



Kiama Jamberoo Uniting Church

Sunday, 26 February 2023

Postal Address: PO Box 140 Kiama 2533

Ezekiel 37:1-14 Psalms 130 Romans 8:6-11 John 11:1-45

Lent



Worship

Sunday 26 February - Lent 1 - 9.30am at Kiama

Sunday 5 March - Lent 2 - 9.30am at Kiama;

Dinner and Conversation at Jamberoo at 5.30pm

This Week

Monday 27 February - Craft at Kiama, 9.00am

Wednesday 1 March - Meditation at Kiama, 4pm

Thursday 2 March - Adult Fellowship at Kiama, 9.30am

Friday 3 March - World Day of Prayer at Kiama Baptist Church, 10am

Saturday 4 March - Retreat and Reflection at Jamberoo, 10am-12pm (details below);

Candidate Forum at Kiama 4pm-6pm (details below)

News from Kath

This week sees us beginning our preparations for Easter. The 40 days (plus Sundays) of Lent invite us into a time of reflection and learning, of recalibrating and refocusing. The pamphlet "**Renew Your Faith This**

Easter" gives an explanation about Lent, Easter and the special celebrations

along the way. There are copies in the foyer or you can download it here: <https://kiama-jamberoo.unitingchurch.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Lent-Easter-23-What-does-it-all-mean.pdf> Why not share the link with your friends and family?

In our worship services, we will be exploring the theme **Seeking: Honest Questions for Deeper Faith**. We will look at some questions that God asks of us, as well as some questions we might ask of God. I hope you will join us. There are also devotional materials available to assist you during the week. If you haven't got a copy, and would like one, *put your name on the list on the board*.



Last Saturday, I was elected **co-Chair of the Illawarra Presbytery** along with Rev Diane Anderson. I have taken this on with the blessing of Church Council and Diane and I would very much value your

prayers as we seek to serve the Presbytery in this way. It does mean that I may not be able to be "in the office" as often as I have been and it would be lovely to have a few willing people able to do some "intentional loitering" around the church every now and then, especially when there are groups using the facilities.

Also on Saturday, the Presbytery celebrated the different contributions that congregations and agencies like Uniting bring to the mission of God in our region. A video I prepared highlighting our congregation's activities can be viewed here: <https://vimeo.com/799416358/ob5abd9ab7>

Coming Up

Seeking: Honest Questions for Deeper Faith - Saturday 4 March, 10am-12pm at Jamberoo Uniting Church

A time of retreat and reflection - join us as we engage more deeply with the theme for **Lent**, exploring our questions of faith and life. The retreat is designed so you can spend time on your own or in a small group. If you want to, you can bring your journal or art materials. And then if you want to stay on afterwards for a chat, bring your lunch.



Safe Church Awareness Workshop

To all who are interested, there is a Safe Church Awareness Workshop being held at:

Gerringong UCA on Saturday 4 March 2023 at 9am for 9.30am start.

Cost \$25

A particular reminder to all Church Council, UCA requests that all CC members attend this course.

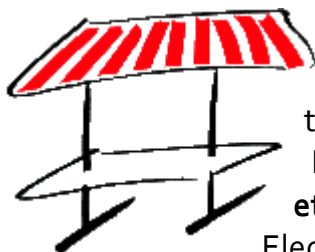
See attachment.

women's FELLOWSHIP

Our next **Women's Day Fellowship** meeting is Thursday 2nd March, at 9.30am at the Fellowship Centre. We will have our meeting, morning tea, then our speaker, **Susan Barton** will speak about **RICHARD the 3rd**. It should be an

interesting meeting.

Come along and enjoy fellowship.



Church Stall - Election Day

We will be holding a stall the day of the Elections, Saturday, 25th March in the foyer of the Fellowship Centre. This is a Church fund raising endeavour. Please support with **donations of cooking, craft, plants, veggies, preserves etc.** It is an excellent opportunity to raise much needed funds. Our last stall on Election Day was very successful.

Thank you.

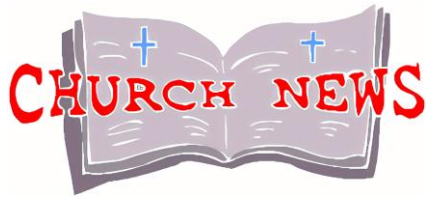
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Meet The Candidates Forum

Saturday 4 March, 4pm-6pm at Kiama Uniting Church.

Our democracy is precious and worth protecting and participating in. At least 3 of the 4 candidates for the seat of Kiama at the NSW State Election on 25 March will be attending. They will be given a short time to present and then they will take questions. If you have a question you would like to ask, please send it to Kath beforehand - or write it on a piece of paper and bring it with you.

And if you are able to help at the event, please let Kath know - looking for people to help set up, pack up, welcome people at the door and perhaps serve some light refreshments afterwards.



Are you willing to step up?

Church Council would like to invite you to consider the opportunities available in Church leadership, either now or in the future, if you would like to be mentored into one of these positions. It is the sharing of gifts and talents and service to the Congregation.

Elders / Pastoral Partners: There is a need in both areas. Pastoral Caring is a strength in this Congregation. Volunteering to support other people in friendship, in awareness of needs and health and life events and sharing in faith are things natural to our Congregation. Being a Pastoral Partner or Carer utilises these gifts to ensure everyone is linked in to the body of the church. It is never invasive or forced.

An Elder looks to pastoral care and includes the above tasks and also supports the Minister and Church Council in Spiritual oversight. This may sound daunting but it is really bringing your own faith and commitment to God and to God's people into how we are as a Church.

Property Committee Convener - or participant: Many hands make light work. If you are able to assist in big or small ways, in regular or occasional time periods, this is gratefully received. Working together builds friendships rather than acquaintances and strengthens our congregation. You would be made very welcome.

KBECET representative— The KBECET Board has oversight of the Christian Education teacher at Kiama High School (Wiki), and the **Shine and Strength Programs** which build self-esteem in identified young people who may be struggling. They also organise awareness-raising and fund-raising events. The Board meets monthly in the afternoon of the **first Wednesday**. Rev Steve Everest is the Chairperson. He is the Uniting Church Minister at Gerringong.

If there is something that interests you, **please speak to Kath or someone on Church Council.**

Working Bee

We will be having a general working bee on **Saturday, 25 February at 10 am** at Kiama, to garden and do general cleaning and other jobs. If you can spare a few hours, I am sure you will enjoy the company of other hardy souls who come to keep our property looking great and working well. Please talk to **Jill Lambert** about your availability.



Funding our 2023 Mission & Outreach

There are still many things that must be done to complete the opening up and welcoming nature of our Church properties at Kiama and Jamberoo, such that local community members feel comfortable and safe in visiting us, attending functions and joining in worship.

We have also commenced our **fundraising drive** to cover the shortfall in funds needed to finish the property work at both sites.



Bay and Basin Food Pantry

Thank you so much everyone for your ongoing support of this ministry down the coast. We are reaching more and more households each week and are delighted with the reception we are also receiving from members of the local community as well as businesses.

Could I please ask you to once again focus on donations of **non perishable food items** or **baking slices and scones** to be left in the church freezer. (A huge thank you to those who already do this.) While other clothing and household items can be useful, **food** is the greater need.

Let's
Pray!

Lord God, your word says I can come boldly to the throne of grace and obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need) (*Hebrew 4:16*)

Therefore, having this assurance, I pray for those who are hurting and have experienced loss and are in mourning. But God, You know every tear,

wound, hurt and joy because

there are seasons under heaven (*Ecclesiastes 3:1-8*). So, Lord will you heal the wounds and broken hearts of those in mourning? Will you send your peace, love, and presence? Father, draw near to your son/daughter as they face times of loss and hopelessness. Let them see your footprints during their trials and tests, knowing that it was then you carried them.

Lord God, strengthen us to see your face and care in our daily lives. Each time we look up at the sky or feel the gentle sunshine warm against our skin; Or watch the dark night break into light or stop to pick a flower or see a tree. There we know God you are whispering : "This is me..... And I am Faith and I am light ; And in me there shall be no night." For in Him we live, and move, and have our being... *Acts 17:28*

Please pray for our Focus Families:

Betty Chittick
Edna Chittick
Jan Chudleigh
Robyn and Ray Clark
Meg Clifford
Ruth Cole



Minister

Rev Kath Merrifield 0409 650 118

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