .....**

That there are forces that we only connect into at a spiritual level. At the *Worldcentric* level there is still a suspicion of religion as a means of explaining the nature of this spiritual realm. But along comes the *Kosmocentric* which is a level of consciousness where people see back the deep wisdom that is expressed in the early mythical levels, the ancient stories – people who had deep contact with the spiritual realm – people like Jesus. So, as a human species, we are going through revolutionary transitions. Some of the consequences of that imperil us, like climate change, nuclear weapons, and population growth. However, at the same time there is a connecting back into the central force of the universe – we call that central force “God”. We say that force is best expressed in human form in “Jesus”. The challenge we have is how do we let the Spirit do the Spirit’s work in continuing to bring the world into unity with the one we call God in Jesus Christ. All this is not something we control, but is a journey we participate in and live ever in hope.

# DIARY

## Thursday 10 October

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

10.30am Worship Service at Garden Suburb Aged Care

## Saturday 12 October

12.00noon Friendship Circle – meet at Murrays Beach Café for lunch

## Sunday 13 October - Pentecost 21

9.00am Divine Worship – Leader: Anne Threlfo Preacher: Rev’d Tom commencing with **Kathy’s Bracket of Praise.**

*Job 23:1-9, 16-17; Psalm 22: 1-15; Hebrews 4: 12-16; Mark 10: 17-31*

## Tuesday 15 October

9.00am Needlework n Natter

10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square

## Thursday 17 October

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

## Sunday 20 October - Pentecost 22

9.00am **Holy Communion** within Divine Worship

Leader: Margaret White; **Preacher: Project Reconnect;**

Celebrant: David Chegwiddden

*Job 38: 1-7, (34-41); Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c; Hebrews 5: 1-10; Mark 10: 35-45*

## Monday 21 October

10.00am Garden Suburb Nursing Home Pastoral Care Visit

1.30pm SFED

## Tuesday 22 October

10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square

12.00 Garden Suburb Ladies Fellowship

## Thursday 17 October

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

1.30-2.30pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb

# THE PRAYER PAGE



Prayer is the Voice of Faith

## Pastoral Prayer Points

- \* Elkin, Clarke and Monaghan families
- \* Tom and Kathy commencing holidays
- \* 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

Maintained by SFED and Enid Power

- Max
- Tom and Kathy
- Don Humphries

## Congregational Prayer Points

- Church Council
- Elections for 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

- Children in the orphanage as MPox is spreading rapidly in Kenya. Pray for vaccines to arrive soon and Pray for 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





## 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:

### 13<sup>th</sup> October 2024 – Wangi Uniting Church

Wangi Uniting Church meets at 9am each Sunday, we have an average attendance each week of 25. Currently we are blessed to have a range of ages from 3 to 80 Worship. Twice a month we have a free Community Lunch that is attended by many non-church people (around 20 come each lunch). We have a fortnightly Kid's Club during school term that we average 18 children attend and as well as a KYB, interdenominational Ladies bible study during school term with 16 ladies from many different churches attending.

**Prayer: We would ask for prayer for those who are reached through our ministries, that they might desire to learn more about Christ, and that those who lead the various groups may continue to follow the Lord's directions in these ministries, and that they will continue to minister to those who need it the most in our community who might be able to see God's love shining through the people and program's we are able to offer. Amen.**



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### 20<sup>th</sup> October 2024 – Grahamstown-Raymond Terrace Uniting Church

Raymond Terrace Uniting Church is one of the five congregations in the Grahamstown Multi-centre Congregation. We are a very welcoming group of about 20 who meet each Sunday at 9am. Every month we have a Sunday lunch after the service and there is a weekly Bible study on Friday afternoons. We join with our other congregations for the monthly GrUnCh21 social gatherings, on the 21st of each month. Everyone is invited to come along.

**Prayer: We pray for Raymond Terrace Uniting Church and the Grahamstown Multi-centre Congregation for guidance in continuing to seek ways to appreciate the similarities and value the differences that build a diverse and responsive church, locally and beyond. Amen.**

## Spiritual Practice of the Week

**Journaling:** Journaling is a tool for reflecting on God's presence, guidance and nurture in daily coming and goings. Journals can be kept regularly or during time of transitions.

**Practice:** Keep a prayer journal: record requests, prayers, answered prayers

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

## Church Council Elections

Church Council election on **27 October**

Sue Warren, Paul Russell and Julie Fenwick have been nominated for re-election to their current positions.

No nominations have been received for the other positions at this stage.



## Charlestown Friendship Circle

**Saturday 12 October**

Will be at Murray's Beach Café at  
12 noon for lunch.

**All Welcome**



Rev Tom Stuart will be on holiday  
from Sunday 14 October to Sunday 27 October

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

Julie Fenwick or your Elder



## Worship + Celebration

All welcome

9.30am

20th October 2024

Hamilton Uniting Church  
150 Beaumont St,  
Hamilton NSW

*observing the*  
65th Anniversary of the Ordination  
of Reverend Richard Wrightson

ENQUIRIES:  
PH: 4961 4040

20TH OCTOBER  
2024

AT 9.30AM



The Church Office will be **closed** on the 16 October  
as Jenny is on holidays.

There will be no Contact or mailouts for this week.

# GIRLS NIGHT OUT

*Placing value on friendship*

## CAFÉ NIGHT

Date: **Monday 4th November 2024**

Time: 7.30—9.15 pm

Tea & Coffee served from 7.00 pm if you would like to come early to catch up with friends.

Venue: Garden Suburb Uniting Church Prospect Road. Garden Suburb.

Theme: **Surprises**

Guest Speaker: Rachel Jones & Jenna Haddow from St. Dominic's Centre

Donation \$15

Ph. Sue 0425 37 55 28 Cath 0409 44 59 33



# Fresh Expressions

Explore > Form > Connect

Wednesday  
6 November  
7pm on Zoom



## Explore

*Explore is a Zoom gathering twice a year to find out more about Fresh Expressions.*

## Explore

*With Carolyn Meers*



Our first Explore will feature Carolyn Meers, who will share the joys and challenges of leading a traditional church that has started 3 Fresh Expressions.

Join us to find out more about Fresh Expressions pathways and connect with our Fresh Expressions community.

Contact Karina Kreminski for more information: [karinak@nswact.uca.org.au](mailto:karinak@nswact.uca.org.au)



Explore



Form



Connect



Uniting Church  
SYNOD OF NSW & ACT

[www.nswact.uca.org.au](http://www.nswact.uca.org.au)

Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/mrhpxrp3>

Bring a  
Friend!

# MEN'S BREAKFAST



With Guest Speaker

**Gwenda Brownell**

**Taking hold of the near edge**

## **Social Justice**

**Why Bother?**

Charlestown Uniting Church - 24 Milson Street

**8am Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October**

Cost \$12 RSVP to Paul Russell

0411 236047 [pmraus74@gmail.com](mailto:pmraus74@gmail.com) By 16<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Our Speaker will be **Gwenda Brownell**, leader of the social justice team at Toronto Uniting Church. This team has led a variety of activities both advocating for and taking action towards bringing about social justice where unjust systems bring harm to people. Our hope brings us to work in the small ways available to us for Australia to be a nation that is just, compassionate, inclusive and courageous.

*From little things .....*



# LUNCH BREAK CONCERTS



**1.10PM TO 1.50PM**

**OCTOBER 2024**

**3RD "CADENCE"**

**17TH "TWO VOICES IN THE CROWD"**

**22ND "STEEL CITY SUE" MORLEY**

**31ST "THE SINGING CIRCLE"**

**"BILL'S PLACE" HAMILTON UNITING CHURCH  
150 BEAUMONT ST M: 0407401833**



## 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>