



Keeping connected — between members of Gloucester Uniting Church on a weekly basis

Covid-19 pandemic *Messenger*

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



Many people have late tomatoes growing in this favourable pre-winter autumn rain and temperatures, but do you have them as good as these grown by Leonie Carson of Laurie street? Specially grown for this Covid-19 pandemic, they are the recommended social distancing in height, 1.5 metres, and bearing "tonnes" of fruit but may not survive the first big frost, Leonie fears. But they are impressive!

Sunday's reflections, prepared by Laurie Selby, will be sent as a separate email

Church morning tea remotely

Topic: Gloucester Church Morning Tea
Time: May 31, 2020 10:30 AM

<https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/93949445759>

Meeting ID: 939 4944 5759

Dial by telephone Ph : 8015 6011

Coronavirus donations

The Church Council recently made two donations on behalf of our congregation to help support those suffering hardship due to the Coronavirus, both here in Australia and overseas. \$1,000 has been donated to the Exodus Foundation to enable Rev Bill Crews continue to provide for his cli-

ents in Sydney. You may have seen Compass last weekend, highlighting the valuable work that Bill does. They have also donated \$1,000 to UnitingWorld's appeal to provide support to those in developing countries who are experiencing extra disadvantage at this time.

Presbytery meeting

Coll, Sue and Jeff attended the Zoom Presbytery meeting on Saturday 16th May. It was strange not to see everyone, but there was no travel! Anyone who would like to see all the reports please make contact as these are always available by email.

Rev Cherie Strudwick has changed roles to become the MNC Presbytery Pastoral Relations Minister. Rev Stephen Larkin from Western Australia is the new minister at Port Macquarie. Speaker for the day was Steve Molk from Sydney who spoke about youth ministry.

The Church Council has been investigating updating the security of the Church & Hall and consequently we will be changing the locks on the buildings.

If you currently have a key to the building and require this to be substituted with a new key please contact Alan Cornish by email, alan.cornish@bigpond.com or by phone 0417 615 146.



Our birthday wishes last Wednesday went to Yvonne Fisher, who was entertained to two low-key celebrations throughout her special day.

Yvonne would like to have supplies of 8ply wool so she can continue to crochet rugs for mission giving. Please phone her on 6558 1097 if you can assist.

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.



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Covid-19 restrictions continue for our churches

As we reported last week, Covid-19 pandemic restrictions will continue to keep all Uniting churches locked up for the foreseeable future.

The Synod agreed that church members should not meet in person for services of worship or face to face meetings in churches.

General Secretary, Rev. Jane Fry, and Moderator Rev. Simon Hansford said It was anticipated that the effects of COVID-19 will continue to impact our lives for the foreseeable future.

"In the coming months we will be asked to make difficult choices between conflicting needs and imperatives. We must avoid framing our

situation in terms of a false choice between reviving the economy — or our churches — and saving lives," they said.

The note was clear in its concern for premature easing of restrictions in vulnerable communities, "If we don't continue our efforts to contain the virus, a new wave of infections and deaths will cause further pain. All that we have gained in this time of isolation could be quickly lost."

The guidance confirmed that weddings and funerals were still permissible "adhering to the numbers set by the ACT and NSW Government".

Mr Laurie Selby, our scheduled speaker for Gloucester this Sunday, 31st May, has shared an address he gave to Mt Colah Uniting Church entitled – The Wilderness Experience and it is his hope that it uplifts everyone as we begin coming out of this Covid-19 enforced lockdown. His Reflections are contained in a separate email.

Bits and pieces of interest

Free Moving Boxes: If you know anyone who would like some sturdy moving boxes, please contact Bruce or Kerry on 6558 4206 or bch81976@bigpond.net.au

It is said: "Fruitfulness" is not primarily a matter of what we accomplish. It is the result of being in a close fellowship with Jesus. Whenever we wonder if we are being fruitful Christians, we should ask ourselves: 'Am I like Jesus?' Is His life flowing through

us in the ordinary activities and relationships of each day? -- David McCasland

Presbytery Newsletter

There's more news about what's happening in the Presbytery on their website, <https://midnorthcoast.uca.org.au/latest-news/> for those who may want to read it.

Our greatest weakness may be our failure to rely on God's strength

Lectionary readings for May 31, 2020, Day of Pentecost: Acts 2: 1-21 or Num 11 : 24 – 30 // Psalm 104 : 24 – 34 + 35b // 1 Cor 12 : 3b – 13 or Acts 2: 1-21 John 20 : 19 – 23 or John 7 : 37-39



There is one thing we can do in this Covid-19 lockdown time — we can feed the birds!

Smiling is infectious!



A Poem by Spike Milligan

Smiling is infectious,
you catch it like the flu,
When someone smiled at me today,
I started smiling too.

I passed around the corner
and someone saw my grin.
When he smiled I realized
I'd passed it on to him.

I thought about that smile,
then I realized its worth.
A single smile, just like mine
could travel round the earth.

So, if you feel a smile begin,
don't leave it undetected.
Let's start an epidemic quick,
and get the world infected!

A song in the heart puts a smile in the face

One of the marks of a well-fed soul is a well-read Bible

Putting Christ first brings satisfaction that lasts

Only the one who has learned to serve is qualified to lead

Christ paid a debt He didn't owe to satisfy a debt we couldn't pay