



# CONTACT

Charlestown & Garden Suburb Uniting  
Church Multi-Centre Congregation

10 April 2022



**From Anne Threlfo** (with a lot of help from Nadia Bolz-Weber)

Nadia Bolz-Weber is a Lutheran pastor and author from the US. I read a short article written by her recently with this amusing and attention-grabbing title:

## **The Sacred Act of Having No Idea What We Are Doing**

Nadia tells a story of an encounter with a stranger who admires her “really beautiful eyes”. She is intensely touched by these few words from this man who has no idea how deeply those words impact her. He doesn’t know about the wound she carries, and how that greeting so beautifully brushed against her. As a teenager, Nadia had suffered from a disease which caused her eyeballs to bulge so far out of her skull that her eyelids could not close around them. She still flinches when she hears the term “bug-eyes” which all but replaced her name in High School, or of all the lunches she ate alone as her protective independence grew.

The stranger, who initiated this brief connection, with this lovely, simple greeting, will never know how his words brought healing to her deepest vulnerability. “You have really beautiful eyes.”

Nadia goes on to recount a story which happened only a week after this encounter. She was in the vestry of a Lutheran church with a number of other clergy preparing for an ordination. She introduced herself to another pastor, who shook her hand and went on to say something quite unexpected.

“We’ve met, but I don’t expect you to remember. I’ve waited seven years to be able to tell you this. You shared your chicken dinner with me that night and you have no idea what it meant.”

The pastor went on to say that at the time, she was at a low point in her life in the midst of a painful divorce. She had met Nadia in the green room at an event, where Nadia was tucking into a huge chicken dinner. The pastor was exhausted and unbeknown to Nadia hadn’t eaten all day. Nadia looked up from her dinner and offered to share it with her. The pastor said to Nadia that this small gesture of generosity meant so much to her she almost cried, even though Nadia didn’t even remember the incident.

Neither of these interactions involved a structure to “do good”. There were no programs, activities, charitable schemes, or institutions involved. They were God inspired connections between two people, the work of the Holy Spirit attending to the needs of another person without the eye admiring man, or the dinner eating Nadia having a clue what was going on.

Many of the spiritual practices we undertake such as Lectio Divina, Centering Prayer and journaling serve to bring us to stillness, and remove us just for a while from our ego; our usual operating system. In these moments, when we are distracted from ourselves, we are more likely to hear and respond to God, not from any sense of our own goodness, but from the promptings of the Holy Spirit. In that space, we may be drawn to make what we think, is a small offering into the life of another person, not realising what is actually happening.

As our congregation continues to seek our way forward, and prepare to hear from Rev Dr Karina Kreminski, there seems to be a parallel in Nadia’s experiences. Perhaps our challenge is to continue to do

**Continued over.....**

what we can do to remove “ourselves” from the picture, to take opportunities to connect with the community and with people in the course of our everyday lives. When we feel inclined to compliment someone on their eyes, or share our dinner, or ring someone when we think of them, or invite someone to have coffee with us, or speak a few words to the person next to us in the supermarket queue, we don't second guess this instinct, but just do it! Maybe we are most effective in bringing about the Kingdom of God when we don't know what we're doing!

## DIARY

### **Thursday 7 April**

1.30pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb

### **Friday 8 April**

6.00pm Ladies Night at Kahibah

### **Saturday 9 April**

8.00am Men's Breakfast with guest speaker Rick Prosser

11.00am Charlestown Friendship Circle outing to Grahamstown Dam

### **Sunday 10 April**

9.00am Worship Service at Charlestown, led by Rev Tom Stuart

5.00pm The Resting Place at Garden Suburb

### **Tuesday 12 April**

10.45am – 1.00pm Karina Kreminski at Garden Suburb (Part 1) – all welcome

### **Wednesday 13 April**

9.30am Easter Holiday Kid's at Charlestown

9.30am Charlestown Ladies Fellowship visit to Heritage Gardens

### **Thursday 14 April**

2.00pm Easter Service at Garden Suburb Aged Care Facility led by Rev Tom Stuart

4.30pm **Maundy Thursday** service at Garden Suburb

### **Friday 15 April**

9.00am **Good Friday** Service at Charlestown, led by Rev Tom Stuart

### **Sunday 17 April**

9.00am **Easter Sunday** Service at Charlestown, led by Rev Tom Stuart

5.00pm The Resting Place at Garden Suburb

### **Monday 18 April**

10.00am Pastoral Care Visit to Garden Suburb Aged Care Facility

### **Thursday 21 April**

4.00pm Finance team meet to work on 2022/23 budget

### **Friday 22 April**

2.00pm Anzac Service at Garden Suburb Aged Care Facility with Cardiff RSL leading

### **Sunday 24 April**

9.00am Worship Service at Charlestown, led by Rev Tom Stuart

5.00pm The Resting Place at Garden Suburb

### **Tuesday 26 April**

3.30pm Worship team meet

### **Thursday 28 April**

1.30pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb

### **Tuesday 3 May**

9.30am – 11.00am GCK (Grandparents, Carers & Kids) at Garden Suburb

3.30pm Church Council meet

### **Tuesday 10 May**

10.45am – 1.00pm Karina Kreminski at Garden Suburb (Part 2) - all welcome

### **Thursday 19 May**

10am Biggest Morning tea at Charlestown for the Cancer Council

### HAVE YOU GOT ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

To assist with Maundy Thursday preparations, we are looking for the following items: Chair, Bowl, Jug It would be great if they could look as though they have come from Jesus' era. Please contact Vicki Hancock by Tuesday 12 April on 0401 386 779 if you can help



"Lord, give me your eyes and ears today as I move about in my neighbourhoods. Show me your heart and help me to love those people around me who are my neighbours" Karina Kreminski

In preparation for Karina's visit on 12th April could we recommend that each congregational member make this visit a matter of prayer. The above prayer is an indication of the emphasis Karina will have as she shares with us about her work in the suburb of Surry Hills in inner Sydney.

## THE PRAYER PAGE



- \* Karina's visits on 12th April and 10th May
- \* Nan and Tony's moving house in early April
- \* those suffering from Covid
- \* pray for the Mission Plan and its submission to the Presbytery
- \* pray for Mike Smith as he undertakes training in the Lay Preachers course through UTC
- \* pray for all the victims of floods in the past couple of weeks, that help and aid will be available to them as quickly as possible
- \* pray for the situation in Ukraine and for the thousands of refugees making their way into Poland and other surrounding countries. Pray especially for the men and women who have chosen to stay and defend their land.
- \* pray for the Russian dissenters whose voices are being silenced
- \* pray for the continuation of the Grandparents, Carers and Kids group meeting each fortnight at Garden Suburb, and for the fellowship and relationship building that will occur
- \* pray for Karina Kreminski's visit to our Church on 12th April
- \* pray for the Worship Service and the recording of them each week
- \* pray for our aboriginal brothers and sisters
- \* pray for the preparations for the sale of the Whitebridge property
- \* pray for guidance and enthusiasm as we undertake our own spiritual journey and development especially in this time of Lent
- \* pray for the planning of the first Quiet Day for 2022

## CONTINUE TO PRAY for:

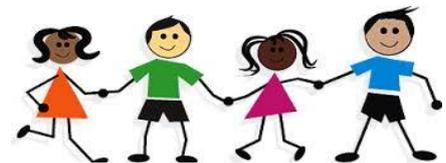
- \* Renewal in our congregation
- \* SRE teachers
- \* Rev Tom, Kathy & Family
- \* Our Children & Family Worker, Cathy
- \* Our Church Council
- \* Project Reconnect
- \* Wilfreda's Orphanage Kenya
- \* Watoto Child Care, Uganda
- \* Victims of floods, bushfire, damage and droughts
- \* All in detention
- \* Jean Townsend
- \* Kelly Rayfield
- \* Fred Bryant
- \* Steph and baby Sol
- \* Dennis Tranter
- \* The bereaved
- \* All those who are unwell
- \* Those whose lives are impacted by problem gambling

- Ken Macdonald (in ICU)
- Bev and Bill
- Janice
- Enid Power (in hospital today for tests on her kidney's)
- John Cooper
- Nancy Rozek
- Sally
- Mike Smith
- Max
- Lee Hancock (Enid's daughter in law)
- Wilma Birch
- Dianne Antcliff
- Olivia
- Elaine Moran
- Catherine
- Shirley

## Children & Family Worker Update

### Hi Everyone

**As I write this** my eldest son Brodie is in isolation with Covid-19 having contracted it through a work colleague in Sydney last Friday. By Monday his daughter Ella joined him in isolation, Tuesday, Saige & Tuesday night, his son Arlen, leaving only his wife Leisa Covid free (at time of writing). All have had different symptoms, some worse than others but are recovering now.



Our friend Kelly had to take one of her twins Kane to hospital on Monday night as he had become very unwell, to be told he had Covid-19 (his symptoms were very similar to our Ella's, upset tummy, not eating or drinking), so now Kelly & her twins are in isolation.

**Apparently, half the staff at Charlestown School** are off with Covid, which has caused some disruption to our SRE Easter Assembly. Lesley & family are in isolation after her son-in-law contracted it.

**I am just telling you this** as we have sat quietly at home these 2 long years not being affected, all of a sudden, we have had a big wake up call, Covid-19 is going nowhere and we need to pray for all those affected no matter how mild, it still has an impact. I pray you & your family are well & keeping safe.

**This Wednesday is our Holiday Kids Club** – naturally, our theme is Easter based where we will become detectives to uncover the mystery of the empty tomb. Please pray for our Holiday Kids club team & our children, pray we all stay Covid free so we can give the children the best Holiday Kids yet.

Cathy



Charlestown & Garden Suburb Uniting

Planning the Future  
Embodying God's Mission in the Neighbourhood  
with  
**Rev. Dr Karina Kreminski**



Karina will facilitate two sessions on the changing role of the church in our culture and her own experience of engaging with God's mission in her neighbourhood. We will also hear practical ideas about how we can listen deeply to our community and develop relationships which seek to bring about the Kingdom of God.

**Everyone in the congregation is invited and encouraged to attend.**

Garden Suburb Uniting Church  
Cnr Prospect Rd & Marshall St, Garden Suburb

**Tuesday 12 April (Part 1)**  
**Tuesday 10 May (Part 2)**  
**10.45am – 1pm**

Followed by BYO lunch with opportunity to speak with Karina

Please RSVP to Anne Threlfo Ph: 0439 754 376 Email: [annethrelfo@gmail.com](mailto:annethrelfo@gmail.com) by Friday 8 April for Part 1, and Friday 6 May for Part 2

**Rev. Dr Karina Kreminski** has worked in the fields of English teaching and journalism. She has been a Senior Minister in the Church and was Missiology Lecturer at Morling College in Sydney. Karina has a doctorate in missional formation and writes and blogs about life, spirituality, mission and theology. She has also been on various denominational boards and vision committees. She loves forming people for leadership and speaks regularly at churches and conferences on neighbourhood and community mission and activism. Karina has facilitated The Happiness Lab at the Surry Hills Neighbourhood Centre where she is a board member, and is involved in a storytelling project called Surry Hills & Valleys with locals in Surry Hills in Sydney. She has written a book called *Urban Spirituality: Embodying God's Mission in the Neighbourhood* and is a consultant for Uniting Mission and Education. More information here: <https://neighbourhoodmatters.com.au/>



## Holy Week and Easter Services



<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	14 April @ 4.30pm	Garden Suburb Uniting Church
<b>Good Friday</b>	15 April @ 9.00am	Charlestown Uniting Church
<b>Easter Sunday</b>	17 April @ 9.00am	Charlestown Uniting Church

## Friendship Circle

The next Friendship Circle outing is to

Grahamstown Dam

On Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April

For a picnic lunch

We will be leaving the Church at 11.00am, please  
contact Sue Warren if you require transport ~

0427 737 794

All welcome

In the event of inclement weather, we will have a picnic lunch at  
at Sue and Mike Warren's, 1 Ocean St, Dudley



## Charlestown Ladies Fellowship

On 13<sup>th</sup> April we are off to the Heritage Gardens,  
leaving the Church at 9.30am for morning tea  
and a browse in the nursery.

Contact Sue Warren if you require transport on  
0427 737 793



# A Men's Breakfast 8am Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April

at Charlestown Uniting Church - 24 Milson St

Cost \$12 RSVP: Paul Russell  
pmraus74@gmail.com, or 0411 236 047  
or sign-up sheet in the foyer.

*Please advise of any special dietary requirements*

**By Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

*Please do not attend if you are unwell or have been to a Covid-19 hotspot in the previous 14 days.*

Our Speaker will be **Pastor Rick Prosser** – During the last 7 years Rick has been Team Leader of **Life Church Newcastle** mostly known for significant inner city charity work through **Soul Café**. Soul's unique work serves some of the most vulnerable people in the city. Under

Rick's Leadership Soul has become a much loved and respected charity with over 180 volunteers. Rick's leadership has been catalytic in pioneering church, community and civic partnerships. These include **CityServe** mobilising thousands of volunteers completing hundreds of projects serving Newcastle & Lake Macquarie. Newcastle **Civic Prayer Gatherings** and a new charity **Hello Hunter** - a help line and connection point for church and community throughout the Hunter Region.

## Continuing Covid Safe Measure

- The number of Covid-19 cases in our community remains high. As singing is a high risk activity for transmission of the virus, the Church Council requires **everyone in the room to continue to wear a face mask when singing is taking place.**
- Masks may be removed during other parts of the worship service.
- This will be reviewed by the Church Council each month.

## Other Covid safe measures

- Stay at home if you feel unwell
- Social distance where possible
- Ventilate room as much as possible
- Continue good hand hygiene practices

*Anne Threlfo*

Ph: 4953 1300 Mob: 0439 754 376

Email: [annethrelfo@gmail.com](mailto:annethrelfo@gmail.com)



The Biggest Morning Tea will be held at Charlestown Church on Thursday 19 May at 10am.

**All Welcome**

Funds raised will go to the Cancer Council



**FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE  
MOTHER'S DAY CELEBRATION 2022.**



**“LOVE BIRDS IN THE WETLANDS?”**

***An invitation is issued to ALL members of the church to join us for our Annual Mother's Day Outing.***

***The Place*** – The Hunter Wetlands Centre – 1 Wetlands Place, Shortland.

***Date*** - Saturday May 7<sup>th</sup> 2022.

***Time*** –11-15 am for 11-30 am for Morning Tea and a talk by a member of the Wetlands, we are asking everyone to make a gold coin donation to the Wetlands. This will be followed by Lunch at 12-30pm. To be bought at cafe.

For those interested, there is a guided tour at 10-30am for the energetic. There is an entry fee of \$5 to the Wetlands. Approximate duration of tour is 45 minutes. Please phone Grahame on 0402335410 if interested.

Consider Car Pooling. Meet at the church if you need a lift. Please notify Mike Warren on 49447793.

Please let your seasonal hosts extraordinaire for the day Grahame Pricter and Noel Drinkwater know by phoning 0402335410 or 0428431169.to book your “place at the table.” RSVP 3rd May 2022.

I/We, Will be//will not be attending the ***“Mother's Day with the Love Birds.in the Wetlands?”*** on Saturday 7th May 2022.

## Bible readings for Lent, Easter 2022

### 3 April

John 12:1-8  
Isaiah 43:16-21  
Psalm 126  
Philippians 3:4-14

### 10 April

Liturgy of the Palms  
Luke 19:28-40  
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29  
Liturgy of the Passion  
Luke 22:14-23:56 or  
Luke 23:1-19  
Isaiah 50:4-9a  
Psalm 31:9-16  
Philippians 2:5-11

### 17 April

John 20:1-18  
Luke 24:1-12 (the alternate gospel passage)  
Acts 10:34-43 or  
Isaiah 65:17-25  
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
1 Corinthians 15:19-26 or  
Acts 10:34-43

### 24 April

Acts 5:27-32  
Psalm 118:14-29 or  
Psalm 150  
Revelation 1:4-8  
John 20:19-31



### Some of our Church Contacts:

#### Minister

Rev Tom Stuart  
M: 0427 625 502  
E: [tom@thestuarts.id.au](mailto:tom@thestuarts.id.au)

#### 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

#### 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

#### 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>

For their financial support in the publication of the  
newsletter we thank

**James Murray Funeral Directors**

02 4961 1435