

Parramatta Community Uniting Church

Newsletter ~ week commencing...

Sunday 24 December 2023



Advent Chalk Art – Meals Plus



Parramatta Community Uniting Church (PCUC) acknowledges the traditional custodians of the lands on which we gather – the Burramattagal clan of the Darug people - and pays respect to elders past and present, and emerging leaders.

An Advent message from Lead Minister, Geoff...

My friends,

What a year it has been! For me, my life has changed almost entirely. It has been (and remains) challenging, rewarding and surprising.

I must admit, I'm looking forward to a couple of quiet times after Christmas to take a deep breath or two.

Thank you all for your gracious acceptance of me and my various idiosyncrasies. Now that we've done much of the transition work and with the Ministry team forming, I look forward to finding and following the path set out for our journey together.

There are so many people to thank that I will not try to name them all. You know who you are (well, I HOPE you do!!!), but it would be remiss not to mention the sterling and much appreciated work of John and Fil as they conclude their time with us at PCUC. God speed to you both, my friends, and many blessings as you follow the path God has set your feet upon.

As we approach this Christmas we remain mindful of the many and varied challenges and complexities of life. Some of us may be struggling, all of us are aware of people who are. It has ever been thus.

Then into the daily struggles, challenges, joys and 'everydayness' of our lives the Christ-child is born anew and hope, peace and love flare all around us. For God is with us, God is always with us.

So, I wish you all a merry, peaceful, wondrous and significant Christmas. May the hope of Jesus be born in us afresh and may we find ways to spread that hope 'to all the world abroad'.

Much love, Geoff.

Parramatta Community U niting Church
 Newsletter – Week commencing 24 December
What's on in PCUC for the next few weeks?

Sunday 24 th	9.30am 11.15am	Christmas Eve Worship (Northmead, Leigh Memorial, Westmead) Christmas Eve Worship (Leigh Fijian)
Monday 25 th	8.00am 9.00am	Christmas Day Worship (Northmead) Christmas Day Worship (Leigh Memorial & Leigh Fijian combined, Westmead)
Sunday 31 st	10.00am	Combined Service (Westmead) – see details under notices
2024		HAPPY NEW YEAR!
Sunday 7 th	9.30am 11.15am	Worship Service (Leigh Memorial, Northmead, Westmead) Worship Service (Leigh Fijian)
Wednesday 10 th	6.30pm	Ladies Dinner (Northmead Bowling Club)
Thursday 11 th	10.00am	Friendship Centre (Northmead)
Saturday 13 th	9.00am	Walking Church (meet at Tudor Gate Parramatta Park)
Sunday 14 th	9.30am 10.00am	Worship Service (Northmead, Westmead) Worship Service (Leigh Memorial & Leigh Fijian combined)

- ** Parramatta Mission Office closed, 27 – 30 December/ Meals Plus closed, 23 – 26 December.
 - ** Jenny (Northmead Office) commences holidays 28 December, returns 11 January 2024
 - ** Rose (Parramatta Office) commences holidays 27 December, returns 8 January 2024
 - ** Korean service – Leigh Memorial Church each Sunday.
Enquiries: joeunch@hotmail.com
 - ** **PCUC online service (weekly):** <https://northmead.uca.org.au/>
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Prayer Points

(Supplied by the Westmead worship community)

We pray for those who are trying to cope with a recent medical diagnosis, for those that are unwell and their families – Lord we ask that Your mighty power may intervene where doctors cannot provide healing; For wars that rage and the countless destroyed in the name of revenge – we ask Your Holy Spirit to bring peace, quiet and neighbourly love between warring parties;

For the recent devastating floods in Cairns – we pray that proper aid arrives with food and drinking water and that those who are affected may see some hope, after facing destruction of their homes and livelihoods; For the homeless, those that are alone due to circumstances beyond their control, those that are grieving, the sad, and those who will be parted from loved ones due to essential duties, those unable to afford Christmas – May You ignite love and peace that passes all understanding in their hearts and bring comfort;

Lord a special prayer of help to those especially in crisis mode who need food, water, shelter due to drought and famine – let there be a shift in the climate for the better for these.

Amen.

PCUC Notices...

THANK YOU & SEASON'S BLESSINGS!

"Many thanks" for everyone's support in 2023, and for the special skills and energies provided by members and leaders in all our groups, activities & committees. It's made all the difference, and we pray that everyone – including our dedicated ministry team – has a happy Christmas, a well-deserved rest & peace & blessings in 2024.

NEW YEAR'S EVE COMBINED SERVICE

On Sunday 31 December, there will be a **PCUC service at Westmead UC, commencing at 10.00am**. The service will be followed by a 'Thank You & Farewell' morning tea for Rev John and Pastor Fil. Members are kindly asked to 'bring a plate of food to share'. Enquiries: Lorna & Jan. NB: NO services will be held at Leigh Memorial or Northmead on the 31st.

NEWSLETTERS UPDATE

Members are advised that our PCUC newsletters are currently in a transitional phase. Thanks for everyone's patience as our editorial team continues to refine our formats and processes. Please note that during the quieter early New Year period, **no newsletters will be released on 31 December and 7 January** – with regular weekly editions resuming for 14, 21 and 28 January. The next 'monthly' edition of the PCUC newsletter will be issued for 4 February. NB: If anyone on our current mailing list is now able to receive newsletters & liturgies via email instead - or would like to request any other changes - please contact Rose by 10 January, ph: 9891-2277.

SITE SECURITY REMINDER

Security/safety at our sites over the quieter Christmas-New Year period is an important consideration. Please remember to 'lock-up', 'turn off' & report any concerns. Thanks!

GROUP & ACTIVITY ARRANGEMENTS – NEW YEAR PERIOD:

Meditation Group at Centenary – Resumes 23 Jan. 2024.

Playgroups & English classes, Centenary – Resume week commencing 2 Feb. 2024.

Friendship Centre, Northmead – Resumes 11 January 2024.

Bible Study, Westmead – Resumes 5 Feb. 2024.

Ladies Dinner @ NBC Sports Club – Resumes 10 Jan. 2024.

Open Church @ Leigh – Last day, Friday 22 Dec. – Resumes 17 Jan. 2024.

Walking Church, Parramatta Park – Continues 2nd & 4th Saturdays of each month.

SAVE THE DATE:

‘CULTURE OF SAFETY AWARENESS’ WORKSHOP

On Saturday 10 Feb. 2024, a ‘Culture of Safety Awareness’ (Safe Church) workshop will be conducted at Centenary UC (arrive 9.00am for 9.30am – concludes 1.30pm).

All elected CLT members, Council, Committee members and staff are asked to attend.

Please email or phone Lorna Porter (event coordinator) to register (0408 365 478 or royp@iprimus.com.au) - AND - also follow the registration details in the flyer in this week’s newsletter.

The closing date for registrations is 30 January:

<https://www.nswact.uca.org.au/support-services/safe-church-unit/>

PC U C Advent Photos:



Westmead – Women's Refuge children's gifts & Wesley Apartments hampers.



Westmead Bible Study – Christmas Luncheon



Santa & Dulcie Centenary Community Christmas Party



Jazz on Hammers Christmas Celebration



Jazz on Hammers Christmas Celebration



Hills School Carols



Leigh Memorial Giving Tree & Open Church



Parramatta Mission – Hampers & Gifts ready for distribution during this week's 'Festival of Christmas'.

Leigh Fijian

1. Lotu ena macawa oqo 24/12: Na lotu ena sigatabu oqo, sa na dua ga na lotu ena qaravi tiko ena 11:15am. Sa na qaravi talega na nodatou vakavinavinaka vei Pastor Filikesa Kamotu ni sa mai cava tiko ena vei qaravi vei na PCUC.

2. Lotu ni Siganisucu 25/12: Na Christmas Day service sa da na lotu cokovata kei na vavakoso vakavavalagi. Na lotu ena tekivu tiko ena 9am.

3. Lotu ni vakatawase 31/12: Na lotu ni vakatawase ena sigatabu sa na dua ga na lotu. Eda na lotu cokovata tiko kina na PCUC mai Westmead ena tekivu na lotu ena 10am. Sa na qaravi tale ga kina na veitalatala vei rau ko Pastor Filikesa Kamotu kei Rev Jon Barr.

4. Lesoni ni Macawa mai oqo 18/12 – 24/12: 2 Samuela 7:1-11, 16 Luke 1:46-55 Same 89:1-4, 19-26 Roma 16:25-27 Luke :126-38

5. Lesoni ni lotu ni Siganisucu 25/12:

Nativity 1 Aisea 9:2-7 Same 96 Taito 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14,15-20

Nativity 2 Aisea 62:6-12 Same 97 Taito 3:4-7 Luke 2:1-7, 8-20

Nativity 3 Aisea 52:7-10 Same 98 Iperiu 1:1-4, 5-12 Joni 1:1-14

6. Eda na vakasigalevu vata ni suka na lotu ena sigatabu oqo 24/12.

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 vei qaravi na Bula Feeding. Me nanumi na FNC ni tou na veiwaseitaka na vei qaravi kei na tolu na valelotu Cambelltown, St Mary kei Berala. Ena qaravi tiko na FNC ena vula ko Okotova ni yabaki mai oqo 2024 e Katoomba Conference Centre.

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



Uniting Church
SYNOD OF NSW & ACT



Culture of Safety Awareness Work-Shops



Sat 10th Feb 2024



**Centenary Uniting
Church**

46 Sorrell Street

North Parramatta NSW 2151



Arrive from 9.00 am for
9.30am start



Workshop

9.30 am—1:30pm

Registration is required

Please Register at:

<https://www.nswact.ica.org.au/shared-services/safe-church-unit/safe-church-training>



Safe Church Program

Safe Church Program is a registered trademark of the National Council of Churches in Australia.

Who needs to attend?

Church Council and Elders, Pastoral leaders, Ministers, Ministry program leaders and helpers, including with children/youth and SRE/Scripture in schools,

Workshop Topics:

Safe Church Foundations, Duty of Care, Child Protection, Protecting Vulnerable People, Understanding and Responding to Abuse, Safe Leadership, Recruitment & Supervision, Safety in Programs and Environments, Uniting Church Policy and Procedures.

Please arrange/bring your own lunch and pen

No payment on the day: individual Congregations or Presbytery will be invoiced for participants

Max 50 REGISTRATIONS

Close date: 30/01/2024



Equipping our church communities to be
safer places through growing awareness and
understanding of safety and protection

This Safe Church Awareness Workshop run by the Uniting Church is
endorsed by the National Council of Churches, Australia Safe Church Program.

Christmas Festival at Meals Plus





Pastoral Contacts

Rev Geoff Smith (Lead Minister)
0407 416 377 /
geoff.smith@parramattamission.org.au

Rev Dr Helen Richmond
0439 257 575

Rev Vladimir Korotkov
0431 759 573

Rev Hyun Goo Jun (Korean Faith
Community)
0433 320 588

Anare Vocea (Leigh Fijian Vakatawa)
0432 772 852

Newsletter Prayer Points

Please send prayer points to Rob or
Liz – or Rose @
wecare@parramattamission.org.au by
the Tuesday of each week

General Submissions

Submissions for the newsletters
(weekly & monthly) – and any feedback
or suggestions – may be sent to Rose,
Liz or Rob.

Site Contacts

Centenary
46 Sorrell Street, North Parramatta
2151
(02) 9683-5023
office@centenaryunitingchurch.org.au

Leigh Fijian
119 Macquarie Street Parramatta
NSW 2150
(02) 9891 2277 taitod@bigpond.com

Leigh Memorial
119 Macquarie Street Parramatta
NSW 2150
(02) 9891 2277
leighmemorialuniting@gmail.com

Northmead
3-7 Hammers Rd, Northmead NSW
2152
(02) 9890 5814
nuchurch@bigpond.net.au

Parramatta Mission Reception
119 Macquarie Street Parramatta
(02) 9891 2277
wecare@parramattamission.org.au

Westmead
175 Hawkesbury Road Westmead
NSW 2145
(02) 9891 2277
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