



CONTACT



Charlestown & Garden Suburb Uniting
Church Multi-Centre Congregation

14 and 21 September 2025

From Rev Tom

Many in our congregation are living through the challenges that come with the later seasons of life. Some are facing the drama of serious illness or the loss of independence. Others are beginning to notice the smaller signs—those little reminders that our bodies are not as strong or as reliable as they once were. These changes can stir anxiety and uncertainty, because the gift of health and independence is precious, and its loss can feel like chaos.

Yet our Christian faith has always held a word of comfort for such times. We are never left alone. We are always held in the love of God—just as a child is held securely in the arms of a caring parent, whose attention meets every need. Jean de Caussade spoke of this as “abandonment to divine providence”—an invitation to entrust ourselves to God’s care, even when we cannot see a way through. In the very moment when we lose our ability to manage for ourselves, there is still the tender mercy of God sustaining us.

We might remember the story of Jesus asleep in the boat. The waves were crashing, the disciples were certain their lives were ending, and yet Jesus was at rest. That image reminds us that even when our world feels storm-tossed, God’s presence is steady, sure, and unshaken.

Faith also calls us not to judge—not only others, but also our own circumstances. When we loosen our grip on judgment, new possibilities appear. We may discover that while we are indeed “falling”—falling from health, falling from independence—we are at the same time falling into care: into the hands of family and friends, into the skills of medical teams, and ultimately into the eternal goodness of God.

This is the hidden gift of faith: that what first appears to be only loss can, with new eyes, be seen as grace. It may not take away the struggle, but it does open us to the love and goodness that surround us, even in the hardest of seasons.

I pray for each of you who are living with the storms of illness, frailty, or loss of independence. May this time, as difficult as it may be, also become an opportunity to notice the grace, love, and care that uphold you day by day—a living testimony to the God who holds us all.

PLEASE NOTE

There will be no Contact or Booklet printed for Sunday 21 September as Jenny is away next Wednesday.

Please refer to this week’s Contact for events coming up over the next 2 weeks.

DIARY

Thursday 11 September

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 Garden Suburb Bible Study

Friday 12 September

6.00pm Ladies Night at Kahibah

Saturday 13 September

12.00pm Friendship Circle to meet at Heritage Gardens Café, Ashtonfield for lunch (see notice further in Contact)

Sunday 14 September – Pentecost 14

9.00am The Divine Worship

Leader: Kathy Stuart and Preacher: Rev'd Tom Stuart

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28; Psalm 14; 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10

Monday 15 September

10.00am Garden Suburb Aged Care Pastoral visitation.

Tuesday 16 September

9.00am Needlework n Natter

10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square

Wednesday 17 September

10.00am Wednesday Reflective Services at Adamstown Uniting Church

Thursday 18 September

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

1.00-2.30pm **Inklings Book Group** at Bills Place Café, Hamilton Uniting Church (see more details further in Contact)

1.30-2.30pm Garden Suburb Bible Study

Sunday 21 September – Pentecost 15

9.00am The Divine Worship

Leader and Preacher: Rev'd Tom Stuart

Jeremiah 8:18 - 9:1; Psalm 79:1-9 1 Timothy 2:1-7 Luke 16:1-13

2.00pm **Sing for Unity at Glenrock Anglican on UN International Day of Peace 25**

Tuesday 23 September

10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square

12.00noon **Garden Suburb Ladies Fellowship**

2.00-2.30pm Hunter Electorate Vigil **#End the Waiting** – event by Toronto UC and Cessnock Belbird UC (See more details further in Contact)

Wednesday 24 September

10.00am Wednesday Reflective Services at Adamstown Uniting Church

Thursday 25 September

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

1.30-2.30pm Garden Suburb Bible Study

Saturday 27 September

9.30am – **Quiet Morning – An Introduction to Contemplation**
at Charlestown Uniting Church

12.30pm All are Welcome (see more details further in Contact)



THE PRAYER PAGE



Prayer is the Voice of Faith

Pastoral Prayer Points

- * Those who are mourning loved ones
- * Michael Smith – cancer diagnosis & in Hospital
- * Lorraine Pepper (in hospital)
- * Glen and Marion
- * Valmai
- * The family of Bev Guest
- * Graeme (in hospital) and Beryl
- * Mike Warren
- * Kim
- * Janice and Don Wright
- * Kelly
- * Laraine Chegwiddden
- * Tony Sellen
- * 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
- * Max
- * Don Humphries

Congregational Prayer Points

- 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
- Tom and Kathy
- Worship Committee

Wider Community Prayer Points

- Margaret Jurd College and Darren Twist
the Principal
- Young people who struggle to participate
in our school system
- Orphanage in Kenya and Wilfreda
- Neos ministry
- Those affected by climate change in
Australia eg floods, droughts and fires
- The situation in Israel and Palestine
- The situation in Ukraine and other trouble
spots





Uniting Church in Australia
The Hunter Presbytery
invite all members of congregations to a

PRESBYTERY GATHERING

THURSDAY 23rd October 2025

hosted by

**Morpeth Uniting Church
98 High Street, Morpeth NSW 2321**

10 am Morning Tea (provided)

10.30am Programme begins

An opportunity to meet Rob Floyd



**National Director, Frontier Services
who will be the Guest Speaker
(Offering towards MUNCH (Food program of
Maitland Uniting Churches) and Frontier
Services)**

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

with support of UCAF NSW/ACT Synod Committee



Spiritual Practice of the Week

Humility: is not thinking less of yourself but thinking of yourself less. Humble people let go of image management and self-promotion. They honour others by making the others' needs as real and important as their own.

Practice: 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?

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



HUNTER ELECTORATE VIGIL

September 23rd 2025

Event by Toronto Uniting Church and Cessnock Bellbird Uniting Church

**At 3 Edward St, Cessnock NSW 2325, Australia (office of Dan Repacholi, MP),
2pm – 2.30pm**

This vigil is part of [#EndTheWaiting](#), a national campaign led by the Australian Churches Refugee Taskforce. Together, we are calling on the government to act now and grant permanent protection to refugees who have been trapped in limbo for over a decade.

Thousands of lives hang in the balance. Every day in limbo strips people of hope, dignity, and a future. No new laws are needed—just the political will to act. It's a choice between justice and delay.

As churches across Australia, we say: A fair go should be for all. "I was a stranger, and you welcomed me." (Matthew 25:35) These words must shape our nation's policies.

We are calling for:

- * A pathway to permanency for all asylum seekers failed by Australia's broken system, including those processed under Fast Track.
- * Work rights for all asylum seekers while their claims are processed.
- * One visa that lasts until a claim is resolved—ending the endless cycle of short-term renewals.

This is a peaceful, public vigil. People of all faiths (and none) are welcome. Let's gather together, raise our voices, and call for a permanent future for all.

Let us know you are coming by registering <https://www.trybooking.com/DESWY> or contact Rev Allison allisonf@nswact.uca.org.au or 0472 618 784



INKLINGS* BOOK GROUP

FORTNIGHTLY THURSDAYS 1PM – 2.30PM
STARTS 18th SEPTEMBER



A GROUP FOR BELONGING AND CONVERSATION ABOUT WHATEVER WE'RE READING
JOIN IN WITH A GROUP - UP FOR OPEN SHARED DISCUSSION AND INTEREST

*JRR Tolkien

ALL WELCOME
BYO LUNCH IF YOU LIKE

BILLS PLACE CAFE - HAMILTON UNITING CHURCH 
150 BEAUMONT ST, HAMILTON
ENQUIRIES: FACILITATOR TIM M: 0431304439



The Church Office will be closed on
Wednesday 17 September
as Jenny is on Annual Leave.





🎵 A worldwide musical movement for unity, peace and community. 🌍

On UN International Day of Peace 2025, voices from every corner of the planet will sing to send a powerful message: We are one world, one people and we stand together in unity and community.

Kahibah joins in this global sound wave and will be lead in song by Sing Australia Belmont Choir.

Join us for this free event and afternoon tea. All welcome 🎵

**Sunday 21st September at 2pm
at Glenrock Anglican
34 Hexham St, Kahibah**

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 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>