

the grapevine

22 AUGUST 2021

a weekly bulletin of the Ettalong and Umina Uniting Churches

notes from Patty

There is a lot of bad news in our world. The situation in Afghanistan, an earthquake followed by a storm in Haiti, and violence and poverty in places we no longer hear about it has been going on so long, and worldwide COVID.

Closer to home for us is the lockdown due to COVID here in NSW. Uniting Church in Australia President Rev Sharon Hollis is encouraging UCA members to join in a day of prayer for all those experiencing the ongoing impacts of the pandemic. This National Day of Prayer is Sunday 22nd August. Resources will go on our Church Facebook page as they become available.

It is easy to think that we cannot do anything to help these big situations, we can. We can pray.

please send all Grapevine article submissions to the below email address by noon Wednesday:

grapevineuniting@gmail.com

We can write letters to Government asking for higher refugee intake from Afghanistan. We can follow the health orders by staying home as much as we can, not visiting people outside your household, wear a mask when you are shopping etc. It may seem like our little bit might not make a difference, but our actions and prayers do make a difference. In this Grapevine there is a prayer re COVID from Rev Sharon Hollis, UCA President and one from our Moderator about the situation in Afghanistan.

Rev Patty Lawrence

Broken Bay Uniting Church



prayer - covid

from Rev Sharon Hollis,
UCA President

God of mercy and compassion,
We pray for the world as across
the globe we face the challenges
of COVID.

We give you thanks for those who
care for the sick,
for those who work on limiting the
spread of the disease
and those who develop and
administer vaccines.

We remember before you all those
affected by COVID,
Comfort those who mourn the
death of a loved one,
Heal those who have COVID-19 or
suffer the long-term effects
of having had COVID.

Sustain those who work in health
care, testing and vaccination.
Encourage those who are
supporting education remotely,
Console those who must stay
at home,
And bless and protect those whose
work is essential for our wellbeing.

We long for a world where access
to health care and vaccines are
shared equitably
Strengthen the efforts of those who
work to end COVID for all.
And fill us with a desire to work for
justice and care for all.

Amen

we pray...

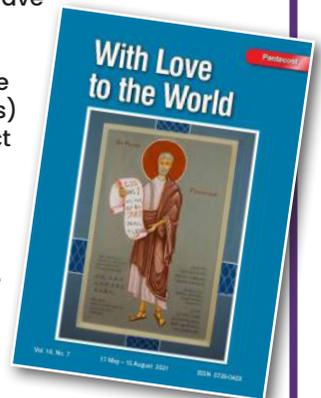
- with Peninsula Anglican Church
- with Tuggerah Lakes South Faith Community
- for those who are sick and others with special needs, including Coral Tauro, Connie Watts, Debra Stewart and Joice Tee
- for those who have lost loved ones
- for our Communion preparers and servers
- for the Presbytery Standing Committee
- with people from Liberia, Seirra Leone
- for the people of Afghanistan

with love to the world

'With Love to the World' is a daily Bible Devotion that follows the Revised Common Lectionary used by many denominations throughout the world. The next edition of 'With Love to the World' is now available.

If you do not have your copy or would like a copy (we have several spares) please contact Pam Carter or Margaret Gregory.

Cost per issue
(quarter)
is \$6.00



scripture readings

	SUNDAY 22 AUGUST	SUNDAY 29 AUGUST
FIRST READING & PSALM	1 Kings 8:(1,6,10-11), 22-30, 41-43 Psalm 84	Song of Solomon 2:8-13 Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9
ALTERNATE FIRST READING & PSALM	Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18 Psalm 34:15-22	Deuteronomy 4:1-2,6-9 Psalm 15
SECOND READING	Ephesians 6:10-20	James 1:17-27
GOSPEL	John 6:56-69	Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

presbytery report

The Sydney Central Coast Presbytery met on Wednesday Night by Zoom.

Elections were held for office bearers and committee members.

- Chairperson: **Ian Lawrence**
- Deputy Chairperson: **Seung Jae Yeon**
- **Nich Cole** continues as the other Deputy Chairperson
- Secretary: **Robyn Harvey**
- **John Barker** continues as Treasurer
- Chairperson of Pastoral Relations Committee: **Greg Woolnough**

People moving into the Presbytery were welcomed:

- Rev. Sanghyeon Nam (Forestville UC)
- Pastor Sunil Baek (CC Central Hub) - on the way to ordination
- Rev. Jean Bell (North Ryde Community Church)
- Pastor Jennifer Johnstone, Uniting Chaplaincy Convenor Sydney North-West

And people moving out of the Presbytery thanked:

- Rev. Steve Everist, to Gerringong UC
- Rev. Deokhee Cho, to Kogarah UC

Rev. Krikor Youmshajekian's placement with the St Andrew's Longueville UC was extended for three years.

The Presbytery agreed to establish an association (entitled Uniting Energy) to support the natural environment by supplying emission free energy to not-for-profit institutions. Uniting Energy shall be established as a Uniting Church institution (Reg 3.7.4.7) entity sponsored by the Sydney Central Coast Presbytery. More information will be available about this as the project gets going.



worship services

Due to the COVID situation in Greater Sydney, our buildings are closed. Some groups are meeting online. An order of service and sermon notes will be emailed, or delivered with the Grapevine. On Sunday there will be a video of the sermon.

THIS WEEK

Sunday 22 August
Morning Worship 9:30am
Distributed by Rev Patty

Friday 27 August
FFN video uploaded
Social zoom chat 4:45pm

NEXT WEEK

Sunday 29 August
Morning Worship 9:30am
Distributed by Rev Patty

Friday 3 September
FFN video uploaded
Social zoom chat 4:45pm

this week

SUNDAY ZOOM GATHERING
22 August at 5:00pm
Contact Rev Patty for Zoom link

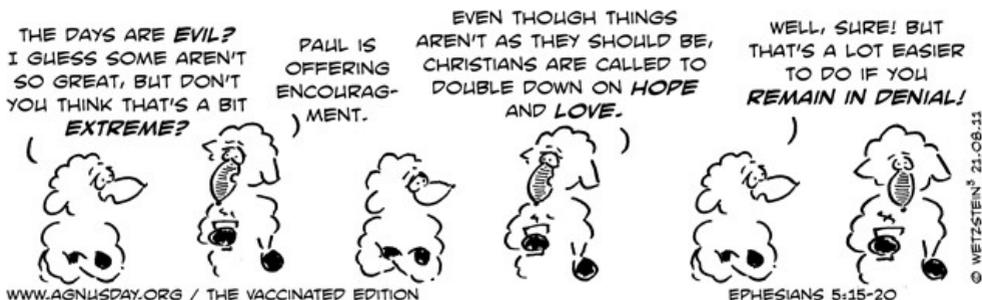
MONDAY PRAYER MEETING
23 August at 9:00am via Zoom
MONDAY BIBLE STUDY
Canceled due to Covid restrictions

WEDNESDAY WANDERERS
Canceled due to Covid restrictions

FRIDAY PLAYGROUP
Canceled due to Covid restrictions
FRIDAY NIGHT TENNIS
Canceled due to Covid restrictions

agnus day

Ephesians 5: 15-20



Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns

and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Peace and Joy, James Wetzstein
creator Agnus Day

peace - reflection & prayer

Jesus came and stood among them --- "Peace be with you"
John 20 : 19

When Jesus appeared in the locked room it was, for most of the disciples, the first sight of him since they had witnessed him dying on Good Friday. He met them --- "Peace be with you" --- "May God give you every good thing" Peace in the Bible is never just the absence of strife --- It incorporates wholeness, wellbeing, even prosperity --- a blessing from God.

Jesus still brings this wholeness and well-being. If we are depressed, despondent, or defeated, Jesus speaks His word of peace, and it means --- cheerfulness, calmness and courage.

When we are filled with fear --- whether it is about health, money or a family situation, then Jesus' word of peace means inner quiet, a fresh supply of resources and a positive attitude. When we are laden with excessive work demands, He fills us with a quiet, yet energised spirit; one that directs us to move calmly from one task to another until they are all complete. When we are in a quandary and don't know how ever we will unravel the complicated issues that confound us, He offers the peace that enables us to remain calm, to think clearly, and to see our way forward. His peace is not like that of the world. His peace is his presence.



This prayer is from
Rev Bruce Edgell, "Encouragement in difficult Covid times"
Shared with us by David Fulton

prayer for afghanastan

from Rev Simon Hansford

*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?
O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer;
and by night, but find no rest.
– Psalm 22.1–2*

To you, the God of earth
and heaven,
we turn, in grief, and pray.
For the peoples of Afghanistan,
facing terror once again,
haunted by the serried ranks
of ghosts from interminable
invasions and wars,
desperate for hope,
hungering for peace;
*Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.*

We weep at what we have seen
in these last weeks and months;
we are heart-struck with what
we fear will happen now.
We have nowhere else to turn,
but you;
and so we cry out:
halt the violence,
restrain those who would
seek vengeance,
shelter those most at risk;
*Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.*

We confess the arrogance
of empire – Mongol, British,
Russian and American – which
has spawned generations

of brokenness amongst the
rubble of injustice and war.
Forgive us, we pray,
for the destruction we have
wrought, falsely determined
that we knew what was right.
Forgive us for our failure to offer
the Afghan peoples
what they most sorely need;
Help governments, including
our own, to act with integrity for
those who have served us and
those who seek refuge within
our land;
*Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.*





We pray, especially,
for women and girls,
who have most to fear from
the Taliban's return.
Endow them with further
courage and wisdom,
to endure what is to come;
to create hope where none
seems evident;
to sow justice in what appears
barren ground.
May they know their inherent
value and worth
especially when days
are darkest;
*Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.*

May the leaders of the Taliban
and all who cast their lot with
them realise the inherent
and abiding evil of vengeance
and violence.

Cause them to govern with the
possibility of justice and the
realisation that each and every
person is valuable in the eyes
and heart of God;
*Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.*

Crucified and risen Lord,
Our prayers arise,
accompanied by our groans,
may your Spirit move where we
have failed,
for the sake of those most in
need this day
and in the days to come.
*Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.*

We pray in Jesus' name.
Amen.

giving

Giving to the church **In person** at worship.

To give by **Direct Debit** speak to Wayne Read or Margaret Gregory to set this up.

Electronic transfers, i.e. internet banking can be made to our account:
Account Name:
Broken Bay Uniting Church
BSB: 634 634
Account Number: 100018346
Please identify deposit as:
Offering, REM /Youthlife,
Lent Event etc.

For information on leaving a **bequest**, please speak with Margaret Read.

current rules



**PLACES OF WORSHIP
ARE CLOSED**

> **HELP NSW STAY COVID SAFE**



broken bay uniting church

MINISTER

Phone

Email

Rev Patty Lawrence

4341 1024

pattyl@powervisions.com.au

PASTORAL CONTACTS

Margaret Gregory

Pam Carter

4342 1519

4342 1351

PARISH OFFICE

Address

Phone

Email

Website

346 Ocean Beach Road, Umina 2257

4341 8536

bbuca@bigpond.net.au

www.brokenbay.unitingchurch.org.au