



EASTWOOD UNITING CHURCH

14 - 16 Lakeside Road, Eastwood

28 February 2021

**WELCOME TO ALL WHO ARE WITH US FOR THE FIRST TIME.
MAY YOU EXPERIENCE GOD'S PRESENCE AS WE FIND DIFFERENT WAYS
TO WORSHIP AND BE COMMUNITY**

28th February	8.00am Worship	John Court
	9.30am Worship Mark 8:31-38 and Romans 4:13-25 <i>'Holy disruption'</i>	Ian Pearson
	2.00pm Chinese Service	Joel Huang
7th March	8.00am Worship	Phil Looby
	9.30am Worship	Ian Pearson
	2.00pm Chinese Service	David King
	4.00pm Induction of Amelia Koh-Butler	

Masks are no longer mandatory in services, but strongly encouraged where 1.5 metre distancing is difficult, or if caring for a vulnerable person

Congregational singing is now permitted but masks must be worn and with one person per 4 square metres.

欢迎所有第一次来参加崇拜的朋友们。

希望你们在和我们一起崇拜的时候感受到上帝的存在。

유나이팅 교회에 처음 방문해주신 모든 분들을 환영합니다. 함께 예배하는 가운데 살아계신 주님을 만나고 돌아갈 수 있길 소망합니다.

We are glad to have you with us today, to share in this worship service led by Rev. Ian Pearson, who finishes his supply ministry with us next Sunday. We hope that you enjoy the time of worship, and feel welcomed and included even as we work within the new COVID-19 guidelines.

A number of people asked for details of last Sunday's wonder-filled video. Watch it again online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q1OreyX0-fw>
In the bottom right, text appears and disappears rapidly.

Texts can be viewed at: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1a49c9pXfeVMah7uwJbH_Q6JE0_WGcL95bJHqjZtKHrjo/edit?usp=sharing

WORSHIP RESOURCES are emailed on Fridays to those with email. Printed copies will be delivered to those without internet access.

The Assembly website has a list of livestreaming and online worship services. <https://assembly.uca.org.au/resources/ministry-during-covid-19>. Updates on services and news are also available on the Presbytery website: <https://sydneycentralcoastpresbytery.uca.org.au>

Synod has stipulated that **every group** that either meets in the name of Eastwood Uniting Church (including Bible studies in a home) or uses the Church premises for any activity, **must provide Church Council with a safety plan** that complies with regulations and guidelines set out by both the NSW Government and the NSW/ACT Synod. Chris Wakefield kindly agreed to be our contact person with Synod on behalf of Church Council.

PASTORAL CARE Please continue to keep connected with each other by phone, email and text.

'PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS'

Sue Howes
Margaret S,

Merrill B,
Liz M's mother Katy

Jason M,

THIS WEEK'S DIARY DATES

Monday	1 Mar	English Classes	9.30am
Tuesday	2 Mar	English classes via Zoom	7.30pm
Wednesday	3 Mar	Women's Bible Study	10.00am
Thursday	4 Mar	Lenten Study 1 via Zoom	7.30pm
Friday	5 Mar	World Day of Prayer Eastwood Baptist	10.00am
		Lenten Study 1 via Zoom	10.00am
Sunday	7 Mar	Induction of Rev Amelia Koh-Butler	4.00pm

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS will continue to be Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays 9am—3.30pm during March.

2PM CHINESE SERVICE meets here on Sundays and maintains relationships and support during the week via WeChat. Please contact Tennyson 0411896274. for any further information.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY. The Continuing Christian Education Umbrella Group have a series of four studies starting this week. The studies use 'The Bible Project' YouTube video clips, which look at how to read the Bible through character, design patterns, plot, setting. Looking in detail at the Gospel according to Mark. Videos available in English and Mandarin. Please contact the church office for details and Zoom links if you would like to participate. Thursday evenings 7.30pm and Friday mornings 10.00am via Zoom.

SERVICE OF INDUCTION OF REV AMELIA KOH-BUTLER as a Minister of the word and as Accredited Youth Worker will be here at Eastwood Uniting Church next Sunday, 7th March at 4pm.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER. The service will be held at Eastwood Baptist Church, First Ave Eastwood at 10.00am on Friday 5 March. The theme is 'Build on a Strong Foundation'. Prayer will be for the people of Vanuatu.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Hans Duursma	Today	28th February
Ramesh Edward	Tuesday	2nd March
Matilda Ewin	Wednesday	3rd March

SOCIAL ZOOM each Friday at 7.30pm Janine organises a 'Social Catchup' via Zoom. It is a relaxed meeting. If you would like to participate, please contact the church office for the link.

GOOD MORNING EASTWOOD -Coffee with the community

You are invited to have a coffee and meet new friends. It's an opportunity to share in local 'Aussie' and other cultures, and to practise conversation in different languages . The only cost is for participants to order and pay for their own drink to help support the local small business.



Dates : Tuesdays 9/3, 23/3, 6/4 & 20/4

Time: 10 -11:30am

Venue: Provence Garden Café, 35-43 West Parade, Eastwood

Please call Tennyson 0411896274 to book in advance.



The 40-day season of Lent is an opportunity to disrupt our everyday routines by living more simply, taking up a spiritual discipline or being more intentional about our lives and habits. 'Fasting' is a common discipline for Lent, going without something for 40 days. But more powerful than fasting from chocolate or Netflix etc, is choosing to fast from indifference to others and to the challenges facing our world: poverty, conflict, inequality, violence, a changing climate...

Lent Event is 40 days of living more simply, learning from our global neighbours and choosing to make a difference in our own lives and the lives of others. Take up a Lent Event challenge in 2020 and be part of a movement to end poverty and injustice in our world.

There's SO many ways and below are a few ideas. Think about your own life... What could you give up? What challenge would you love to achieve? Coffee/tea, Single-use plastic, Meat, Junk food, Your car, Long showers, Alcohol, Screen time, Takeaway food, One meal a day, Negativity/sarcasm/criticism

You could take up... A daily act of kindness, A physical challenge – walk, run, ride, swim, 40 prayers for others, A fundraising event (cake stall, trivia night, concert, craft activity)

Donate what you save by living more simply this Lent. Ask friends and family to sponsor you and encourage you in your efforts

IT'S TIME TO CARE ABOUT AGED CARE The Uniting Church, through UnitingCare Australia the national body which represents its community services, has joined aged care providers across the country calling for transformation of Australia's aged care system.

Days before the Royal Commission is due to hand down its final report, a new coalition, the Australian Aged Care Collaboration (AACC), of which UnitingCare Australia is a part, released a report laying bare the challenges facing older Australians who are struggling to get the care they need. In particular, the report noted that during 2017-18, 16,000 vulnerable Australians died while waiting for a government-subsidised support package in their own home. In residential aged care, a further 88,000 places will be required over the next 10 years, at a cost of \$55 billion. The coalition includes 1,000 organisations responsible for about 70 per cent of services delivered to 1.3 million Australians.

The UnitingCare Aged Care Network supports approximately 97,000 older people, comprising 8.5% of total residential beds and 10% of Home Care Packages nationally.

UnitingCare National Director Claerwen Little said this is a once in a generation opportunity to truly transform the aged care system. "The time for change is now. We must act collectively and deliberately to deliver generational transformation towards a rights-based aged care system, to ensure that our loved ones are supported and protected as they grow older. Older Australians should be able to live life to their full potential, with dignity and grace. They should have access to services when, and where, they need it – which is what we are calling for in this campaign."

UCA President Dr Deidre Palmer encouraged Uniting Church members to support the campaign. "As followers of Jesus, we believe each person is made in the image of God and is of infinite value," said Dr Palmer.

"This campaign aligns with our vision and hope that older people can live their lives with respect and dignity and have access to quality and compassionate care when they need it. This cannot be possible without the fundamental reforms highlighted by UnitingCare Australia and others on the frontline. Now is the time to make those changes so that older Australians receive the care they need and deserve."

To support the campaign go to <https://www.careaboutagedcare.org.au> to sign the petition and/or email your local MP highlighting the issue.

AN INVITATION TO ACT2

An invitation – to consider the future of the Uniting Church as a people of God on the way

As we look to the future, what is God saying to us as the Uniting Church about how we order our life so we can be committed to transforming lives and communities in God's love? Be part of the UCA Act2 project as we discern God's way together.

In the lead up to the 16th Assembly, members of the Uniting Church, its congregations, agencies, schools and Councils, are invited to engage in a conversation about the future to which God is calling our Church.

Throughout 2020, the Assembly Standing Committee (ASC) has participated in conversations about the future for the Uniting Church, and our responsibility to listen to God's living Word.

It's time to check the health of our Church and ask, 'where is God leading us, what is God calling us to do in our new context and how do we order our lives to best fulfil that calling?'

Strengths and Challenges

The Uniting Church at its best has many diverse expressions of who it is as a church. As the ASC reflected on this it identified the centrality of Christ, connectedness to the world - particularly local communities, the diversity of our people and our justice orientations as clear markers of our identity. Along with the Basis of Union we have a rich collection of resources to guide and shape our life. These include both those documents that shaped the journey to Union,¹ along with statements such as the Statement to the Nation (1977), the Covenant Statement (1994), The Uniting Church is a Multicultural Church (1985), and the revised Preamble to the Constitution (2009) which have continued to shape and define our life.

At our best we have participated in the reconciling work of Christ and been able to harness our inclusivity and diversity to be a risk-taking, flexible and adaptable Church, open to renewal in our life. However, the ASC also reflected on some of the challenges we are facing as a Church.

Externally there is a loss of trust and confidence in the Christian church, this has never been more clearly demonstrated than in the Royal

Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. This has been alongside a declining membership and an aging demographic that has led to an underutilised property base and a constrained financial environment.

What will we be doing? (the task)

The ASC has discerned the task before us as:

- identifying and implementing sustainable structures,
- practices, and
- ways of working.

The ASC identified three **outcomes** which were critical to any future structure, practices and ways of working:

- Create an enabling environment for local communities of worship, witness, service and discipleship formation.
- Foster a cohesive national character of the Church and collaborative ways of working across the Church.
- Fulfil the Church's legal, ethical and social obligations.

How can you be involved?

There are a few main ways you can initially engage with this project:

1. **Survey** – Please let us know your thoughts by completing the survey now. This survey is available here [UCA Act2 Project Survey \(surveymonkey.com\)](https://surveymonkey.com)
2. **Online conversations** – You'll have to register for these as numbers are limited. However, we hope these might also be conversations you have in your local context, and then feed back what came out of them.
3. **Reflecting on the Basis of Union** – the Basis of Union is the document that guides the Uniting Church. In the lead up to the 16th Assembly in 2021, we want to reflect on it and what it tells us about who we are as the Uniting Church. We'll be providing resources for you to do this, and opportunities for you to feed back to us how this reflection speaks to you about the task we have in this project.

You'll see and hear a lot about this project over the coming months. We hope you'll tell us what you're thinking or talking about with others. If you want to write to us, you can email us at: uca.act2@nat.uca.org.au

We encourage you to participate and to be part of building a shared vision and future for the Uniting Church.

We are all ministers in Christ's name

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Please send all notices to the Office



Mission: Witness to the gospel and spread the good news of Jesus Christ in word and action.

Vision: Engage and connect with our diverse community through active discipleship.

Values:	Visible	可见的	비전을 가질 수가 있고
	Inclusive	包容的	포괄적이 될 수있고
	Relevant	相关的	적절하고
	Active	积极的	역동적이 될 것이다

LECTIONARY READINGS:

Feb 28 Lent 2 Gn 17:1-7, 15-16, Ps 22:23-31, Rom 4:13-25,
Mk 8:31-38, or Mk 9:2-9

Mar 7 Lent 3 Ex 20:1-17, Ps 19, 1 Cor 1:18-25, Jn 2:13-22

WEEKLY NOTICES, and **SUNDAY SERVICES** for Eastwood are available for viewing on our website. So, if you are away on any Sunday you can catch up at www.euc.org.au

Banking Details for Direct Giving:

BSB: 634 634

Account #: 100020668