



CONTACT



Charlestown & Garden Suburb Uniting
Church Multi-Centre Congregation

11 August 2024

From Rev Tom

The Epistle reading for this week is Ephesians 4: 25 – 5: 2. In this passage the author is making the connection between our new relationship with Christ and how that is lived out in real living, in concrete behaviour. First of all, we are reminded again that we that we are one body. The author says, “²⁵ So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbours, for we are members of one another.” Something to note here is that the invitation is to change outside behaviour. However, the outside behaviour arises from an inner transformation. That transformation goes back to that word again, *metanoia* – *meta*: bigger, *noia*: thinking. We are invited to see ourselves in a new way. Not just as independent silos, but inextricably linked with those around us. I must confess that I haven't got there in terms of the *metanoia*. I can use my reason to recognise that when I hurt the people around me I am hurting myself, and I am hurting the whole body. However, it is not a state of my being. This awareness of being part of a larger being is not intrinsic to my understanding, or my way of being. This understanding is transformative. Verse 26-27 says, “²⁶ Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷ and do not make room for the devil.” This seems to refer to mental health. Anger is a part of the human condition. Jesus became angry. But to remain angry is self-destructive, and in the context of being a part of “the whole body” destroys those around us too. The invitation is no small thing, as the author later says, “¹ Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, ² and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.” How much better is this than just changing external behaviour? The invitation is to become love itself, to live in love. To live out the external changes without the internal change is simply taxing, but the inner change is to discover true life, and becomes a gift to ourselves and that larger body to which we belong.

DIARY

Thursday 8 August

- 10.00am Morning tea in the Community – common seated area opposite Butcher at Charlestown Square
- 10.30am Worship Service at Garden Suburb Aged Care Facility
- 1.30-2.30pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb – James and Hebrews

Friday 9 August

- 6.00pm Ladies Night at Kahibah

Saturday 10 August – NOTE CHANGE OF OUTING FOR AUGUST

- 11.00am Charlestown Friendship Circle – Stockton trip and lunch – bring your Opal Card

Sunday 11 August – Pentecost 12

- 9.00am Divine Worship opening with **Kathy's Praise Segment**
Leader: Kathy Stuart and Preacher: Rev'd Tom
2 Samuel 18: 5-9, 15, 31-33; Psalm 130; Ephesians 4: 25-5:2; John 6: 35, 41-51

Monday 12 August

- 1.30pm SFED

Tuesday 13 August

- 10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square
- 9.30–11am Uniting in Books at Garden Suburb Uniting Church**



Wednesday 14 August

- 10.00am Charlestown Ladies Fellowship

Thursday 16 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

Saturday 17 August

- 7.00am Men's Breakfast at Charlestown

Sunday 18 August – Pentecost 13

- 9.00am Holy Communion incorporated in Divine Worship
Leader and Preacher: Rev'd Tom
1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14; Psalm 111; Ephesians 5:15-20; John 6: 51-58

Monday 19 August

- 10.00am Garden Suburb Nursing Home Pastoral Care Visitation
- 1.30pm SFED

Tuesday 20 August

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

Thursday 22 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 25 August – Pentecost 14

- 9.00am Divine Worship
Leader: Sue Warren. Guest Preacher: Ben Waters
1 Kings 8 (1,6,10-11), 22-30, 41-43; Psalm 84; Ephesians 6:10-20; John 6:56-69

THE PRAYER PAGE



Prayer is the Voice of Faith

Pastoral Prayer Points

* those in our congregation whose loved ones have died in recent times

* Cathy Beeton

* Lesley

* Kelly

* Laraine Chegwiddden

* Tony Sellen

* Liz and Peter

* Nelda Marshall

* Mike Warren

* Elaine Ross

* Vivianne

* Shirley Elkin

* Lorraine Pepper

* Vicki

* Judith Fuller battling cancer

* Pam and Ken

* Lyn Benson

* Jean

* Fred Bryant

* June Locker

* Ryan Walpole

* Kathryn Gray

* Jacqueline Fenwick

* Isabella

* Janice Wright

* Eileen Dunn

* Pam and Mert

* Judith and family

* Enid Power

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



- Max
- Tom and Kathy
- Don Humphries



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:

11 August 2024 – Millers Forest Uniting Church

Millers Forest Uniting Church sits in a small rural community and meets on the 1st Sunday of the month at 11am. We are small in number, consist of long- term members of the community, the majority being around 70's who were mostly born in the area. Most members are actively involved in other community groups, being well known if community members need assistance. This year we have welcomed a new member who has undertaken the maintenance of the grounds with great enthusiasm. Since Covid, we sometimes, have Grahamstown worshippers join with us for our services which are led by Mrs. Dianne Holden.

Prayer: We pray for the ongoing witness of the Millers Forest Uniting Church congregation as they commit to be a welcoming church to all and to do as called; God's work in their community witnessing and helping their neighbours also, maintaining the building and surrounds to reflect the caring to others. Amen.

Something
new and
exciting!!!

Uniting in Books

Love reading new books
Like to have a chance to find new books
Exchange your books for something different
Join us for our new & exciting
Community Book Library
At Garden Suburb Uniting Church
Cnr Prospect Rd. & Marshall St
Commencing the 13th August 9.30am to 11am
then every 2nd Tuesday of the month



CHANGE OF OUTING FOR AUGUST

Charlestown Friendship Circle

Saturday 10 August

Meet at Church 11.00am for a trip to Stockton,
Ferry ride, lunch and tram ride

BRING YOUR OPAL CARD

All Welcome



Uniting Church The Hunter Presbytery



PRESBYTERY GATHERING

THURSDAY 29th AUGUST 2024
 Salamander Bay Uniting Church
 174 Salamander Way, Salamander Bay 2317

10 am Morning Tea
 10.30am Programme begins

Guest Speaker
 Rev Graham Perry
 The Hunter Presbytery Minister

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



Note New Speaker

Time for a Tidy Up!

We will be welcoming visitors from other congregations to events soon, to be held in the Dudley and Kearsley rooms at Charlestown. This provides us with an opportunity to tidy these rooms, and discard anything which is no longer useful.

Is there anything in either of these rooms which belongs to you, or which you can make use of? In particular there is a giant guitar amplifier looking for a home. Please let Paul Russell, Anne Threlfo, or Cathy Beeton (for kid's equipment) know by Sunday 18 August if you want to claim anything. After that day, we'll repurpose what we don't need.





BRING A
FRIEND!!!

With Guest Speaker

Michael Griffiths

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

Charlestown Uniting Church - 24 Milson Street

7.00am

Saturday 17 August

Cost \$12 RSVP to Paul Russell

0411 236047 pmraus74@gmail.com By 14th August 2024

Michael 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.

Spiritual Practice of the Week

A number of spiritual practices that transform us have been introduced recently in *Contact* and by members of the congregation during worship. We're going to be reminded of one practice each week for you to try for a week, a month or a lifetime. This week's practice is:

Gratitude: is a loving and thankful response toward God for his presence with us and within this world. Though particular blessings can move us into gratitude, it is not at the root of a thankful heart. To be truly transformed we practice gratitude for less obvious blessings or when life is hard. Constant delight in God and his good will is the heartbeat of thankfulness.

Practice: End every day by saying thank you to God for at least one thing. Then tell God what that one thing meant for you.

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



Charlestown Ladies Fellowship

Wednesday 14th August

Will be held at Charlestown
Church from 10.00am

Join in fellowship

ALL WELCOME

Change is Inevitable. Growth is Optional. John Maxwell.



Seasons for Growth is an educational program that helps participants navigate changes in their life. It supports them in understanding the experiences of change, loss and grief.

It is designed to strengthen the social and emotional wellbeing of adults who are dealing with significant life changes such as loss of someone or something you love, parents and families separating, moving to a new place, impact of illness.

Seasons for Growth Adult program provides a small group environment to support adults understand the personal impacts of change and develop skills in communication, decision-making and problems solving. It aims to build resilience and hope.

The program will be held on:-

Tuesdays during September 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th

From **9:30 - 12:00**

Community Room

NLM Uniting Church,

342 Hillsborough Road,

Warners Bay

TO REGISTER, PLEASE CONTACT:

Co-ordinator Seasons for Growth

willownorthlake@gmail.com

or phone 49484649 (leave a message if it doesn't answer)

Anne Threlfo has Registered to attend, so there are places still available if you were thinking of going along.



Notes from Church Council Chairperson

This week's "in person" Church Council meeting began with a devotion based on Ecclesiastes 3:1: *For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.* We reflected that this applies to our present circumstances which is requiring change, letting go and allowing the future to unfold in God's time. We also welcomed Rev Dr Rod Pattenden to the meeting, who is the Mission Consultant for the Hunter Presbytery of the Uniting Church.

Discussion included the following areas.

- The Presbytery led Vitality of Call of the Minister's placement was held recently. The meeting was an affirmation of the vitality of Tom's placement with our congregation. A report from Presbytery is yet to come.
- We are organising another inter-congregation conversation to be held at Charlestown on Monday 26 August. There is space for another person from our congregation to be involved in chatting with our neighbours. Let me know if you would like more information.
- An additional Safe Churches training day is to be held at Garden Suburb on Sunday 25 August. Register here: <https://www.nswact.uca.org.au/support-services/safe-church-unit/safe-church-training/>
- Presbytery has approved our Mission Plan, and our Non Real Estate Mission application (NREMA) - for access to income from Whitebridge funds. The NREMA is now with Synod.
- The meeting tossed around ideas for a Mission Statement. This is a just a few words which communicate the mission and "flavour" of our congregation. Some of the words which emerged are: spirituality, community, justice, sustained by love.
- One of our challenging decisions concerns the repurposing of one of our remaining church properties to provide a financial platform for our mission. Letting go is a call on our lives as followers of Jesus. Our congregation has captured the vision to be a transforming agent in supporting a sustainable and impactful legacy for a long-term ministry of the Uniting Church for those who come after us, just as we have continued the legacy of those faithful people who came before us.

A brainstorming session was held to identify the benefits of retaining use of the Charlestown or the Garden Suburb property, in relation to the life of our existing congregation and to "Neos". This discussion indicated that the missional benefits of retaining the Charlestown property outweigh those of retaining the Garden Suburb property. The Presbytery view is that Charlestown is strategically significant, particularly in the years ahead when the number of Uniting Churches in the Hunter will be far fewer than today. So, while a decision has not been made, we are moving in the direction of either leasing or selling the Garden Suburb property.

Please speak with any member of the Church Council if you have comments or questions, or would like to have more information about this, or any other matter.

The Church Council gives grateful thanks for your prayers for guidance, insight and attentiveness to God's call on the life of our congregation. *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.* Romans 15:13

Anne Threlfo

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Some of our Church Contacts:

Minister

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Administration:

P: 4943 4019
E: 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
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>