



Keeping connected — between members of Gloucester Uniting Church on a weekly basis during this coronavirus crisis

The Messenger

Then I heard the Lord say, “Whom shall I send? Who will be my messenger?” I answered, “I will go, send me!”

With the closure of all churches being announced by the Australian Government it is important that we stay connected, so we will continue with two publications a week, The Messenger on a Wednesday, and on Fridays a separate weekly one page “Worship Reflection.” Each is sent out to all members of the congregation by email or delivered to your letterbox. We encourage all members to sit down at 9:30am on Sunday and read the message that will have been prepared by the people that would have been conducting the normal worship service. — *John Williamson, Church Council Chairperson.*

Suggestions for worship at home

By Sue Thomas

How did you go last week?

Suggestions for this week.

1. Dress as if you were going to church - yes, shoes as well, no trackie-daks! And ladies, lipstick please.
2. While waiting for 9.30, assemble your Bible and the service sheet.
3. Have a moment of quiet reflection.
4. At 9.30, start by saying hello to the people who normally surround you. Say hello OUT LOUD, not silently. Then move on to others.
5. Read the Bible passages and think about them.
6. Read the Reflection.
7. Lastly, add your own prayers, including the countries on the World Council of Churches list. (Why not look these countries up on an Atlas or the Internet as well.) I tried this last week and it helped to feel part of our church family. Countries this Sunday 5th April are Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania. PS Last Sunday's OT reading should have been Ezekiel 37:1-14, not Exodus which makes more sense of Claire's Reflection

Cheers, Sue



BIBLE readings for this Sunday, 5th April

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalms 130

Philippians 2:5-11

Matthew 27:11-54

Sunday's message, prepared by Rev Lindsay Sheppard, will be emailed, or dropped into letterboxes, to all members this Friday

Conference call prayer meeting

Rob Llewellyn of St Paul's Anglican Church is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

The conference call prayer meeting is on Tuesdays at 7pm and can now be joined by phone as well as online - on a regular phone, people just need to call the number below and enter the Meeting ID number.

Just give Rob a call if you have

any questions about how to do it.

To join via a device (computer, tablet or computer) people will need to download the Zoom app and then click the link:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9417766006>

Meeting ID: 941 776 6006

Join by phone, call 8015

6011 then enter the Meeting ID number

GLoucester Uniting Church

Ministers: Every member of the congregation

Phone Secretary Kerry Chisholm 6558 4206

Project Reconnect

The sermons from Project Reconnect are now available free of charge on their Facebook page or website each week. Just go to projectreconnect.uca.org.au and click on “Sunday Messages for the COVID 19 Emergency” and you can view them.

LENT EVENT



Rev Jeny Mahupale oversees the peace workshops run by church in Ambon, Maluku. They're targeted at students high schools with both Muslim and Christian attendees.

"We want Indonesia to be known not as a place of conflict, terrorism or religious fundamentalism, but as a country where people can live in harmony with one another," says 18-year-old Mahalia. "We want to show the world how it's done."

"We know that peace begins with individuals – with young leaders committed to understanding their peers and learning to listen instead of insisting on their own views." Jeny says. "In Ambon, most people know people of different faiths, but they're not really connected to them. The skills we teach at the workshops are about appreciating and negotiating differences and valuing each other's contributions and ideas. These are the skills young people need to learn if we are to build a future where peace is truly achievable."

Your gifts to Lent Event will allow this project and others to continue to build peace and beat poverty in Ambon and beyond!

The 120 Count Down update

Gloucester Uniting Church was not successful in its bid to obtain funding for the 120 Count Down Programme which delivers driver training to those who do not have a driver's licence.

Amongst other requirements any new driver in NSW must undertake 120 hours of practical driving experience. For many this can be difficult to impossible to achieve without assistance.

Uniting, which is the Community Services Ministry of the Uniting Church NSW and ACT, developed this program and has it operating in a number of locations across NSW.

Uniting partnered with our Church and the Bucketts Way Neighbourhood Group to submit a grant to provide 120 Count Down training for Gloucester and our surrounding community.

Funding for such a program was available under the NSW Government's "Building Stronger Country Communities" grant program.

Uniting assisted with our grant application putting forward an excellent case for funding. Unfortunately our application was unsuccessful.

We sincerely thank Uniting for supporting us in this endeavour.

CHURCH ELDERS

- **Chairperson:** John Williamson
- **Secretary:** Kerry Chisholm
- **Treasurer:** Jenny Shaw
- **Elders:**
Sue Thomas
Colin Charles
Collister Reynolds
Bob Tebbet
Jeff Kite
Allan Cornish
Megan de Witte
David Collett

Mid North Coast Presbytery Newsletter follows next three pages