

Together

Sunday 16 May 2021

Minister
Rev. Greg McConnell
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We acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we stand. We pay our respects to them for their care of the land. May we walk gently and respectfully upon this land



Worship services

Today: 8.00am Rev Greg McConnell
 9.45am Rev Greg McConnell

Next Sunday: 8.00am Rev Greg McConnell
 9.45am Rev Greg McConnell

Narla Hostel services are held each Friday at 4pm

Face to face worship

Services will be held at 8am and 9.45am. Please sign in on arrival, observe social distancing and use hand sanitiser provided. You are encouraged to wear a mask though this is not mandatory. The 9.45am Service will be streamed and stored on St Luke's website and Facebook page. The camera will be focussed on those people participating in the conduct of the service at the front of the church, and not the Congregation.

Lectionary readings for the coming week

Acts 2:1-21 Ps 104:24-35b Rom 8:22-27 Jn 15:26-16:15



Onsite internet: St Luke's Guest - no password required

Pray for those who are not well or recuperating

Wendy Ellway Noelene Cox
Graham Yabsley



CALENDAR

Monday 17 May

Activity Centre meet at 9.30am with Book Club at 10.00am

Tuesday 18 May

Quirky Quilters meet from 10am

Wednesday 19 May

Food for Thought 12.30pm

Thursday 20 May

Bruce Kay Bible Study 12pm

Friday 21 May

Friday Plus Bible Study 9.30am 'God is Love' 1 John 4:7-5:5

Playgroup from 10am

Narla Hostel service 4pm

1 Unite / Women - Mattara Meal & Movies

Reaching Out to everyone in their 30's to 60's

Saturday 29 May at 6.30pm. A great, relaxed atmosphere to chat over dinner at The Mattara Hotel in Charlestown and a movie at Hoyts afterwards. RSVP by 23 May to Vickie on 4945 1890.

2 Just Kids

Just Kids term 2 dates: May 9, May 23, June 6 & June 20



3 'Community Organising for Congregation Renewal in The Hunter' Skills for Mission

Saturday 29 May

9.45 for tea/coffee, 10am sharp to start, concluding at 11.30am. Garden Suburb Uniting Church , 158 Marshall St, Garden Suburb. Flyers with all information on the back table and in last weeks Together.

4 Collect those 50c pieces!



On Sunday June 20th after the 9.45am service, Just Kids will be running some of the Carnival games just for YOU! Yes, you will finally have a chance to try Frog Flip, Hoopla, Pong Toss and other exciting Carnival games you always wanted to play! There will be (small) prizes to win but most of all lots of fun for all! All proceeds to the Timor Leste project. Donations of (small) prizes welcome – see Meredith.

5 Warm Blankets For Everyone Inc

You will be well aware of the project 'Warm Blankets For Everyone Inc' which my friend Tonee and I set up early in Covid.



We have grown from the two of us, to over 60 volunteers, made up of sewers, crochet and knitters, packers, general helpers and delivery drivers. We have been given the use of a former doctor's surgery owned by the Baptist Church Belmont. This is just behind Laverty Pathology.

We deliver to over 30 facilities within the Newcastle, Lake Macquarie, Central Coast and Lower Hunter Valley areas. Last year we delivered 1800 blankets and we see this need exceeding that number. The project is now needing funds to continue its outreach. The little 'elves' at our workshop have been busy making 'beanies' ready for winter. Many of these beanies will be given to those in need.

However, we are offering them as a fundraiser for a donation of \$5, which will help in the continued work of our project.

They will be available in both the gathering area and also the Community Centre, with an honour box.

Sue Bardsley

6 Exciting News!

Rev Greg is starting up an extra service on a Sunday which will be held at 5:30pm or 6.00pm. These services will be held every week and will begin after the July school holidays but ... we need to plan them.

This is where you come in – a planning meeting is set for Wednesday 26th May at 7pm (in the gathering area).

Come along with your ideas, suggestions and gifts and .. share this vision.

Use the sign-up sheet in the gathering area to add your name.

7 Congratulations

Congratulations to John & Judy Nowland who celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary on 13th May.

Happy Anniversary

'It's no exaggeration to say that the undecided could go one way or another' *George Bush*

"I tested very positively. In another sense, I tested positively toward negative, right? So no. I tested perfectly this morning, meaning I tested negative. But that's a way of saying it. Positively toward the negative." *Donald Trump on his corona virus test result*

8 St Luke's Pastoral Care

As you would be aware, when the Uniting Church was first formed Elders were elected and exercised leadership and governance in the congregation (Elders Council). Over the years as some of the Regulations have changed and been updated some of these areas have changed and the leadership and governance became the responsibility of the Church Council as referred to in the Regulations or Leadership Team as we now call it at St Luke's.

When this happened the role of an Elder became primarily one of pastoral care and serving communion. At St Luke's they were members of the Elders Pastoral Care Team and each Elder had a list of members of the congregation whom they were responsible to keep in contact with. An Elders term was for five years and then if they were available to continue could be re-nominated.

The Regulations no longer require us to elect Elders (however those who came into the Uniting Church as Life Elders from the Presbyterian heritage will always remain as a Life Elder).

In light of the above, at the last meeting of St Luke's Leadership Team, it was a decision that the Elders Pastoral Care team would be disbanded and replaced by a Pastoral Care Team. This would then mean that there was no longer need for elections. Pastoral Carers can be appointed by the Leadership Team.

It was a further decision that all Elders who are currently in their current elected five year term can either choose to remain as an Elder until their current term expires, or they can choose to step aside from that term and become a pastoral carer. In addition we currently have six Elders due for re-nomination and election. This will now not be necessary.

All current Elders and those due for re-election have been invited to become members of St Luke's Pastoral Care team and then depending on our numbers, others may be needed to join the team.

The general concept of our pastoral care will not change and all members of the pastoral care team will be given a small group of members to keep in pastoral contact with.

Some of our current groups may stay the same but many will change as we have several of our current Elders no longer able to continue in a pastoral care role due to their health. If you have a reason why you would like to either stay in your same pastoral care group or would like to change to a new group. This change can be made confidentially by making the request to Jenny Mathieson: 4946 8143 or email: jennyandray@bigpond.com

Communion will be served by members of the Pastoral Care Team and other members of the congregation who feel comfortable and feel called to exercise this ministry.

The updating of the Church Rolls and pastoral groups will now be the responsibility of St Luke's Leadership Team.

If you have any questions relating to this Information please feel free to contact Rev Greg McConnell, Greg Anderson or Jenny Mathieson.

Jenny Mathieson: Secretary – St. Luke's Leadership Team

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 New International Version (NIV)

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty) and said, “Brothers and sisters, the Scripture had to be fulfilled in which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus. He was one of our number and shared in our ministry.”

Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus was living among us, beginning from John’s baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection.”

So they nominated two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias. Then they prayed, “Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen to take over this apostolic ministry, which Judas left to go where he belongs.” Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles.

John 17:6-19 New International Version (NIV)

Jesus Prays for His Disciples

“I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.

“I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.