

Parramatta Community Uniting Church

Newsletter: *Sunday 14th April, 2024*



Pray for Peace

Rev Geoff & Bruce at Sydney's Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage, 6 April



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

PCUC PROGRAM...

Week commencing Sunday 14th April

Saturday 13	9.00am	Walking Church (2 nd & 4 th Saturdays only)
	9.00am	PCUC Worship Team meeting @ Centenary
	10.00am	PCUC Congregation Leaders Meeting @ Centenary
Sunday 14	9.30am	Worship Service – Northmead
	9.30am	Worship Service – Westmead
	9.30am	Worship Service – Leigh Memorial, Parramatta (Onsite + Zoom) Meeting ID: 519 908 9657
	11.15am	Worship Service - Leigh Fijian, Parramatta
	2.00pm	Korean Faith Community, Parramatta site
	4.30pm	Tamil Faith Community, Northmead site
Online	PCUC weekly online service: https://northmead.uca.org.au/	
Tuesday 16	7.30pm	Meditation Group @ Centenary
Wednesday 17	1.00 – 2.00pm	NB: Open Church @ Leigh Memorial is not taking place on 3, 10 & 17 April due to the current church renovations
Saturday 20	11.00am	Heritage Tour – Leigh Memorial (TBC)
Sunday 21	9.30am	Worship Service – Northmead
	9.30am	Worship Service – Westmead
	9.30am	Worship Service – Leigh Memorial, Parramatta (Onsite + Zoom) Meeting ID: 519 908 9657
	11.15am	Worship Service - Leigh Fijian, Parramatta
	2.00pm	Korean Faith Community, Parramatta site
	Online	PCUC weekly online service: https://northmead.uca.org.au/
	6.00pm	Jazz on Hammers, Northmead site

PCUC NOTICES....

.....

MEETINGS THIS SATURDAY

A PCUC **Worship Team** meeting will be held at **9.00 – 9.45am, this Saturday 13 April** @ Centenary, followed by a PCUC **Congregation Leadership Team (CLT)** meeting, **10.00am – Midday**.

KIDS CAMP OUT 2024

All the best to the Leigh Fijian community's children, young adults, leaders and families – and all those throughout the Presbytery – who will be attending KCO at Wedderburn (12 – 14 April) this year. Have fun!

ANZAC DAY OBSERVANCE & PRAYERS FOR PEACE

The PCUC Heritage Committee will be conducting a short ANZAC observance, inc. wreath-laying and & prayers for peace just prior to the next Open Church Communion Service at Leigh Memorial at **1.00pm on Wednesday 24 April**. Enquiries: Liz/ Open Church team.

GARDEN WORKING BEE

The next Garden Working Bee at **Centenary** will be held from **7.00am on Saturday 27 April**. We are making great progress and have started to do some planting. Brunch will be provided. *All welcome*. Enquiries: Susan.

‘RICH PERSON-POOR PERSON’ DINNER

Parramatta Mission will be holding its annual ‘RPPP’ fundraising dinner on **Friday 10 May, 5.30 – 9.00pm**. Enquiries: 9891-227. To purchase tickets, please go to: <https://events.humanitix.com/rppp2024>

UNITING CLIMATE CONFERENCE

The *Uniting Climate: Faith in a better future* conference (in-person + online) will be held on **Saturday 11 May**. Keynote speakers will include Moderator, Rev Havea Hiliau. If you would like more information about the conference, please contact Jono Row, Church Collaboration Lead - Advocacy, Uniting at jrow@uniting.org or 0403 242 360 – Uniting Advocacy Team.

INVITATION –

TAMIL CONGREGATION – THANKSGIVING SERVICE

On **Sunday 12 May at 5.00pm**, the Tamil Congregation will be holding a Thanksgiving Service at PCUC Northmead to celebrate **Rev John Jegasothy's 50 years of ministry** in the church and community, followed by dinner. Rev Geoff Stevenson, Parramatta Nepean Presbytery Chairperson, will provide a reflection at the service. To assist with catering, please advise Rob Eagleson by email reagleso@bigpond.net.au or mobile (0472 813 602) by no later than Sunday 28 April should you wish to attend.

IMPORTANT: LEIGH MEMORIAL RENOVATIONS

Due to the current renovations taking place inside Leigh Memorial and associated health & safety issues, the church is **not to be accessed by members for the next 10 days, ie. between Wednesday 10 April and Monday 22 April. The church will be open as usual for services on Sunday 14 and Sunday 21 April**, however access on any other days of the week (Mon – Sat) is not permitted. This is at the request of the contractor and is based on concerns raised by the number of unauthorised people going in and out of the building while the work is being done. Issues such as falling debris, dust, paint fumes and various obstacles and trip hazards have been identified as some of the matters of concern. The work is otherwise progressing well. Enquiries: Ian or Liz.



Scaffolding – Leigh Memorial northern end.

GAZA CEASEFIRE PILGRIMAGE

Helen Richmond

Last Saturday, 6 April despite the deluge the night before and public transport challenges, around 100 pilgrims took part in the Sydney Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage including 9 of us from PCUC. We gathered at Crows Nest Uniting church for a service before departing that included a moving 'Acknowledgement of Country' by Larissa Minniecon, sharing from Suzan Wahhab, President of Palestinians in Australia, prayers from Rev Michael, Minister of Crows Nest Uniting and myself, and singing of songs. The 10 km walk took us through North Sydney and Milsons Point, across the Harbour Bridge, down to the Rocks, Circular Quay, the Opera House and finishing with prayers near St Mary's Cathedral.

Meaningful conversations took place during the walk, opportunities to build connections and an important opportunity to hear the voices of Palestinian Christians. Crosses made by Owen Manson from Northmead Men's Shed, beautifully painted by our Fijian young people were a feature of the walk and a visible sign to onlookers of our motivation, in Christ's name to express our solidarity with those suffering in Gaza and the Holy Land (although someone mentioned we shouldn't call the Land, 'holy' until the day when there is lasting peace, justice, freedom, dignity and equality for all God's children.)

Thank you to everyone who had a part in planning and attending the Sydney Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage Walk. The Pilgrimage has become a global movement spanning 173 cities in 19 countries beginning with just one person's prayerful initiative. New Zealander, James Harris sense of heartache and helplessness following October 7 and the unfolding human catastrophe he was watching on the news turned into an act of prayerful solidarity. He decided to walk the length of the Gaza Strip, 40 km) and his idea caught on. Palestinian Christians in the Holy Land and in diaspora invited Christian groups and leaders around the world to walk during the period of Lent, encompassing the Western and Eastern Orthodox calendars in prayerful solidarity with the people of Gaza and Palestine, and as a way to meditate on the life and passion of Jesus.

The movement seeks four things: an enduring and sustained Ceasefire - the immediate flow of life saving food, water, aid, fuel and humanitarian assistance, the release of all hostages - both the Israeli hostages held by Hamas and the Palestinian hostages held in the Israeli prison system – and the end of occupation so a just-peace can begin.

Suzan Wahhab and others including members of Palestinian Christians in Australia (PCiA) organised the Sydney Pilgrimage, and a big thank you for the hard work they have done. PCiA has also sent out a call to raise funds to help house Gaza families arriving in Australia if any PCUC people would like to offer support:

<https://chuffed.org/fundraiser/29444>

Some of us from Sydney hope to join the Canberra Pilgrimage on 20 April. For information about the walking schedule or to register for Canberra Pilgrimage:

<https://palestiniachristians.org.au/canberra-pilgrimage/#:~:text=The%20pilgrimage%20symbolically%20mirrors%20the,in%20front%20of%20Parliament%20House.>



“Ceasefire Now”: Bruce & Meryn on the walk.



Bruce Bennetts: “One of the highlights of the day for me were the beautiful prayers spoken by Christian, Muslim and Jewish women who had walked with us. A small ray of resurrection and Easter Sunday, amidst a lot of Good Friday in Gaza...”



Easter Prayers from Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Network, Jerusalem <https://sabeel.org/category/wave-of-prayers>

Crucified Messiah,

We behold how you were tortured, mocked, beaten, stripped, and killed on the cross. Your cry “My God my God why I have you forsaken me” (Matthew 27:46) is an exclamation we are saying for more than 75 years, and now more than ever. Lord, we thank you for identifying with us since “You were despised and rejected; one who knew suffering and was familiar with pain; people despised you and looked away and considered you worthless” (Isaiah 53:3). We await the day of your return. Lord in your mercy... hear our prayer.

God of resurrection,

Although we are in despair and feel as though we are forever in Holy Saturday, the tomb is empty. We proclaim your victory over death, by continuing to resist against all odds and remembering your words “Do not be afraid” (Matthew 28:10). Your resurrection is good news to the oppressed since it is a proclamation of victory of sin and a liberation. Help us, O Lord to participate in your new creation by working for justice, liberation, and peace in Palestine. Lord in your mercy... hear our prayer. Amen.

**INDUCTION & COMMISSIONING, SUNDAY 7 APRIL:
*HELEN...TUI...SUNHEE***



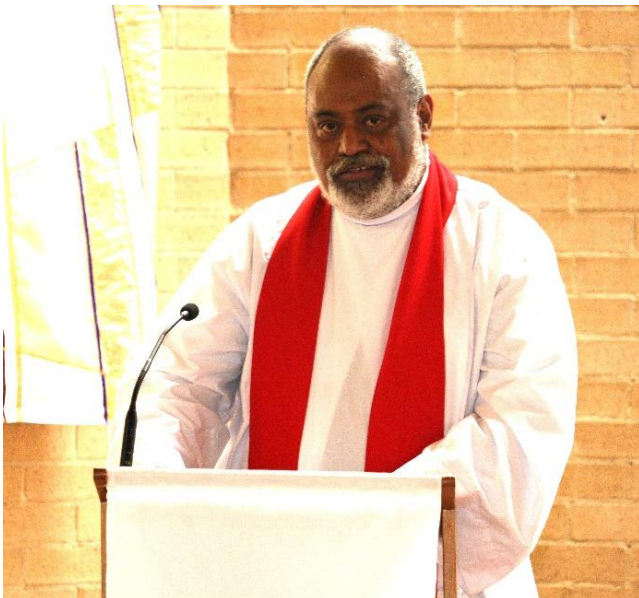
Induction/Commissioning Prayer: "Almighty God...Give Helen, Tui and Sunhee gifts for the ministry to which you have called them...Amen."



*Helen, Tui, Sunhee, Geoff and Chao with Donna Davis MP.
(photo supplied by Donna Davis).*



Rev Dr Helen & Talatala Tui making their responses.





Ken & Inise with Sunhee.

THANK YOU to everyone who generously contributed to the Induction & Commissioning last Sunday, including the ministry and worship planning teams, everyone involved in pre-service preparations, inc. Jenny Oates @ PM, all participants in the service itself, plus our musicians, tech people, photographer Mario and everyone who contributed to a lovely afternoon tea.

PRAYER POINTS

Chris Walker, Northmead community

Eternal God, nowhere is beyond your reach. As we bring our prayers, come to us and to our world with your grace. We pray that your love will surround us and that we will experience your presence. Assist us in our family life that relationships will be tolerant and kind, may our friendships be faithful, our difficulties borne with patience, and our griefs endured with trustfulness and hope, our work carried out with honesty and good will towards others;

Be with children as they grow. May they know your love and not be negatively impacted by circumstances that come against them. We pray for young people, especially aboriginal young people who lack purpose and hope and can easily turn to anti-social behaviour. Enable those who are endeavouring to work with them lead them to a better future than ending up in jail; **Be with adults** that prosperity may not spoil them, disappointment crush them, or faithlessness overtake them. Keep them true to you and serving your purposes. Support older people. May they be willing to accept their growing needs and the guidance of family members who seek the best for them.

For those who are in positions of political leadership, give them strength of character. May they work for the common good. May they stand up to those who would use their influence for self-interest. Instead, may they keep in mind the needs of those who are disadvantaged and without power. **We continue to pray for an end to war and violence in our world** and for those endeavouring to achieve peace and an end to conflict. Be with aid workers who risk their lives for the sake of others. Be with those suffering from natural disasters and those who assist often in difficult places.

We pray for our own communities and churches that they may be places that are safe and point people to you Lord and your concern for all people. Help us to love one another. **Be with those who care for your creation and work for its renewal.** May we all play our part in ensuring the well-being of all you have created. **Assist each of us** to have a sensitive and answering spirit in response to your leading. May we not be dull and thankless – but grateful to you and for all you provide. Use us to be part of your good purposes in the world.

This we pray in the name and Spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

LEIGH FIJIAN NEWS

1. Lotu ena macawa oqo 14 ni Epereli: Na lotu ena macawa oqo na vunau tiko kina ko Emosi Rogoimuri kei Sireli Tuiloma.
2. Lotu ena macawa mai oqo 21 ni Epereli: Na lotu ena macawa mai oqo na veisau vunau ni PNP. Tu vakarau ena veiliutaki matasiga 3. Tali matasiga 3.
3. Lesoni ni macawa oqo Epereli 08 - 14: Cakacaka 3:12-19 Same 4 1 Joni 3:1-7 Luke 24:36b-48
4. Lesoni ni macawa mai oqo Epereli 15 – 21: Cakacaka 4:5-12 Same 23 1 Joni 3:16-24 Joni 10:11-18



Ulutaga ni veinanumi ena Masu:

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.

Bula Feeding: Me nanumi tiko na nodratou veiqaravi na Bula Feeding.

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



The Galston Concerts

Sunday 28 April 2024



a pre-concert chat c. 1.40, the concert at 2
(with players' relaxed comments) till 3.15ish,
then a 'meet the musos' afternoon tea,
all in **Galston Uniting Church**, 11 School Road, Galston

Gold & Silver ~ Cello & Piano

Popular music by Classical greats: Bach, Beethoven, Brahms;
toe-tapper 'encores' from Budapest, Barcelona & Buenos Aires
(plus Chopin, Handel & Schubert - a Top Ten lineup) with ABC FM
Classic 100's favourite instruments in 2023 ... Cello & Piano!



with **Zoltan Szabo** (cello) and
Erzsi Marosszeky (piano),
Australian-Hungarian
husband-and-wife duo,
Sydney-resident after Europe,
UK & USA triumphs.

Bookings advised on trybooking.com
(search *Galston 28 April*)

Cash-only sales at the door on the day - \$40/30/10/12&u FREE

Enquiries phone 9653-2039

REFLECTION ON JOHN 20: 19 – 23

JUST WHEN WE HAD GIVEN UP HOPE...

Helen Richmond



Just when we had given up hope,
you come to us,
just when we had decided it is all in
vain,
you surprise us by joy.

Through locked doors you come,
entering our pain and brokenness
fear and failure.

On your lips are no words of rebuke
but of peace.

When we hated ourselves,
you loved us.
You call us by name,
you breathe on us.
You show us your scars,
you dispel our fears.

Now we can come out
from behind the closed doors.
Now we can return to life again.
You are alive!
And so are we! Alleluia!

.....

A Gift from God -

Below is the link for a video clip with a beautiful Spanish backing song (*A Gift from God: Regalo de Dios* by En FE), which conveys the gift and blessing received through sharing God's love that was the purpose of our walk:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/r/PANb9rVQjpLkEj3s/?mibextid=hLiTNg>

Pastoral Contacts

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

Rev Dr Helen Richmond
0439 257 575
helen.richmond@ymail.com

Rev Dr Tui Waqanibaravi
0455 595 684
tuiwaqa@gmail.com

Rev Hyun Goo Jun (Korean Faith
Community): 0433 320 588
joeunch@hotmail.com

Anare Vocea (Leigh Fijian Vakatawa)
0432 772 852
a_vocea@y7mail.com

Rev John Jegasothy
0422 224 789)
john.jegasothy@gmail.com
Or **Amal Jebas**
amaljebas@hotmail.com

Uniting Church Tamil Faith
Community PCUC.

Newsletter Submissions:

Please send all newsletter submissions
to Rose by the Wednesday of each
week.
rose.shalala@parramattamission.org.au

PCUC Contact Information

Centenary
46 Sorrell St; Nth Parramatta
(02) 9683-5023
office@centenaryunitingchurch.org.au

Leigh Fijian
119 Macquarie St; Parramatta
(02) 9891 2277 taitod@bigpond.com

Leigh Memorial
119 Macquarie St; Parramatta
(02) 9891 2277
leighmemorialuniting@gmail.com

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

Parramatta Mission
119 Macquarie St; Parramatta
(02) 9891 2277
wecare@parramattamission.org.au

Westmead
175 Hawkesbury Rd; Westmead
(02) 9891 2277
wecare@parramattamission.org.au



**uniting
church**

in Australia,
Synod of NSW & ACT