



CONTACT



Charlestown & Garden Suburb Uniting
Church Multi-Centre Congregation

28 September 2025

From Anne Threlfo

Synchronicity – Is It a Way God Speaks To Us?

What is synchronicity? The dictionary tells me that it's "the simultaneous occurrence of events which appear significantly related but have no discernible causal connection." In simpler terms, it's when unrelated events align in a way that feels deeply significant. Carl Jung, the famous psychoanalyst described it as "meaningful coincidences" that mysteriously show up in our lives.

I certainly see synchronicities as more than coincidence. To me, they're occasions when God is reminding me of God's presence in the everyday details of my life, drawing my attention, providing guidance, answering prayer or simply reminding me that God has a keen sense of humour! These moments are invitations to break out of ordinary ways of thinking and waking me up to the reality of God's work in my life and in the world around me.

Here's a fun example. A while ago I went to see the movie "Yesterday", which is about a Beatles fan who claims their music as his own. After an hour and a half of listening to Beatles songs, I returned to the car to go home, and what was playing on the radio? You guessed it, a Beatles song! I laughed out loud and love that God has a sense of humour.

Of course, I'm sure that many synchronicities pass by me unnoticed, but one has stood out in the last few days. It involves Ephesians 2:8–9, creating a pattern which feels anything but random:

For by grace you have been saved by faith. Nothing you did could ever earn this salvation, for it was the love gift from God that brought us to Christ! So no one will ever be able to boast, for salvation is never a reward for good works or human striving.

These verses appeared in my daily readings, then came up in a book I'm reading and discussing with a friend, then appeared on a sticker as I was sorting through images to add to my vision board. Yes, it did make it to the vision board!

So what does this mean to me at this moment my life?

It is a striking reminder that I live by grace, not by my own effort and striving. I've often slipped into patterns of thinking that tell me I need to prove myself to God, to others and even to myself, and that my value is measured by what I achieve and how well I balance and carry out the responsibilities before me. Not surprising really, since this is how we get on in the world, but it's not God's yardstick.

This is a reminder for me to listen deeply and remember that I am not defined by achievement and performance. I live by the love and grace of God.

DIARY

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

Sunday 28 September – Pentecost 16

9.00am The Divine Worship
Leader and Preacher: Rev Tom Stuart
Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15; Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16; 1 Timothy 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31

Tuesday 30 September

10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square

Wednesday 1 October

10.00am Wednesday Reflective Services at Adamstown Uniting Church

Thursday 2 October

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

Sunday 5 October – Pentecost 17

9.00am The Divine Worship
Leader: Margaret White and Project Reconnect
Lamentations 1:1-6; Lamentations 3:19-26 or Psalm 137; 2 Timothy 1:1-14; Luke 17:5-10

5.30-7.00pm **EMBODY** at the Adamstown Uniting Church Hall hosted by Greer Hudson (see further in Contact for more details)

6.00pm **Interfaith Celebration** in the grounds of Christ Church Cathedral (see more details further in Contact)

Monday 6 October

10.00am Garden Suburb Aged Care Pastoral Visit

Tuesday 7 October

10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square

Wednesday 8 October

10.00am Charlestown Ladies Fellowship

10.00am Wednesday Reflective Services at Adamstown Uniting Church

Thursday 9 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

Friday 10 October

6.00pm Ladies Night at Kahibah

Saturday 11 October

Friendship Circle TBA

Sunday 12 October – Pentecost 18

9.00am The Divine Worship
Leader: Kerrie Dixon and Preacher: Rev Tom Stuart
Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7; Psalm 66:1-12; 2 Timothy 2:8-15; Luke 17:11-19

THE PRAYER PAGE



Prayer is the Voice of Faith

Pastoral Prayer Points

- * Those who are mourning loved ones
- * Nelda Marshall
- * 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

Stewardship: is the voluntary and generous offering of God's gifts of resources, time, talents and treasure for the benefit and love of God and others.

Practice: How does the way you were brought up affect your stewardship? List the strengths or weaknesses that have been bequeathed to you. • Then consider the legacy you are passing on to others. What do you want people to say about your stewardship of your resources once you are gone?

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

Children & Family Worker Update



For those who may not have heard our **Family Games Night** went really well, a mix of 14 adults & children had a fun night of learning new card games, playing familiar ones, eating pizza, catching up & chatting. We will definitely be having another Family Games Night before Christmas & will let everyone once we have confirmed a date.

Well, another school term is done & dusted, it's hard to believe we are almost into the last school term, please **pray for the children** through these holidays that they stay safe, have fun & return to school refreshed to finish their school year, **pray for year 12 students** as they prepare for the Exams & head off into wherever their path may lead them. **Pray also for the SRE teachers** that they go into this last term with as much enthusiasm as they did in the first term.

Praying that everyone has a great week & are able to get out & enjoy this beautiful sunshine.

Catherine



GATHER IN COMMUNITY
TO PLAY WITH THE STUFF
OF LIFE IN A SACRED
CONTAINER OF
MOVEMENT, STORY, SONG
AND STILLNESS

EMBODY



HOSTED BY
GREER HUDSON

📍 Adamstown Uniting
Church hall

📅 First Sunday of every
month

🕒 5:30pm-7pm

Reach out to
[@adamstownunitingchurch](https://www.adamstownunitingchurch.org.au) or
info@adamstownuca.org.au
for more information.





TRISH WATTS

 **ADAMSTOWN**
UNITING CHURCH

An Adamstown Uniting Church
Event for the Hunter Presbytery



Cost: \$20
(\$15 concession)

SACRED SONGS OF THE SEASON: ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

Congregational Singing Workshops for Worship Leaders, Music Coordinators and Singers
This workshop offers:

- Songs that help us prepare for the coming of the light of Christ
- Focus, amidst the tinsel and rah rah of the end of year
- New advent and Christmas music
- Basic skills for building confidence in song leading & animating congregational singing for worship and prayer

CONTACT INFO@ADAMSTOWNUCA.ORG.AU FOR MORE INFO

REGISTER HERE: [HTTPS://WWW.EVENTBRITE.COM/E/SACRED-SONGS-OF-THE-SEASON-ADVENT-AND-CHRISTMAS-TICKETS-1550115921449?AFF=ODDTOTCREATOR](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sacred-songs-of-the-season-advent-and-christmas-tickets-1550115921449?aff=oddtotcreator)



**Sunday 26
October 2025**



**2:00pm to
4:30pm**



**Adamstown
Uniting Church**



**Afternoon tea
provided**

About Trish:

Trish brings years of experience as a song leader in sacred spaces. She is passionate about the singing community that instills joy, courage, prayerfulness and solidarity.

Check out: www.trishwatts.com for more info

Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/3ppvk5ws>

SEASON OF CREATION 2025

You are invited to an Interfaith
Celebration in the grounds of Christ Church Cathedral
at 6.00pm on Sunday 5 October 2025



This celebration is being organised by the Hunter Group of the Australian Religious Response to Climate Change. Further details from Doug Hewitt - M: 0431 935 097 or doug.isabel35@gmail.com

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>