

17th December 2023

3<sup>RD</sup> Sunday of Advent

34 FISHER ST,  
WEST WOLLONGONG

# Keiraview Uniting News



## Contact Us

### MINISTER OF THE WORD

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A Fairtrade Faith Community

Ps 126:3

The LORD has done great things for us,  
and we are filled with joy.

## Welcome

Morning Worship **9:30am**  
Led by David Stuart

Evening Worship **6:00pm**  
Led by the Whole Congregation

## Joyful, Joyful

In 1907, Henry Van Dyke wrote a brilliant hymn of praise which begin with the words *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*. It is such a great hymn which has many layers that add to the beauty of his text. As hymnologist Albert Bailey writes, within Van Dyke's text, "creation itself cannot conceal its joy, and that joy is appreciated by God the centre of it all; likewise all nature fills us with joy, caused fundamentally by our recognition of God as the giver" (*The Gospel in Hymns*, 554).

We experience joy on many levels: we witness the joy expressed by Creation, we bask in God's joy as God delights in us, and we experience our own joy as we reflect on all God has done for us and through us. We have all heard this line over and over again, but it's worth repeating: **we rush through life too quickly to stop and be filled with joy**. We allow the phone calls we must make, the laundry we need to fold, the event we need to organise, the deck we need to fix, the garden we need to weed get in the way of simply stopping, looking around, and being filled with joy and gratitude at the world God has given us.

It's a world where we have people to call, children to clothe, knowledge to express, and parties to host. And more so than anything, even when it seems to be crumbling around us, it's a world redeemed by Christ. What can we raise to our Savior but this outburst of joy?

*Joyful, joyful, we adore You,  
God of glory, Lord of love;  
Hearts unfold like flowers before You,  
Opening to the sun above.*

\*This excerpt is taken from the information page for the hymn *Joyful, Joyful* on [hymnary.org](http://hymnary.org)

## PRAYERS

Pray for those who are homeless or living in poverty, particularly children, the elderly and those with illness or disability

Pray for other churches in the Illawarra Presbytery, especially those in financial strain or who have a lack of able volunteers

Pray for Doo Ah and her ministry with UOW students on and off campus, and also for the students she serves.

Pray for ourselves and other churches in the Illawarra as we continue Advent.

Pray for various MATS and groups at Keiraview as we wrap up on our 2023 activities and make plans for 2024.

Pray for SUNSW Beach Mission, that missions this year are a well-planned, safe, joyful time

Pray for those who are marking Christmas this year while they are grieving and without their loved ones, especially if this is their first 'Christmas without them'.

## COMING UP AT KEIRAVIEW

Day	Time	Activity
Tues Dec 19th	7:00pm	<b>Christmas Without Them – 'Blue Christmas'</b>
Sun Dec 24th	6:00pm - 7:30pm	<b>Christmas Eve Service</b>
Mon Dec 25th	9:00am	<b>Christmas Morning Service</b>

## From the Safe Church Team

As at 4<sup>th</sup> June 2023

### COVID is Still Around

- Be aware of the symptoms of Covid. If you do have symptoms, please stay home. Avoid gatherings and services if you are unwell.
- Good ventilation is still very important. If you are the first one to a meeting or gathering, please open the windows.
- When gathering indoors, it is still important to maintain a safe distance from others.

### Are You a Volunteer at Keiraview?

- Have you filled in your volunteer forms for this year?
- If not, please speak to David or Naomi about what is required.



## Christmas Service Times

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December, 7pm:** Christmas Without Them/Blue Christmas'.

**Christmas Eve - 6pm**

**Christmas Day – 9:00 am**

### 2024 Growth Groups

Next year during the first term every Monday Wollongong West Public School is having "Growth Groups" from 2pm to 3 pm. The school pupils are split up into 4 domains and choose between the following activities:

**Intellectual Domain:** Chess, Coding, STEM activities, Card games/board games

**Creative Domain:** French knitting, Basket weaving, Glee club (singing) Cooking

**Social-Emotional Domain:** "Primary School for 80-year-olds". Pen-Pals overseas, Mindfulness watercolor nature painting, Around the World in 5 days (language and culture)

**Physical Domain:** Yoga, Calisthenics, Gardening, Dance

We can indicate which of these activities we can assist a teacher with (from 2pm - 3pm) during term 1. To do this we will need a "working with children" check, which can take some time.

Elizabeth Heritage is running the "primary school for 80 year olds" which has taken the name from the ABC show "preschool for 80 year olds", a program which followed a social experiment where they paired up elderly people from a retirement village with young preschool children. It was a great success, particularly in improving the mental health of the elderly people. She was wondering if anyone from Keiraview might like to come to school on a Monday afternoon to meet and do activities like craft, reading and games with a small group of children who are interested in getting to know people from a different generation. She believes that this will be mutually beneficial for both parties.

If anyone is interested, could you please contact Laurie Aldridge on 0412356495 or at [laurie.aldridge@gmail.com](mailto:laurie.aldridge@gmail.com) before January 15.

### Directory Info Deadline

The 2024 directory will be published on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024. Please note that the last day to hand in any outstanding directory information forms is **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December**.

As the form includes permissions for how your contact information is used, we require the filled-in form to be handed back rather than an informal email or verbal consent.

If you have not filled in your form, there are a number of blank forms on the office desk in the foyer for you to fill in and leave in the brown paper box on the foyer table. Any forms received after 22<sup>nd</sup> December will not be included in the 2024 directory.

- Naomi

### Scripture Union Family Missions

Pray for the Scripture Union Family Missions taking place up and down the South Coast this summer, including local missions in Bulli, Corrimal, Albion Park and Kiama.

In addition to your prayers, you can support the SUFM by volunteering at a mission (generally held between 26<sup>th</sup> December and 5<sup>th</sup> January, though dates vary for individual locations) or financially via donation.

If you are interested in supporting this important opportunity to bring Jesus's message of hope and love to campers and holiday makers, please phone (02) 9638 900 between 9am-4:30pm Monday to Friday, or email [info@sunsw.org.au](mailto:info@sunsw.org.au). You can also visit their website at <https://sunsw.org.au/>.

## Meeting with MP Alison Byrnes

SJ&E MAT members Danny, Scott and Geoff met with our federal member, Alison Byrnes, to follow up indigenous, environmental and refugee issues. Geoff reports:

We told her that as Christian people we are motivated by Jesus example and words in reaching out to the ostracized and the poor and this very much relates to Indigenous people post colonisation. Alison informed us that she has been speaking with local Indigenous people but currently there is little appetite for moving forward as they are still getting over the failure of the referendum.

Concerning the 70 people long term in New Guinea and previously on Manus Island: She said the agreement with Australia was stopped by the Morrison government and so the Australian government no longer has any say, however, the UNHCR is working closely with the New Guinea government to find permanent homes for these people.

There was discussion concerning the misinformation going out through Social Media the proposed off-shore wind farm, however Alison is also receiving a lot of positive feedback and she is excited about its potential to provide up to 2/3 of the electricity needed for the Wollongong Steelworks."



## Save the Date: Lay Leaders' Retreat 2024

Are you a dedicated leader within your congregation or faith community? Your commitment is valued, and your community thanks you. You are invited to a Lay Leaders Retreat in February 2024:

**Date:** Saturday February 3, 2024

**Time:** 10:00am-3:30pm

**Venue:** Kiama Uniting Church

**Theme:** "In Joyful Obedience".

**Facilitator:** Rev. Dr. Peter Walker, principal of United Theological College

Tea, coffee, juice, morning and afternoon tea provided. Please BYO lunch.

Please RSVP by emailing Naomi at [office@keiraview.org](mailto:office@keiraview.org) or Vi Richardson on [admin.ip@nswact.uca.org.au](mailto:admin.ip@nswact.uca.org.au) by Thursday January 25, 2024. The earliest you can RSVP is the better for organisers.

## Volunteer Forms

The majority of volunteer forms are now in. In some cases we still require additional signatures for Keiraview's Code of Conduct or Volunteer Manual (or both). If I haven't received one or both of these forms from you I'll contact you personally over this week. Otherwise, rest assured!

Please email or see me if you have any concerns

– Naomi

## MORNING GATHERING ROSTER

24<sup>th</sup> December 2023

### Flowers

Leonie Erskine

### AV/Streaming

Clive Arthur  
Rod Doyle

### Welcomers

Keith Smyth  
Thelma Smyth

### Announcements

Bev Ratcliffe

### Elder

Alayne Guerin

### Music

Grace Kennedy

### Bible Reader

Neville Jolly

### Prayer

Norma Coudrey

### Offering Counting

Alan Bradley  
Lyn Jones

### Morning Tea

Glenys Johnston  
Pat Waller  
Geoff Lattimore  
Sue Lattimore

## READINGS

### DECEMBER 17, 2023

Is 61:1-4, 8-11  
Ps 126  
1 Thes 5:16-24  
Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Please send notices for this news sheet to Naomi Barton **by 5pm Wednesday.**  
☎ 0401 791 483  
[notices@keiraview.org](mailto:notices@keiraview.org)



Raise any issues, incidents or concerns via our confidential and secure reporting service 'Speak Out'

INDEPENDENT AND CONFIDENTIAL HOTLINE

**1800 951145**

For more information go to:  
[speakout.uca.org.au](http://speakout.uca.org.au)



## ELECTRONIC GIVING

If you would prefer to send an electronic bank deposit as offertory, the details are:  
Keiraview Uniting Church, BSB: 634 634, Account #: 100017747