

# Together



Sunday 10 March 2024

**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](http://www.stlukesbelmont.com.au)

**Email**

[belmontuca@gmail.com](mailto: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 10 March	8.00am	Rev Greg McConnell HC
	9.45am	Rev Greg McConnell HC
	5.30pm	Rev Greg McConnell
Sunday 17 March	8.00am	Rev Greg McConnell HC
	9.45am	Rev Greg McConnell HC
	5.30pm	Rev Greg McConnell

Narla Hostel services are held each Friday at 3.45pm

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### 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 more. This week Rev Greg McConnell will be giving the message and Helen Propert will be sharing. Greg Anderson and Eldrene March will be catering

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### Lectionary readings for the coming week

Jer 31:31-34	Ps 51:1-12
Heb 5:5-10	Jn 12:20-33

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**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

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

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### 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!



## Calendar

### ***Monday 11 March***

**Activity Centre** meet from 9.30am with a visit to the Pre-School

### ***Tuesday 12 March***

**Quirky Quilters** meet from 10am

### ***Thursday 14 March***

**Thursday Bible Study** meet from 1.30pm

### ***Friday 15 March***

**Friday Plus Bible Study** meet from 9.30am

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## **Just Kids Term 4 dates**

March 17



## Presbytery Prayer Diary

The Hunter Presbytery has produced a Prayer Diary which includes prayer points for every congregation in the Hunter Presbytery over the next few months. Each Sunday every congregation will be praying for one of our other congregations commencing today. By praying together we can encourage one another in mission as we grow in faith and unity and develop understanding and relationships across our region.

### **This week's Presbytery Prayer Point is St Luke's Uniting Church:**

Belmont St Luke's Uniting Church Belmont is a congregation that has two morning services each Sunday and a fairly new venture of Dinner Church on Sunday evening. Dinner Church is all ages and is informal and meets over an evening meal. This group is also an outreach to people in the community. It has also allowed some of our families who cannot come in the morning because of sport to attend. As well as all the usual groups and activities St Luke's has two major community groups where both church members and community members attend. A Monday morning Activity Centre and a Tuesday quilting group.

**Prayer:** We pray for the community outreach activities at Belmont. For the Monday morning Activity Centre and the Quilting group on Tuesdays. We pray also for the Sunday evening Dinner Church. That people from the community will continue to attend and to feel welcome. Amen.

## 1 Lent Event

Uniting World Annual Lent Event is being held again this year: 14th

February – 28th March 2024. The theme this year is "40 Days of Faithful Action for God's Creation". Climate change is threatening our world. Uniting World want to see a world where people are working together to fight climate change. Our world needs hope and courage and each of us can make a change. Brochures are available on the table in the foyer.



## 2 Update on Thursday Bible Study Group

On 14th March, a young man named Hayden will visit our group to share with us his testimony—an encouraging story!

Bruce, our leader, will be away on 21st March so there will be no Bible Study. However, there may be an opportunity for us to still gather at another venue.

As always we welcome new folk to our group—details Barbara Bell 4946 8549

## 3 Palm Fronds Needed!

A request for anyone with a small palm tree to contact me on 0435 565 373 or 4944 8548. I need palm fronds for a children's activity next week!

Many thanks, Lurline





# Men and Boys Weekend Away



**Friday, 15th March - Sunday, 17th March**

Korsmans Landing Campground  
(Myall Lakes National Park)



**Waterskiing**

**Eating**



**Canoeing**



**Swimming**

**Footy**



**For all men and boys so... invite your mates and relatives!**

**What to bring:** tent, camping gear, eating utensils & own drinks  
Spare tents available - if you need one, let Paul know

**Cost:** \$50 (Age 13 & above) \$35 (Age 12 & under).

This includes all meals, national park entry, boat petrol & camping fees.

**RSVP:** with attendance (and if bringing a boat) by March 8th via email to Paul Smart - smart-family@bigpond.com or text 0419267074. \*We want everyone to be able to attend so if you need financial assistance, please contact Paul on mobile number above ☺

**Set-up from 2pm onwards**



**How to get there?** From Bulahdelah, travel to Bombah Point Road, follow for approx. 10kms and turn left into Korsmans Trail to the campground.  
<https://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/camping-and-accommodation/campgrounds/korsmans-landing-campground>

## 4 Hunter Community Alliance Founding Assembly

St Luke's has been asked to have six people present on this night. If you are able to attend to contact Eldrene March or write your name on the list on the table and she will register St Luke's people attending as a group.

**HUNTER COMMUNITY ALLIANCE  
FOUNDING ASSEMBLY**

HUNTER COMMUNITY ALLIANCE  
FOUNDING ASSEMBLY

APRIL 10TH  
6:30pm - 8:30pm  
UoN GREAT HALL  
REGISTER

**YOU'RE INVITED**

APRIL 10TH 6.30PM - 8.30PM  
GREAT HALL, UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE

register: [events.humanitix.com/hca-founding-assembly](https://events.humanitix.com/hca-founding-assembly)  
more information updates: [www.thehca.org.au](http://www.thehca.org.au)

**Everyone** in the Uniting Church across the Hunter is invited to participate in engaging National and State Leaders to take action on these issues:

**“Just” energy transition in communities  
Housing and Homelessness**

*Onsite dinner plans are underway, come at 5.30/6 for 6pm start*  
**Get everyone you can to register and ‘turn out’ for change!**

## 5 **Bunnings BBQ'**

As part of our 2024 fundraising, essential to St Luke's budget and finance, it's been decided to host 3 Sausage Sizzle BBQ's at Bunnings in Bennetts Green.

It is a new venture for us as a church and a wonderful opportunity to be out serving in the community.

We have been offered 3 dates:

- 1) Anzac Day / Thursday 25th April (afternoon only)
- 2) Saturday 3rd August
- 3) Saturday 7th December

We are inviting everyone along to a meeting to go through the supplied information pack on Friday 5th April at 3pm in the gathering area.

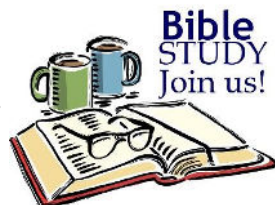
After that we will be providing sign up sheets for tasks that will need to be done before the day, and on the day.

"Many hands make light work"

## 6 **Friday Plus Bible Study Group**

Friday Plus Bible study group will meet on Friday 15th March. Our Bible passage for the day will be John 1:1-18 and the discussion will be based on recognising who Jesus is. We begin at 9.30 for tea/coffee in the gathering area and commence our sharing and prayer at 10am. Please be assured you are welcome to share this time with us.

Any enquiries to Julie Killeen: 0427 505 874 or  
Jan Kellahan 0424 139 100



## 7 **Margaret Jurd College**

The College were extremely grateful for our contribution to stocking their Pantry, which we were able to do for 5 months in the second half of 2023. Some extra things carried over, to get them started again in 2024. The groceries donated from various members of the congregation were very gratefully received.

This was also supplemented with \$300 of donated money and by buying suitable weekly half price goods an extra \$600 of groceries was added to the pantry.

This was an amazing effort and it would be good if we could do it again this year.

The students at Margaret Jurd are very special and the staff are amazing and so appreciative of what we were able to do for them. By building a personal relationship with the Welfare Officer it was good to supply the right needs to help those who so often need an extra hand-up.

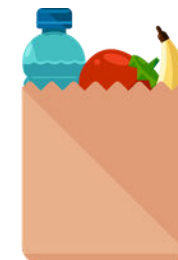
Our contribution to Margaret Jurd did not go un-noticed.

Thank you all at St Luke's.

*Eldrene March*

## 8 **Our Sympathy and our Prayers**

Our sympathy and our prayers are with Debbie Milton and her family in the passing of Debbie's mother last week.



## 9 Invitation

Sugarloaf Uniting Church Congregation (West Wallsend and Holmesville congregations) invite all past members to a Celebration Service to mark the closure of the congregation after 120 years of faithful mission and ministry in the community. Sunday 17th March at 10am at West Wallsend Uniting Church, 41 Brown Street, West Wallsend. People are invited to bring photographs to display on a Wall of Memories. Morning Tea will follow.

## 10 Combined Service at 9am on Sunday 7th April

St Luke's will be updating their mission plan and we want to have as many members of our congregation as possible participating in this so that we have all of your ideas. Following on from the service we will have a discussion over morning tea. Please plan to be there if you can. More information coming soon!



## 11 Local and Global Mission Team

If you are interested in being involved in the wider mission work of our congregation, please write your name on the sheet on the back table. This is an important part of our congregational life where we look at different areas of mission – both local and global, and how we can be a part of this.

## 12 St Luke's Leadership Team Update: March 2024

St Luke's Leadership Team met on Tuesday night. Rev Greg McConnell led devotions centred around 2 Corinthians 1:20. This meeting was also our Annual Meeting and all current positions remain the same:

- Rev Greg McConnell remains as the Chairperson and team leader of the Worship Team
- Jenny Mathieson: Secretary
- Greg Anderson: Treasurer and Team leader of the Finance & Property Team.
- Alison Gill remains as Team Leader for the Community & Outreach Team.
- Stewart Ellway, Julie Killeen and Margaret Guerke are the other elected members of the team.

This year there were no nominations for Team Leader for the Local & Global Mission team and we are aware that due to unforeseen circumstances and ill health this team is very low on numbers and has not been meeting regularly for quite some time now. It was a decision that for the interim all items that would normally be on the agenda for this team would be the responsibility of the Leadership team. It was a further decision that we would seek

interest from members of the congregation who are interested in areas of local and global mission and then consider next steps .



- Information was received from the Hunter Community Alliance about the upcoming **Founding Assembly** to be held at the Newcastle University Great Hall on 10th April. This has the support of The Hunter Presbytery and of the Leadership Team. Information is in Together and if you would like to attend please contact Eldrene March or write your name on the sheet on the back table and Eldrene will make a group booking .
- **St Luke's Mission Plan:** The Hunter Presbytery has asked each congregation in the Presbytery to make a new Mission Plan and have sent a draft template to use. This is very timely for St Luke's as ours needed updating. In order to do this in a way where as many members of the congregation as possible can participate and share their ideas, it was decided to hold a combined morning service on Sunday 7th April at 9am so we can all meet together over morning tea to share our ideas. More information on this will come soon. Please save the date and plan to be part of this if you can.
- Alison Gill reported about the current (and exciting) **fund raising** activities planned over the next few months and these dates have already been in Together. Keep a watch out for the details which will be coming soon!
- Greg Anderson presented a comprehensive report with all the current information about our **finance and property**.

*Jenny Mathieson*

*Secretary*

## **Numbers 21:4-9 NIV**

### **The Bronze Snake**

They travelled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; 5 they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!"

Then the Lord sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we spoke against the Lord and against you. Pray that the Lord will take the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed for the people.

The Lord said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live." So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.

## **John 3:14-21 NIV**

Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him."

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.