

Together



Sunday 17 December 2023

Minister

Rev. Greg McConnell
0404 046 697

Administration Assistant

Katy Burfield
4945 4655 - office
Tues 9am - 5.30pm
Fri 9am - 5.30pm

Website

www.stlukesbelmont.com.au

Email

belmontuca@gmail.com



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

Sunday 17 December	8.00am	Rev Greg McConnell HC
	9.45am	Rev Greg McConnell HC
	5.30pm	Rev Greg McConnell
Sunday 24 December	9.00am	Rev Greg McConnell HC
	7.00pm	Rev Greg McConnell

Narla Hostel services are held each Friday at 3.45pm

Dinner Church—every Sunday at 5.30pm

Dinner Church is a casual service for all ages with a message, a catered meal, prayer, discussion and friendship. It is our Christmas Celebration this week, with Attie sharing and a team effort for catering.

Lectionary readings for the coming week

2 Sm 7:-1-11,16	Lk 1:46b-55
Rom 16:25-27	Lk 1:26-38

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



Welcome to St Luke's Uniting Church, Belmont



A place for everyone

A church where you are welcome regardless of who you are, where you are from, and whom you love

**Pray for those known to you who are in hospital,
not well or recuperating**

Bank transfer option for your weekly offerings

If you would like to transfer your offerings into the St Luke's Uniting Church giving account the details follow.

All transfers are anonymous.

BSB: 634 634

Account No. 100028307

Account name: St Luke's Uniting-Giving Acc

Thank you for supporting the St Luke's Uniting Church!

1 **2024 Dates For Your Diary** **from St Lukes Community and Outreach Team**

- **4th May** - Trivia Night
- **16th - 30th June** - Pie Drive
- **4th & 18th August** - Soup & Slice Sundays
- **7th September** - Festival of Music (this day will include stalls)



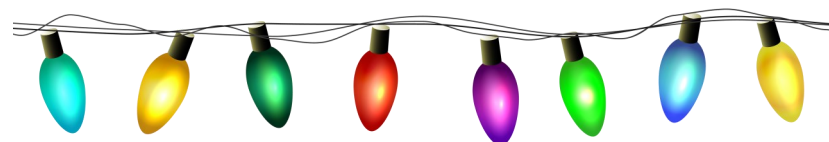
Keep an eye on Together for details on all these events and how you can support them.

2 **For Sale**

Frontier Services Christmas Cards. These are left over from previous years. They are on the table in the entrance area. Please leave money in basket provided.

3 **Together**

Please note that this will be the final Together for the year. Together will resume on Sunday 28th January 2024. If you have any notices you want made at the services during this time please give them to the Worship Leader of that service.



4 **A January Happening**

As the Activity Centre will be in recess until 5th February 2024 some members are keen to meet on 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th January to play board games.

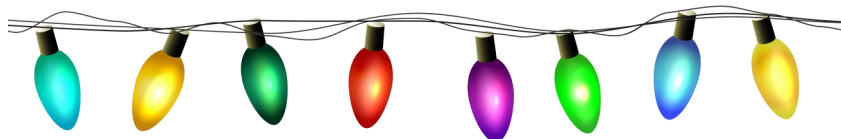
The Community Centre will be open from 9.30am until noon for others to come and join in. A huge variety of games is available, or bring your own with a friend. BYO morning tea. Information from Marjorie Hicks on 4948 6127



5 **Position Vacant**

Community Engagement Coordinator Caves Beach Uniting Church

About the role: The Community Engagement Co-ordinator is an exciting research and development position that will foster fresh expressions of communities of faith. This role involves conducting research to understand the needs, social aspirations, and unique characteristics of the community, actively engaging with community members to gather their input, and identifying opportunities to develop trial programs that align with Uniting Church in Australia's mission and goals. The role is part time (15 to 22.5 hours). Experience and skills in research, community engagement, project development, communication, collaboration and innovation, are required, with a willingness to work within the ethos of the Uniting Church. Full details are in a print out on the back table.



HOLIDAY

SERVICE TIMES

Christmas Eve 9am & 7pm

Christmas Day 8.30am

31 DECEMBER 9AM- REV GREG MCCONNELL

7 JANUARY 9AM- REV TOM ANDERSON

14 JANUARY 9AM - MR JOHN NOWLAND

21 JANUARY 9AM - MRS HELEN WEAVERS

28 JANUARY 9AM- REV TOM ANDERSON

NORMAL SERVICES RESUME 4 FEBRUARY



6 Activity Centre Christmas celebration



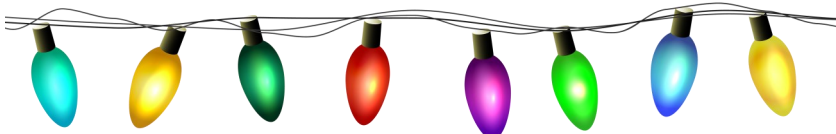
Thirty people attended the Activity Centre Christmas celebration on 11th December.

Seven Christmas puzzles were solved by tables of 4 during the morning program while enjoying nibbles and drinks. A delicious lunch was prepared and served by the Unite team (Meredith & Peter Hudson, Alison Gill, Cathy & Michel Turner and Ruth Hayward) and was greatly appreciated by all present. Secret Santa gifts were shared and the Activity Centre members also thought of others by contributing to the Uniting World Appeal. Thanks to the committee, namely Marj Hicks, Win Clifton, Pauline Thomson, Pam Cummings, Helen Propert and Lenora Finch for their loyalty, hard work and friendship. We look forward to another enjoyable year in 2024 sharing time and activities once more .

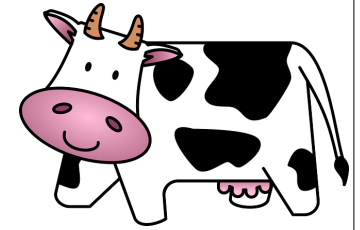
There are lots of photos of the day in the online version of Together and on the Events page of our website.

7 Service Times

Please note that there are two services next Sunday, 24 December, 9am and 7pm. For Sunday 31st December and all Sundays in January, there will only be one morning Service at 9am. There will not be live streaming of the services during January.



8 Cows for Cambodia



Cathy & Michael T recently spent just short of two weeks in Cambodia on a volunteer trip with the charity Cows for Cambodia. We had many enriching experiences including a day on the farm where Michael assisted in pregnancy testing some cows before the first 5 pregnant cows tested were immediately trucked off to needy families where they would look after the cow and then keep the resulting calf. We also, helped build a house for a very grateful family, fed more than 300 children at a school, looked after children on their school excursion at a local water park, fed another lot of children at a village and delivered rice to almost two hundred families in a very poor village. We are very grateful for the donations from the St Luke's family to the charity that in turn has helped many Cambodian families. If anyone would like to hear more about this volunteering trip, we will be showing our photos at the church on Saturday 30th December at 9:30am. Entry will be by donation, with proceeds going to support the next Cows for Cambodia Rice Run which will happen on the 13th of January 2024. Hoping for a big crowd of enthusiastic supporters and hear about the difference your generous donations are making.

9 Happy Birthday

Happy birthday to Shirley Edwards who celebrated a special birthday last week!



10 **Note**

Rev Greg McConnell will be taking six weeks Long Service Leave from 1 January to 11th February 2024. Our services will be taken by Rev Tom Anderson and our Lay Preachers. Rev Tom Anderson will be available for any urgent pastoral needs. If you have any enquires during this time please contact Greg Anderson: 0412 010 170 or email: Grega411@gmail.com or Jenny Mathieson: 4946 8143 or email: jennyandray@bigpond.com

Our prayers are with Greg and Wendy for a great time of relaxation, enjoyment and refreshment.

11 **Dinner Church**

Tonight will be the last Dinner Church for this year and we will resume again on Sunday 4 February 2024. It has been a great year and we have welcomed new members and enjoyed the company of visitors. The variety of sharing by members of the congregation has been inspiring and interesting. Greg's messages and our table sharing is always interesting. This is an informal relaxed service over a meal and enjoyed by all ages.



12 **Friday Afternoon Narla Village Hostel Services**

Holiday arrangements

Friday 22nd December: Christmas service

Friday 29th December: no service

Friday 5th January: no service

Friday 12 January: Services resume each Friday as normal

13 **Uniting World Christmas Gift Cards**

Christmas cards (packs of 8 cards) \$15

Gift cards with proceeds going towards different projects in different countries range in price:

\$10 ; \$15 ; \$20 ; \$25 and then \$50 upwards. If

you want to buy a gift for someone, then this is a great way to support Uniting World and at the same time give someone a Christmas gift. On sale after each of the services on Sunday. Brochures are available.



14 **Restoration of Network Services**

Over 2 weeks ago a lightning strike caused major outages at the Manse and Church. The television aerial at the Manse, modem, office telephone and computer network suffered an outage. Matt Hudson has worked to restore services with the computer network, office telephone and modem services restored. In January, a new television aerial will be erected at the Manse which will replace the current one. Access to the carpark and road near the Manse will be restricted during this time. Many thanks to Matt for his perseverance to restore our internet and network services. The work undertaken will be covered by insurance.



15 Project Blessing 2023 Wrap-Up

- 74 food items, over \$800 in cash and a \$100 gift card donated by members of our congregation - a huge thankyou for your care and generosity.
- - Groceries were purchased over a 2 week period ensuring that we took advantage of supermarket specials and we also purchased from food bank Aus via Baptistcare.
A huge thankyou to Meredith, Peter and Chris for their help with this.
A huge thankyou to Woolworths Belmont for their kind donation of a \$50 gift card, 45 packets of Christmas chocolates and amazing customer service.
- Hampers were packed into lovely large cane baskets - a huge thankyou to Market Basket Co. for their donation
- 54 hampers were packed and included toys for the many children belonging to nominated families - a huge thankyou to the packers for their time.
- All hampers were delivered and went to 6 schools, 2 refuges and 2 individuals - a huge thankyou to those who delivered them in the heat on Wednesday.

Through this project, our congregation has blessed over 180 people in our local community - well done good and faithful servants.

And lastly, thankyou to the Community and Outreach team members - Cathy, Marj, Jean, Charmaine, Clare, Jenny and Win for their contribution throughout 2023.

Alison Gill - Leader, Community and Outreach Team



16 Bunnings BBQ's Fundraising

As part of our commitment to raise \$\$ in 2024, we have secured 2 dates to hold BBQ's/sausage sizzles at the Bunnings Store in Bennetts Green.

August 3rd, 2024

December 7th 2024

- An outreach while also raising funds
 - It will require people to cook and serve in shifts.
- More details closer to the time









1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 NIV

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Do not quench the Spirit. Do not treat prophecies with contempt but test them all; hold on to what is good, reject every kind of evil.

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

John 1:6-8,19-28 NIV

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

John the Baptist Denies Being the Messiah

Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Messiah." They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'"

Now the Pharisees who had been sent questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"

"I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know. He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie."

This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.