



# CONTACT

Charlestown & Garden Suburb Uniting  
Church Multi-Centre Congregation

9 October 2022



From Anne Threlfo

*<sup>5</sup> The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" <sup>6</sup> He replied, "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you. Luke 17: 5-6*

*<sup>16</sup> Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18*

*<sup>28</sup> 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' Acts 17: 28a*

How do I pray without ceasing? I can beat myself up about not spending an hour every day sitting with eyes closed praying for the needs of the world. But this is a very narrow definition of prayer. So what is prayer? Perhaps prayer is also being present in this moment to the person, the place or the circumstances I am in. Perhaps prayer is also the times I think of another person with compassion or concern. Perhaps it's also when I feel angry about the housing crisis in Australia. Perhaps it's when I shed tears about the war in The Ukraine. Perhaps prayer is when I "show up" for another person, or involve myself in a cause to promote the Kingdom of God.

If we live within the one who created the world and everything in it, if who we are, and what we do is held completely within God, then every movement, thought and action is held by God. It is all communication with God, all prayer without ceasing. What's missing is our realisation of this fact.

Maybe the same can be said of faith. We need only to have faith the size of a mustard seed. As Nadia Bolz-Weber says – that's a pretty low bar! When faced with the seemingly impossible task of not causing others to stumble and forgiving every mean thing anyone ever does to them, the disciples ask Jesus for more faith so that they can reach what they see as a very high bar. Jesus basically tells them that they already have enough faith. They don't need their faith to be any greater than a tiny mustard seed, which actually, they already possess. So maybe faith, like prayer, is also expressed in our lives in ways we don't immediately recognise.

If we have children or grandchildren, or teach, or are involved in any situation which adds value to children's lives, that's faith.

If we have love and compassion for other people, and are convinced of the inherent goodness of all people, that's faith.

If we have doubts about our faith and about God, that's faith too, because we are engaged with the questions.

If we are a member of an aging congregation which is letting go of how we've always done things so that a new mission might arise knowing we will never see the results, that's faith.

So we don't need to beat ourselves up or judge ourselves for not reaching the high bar, because there actually is no high bar. We have enough faith, tiny as it might be, no matter what our feelings and thoughts. For we live and move and have our being within the one who is the Creator of all. That is our reality. Our task is to remember it.

# DIARY

## Thursday 6 October

10.00 am Morning tea in the Community – Smelly Cheesecake Café at

## Saturday 8 October

11.00am Charlestown Friendship Circle – Botanical Gardens

## Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October – Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

**9.00am** **Worship Service** – Leader - Anne Threlfo – P/ R Rev'd Dr. Bill Loader

*Jeremiah 29: 1, 4-7, Psalm 66: 1-12, 2 Timothy 2: 8-15, Luke 17: 11-19*

## Tuesday 11 October

10.00am Morning tea in the Community – Frankie & Co Café at Lake Macquarie

## Wednesday 12 October

10.00am Charlestown Ladies Fellowship – Picnic at Civic Park

## Thursday 13 October

10.00 am Morning tea in the Community – Smelly Cheesecake Café at Charlestown Square

11.00am Garden Suburb Nursing Home Communion Service

1.30pm – 2.00pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb

## Friday 14 October

6.00pm Ladies Night at Kahibah

## Saturday 15 October

8.00am Men's Breakfast

**3.30pm** **Celebration at Hamilton Uniting Church (note updated time)**

## Sunday 16 October – Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

9.00am Holy Communion Service – Worship Leader Margaret White

**Church Council Elections**

*Jeremiah 31: 27-34, Psalm 119: 97-104, 2 Timothy 3: 14-4: 5, Luke 18: 1-8*

## Monday 17 October

10.00am Pastoral Care visit to Garden Suburb Aged Care Facility

## Tuesday 18 October

9.30am – 11.00am Grandparents, Carers, Kids at Garden Suburb

10.00am Morning tea in the Community – Frankie & Co Café at Lake Macquarie

## Thursday 19 October

10.00 am Morning tea in the Community – Smelly Cheesecake Café at Charlestown Square

1.30pm – 2.00pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb

## Sunday 23 October – Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

9.00am Worship Service – Leader Kathy Stuart. Preacher – Rev Tom Stuart

*Joel 2: 23-32, Psalm 65, 2 Timothy 4: 6-8, 16-18, Luke 18: 9-14*

## Tuesday 25 October

10.00am Morning tea in the Community – Frankie & Co Café at Lake Macquarie

12.00pm Garden Suburb Ladies Fellowship

3.30pm Worship Team Meeting at 'The White House'

## Thursday 27 October

10.00 am Morning tea in the Community – Smelly Cheesecake Café at Charlestown Square

1.30pm – 2.00pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb

## Worship service on Sunday 30 October

**Guest preacher: Rev Dr Rod Pattenden**

You are invited to stay for morning tea following the service to chat with Rod, and with each other.



# THE PRAYER PAGE

"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



## Pastoral Prayer Points

- \* Nancye Rozek
- \* Jan Russell
- \* Lillian in rehab
- \* Lesley Clulow and Family
- \* Enid Hancock's Family
- \* Catherine Roser's Family
- \* Ron Lees family
- \* Thursday 13 October Margaret Mensforth's Funeral at St Luke's Belmont at 1pm
- \* Brian Doherty
- \* Jean Cowley
- \* Tony and Nan
- \* Mert and Pam
- \* Avril Hill
- \* Judith and family
- \* Margaret Asplund
- \* Margaret Drinkwater
- \* Ashley and Lorraine
- \* Vicki
- \* John Cooper
- \* Marion and Ron
- \* Jean Townsend
- \* Wilma Birch
- \* Eileen
- \* Enid Power
- \* Ken MacDonald
- \* Fred Bryant
- \* Max
- \* Shirley
- \* Olivia
- \* Kelly
- \* Dianne

Maintained by SFED and Enid Power

## Congregational Prayer Points

- Thanks for the faithfulness of David Chegwidan and Ken Young who have completed their terms on the Church Council
- Contacts made through Morning Teas in the Community
- Preparations for Neos
- GCK group and Holiday Kid's Club as we discern if or how these activities will proceed in 2023
- Project Reconnect
- GCK group
- Worship Services
- Arrangements for lease of Whitebridge property
- Pray for a restorative time for Tom and Kathy as they holiday for 4 weeks.
- Cathy Beeton
- Pray that God will raise up a support group for Tom as he prepares for the new ministry next year
- Pray for the Worship Committee
- Pray for the Hunter Alliance event on 28 September
- Pray for the Men's Breakfast on 15<sup>th</sup> October

## Wider Community Prayer Points

- Wilfreda's orphanage
- British Commonwealth as we mourn the death of Queen Elizabeth II
- Pray for King Charles III as he takes up the reins of responsibility and for all the members of the Royal Family
- Operation Hope – Northern Iraq Project
- Work of Wayside Chapel and the ministry of Jon Owens



## Church Council Elections

**Following worship next week, Sunday 16 October 2022**

The Following nominations have been received:

**Chairperson** *Anne Threlfo*

**Radical Hospitality** *No nominations*

**Passionate Worship** *Margaret White*

**Intentional Faith Development** *No nominations*

## Faiths4ClimateJustice 2022 in Newcastle

A Cry from the People of the Pacific

### Multi-faith Service

Thursday 13 October 2022 10–11am

Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church  
16 Tighes Terrace, Tighes Hill

The service will commence in the Community Garden, then move to the church for readings, prayers, meditation, music and chanting from a range of religious traditions, in support of climate justice for all.

For more information please: [doug.isabel35@gmail.com](mailto:doug.isabel35@gmail.com) or 0431 935 097

**We welcome people of all faiths or none!**

## A Reflection On Aging

I've been thinking of aging lately – in fact I not only think it, I do it and I've decided that it is what I would call an OK time. That is:

It's OK to leave behind those traits that have not served one well.

It's OK to have more questions than answers.

It's OK to say No.

It's OK to put yourself first sometimes.

It's OK to have empathy but not necessarily to have to fix someone else's problems.

It's OK to slow down.

It's OK to forget things.

I'm sure there's many more which no doubt I'll discover as I age.

*From a member of our congregation*

Those who love deeply  
never grow old;  
They may die of old age,  
but they die young.

www.inspirationforsoul.org

~ Benjamin Franklin





Our Speaker will be **Dr David Durrheim**, Lake Macquarie Ambassador for 2022 and Hunter New England Health Public Health Controller during the COVID-19 pandemic response.

Early one morning in October 2014, David set out alone for a cross-country run in Green Point Reserve. He suffered a catastrophic heart attack and was found some time later, cold, blue, pulseless....clinically dead.

David reviews the circumstances and medical records to answer the question: "Was this:  
Blind luck. Coincidence. A Miracle?"

## ***Blind Luck, Coincidence, A Miracle?***

at *Charlestown Uniting Church - 24 Milson St*

**8am Saturday 15<sup>th</sup>  
October**

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 12<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

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



For transport contact  
Sue Warren on  
0427 737 793

*Charlestown Friendship Circle will go  
to the Botanical Gardens on 8<sup>th</sup>  
October*

*Leaving the Church at 11.00am*

*Bring a picnic lunch or  
purchase something at  
the Café.*



### **Charlestown Ladies Fellowship**

Will leave the Charlestown Church at 10am on  
Wednesday 12 October for a picnic in Civic Park.

**All Welcome**  
**Bring a picnic lunch with  
you**  
**For transport contact Sue  
Warren on**  
**0427 737 793**





## Notes from Church Council Chairperson

The Church Council met this week, and began by considering what it means to pray without ceasing, and to have faith as big as a mustard seed. Matters discussed included:

- Several interested people have inspected the Whitebridge property.
- Three members of the congregation attended the Hunter Community Alliance's Community Assembly last week, along with about a dozen people from other Hunter Uniting Church congregations. Stories were shared in small groups and at the front of the room, and we had the opportunity to consider how public action might address the concerns and pressures highlighted in these stories. Four themes arose from the 120+ stories heard in the listening campaign in the last six months.
  - Climate change and its consequences
  - Homelessness and the lack of affordable housing
  - Service pressures which are currently insufficient to meet needs
  - Community exclusion, discrimination and marginalisation due to disability, age and mental health concerns.

Each group present was invited to commit to action in one of these areas. We chose climate on behalf of the congregation. One of our number will be involved in the climate action group, and the rest of the congregation are free to support this concern in ways that are appropriate. More information will be available when the action group meets.

- I reported on the "Who's in the Pews" webinar which was based on information gathered in the National Church Life Survey. I'll provide a summary in future weeks. If you would like to watch the one hour recording, follow this link: <https://www.ncls.org.au/articles/webinar-who-s-in-the-pews/>
- The Church Council no longer requires the congregation to wear face masks when singing.
- There was some discussion about the organisation of pastoral care in the congregation, and recognition of the care that so many members of the congregation provide to each other.
- There will be a brief financial update provided to the congregation after worship on 16 October. The update will be published in Contact the following Sunday.
- The Council affirmed and supported the continuing work of Cathy and the team who run children's activities. There will be a meeting in coming weeks to discuss whether the Grandparents Carers and Kids group, and Holiday Kid's Club will continue next year.
- The Council thanked David Chegvidden and Ken Young for their faithful service to the congregation during their time on the Church Council.

Blessings to all.

*Anne Threlfo*

Ph: 0439 754 376 Email: [annethrelfo@gmail.com](mailto:annethrelfo@gmail.com)

The wearing of face masks for singing is no longer a requirement.

If you wish to continue to wear a mask during singing or for the duration of the worship service you are welcome to do so.



Rev Tom is on holiday until  
Monday 17 October

Please direct all  
questions and concerns to  
Anne Threlfo or Julie  
Fenwick, or speak with  
your Elder.

The Uniting Church in Australia - The Hunter Presbytery

# DAY OUT

FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH FAMILIES + ADULTS

# CELEBRATION

TWO INTERGENERATIONAL EVENTS FOR EVERYONE

## Saturday 15th October 2022

**DAY OUT**  
9am-3pm  
Venue coming soon  
Bec Westphal m: 0432733423  
e: [cw@newlambton.unitingchurch.org.au](mailto:cw@newlambton.unitingchurch.org.au)  
To register for DAY OUT:  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/day-out-and-presbytery-celebration-tickets-422211695547>

**CELEBRATION**  
3pm Refreshments 3.30pm Celebration  
Hamilton Uniting Church 152 Beaumont St, Hamilton  
Celebration to be live streamed  
Rob Hanks m: 0407401833  
e: [robhanks@bigpond.net.au](mailto:robhanks@bigpond.net.au)





This is the result of the bottle tops collected, and as there are no more required, I am not collecting them anymore.

The firm in Melbourne don't need them either.

Thank you for collecting them over the past year.

Lesley Clulow

### **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>