

CALENDAR



Burwood Uniting Church

November - February 2024



November 2023

- 1st 9am Wednesday Small Group Bible study in recess until February 2023.
- 2nd 10am - 11.30am Thursday Coffee and Chat Barry's Place, continues weekly.
- 4th **Easy Walking Group:** Graeme and Jenny Stone 9878 1652.
- 6th 1.30pm Ladies' Fellowship, contact Dianne or Floss.
- 20th 1.30pm Men's Fellowship, contact Kevin or Graeme S.
- 25th Annual lunch (Easy Walking) Rose Cottage.
- 26th Sunday 10am Time Capsule opened and congregation shared lunch.

December 2023

- 2nd **Easy Walking Group:** Graeme and Jenny Stone 9878 1652.

- 17th **5.00pm visit Ashburton UC BBQ and Carols @ 6.30pm.**
- 23rd **10am Carol singing in Burwood Village**
- 24th **Sunday Christmas Eve, Carols and Readings service 10.00am.**
- 24th **7.30pm Christmas Eve Carols, supper**
- 25th **9.30am Christmas Day Communion.**

January 2024

- 14th Church Picnic. Watch pewsheets for details.



Our Kathryn G, farmer, with her latest purchase - a red tractor to use on her farm. Fabulous. Congratulations!



Christmas Carol singing in Burwood Shopping Centre.

Message from minister Paul

As we approach the conclusion of 2023, reflecting upon the events of the year prompts gratitude for the grace of God that has guided us thus far. Once again, we find ourselves on the threshold of the Advent season.

The origins of Advent are deeply embedded in the Christian tradition, intimately linked with the preparation and anticipation of celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. Derived from the Latin word "adventus," meaning "coming" or "arrival," Advent unfolds in the weeks leading up to Christmas, traditionally commencing on the fourth Sunday before December 25th.

This period serves as a dedicated time for spiritual preparation and reflection, allowing Christians to delve into the significance of Christ's arrival and the hope He imparts to the world.

Allow me to share an introspective encounter related to His coming. Recently, I experienced what seemed to be a dream—a state where the boundaries between consciousness and unconsciousness blurred. In this profound moment, despite sharing a bed with my wife, I grappled with an overwhelming sense of solitude. It was during this experience that I contemplated the advent of Christ.

The advent of Christ is a transformative event

wherein the divine converges with the worldly, forging a unity. It reveals that, unlike the tendency of religion to segregate the sacred from the worldly, Christ seamlessly blends the two. His advent intertwines eternity with time, triumphing over life and death. He unifies the humble and the exalted, the poor and the rich, the strong and the weak, men and women, the elderly and children. His coming bridges the gaps of race, language, and culture, knitting diverse individuals into a harmonious community.

Within the encompassing grace that transcends all, His advent symbolizes our acceptance, unity, and oneness, even in the unfathomable primal loneliness that separates us from our nearest companions.

Loving brothers and sisters in Christ (BUC), may the profound significance of the 'coming of Jesus Christ' be comprehended, and may this season present an opportunity to share its transformative impact with those in our midst.



Rev Paul Ryu

BUC COMMUNITY GROUPS AND WORSHIP SERVICES

LADIES' FELLOWSHIP: Meetings will take place on the first Monday of the month at 1.30 pm, unless otherwise advised. **Dianne** 9808 5015 and **Floss** 9913 8380.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP: An opportunity to share interests and hear interesting speakers, 3rd Monday of the month 1.30pm. Contact **Kevin or Graeme S.**

EASY WALKING GROUP: All are welcome to join. Meet 1st Saturday 9.15am @ BUC. Contact **Graeme and Jenny** 9878 1652.

Congregation Contact: Fran Wilmott 0405 396 009.

Pastoral Care for the Elderly, **Rev. Dr. Paul Moore** 0418 303 486

WORSHIP @ BUC: ALL ARE WELCOME!

SUNDAY: Family worship 10.00am, Children always welcome - activities available in Chapel area. (Enquiries re all ages: Jessie 9569 8049)
Holy Communion regularly 4th Sunday

PRAYER AND STUDY GROUPS: BUC Small Group Bible Study. The group will use *With Love to the World* and meets Wednesdays 9.00 -10am in Barry's Place.

PRAYER NETWORK available, contact Fran.

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