

10<sup>th</sup> October 2021

PENTECOST 20

34 FISHER ST,  
WEST WOLLONGONG

# Keiraview Uniting News



## contact us

### MINISTER OF THE WORD

Rev. David Stuart

☎ 4229 2303

minister@keiraview.org

### CHURCH COUNCIL

Gavin Whitten

☎ 4229 2303

secretary@keiraview.org

### CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

youth@keiraview.org

### CHURCH/HALL BOOKINGS

☎ 4203 2618

bookings@keiraview.org

PO Box 330, Figtree

www.keiraview.org

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A Fairtrade Faith Community

Hebrews 4:12-13

For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

## Thought for the Week

### Hope on the Horizon

While it has been a long road, there is hope on the horizon with the NSW Government announcements of the "[Roadmap for easing COVID-19 restrictions](#)." It has now been over 100 days since we entered lockdown and we have all looked forward to the time when we can move about more freely. As a church, we have longed to gather in person for worship to express our faith, and to encourage and support one another.

As you may be aware, the *Roadmap* from the government outlines different stages of reopening dependant on the percentage of fully vaccinated people. Many restrictions will lift from Monday 11 October 2021 as the state has passed the 70% double vaccination target, with further easing of restrictions when 80% double-dose vaccinations are reached.

In terms of Places of Worship, they can reopen at 70% double vaccination from October 11 with specific density limits (1 person per 4sqm), however only those who are **fully vaccinated will be able to attend**. At 80% double-dose vaccinations, places of worship can be opened

with specific density limits (1 person per 4sqm) and **anyone can attend, including those who are not fully vaccinated**. According to the government modelling, this can occur from Monday 25<sup>th</sup> of October. Which means the most likely date for us to gather on-site will be **Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021**.

I know there is some frustration at this time, especially with the apparent lack of detail and depth. However, I encourage you to be patient as we move toward the hope of meeting together in a way that is safe for all. If you have any questions, concerns, or would simply like to chat, please call, message or email me. Blessings, *Rev. David Stuart*

**WWPS Hampers Collection** School will be returning to on-site learning so the **final collection is today** (Sun 10<sup>th</sup> Oct). Contact Jenny or Pauline for a pick up between 2-3pm.

## welcome

Morning Worship **9:30am**

YouTube Service

Evening Worship **6:30pm**

Zoom Fellowship

## PRAYERS

Pray for all those in our country struggling in lockdown; for those who are lonely, those who are anxious, and those suffering from hardship.

Pray for the Church Council and Safe Church Team, may you guide their decisions and support them in their responsibilities.

Pray for the people of Afghanistan, for peace and protection of the vulnerable, and meaningful action from our Government.

Pray for Rev. David Stuart. Gillian, Phoebe, Harry and Hannah. Pray for Khairul and Kath Hamdan.

### A Prayer from UCA Lectionary Resources

Eternal One, whose thoughts and ways are not ours, you alone are God, awesome, holy, and most high. School us in the ways of faith and wisdom, that we, like Job, may learn to truly see and hear, and in humility find blessing. Amen.



## From the Safe Church Team

The Church Council and Safe Church Team are currently in discussions about when we can open for in-person worship in the safest, most caring and responsible way. These discussions will be aided by the Synod of NSW & ACT who continually send through Guidance Notes to congregations.

At this stage, the most likely date for us to gather in these ways will be: **Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021.** This is for Sunday Worship Services only for the time being, with further discussions relating to groups and other activities to take place over the next month.



If you have any questions regarding the latest COVID Safety Guidelines please speak to the Safe Church Team (Gavin Whitten, Vi Richardson, Phil Crawford or Pauline Doyle) or email:

safe-church@keiraview.org

## Keiraview Uniting Church Plans for Returning to On-Site Activities



You'll notice that the "From the Safe Church Team" block has finally re-appeared in the newsletter again (dark grey box to the left). This means that the church is preparing to make the decisions required for a safe return on-site as the COVID-19 restrictions start to ease. Keep an eye on changes in this block in future newsletters for the latest decisions and guidance. For the latest State and Synod guidance see these links.

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/easing-covid-19-restrictions>

<https://nswact.uca.org.au/covid-19-information-for-presbyteries-and-congregations>



**Operation Christmas Child** Shoe boxes are still happening this year. If you have started a box or wish to do one we will be collecting them in November when church is back. There is a new way you can do a box this year, it is called "Pack A Box online" and for \$30 we will pack a box for you.

You go to the Operation Christmas Child website, then to [Pack A Box Online](#). You chose if it is for a Boy or Girl and the age. You can also leave a message for the child and pay on line and we will pack the box and send it for you.

Any questions? Contact Robyn Johnson.

**Crisis in Afghanistan** Geoff & Sue Lattimore from our congregation have arranged a Zoom meeting with Cunningham MP Sharon Bird on **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October at 1pm** to advocate for the people of Afghanistan. The purpose of the meeting is to ask for support for Australia to: accept 20,000 + Afghani refugees; enable permanent settlement in Australia of the 5,000 + Afghani who are currently here and are on temporary visas; permit family reunions for those now in Australia to bring their family members out from Afghanistan.

Contact Geoff [geofflatt@gmail.com](mailto:geofflatt@gmail.com) if you feel strongly about this issue and would like to join the meeting.

**Three:Sixteens**, our youth group for kids in Yrs 5-9 has recommenced online for Term 4. Contact Scott Morrison [smozaa@gmail.com](mailto:smozaa@gmail.com) for the zoom details.

**Living Our Faith - YouLEAD+ Exploring Theology** A 7-week series that unpacks the theology of the UCA and how it applies to Youth Leadership will be running from **11<sup>th</sup> October to 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2021**. The course is aimed at young adults (18-35) and will take place online via zoom on Monday evenings (**7:00-9:00 pm**). This seminar series is free of charge. More details and registration information available here <https://bit.ly/3uXtGIG>

**Church Council Meeting** is coming up on **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October at 7:30-9:30pm**. Meeting details TBD.

**A New Addition** Congratulations to Ian and Jenny Almond on the birth of their fourth grand-daughter, **ODESSA ROSE MCCOY**, born to Jess & Dan on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021.

**Note of Encouragement for our Keiraview School Students** At the Evening Gathering MAT meeting this week, a suggestion was raised (and endorsed) that it would be nice to write individual letters of encouragement and support to the school students directly connected to our congregation that are returning to school on the 18<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup> of October.

There are 27 students connected to Keiraview that are currently in Year 1 to Year 12. These children or teenagers will have spent 12 or 13 weeks engaging in on-line learning before they return to face-to-face education, along with 16 weeks under Lockdown restrictions. What an effort! If you would like to write one or two letters, please let me know via email or phone **by Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> October** and I will allocate you an individual to write to and provide relevant details.

Hopefully this will be a lovely gesture for our kids that have shown great resilience and strength over the past 4 months. Contact Kerry [kerryn@morrison4.id.au](mailto:kerryn@morrison4.id.au) or 0407 240223



## CONGREGATION GOVERNANCE TOOLKIT

THE TOOLS YOU NEED TO PROTECT YOUR  
PEOPLE, AND PLAN RISK, ADMINISTRATION AND  
COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Is your church council looking to spend less time on governance?

Bel Ritchie (Synod Risk Manager) will introduce the Governance Toolkit to Illawarra Church Councils.

When: Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November at 19:30-20:30 over zoom.

Open to anyone in the congregation who is involved in governance or who might find the Toolkit helpful including: Church Council, Safe Church teams, all property committee members, Privacy Officers, & all finance people (treasurers etc.)

Zoom Link: <https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/95345841936?pwd=em1oeUthQUZlVG51eHRJQVFYK1JjZz09>

RSVP to Vi Richardson [admin.ip@nswact.uca.org.au](mailto:admin.ip@nswact.uca.org.au)

### A Pastoral Letter from Rev. David Stuart

Dear Church Family,

Here we are at the beginning of October 2021 on the downhill run to the end of the year. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October 2021, Greater Sydney – which we have constantly been reminded Wollongong is part of – marked 100 days of COVID-19 lockdown. When I think about what we have experienced in these 100+ days, it feels like we have lived through a whole year. In this time, families and friends have been separated, businesses forced shut, and of course churches have been unable to gather together in person for worship.

It has been challenging and gruelling in many ways. People have lost their livelihoods, some because they have been unable to work and others because they have been isolated and shut off from being in social, personal and physical contact with others. Many parents have been grappling with the juggle of working from home, teaching children from home, and trying to parent in a positive way in the midst of both uncertainty and monotony. There are those who have had to farewell a loved one, trying to grieve perhaps in the absence of the presence of family and friends, while those in hospital have been unable to have visits from significant people in their lives.

One way I have heard this lockdown experience being described is that of a wilderness experience. It is like the Israelites wandering through the wilderness, not sure where they are headed, or when their journey would come to an end. The wilderness experience of the Israelites was a time of monotony, wandering, uncertainty and there was a sense of being disconnected from God. However, it was also a time of learning, listening, growing, and developing an assurance and hope in God. Throughout their journey they had to learn how to stop, wait on God and look at things differently, and as they did they could see God at work in ways they could not imagine. Eventually they came to Canaan, the Promised Land and as they stepped into this new land, a new place, they began a new journey. The old ways have changed and new will emerge, what they once knew will be different.

I share this reflection as I see we are in a time of transition – moving from our wilderness to a new place – as we prepare to gather again in person for worship. We have been through a time of lockdown and restrictions which have at times been monotonous, worrying and uncertain, and we are preparing to move into a new land, a new place, which brings excitement and joy, but also a sense of apprehension, anxiousness and uncertainty.

As we prepare to come out of the wilderness and our time of struggle I have reflected on the words of the great Welsh hymn *Guide me O thou Great Redeemer*, which brings together imagery from during the time of the Israelites wilderness journey, evoking a sense of God's guidance through the difficult and uncertain times. The hymn opens with the words "*Guide me O thou great Redeemer, pilgrim through this barren land*" reminding us of the journey we are/have been on. The final stanza of the hymn affirms that God is with us when we move into a new place, assuring us that our anxiousness in times of uncertainty is abated by God's presence "*When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside.*"

What a great message of hope for us as we tread the path laid out for us with the lifting of restrictions. While it may not be an easy path, or a completely certain path, we walk knowing that God has been, is, and will be with us as we continue our journey.

I cannot wait to see you all in person as we join together once again for worship. Grace and Peace, David

## ELECTRONIC GIVING

**Banking Details** If you prefer to do an electronic bank deposit as offertory, the details are:

Keiraview Uniting Church, BSB: 634 634, Account #: 100017747