

OUR NEWS

12th February 2023

Our Vision

A Community Transforming Lives



Our Values

Grace,
Inclusion,
Dignity,
Faith and Hope

Congregational life at Westmead & Parramatta,
Hospitality Services at 175 Hotel and Wesley Apartments
Meals Plus Services providing for those in need across the
Parramatta LGA

Parramatta Mission acknowledges that all of our work takes
place on the land of traditional owners.

We pay respect to the original custodians of the land on
which we gather, and acknowledge their elders past and
present, and their emerging leaders.

WEEKLY REFLECTION
Epiphany 6A, 2023,
Matthew 5: 21-37

*You shall love your crooked
neighbour with your crooked self*
Rev Vladimir Korotkov

1. In our text in Matthew 5.21-37, Matthew's Jesus continues to present his sermon on the mount. The Jewish Law was important to Matthew's community. The Law was an agreement in the covenant between Yahweh and the people. The Law was presented by Moses as guidelines of how to live together for a very diverse community of tribes and people. Each tribe had competing interests, different values, and habits. The Cain and Abel story in Genesis is a mythical memory in the origins of humanity and of the place of anger, envy and their excesses in community and family; Cain murders his brother Abel.



The Law as the guidelines for ancient Israel was to be a light, a guide, to structure social space, inform cultural constructions, habits, thoughts, and feelings, to share resources and to deal with conflicts. The ethical prophets arose when Israel contradicted its commitment to live together equally and justly.

In our text, Matthew's Jesus seeks to evoke creative and radical reflection about way the communities live together in their social and cultural spaces. He takes up five issues: anger and relationships, adultery and male desire, divorce and the male mistreatment of women and oath-taking: integrity of word and action. The writer in the blog *Sacraconversazione* writes:

Matthew's text digs deeper into Jesus' understanding of God's expectations of us; it is not just the letter of the Law nor the behaviour that others can see that matters to God, it is not just the "big" violations, it is the daily hurt we cause to one another. Our motivations bear scrutiny. So for one thing, it is not just murder that is "liable to judgment," but mundane "anger with a brother or sister" or just an "insult" that also requires accountability ...

Biblical morality shatters every human definition of goodness... It goes deep into the human psyche, especially in Matthew's text. It is not just our public actions, but our deepest motives, moods, attitudes, and emotions that come under scrutiny ...

2. Yes, Jesus even challenges our notions of goodness. In engaging with people and his society, Jesus understood the later 19th philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche's suspicions of the binary division of the action of others as either good or bad. History reminds us that in our "good" Christian actions, like the Christian missionaries in colonial periods, that we can create destructive events, practices, structures, and policies, in the name of God. And societies used their particular constructions of "good", of truth, knowledge and power to determine power relations between each type of subject.

Matthew's Jesus continually invites us to build and engage in, communities, families, and relationships of compassion, courage, equality and justice, and readers, so that they can evaluate their own social space, culture, and relationships. And this was to engage power and consciousness. The issue is, how do we revisit and transform our cultures,

our families, our relationships, and our inner psyche, which is structured by sense perceptions, thinking, judging and feeling and the imagination.

Paul Ricoeur, a theologian who influenced my theological study at Zurich University, writes about the evocative and creative methods of teaching that Jesus used.

"Parables, paradoxes, hyperboles, and extreme commandments all disorient only in order to re-orient us. But what is re-oriented in us? And in what direction?"

He goes on to write that what is re-oriented is our imagination, while the will is our capacity to follow and live out his teaching.

Our imagination is the power to open us to new possibilities, to discover another way of seeing, or acceding to a new way in receiving the instruction of the exception." (Figuring the Sacred, p. 281)

One device Matthew's Jesus uses is the repetition of the identical refrain: "You have heard it said, but I say [to you]" (Matthew 5:21, 27, 33, 38, 43). In this he seeks "not abolishing the law but to fulfill it, to broaden and deepen it from mere outward ritual or external compliance to an interior transformation."

So, this is the consciousness part of my notion that Jesus in dealing with power and consciousness.

When Matthew's Jesus uses the antitheses, "You have heard it said, but I say [to you]", he is actually inferring that he is God's representative on earth who is transforming and building on the way that society and its cultures were created. A former social, cultural and religious set of guidelines, which shaped and directed communal individual life is being changed. And some of the Jewish community were resistant to these changes. They wanted to blindly just sit like passive passengers in a plane, led by their blind leaders, and not change anything on the plane.

3. Let's look at the 2nd and 3rd examples, adultery and male desire, divorce and the male mistreatment of women.

In the 2nd example, the Law against adultery, Jesus redefines this act in the terms of transgressing the command to "love one's neighbour as oneself". The focus is not just on the physical abuse, but on the inner life, the eye and heart, which we would call sense perceptions and our inner desires and imagination. And the address is to the male. As Warren Carter writes:

Jesus' language reflects a society in which male concerns dominate and in which marriage is commonly patriarchal. Attitudes to adultery were ambivalent." (146)

This is about power relations in society, in the arena of gender: how a society so structures itself that one category of society, males, have power and control over the other, the woman.

Both the structure needs changing and the consciousness, the inner life, the palace of memory, particularly unconscious desires and fantasies. In this fantasy construction, the woman does not exist, she is an object a, to use Lacanian terms.

Jesus desired the empowerment of each, male and female. Transformation is to activate the ethical, social, cultural and spiritual imagination.

The teaching of Jesus is not just given for the words to occupy our mind, our thinking. They are images meant to evoke creative reflective and radical examination of our social spaces, our cultures, our families, our relationships and our consciousness and our unconscious life.

Conclusion

To believe, to follow Jesus, is be engaged in an active, reflective practice of discernment and change, constantly learning anew what it means to love God, self, and others co-equally. To create and maintain safe, healthy, collaborative communities of equals, and in love and strength to address disruptions and inappropriate behaviour.

Leigh Memorial Congregation

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY

This **Sunday, 12 February**, we'll be gathering for worship Onsite + Zoom at Leigh Memorial at 9.30am with Rev Vladimir. *All Welcome.*

FAREWELL DEAR BEVERLY

On Tuesday we learned the sad news that our friend and fellow member, **Beverly Beaman**, had passed away after a long illness. Bev (aged 86), was part of the Leigh Memorial and Westmead congregations for over 30 years and a dynamic member, contributor and leader of groups and activities such as School for Seniors, Couples & Friends, SPOW ('Single People of Worth', which Bev initiated and led with significant dedication for 20 years), the Leigh Memorial Leaders Team/Elders, Sunday School @ Leigh, Worship Committee, Bible Study, the Presbytery Adult Fellowship, Australian Church Women, Parramatta Mission programs – and many more. Bev was also a devoted, long term member of Probus and Computer Pals and enjoyed a varied working life, including via roles as an ancillary staff member with the Dept. of Education and as an examination supervisor. In addition to her contributions within the Uniting Church, Bev had a significant history with the Church of Christ and was a strong advocate for women's and children's ministries throughout her life. Bev and her husband Tom, and friends Flora and Harry Briggs, also formed a popular concert group called 'The Beamings' in the 1990s – performing in various community venues and bringing a lot of joy to others. A gifted craftswoman, with significant Bible knowledge, a big smile and laugh, and incredible energy and fortitude – including during her health struggles – Bev was also a loyal friend and a much loved wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother. She leaves us having achieved many good things in her life, including those that improved the lives of others and enriched their Christian faith. *Thank you and farewell Bev. Our prayers are with your family & friends at this time.*

Funeral arrangements: Pinegrove, Minchinbury (North Chapel), at 10am on Thursday 16 February.



PASTORAL MESSAGE

Our love & support remain with those in need of solace, healing and strength at this time, including members who are unwell and requiring additional care & support. NB: Contact details for the pastoral team (Revs Vladimir & John and Pastors Fil & Sarah) are in the newsletter.

INVITATION: 'INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY' HIGH TEA

PM's Community Meals Coordinator, Sue Rogoimuri, is organising a Women's High Tea for **2pm on Saturday 4 March** at the Parramatta Mission Hall.

RSVPs are needed by 24 February to Sue: 0411 382 281. Theme: Purple (the colour of the International Women's Movement).

PRAYERS FOR TURKEY & SYRIA

Our prayers and heartfelt sympathies remain with the people of Turkey and Syria who have been devastated by the recent earthquake in their region. We pray for healing and help for victims, and comfort for those who are grieving. The Red Cross, Doctors without Borders and Save The Children are accepting donations

SYDNEY ALLIANCE ELECTION ASSEMBLY IN WESTMEAD

Tuesday, 28 February, 6.15pm @ The Morley Centre (Catherine McAuley School), Darcy Road, Westmead:

<https://events.humanitix.com/sydney-alliance-nsw-election-assembly-february-28>

SPECIAL PCUC DIARY DATES & SERVICES

Leigh Memorial worship is at 9.30am each Sunday unless otherwise notified and Leigh Fijian is at 11.15am. Westmead commences at 9:30am and Northmead-Centenary service commence at 9.00am. Zoom is available for all Leigh Memorial 9.30am services. Following are details of up & coming events & special services:

Jazz on Hammers

Sundays 12 February & 12 March – 6.00pm: "Jazz on Hammers" (inc. dinner) at Northmead UC

Lent

Wednesday 22 February – 7.00pm: Combined PCUC Ash Wednesday service at Leigh Memorial UC with Rev John Barr

Saturday 4 March – 2.00 – 4.00pm, International Women's Day 'High Tea' at Parramatta Mission

Saturday 18 March – 9.00am – 1.00pm, PCUC 'Vision & Values' Morning at Centenary + Lunch.

Easter services (details to be confirmed)

Thursday 6 April – Tenebrae (Maundy Thursday)

Friday 7 April – Good Friday.

Sunday 9 April – Easter Sunday.

Induction

Sunday 30 April: 2.00pm – A Combined Service for the Induction of PCUC Lead Minister, Rev Geoff Smith, will take place at the Centre for Ministry, Nth. Parramatta – followed by Afternoon Tea. (* No services will take place at the individual sites in the morning).

Combined PCUC Services & host sites, 2023

29 January (Centenary)

7 April (Good Friday: Westmead)

30 April (Centre for Ministry)

30 July (Northmead)

29 October (Leigh Memorial)

Westmead Congregation

Sharing the Hospitality of Jesus Christ

Sunday 12th February 2023, 9.30am

Today's Worship service will be led by Pastor Fil. A warm welcome back to you Fil, and we look forward to your word.

Thank you Pastor Sarah for leading us in Holy Communion last Sunday. Sarah gave a lovely reflection on people being "salt" and "light" to the world. Neither salt nor light benefits from interacting with itself – the profound benefit comes when it is put to use in another person's life. This person could be a neighbour, a person you love or even an enemy. Thank you, Sarah.

Westmead Congregation was saddened by the death of our dear friend Bev Beaman who passed away early on the morning of 7 February. Rest in Peace, dear Bev.

Our condolences to all Bev's family and friends from Westmead Congregation.

We also uphold in our prayers, Ruth (Jean Mitchell's sister), Edwina and others who are unwell.

WESTMEAD WORSHIP - FEBRUARY 2023

All services begin on site at 9.30am

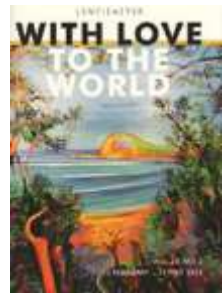
12 February: Pastor Fil

19 February: Rev. Vladimir

26 February: Rev. Vladimir

The next issue of the Bible Study booklet 'With Love to the World' is now available.

The booklet covers Lent and Easter. Cost: \$5.00



DIARY DATES

22 February at 7.00pm

Combined PCUC Ash Wednesday Service at Leigh Memorial with Rev. John Barr.

28 February at 6.15pm – 8.15pm

Sydney Alliance Assembly at Catherine McAuley school, 2 Darcy Road, Westmead . Registrations required:

<https://events.humanitix.com/sydney-alliance-nsw-election-assembly-february-28>

4 March @ 2.00 – 4pm

High Tea – to celebrate International Women's Day 2023.

The event is being organised by Sue Rogoimuri (Leigh Fijian member and PM's Community Meal Coordinator) and others, and will to be held at the Parramatta Mission Fellowship Centre, Macquarie Street, Parramatta.

The event will include guest speakers and a fully catered high tea. There is no charge to attend, however donations will be accepted at the door to support the work of Meals Plus.

RSVPs are required by 26 February - contact

Liz: LeighMemorialUniting@gmail.com

ACTIVITIES YOU CAN JOIN:

BIBLE STUDY: to re-commence on Monday, 13 February at 2.00pm.

Zoom Link: <https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/95043695512>)

TAI CHI:



Tai Chi held each Friday, 10am - 11am at Uniting Westmead

Cost: \$5 per session.

All welcome to join the group for a fun morning and finish with a nice cuppa at the Uniting Community Café.

Below, Stuart Hills has contributed the writings and a poem with permission, from Rev. Denker, residing in Minnesota - In a busy world, do we stop to be compassionate to our own selves?

What if I chose out of Love? (Used with kind permission of Rev. Denker)

Sometime in the past six months and somewhere on the WWW (the internet) I came across an interesting post from Rev. Angela Denker, an Evangelical Lutheran minister from Minnesota. I was taken by what she had written so I started to follow her writings.

The post of January 25th titled "What if I chose out of love" ... particularly drew my attention. There is not room to reprint her post in whole here, so I offer the following [extract and](#) an e-mail link. - angeladenker@substack.com and extract/summary.

Stuart Hills

Rev. Angela, a jogger, writes of running once again in spring after a harsh Minnesota winter: ".....the inside of my thighs are rubbing a bit.....My shirt is riding up and my shorts are twisted....Straighten them up...pull it down. Focus on the run....." She is running and enjoying it noticing her environment and others around her...." I'm getting closer to the Lake. I always stop there for a minute, catch my breath, stare out at the water and remember how small I am and how big the world is, and how little my worries often matter in the ripples of the fresh water.....At the Lake, I'm in the world. I'm one of Her creations, breathing, respirating, living..... Soon exhaustion is setting in....

'my legs get heavy. The lactic acid builds up, and my breath doesn't seem adequate to fire my straining muscles. I look across the street at a woman in a pink sports bra cruising past me while pushing a double jogging stroller..... I leave the world. I'm back in my head, and I'm screaming at my body: 'LEGS! LEGS!! KEEP RUNNING!'.....'Don't you see that woman over there? She can do it; why can't you? She just had a baby! Move. Faster.....'It doesn't hurt that bad. You should be working out harder. You should be able to do this. Remember high school track? (That was 20 years and two babies ago, but so what? Faster!)'.....'What are you doing? You're slowing down? You're stopping!'. "DON'T STOP. We have to run. You don't deserve to rest. You should've worked harder all winter. You should've eaten better..... My brain is so mentally exhausted, my body so worn down by self-loathing, that my pace lags. I feel discontented, disconnected. The sun moves ever higher in the sky. The clouds are a brilliant white. If I looked at them, I might see shapes or figures. I might dream dreams bigger than myself.'.... I stare down at my body instead. Yank up my shorts. Pull down my shirt. Ball my hands into fists. I return home, wiped.

I lived this way, literally ran this way, existed this way for so many years. I thought that the best way to motivate myself, especially physically, was to degrade myself for all the things I could be doing better. All the people who were doing it better than I was.

I was approaching my life from a place of fear, anxiety, and hatred. Or worse: shame.

The unavoidable conclusion of near-middle-age is, though, that shame can't get you very far. Its endgame is exhaustion.

And so I've worked very hard, throughout my 30s and post-difficult birth/pregnancy of my second son, to finally get to a place where I choose to approach my body, myself, my life, and the world from a different starting point.

What if I chose out of love?

I started trying it last year in my runs and workouts. I'd feel tired and ask my body what it needed. Sometimes it needed rest, or massage, or stretching, or water. Sometimes it needed to push through, just a bit more energy, to accomplish more than I first thought possible. My body just needed to be heard, to ask for what it needs and to be loved for who I am.

I realized that this was bigger than my body, though. And I started to ask myself what I needed - in general - all the time.

It sounds simple, but especially if you're in a career field where you're a caregiver - and if you're a parent or caring for loved ones at home - too often you can live entire years of your life thinking that the only way to live is as though you personally have no needs at all.

I used to love that song "I am a rock"

[I Am a Rock - Lyrics - Simon and Garfunkel - YouTube](#)

*I've built walls
A fortress deep and mighty
That none may penetrate
I have no need of friendship, friend-
ship causes pains
It's laughter and it's loving I disdain
I am a rock I am an island
Don't talk of love
Well I've heard the word before
It's sleeping in my memory
I won't disturb the slumber of feelings
that have died*

*If I never loved I never would have
cried
I am a rock I am an island
I have my books
And my poetry to protect me
I am shielded in my armour
Hiding in my room safe within my
womb
I touch no one and no one touches
me
I am a rock I am an island
And a rock feels no pain
And an island never cries*

I thought wouldn't that be great? A rock feels no pain. An island never cries.
But it's a lie.

No man is an island, entire of itself. ['No Man is an Island' - John Donne \(dal.ca\)](#)

The good in life only comes when we love. When we start with love.
It is the isolation of supposed invulnerability that actually makes me cry, for the
fear of admitting that I am a person, a part of creation, and I have needs.

So I start confronting myself, answering my own questions, from a place of self-
compassion and love. For my body. For my soul.

Which makes it so much easier to start confronting the world and the rest of crea-
tion in much the same way.

What if I chose out of love first?

ENQUIRIES:

Chairperson:	Jan Robson:	0418 438 901
Administration & Liturgy Co-ordinator:	Lorna Porter:	0408 365 478
Prayer Chain Requests:	Ruth Geggie:	0430 271 205
Newsletter & Technology:	Cheryl Shyam:	0432 436 999
Technology:	Alysa Biju:	E-mail: westmead.uca@gmail.com

Foster your faith this week

Deut 30:15-20

Ps 119:1-8

1 Cor 3:1-9

Mt 5:21-37

Leigh Fijian Congregation

1. **Lotu ena macawa oqo 12/02:** Na lotu ena macawa oqo ena vunau tiko kina ko talatala Samu Sadrata. Tu vakarau ena veiliutaki matamasumasu naba 1. Vunau vakarau Sireli Tuiloma kei Senitiki Qata.
 2. **Lotu ena macawa mai oqo 19/02:** Na lotu ena macawa mai oqo ena vunau tiko kina ko Sireli Tuiloma kei Senitiki Qata. Vunau vakarau nai vakatawa Anare Vocea kei Serupepeli Nagatalevu. Tu vakarau ena veiliutaki matamasumasu naba 2.
 3. **Lesoni ni macawa oqo (Epiphany) 06/02-12/02:** Nai Vakaru 30:15-20, Same 119:1-8, 1 Korinica 3:1-9, Maciu 5:21-37
 4. **Lesoni ni macawa mai oqo (Transfiguration) 13/02-19/02:** Na Lako Yani 24:12-18, Same 2, Same 99, 2 Pita 1:16-21, Maciu 17:1-9
- Eda na vakasigalevu vata tiko vakaivavakoso ena sigatabu oqo 12/02 ni suka na lotu. Sa kerei tiko na marama mera yadua yani na kuro. Ena tevu tiko e dua nai dabedabe nei talatala Samu Sadrata.

Lolo kei Na masumasu - Veinanumi ena lolo kei na masumasu ena vei matai ni Vukelulu ena vei vula mai na 6am – 12pm se 6am – 6pm. Soli tu na galala ke o rawa ni qarava.

Veinanumi ena Masu : Kerei meda veinanumi tikoga ena veimasulaki vei ira na nodatou qase kei na vuvale ra sotava tiko na dredre ko Mereoni Kamotu, S Qata, Akisi Dovibua Baranski, Dia Allison. Ko ratou na veiliutaki tiko ena nodatou vavakoso vaka viti kei na veivuvale kece sara ena loma ni nodatou vavakoso. Na nodratou veiqaravi na Bula Feeding.

Gadrevi na noda veinanumi ena masu vei ira na lewe ni vavakoso era mai sasaga kei na nanumi talega ni nodra vuvale mai Viti.

Friends of the Community



Date: Every Saturday 18th of February onwards
Time: 10am - 12pm
Location: Coffee Shop Macquarie Street Parramatta
Activity
craft, art, jewellery making, card making, on the podium and many more.

For more information please contact Sue ROGOIMURI on 0411382281 or email soweri@yahoo.com.au

시드니 조은 교회 Sydney Jo-Eun Church

23-07

주현 후 제6주제 (6th Epiphany of Sunday) 2023년 02월 12일 오후 1시30분

개회 찬송 (Entrance Hymn) 예배를 위한 묵상

예배의 부름 (Calling) 인도자

송영 (Gloria) **새 1 장** **통 1 장** 만복의 근원 하나님——다함께

사도신경 신앙고백 (The Apostle's Creed) 다함께

찬양/찬송 (Chorus & Hymns) 다함께

새 20 장 **통 41 장** 큰 영광 중에 계신 주

기도 (Prayer) 주기도문송 **새 635장** 하늘에 계신 우리 아버지 다함께

성경 봉독 (Scripture Reading) **에스겔 34:25-31**

말씀(Preaching)- 전현구 목사 **나는 너희의 하나님이다**

봉헌 송(Offertory Hymn)
새 400 장 **통 463 장** **험한 시험 물 속에서**

나눔과 알림 (Announcement & Notices)

1. 전 세계가 전염병으로 힘들 때 주님과 동행하시는 성도가 됩시다.
2. '매일 성경' 말씀으로 주님과 교제의 시간(QT)을 갖고 적용하는 훈련을 합니다.
3. 말씀, 기도, 전도 생활로 하나님이 기뻐하시는 삶을 사는 성도님들이 되시기 바랍니다.

폐회찬송(Final Hymn) **새 502장** **통 259장** **너 시온아 이소식 전파하라 (1절)**

축도 전현구 담임목사

QT나눔 & 성경공부
오후 4:00

수요기도회 : 오후 7시
마태복음 11:11-19

새벽기도회 : 오전 5시
마태복음 10:34-12:21



Parramatta
Mission



uniting
church
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA

International Women's Day High Tea

Dear Friend,

You are invited to a High Tea to celebrate International Women's Day, 2023.

The afternoon tea will take place on **Saturday, 4th March, 2.00 – 4.00pm** at the Parramatta Mission Hall, **119 Macquarie Street, Parramatta.**

Come and share special moments with friends over a cup of tea or coffee and cakes – and listen to some inspirational stories.

Theme: Purple (the colour of the International Women's Movement).

RSVP: Sue Rogoimuri – 0411 382 281 - by Friday, 24 February.



Sydney Alliance Pre-Election Assembly

Tuesday, 28 February
6:15-8:15pm
Westmead

Be part of the Uniting Church delegation!

Scan to register:



Talk to XXX

Issues:

Affordable housing

Fair renting

Climate action

Cost of living



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Summary Briefing on the Sydney Alliance Assembly February 28th

What:

The Sydney Alliance Election Assembly is a rare opportunity to pressure and persuade NSW politicians to act on the common good agenda of united civil society. It includes Alliance roll call of organisations, testimonies, putting the case, and asking politicians of all parties to make commitments to act on the issues affecting our people: Cost-of-living, climate change, affordable and renewable energy, affordable and social housing, and fair renting reforms (including removing no-grounds eviction and climate-proofing rental properties).

Confirmed attendance:

NSW Treasurer Matt Kean (LIB)
Shadow Treasurer Daniel Mookhey (ALP)
& representatives of the cross-bench.

When:

Tuesday evening February 28th

Arrival: between **5:30pm-6:15pm**. The formal Assembly will run 6:15pm-8:15pm (this includes all assembly briefing 6:15pm-6:45pm).

Where:

Morley Centre, 2 Darcy Road, Westmead. The Morley Centre is a Catholic school hall across the road from Westmead Private Hospital. The venue is wheelchair accessible and fits 1900 people. The Alliance partners have committed to 500-800 participants. Westmead is on the border of two 'marginal electorates' and there will be strong participation from the local area.

Registration:

<https://events.humanitix.com/sydney-alliance-nsw-election-assembly-february-28>

Who should attend?

Everyone is welcome. Organisations will be organising large delegations to participate. Individuals are welcome too. While we are encouraging majority participation from Western Sydney – all Alliance members are asked 'We are all in this together!'

What is at stake at this assembly?

- **Securing issue commitments from politicians on all sides.**
 - * Commitment to build 5000+ affordable and social homes per year
 - * Commitment to access to affordable renewable energy, energy audits and appliance swaps for low- and moderate-income households.
 - * Ending no-grounds eviction in NSW
 - * Commitment to measures to climate-proof for Western Sydney
 - * Commitment to climate-proofing homes (particularly rentals) across NSW, but particularly Western Sydney.
- Demonstrating the unity and cooperation of civil society and securing commitments from would-be government to work together on wicked problems during the next term of government.

Why is it important for me to be there? (and organise my colleagues and friends to come?)

Issues

Demonstrate to politicians why they should act on the issues that affect us all. Support those people sharing their testimonies.

Democracy

Both individuals and civil society have a responsibility and an opportunity to participate in democracy and shape the direction of our community. This goes beyond just voting.

Decisions are made by those who show up. 'Politics is too important to leave to politicians'. This election is undecided, and this assembly will be a key moment in the election cycle just weeks out from the election.

Organisational Dignity

Your organisation is part of the Sydney Alliance, with a long history of making improvements to the public life of Sydney and NSW. Come wearing your organisational T-shirt, polo, or headwear. An assembly demonstrates the kind of community we want to live in – one that is united in its celebration of diversity and cooperation. Individuals of course are welcome too!

Since COVID lockdowns our organisations are rebuilding the commitment and visibility of their membership. An assembly is a great way to do this!

Persistence

The Sydney Alliance and your organisation have been chipping away at these issues for *many* years; for some issues, the last decade. Change doesn't happen overnight and finally after years of work; we are seeing politicians ready to shift. With a potential change of government (or even just cabinet) there are opportunities to see a fairer deal for renters, workers, and low-income households; and a stronger commitment to fixing the climate crisis.

The Alliance is built for persistent, consistent work. As fads come and go, the Alliance chips away on the issues that matter to families. If you've been to an Alliance assembly before, please do join us again – as we build the momentum needed for change.

FAQ: But isn't politics boring? And aren't treasurers the most boring politicians?

You won't be bored at this assembly! What will happen on stage will be electrifying. It's one of those rare chances 'to be in the room where it happens'. Real commitments to change the direction on housing, energy, climate, and cost of living in NSW. The Treasurer and Shadow Treasurer are also top leaders in their government. As the chair of the 'Expenditure Review Committee' the treasurer of the next government will decide exactly how much goes to each department and for what. While the Leaders might be in the media every day, the Treasurer is the decision maker. Not only that, if the Coalition win, their party has a habit of making their treasurer the next premier.

Anyone who participated in the 2021 and 2022 assemblies with Matt Kean or meetings with Daniel Mookhey know that it will be anything but boring. There will be stories, moments of constructive tension, and a vibrant representation of our communities.

Getting there:

Train: Westmead Train Station is a major hub, a short 30 minute trip from Central.

Coaches: we are exploring chartering coaches from parts of Sydney not on the Western trainline. Depending on take-up, we may charter buses (at \$20-30 a head donation) from Bondi, Hornsby, and Engadine/

Parking:

Park via gate 3 opposite Westmead private hospital: see below mark up

Note: peak hour traffic will be an issue on Tuesday 28th February, please leave enough time to arrive between 5:30pm-6:15pm.

Catering

The Sydney Alliance is looking into organising food trucks to be present during 5:30pm-6:15pm. More details to follow.



UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA, SYNOD OF NSW & ACT

STAMP COMMITTEE

PO Box A2178, Sydney South, 1235 NSW

Email: uniting_stamps@gmail.com

2022 STAMP COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

From October 1977 to December 2022 : \$879,697

Sales for 2022 : \$ 29,200

In January 2022, it was fantastic to reopen the Stamp room to volunteers and customers and to receive many donations of private stamp collections and material from congregations. To all the volunteers who collect, trim and sort stamps our sincere thanks and appreciation enabling us to give away \$31,200 from the sale of used pieces of paper, about six square cm in size. Our regular clientele travel from Canberra, Orange, Gloucester, Blue Mountains, the Central coast and South coast to enjoy the camaraderie in the stamp room and opportunity to purchase many treasures.

GRANTS TO UNITING CHURCH CONGREGATIONS FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS:

A total of **\$31, 200** was distributed to **forty six congregations** in NSW and the ACT to assist volunteers to provide resources for community projects.

Congregations who received grants were:

Bathurst, Cowra, Dubbo, Portland, Orange, Rylstone, Wellington, Cootamundra, Tamworth City, Tamworth Southside, Kyogle, Yamba/Iluka, Beechwood, Gladstone, Port Macquarie, Adamstown, Bolwarra, Cessnock, Morpeth, Scone, Toronto, Pivot Point, Bega/Tathra, Lyneham, Mt Dromedary, Weston Creek, Yarrahulma, Dapto, Wollongong Mission, Abbotsbury, Castle Hill, West Epping, Glenbrook, Kurrajong, North Rocks, Penrith, Springwood, Suburban Seeds, Wentworthville, Windsor, Carlton/Ramsgate Nieu congregation, Gynea/Miranda, Peakhurst Heights, Epping, Gosford/Wyoming and Turramurra.

Grants were provided for the following community projects among others.

During Covid, volunteers at Orange provided at least 150 hot take away meals every Saturday evening to those in need. A similar service is operated at Cowra, Cootamundra, Dubbo, Cessnock, Pivot Point, Kurrajong and Narooma.

At Tamworth Southside, half an acre of Sunflowers has been sown to raise funds for people in Ukraine. This enables people from different cultural and linguistic backgrounds, who have recently arrived in the district, to be involved.

The Yamba/Iluka Op. Shop is open six days a week and now offers a free cup of coffee, a listening ear, care and support when needed.

UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA, SYNOD OF NSW & ACT

PO Box A2178, Sydney South , 1235, NSW Email: uniting_stamps@gmail.com

STAMP ROOM SALES

LEVEL 2, 262 PITT STREET, (next to the Uniting Church), SYDNEY

**OPENINGS WILL BE SUBJECT TO ALL NSW HEALTH REGULATIONS IN
RELATION TO COVID 19.**

TUESDAYS : 9.00am to 12 noon FIRST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH: 9.00am to 11.30am

ITEMS FOR SALE: All stamps in Australian and foreign stock books are individually priced.
First Day Covers, Postcards, Philatelic items of interest.
Donated collections are usually sold at auction through the Philatelic Association of NSW.

VOLUNTEERS

We are looking for new volunteers to enjoy fellowship with other volunteers whilst trimming and sorting stamps on Tuesday mornings. Philatelic knowledge is not essential and we are happy to share our knowledge.

DELIVERY OF STAMP MATERIAL

All material can be sent to our postal address – PO Box A2178, Sydney South, 1235, NSW OR hand delivered to UCA Synod Reception, Level 10, 222 Pitt Street Sydney, Monday to Friday 9am – 4pm.. They can also be hand delivered to the Stamp Room (Pilgrim House) on Tuesday mornings (9am – 11.30am). It may be possible for a volunteer to pick up large volumes/collections from homes in the greater Sydney region.

TRIMMING AND SORTING OF STAMPS

TRIMMING: Stamps can be supplied on envelopes, cut off envelopes with at least 2cm around the stamp ready for trimming or carefully trimmed with a 3mm paper surround. Some collectors prefer to soak their stamps off paper themselves, to minimise any damage to the stamps.

SORTING: If you have plenty of stamps you may wish to sort them as follows:

Australia – off paper – Decimal/Pre- decimal, all values, used or mint

Australia – on paper – Pre-decimal, \$1.20, \$1.10, \$1.00 (Commemoratives/Flowers), 50c to 70c (Commems/ Flowers / Fish and Farming), 49c, 45c (only Commems), Concessionals , high value over \$1.20.

Foreign material – United Kingdom, New Zealand, USA, Pacific Islands, Australian Territories, Asia and others.

Postcards, First Day covers and commercial covers prior to 1950.

ENQUIRIES

WEBSITE: <https://nswact.uca.org.au/about-us/the-stamp-committee>

EMAIL: uniting_stamps@gmail.com

We look forward to your continuing support in 2023 and wish you all God's blessing.

Ruth Mitchell – Business Manager/Secretary 0412 109 981

Prayer Points

The people of Parramatta Mission invite you to pray for Our Community

- We give thanks that some small gatherings are starting to take place. We give thanks for welcoming cafes and the disciplines we have learnt to help keep us all safe.
- We give thanks for coffee, tea, muffins and spiritually encouraging conversations.

PM Westmead

- Those that are unwell that we know in the congregation and those of whom we do not know – May You bring good health and ease suffering in them and in their families.
- The countries of Syria and Turkey that have been devastated by massive earthquakes – Lord, provide Your divine wisdom in helping salvage efforts, allow aid to become mobile and bring strength to those who mourn and those who wait in despair.
- The war in Ukraine- we pray for peace to arrive and for the futility of war to be realised by both sides, especially the perpetrators.
- For those suffering from anxiety, depression, or other mental health challenges in today's world – Lord may You become known to them that they may rest in Your love and peace when it gets “too hard”. Provide loving, caring friends who will stay by their side.
- For those so often overlooked – the homeless, refugee, those struggling with financial difficulties. Lord we rely on Your intervention in helping these people who have nowhere to turn to but You.
- For Climate change – Lord we ask for Your guidance in helping us manage our resources consciously for the benefit and betterment of future generations.

PM Fijian

- We pray for those who are going through transitions from school to beyond.
- We pray for the Synod Pulse Team and Ofa's role as a newly commissioned Pastor in the Team, resourcing youth ministry across NSW/ACT.
- We pray for the guests at the Bula Feeding Ministry and Meals Plus and our wonderful volunteers. We pray for those who are unable to meet because of rain or storms and for those who have been sleeping rough.

PM Korean Faith Community

- We pray for the Korean community in Western Sydney and for the revival of the church.
- We pray especially for Nak Su Baik, Kyeong Ok Hyeon (Those who are not in good health).

Prayer Points

PM Leigh Memorial

- We pray for congregation members, leaders and staff who are unwell, or having tests or procedures, and those experiencing anxiety surrounding work, study, family life or health. We particularly remember our members in need of additional support at this time, including those who are separated from their families or grieving. We also remember those within our congregations who are devoted carers to others in their family or within the community;
- We pray for wisdom and inspiration to infuse all current and forthcoming decision-making processes and actions by our dedicated ministers, leaders, managers and staff – and specifically pray for Paul and the team at Meals Plus, Cameron and his team at Westmead, the Bula Feeding ministry, and the life and witness of our fellow Parramatta Mission & Parramatta City Uniting Church congregations;
- We also pray for greater mutual respect, compassion and care within our local communities, and for the realisation of a community-wide spirit of inclusion and love for all people.

Wider Work

For our Combined Parramatta Mission Team

- May God guide all our staff and volunteers to live out our values of grace, inclusion, dignity, faith and hope;
- Rev. Vladimir, Rev. Hyun Goo, Chaplain Sarah, PMC Chairperson, David and Secretary Robert and all those who lead and serve.

Service & Zoom Information

Leigh Memorial Congregation

Time: Sunday 9.30am on site & Zoom

<https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/5199089657>

Meeting ID: 519 908 9657

Westmead Congregation

Time: Sunday 9.30am on site

Leigh Fijian Congregation

Time: Sundays 11.15am on site

Pastoral Contacts

Prayer Points may be sent to
wecare@parramattamission.org.au

For a conversation or to contact a Minister, please call
Parramatta Mission Reception (9am-3pm)
119 Macquarie Street Parramatta NSW 2150
9891 2277

Leigh Memorial Church
119 Macquarie Street Parramatta NSW 2150
9891 2277

Westmead Church
175 Hawkesbury Road Westmead NSW 2145
9891 2277

IN TIME OF PASTORAL NEED

Please contact our minister Vladimir Korotkov for any pastoral needs.

Rev Vladimir Korotkov (Transition Minister)	0431 759 573
Rev John Barr	0457 879 099
Pastor Fil Kamotu	0404 552 915

YOU CAN ALSO CONTACT THESE PEOPLE FOR PASTORAL ISSUES

Rev Hyun Goo Jun (Korean Faith Community)	0433 320 588
Pr Sarah Bishop (Children's Hospital)	0429 912 943
Anare Vocea (Fijian Vakatawa)	0432 772 852