



Kiama Jamberoo Uniting Church

Sunday, 10 December 2023

Postal Address: PO Box 140 Kiama

Isaiah 40:1-11 - Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 - 2 Peter 3:8-15a - **Mark 1:1-8**



Worship

Sunday 10 December - Advent 2 - "How does a weary world rejoice?" - "We find joy in connection" - Communion - 9.30am at Kiama (including Uniting World Shop)
Dinner and Conversation at Jamberoo Bowling Club, 5.30pm-7pm (last one for 2023)

Sunday 17 December - Advent 3 - "How does a weary world rejoice?" - "We allow ourselves to be amazed" 9.30am at Kiama

This Week

Monday 11 December - Craft at Kiama, You are invited to come along to view articles made by members of the craft group this year. You're welcome to join us after 9.30. Jill Lambert

Tuesday 12 December - Jamberoo Carols in the Park - BBQ from 5.30pm, music and singing from 6.30pm

Wednesday 13 December - Meditation at Kiama, 4pm-5pm

Wednesday 13 December - Songs of Joy - Ss Peter and Paul Catholic Church, 6.30pm-8.00pm

Coming Up

Thursday 21 December - "For The Weary" - a quiet space of reflection and prayer for anyone finding this season difficult - grieving, hurting, longing, just plain weary - come and connect once more with the Source of all hope and joy and love and peace

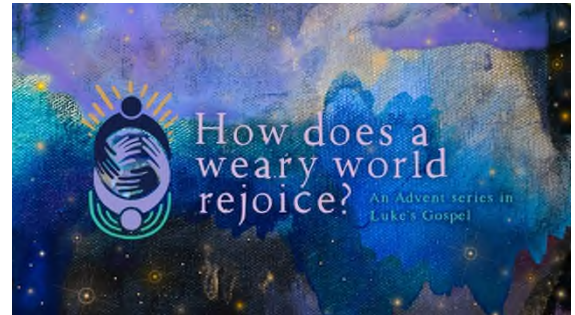
Sunday 24 December - Advent 4 - 9.30am at Kiama

Christmas Eve Celebration (Communion) - 7.30pm at Kiama

Sunday 25 December - Christmas Celebration (all-ages) - 9.30am at Kiama followed by a free Christmas lunch - don't be alone, come and celebrate with us!

Advent 2023

Our preparations for Christmas begin on 3 December. This year, we will be exploring the theme, "How Does A Weary World Rejoice?" A Devotional booklet is available along with an Advent Calendar which contains a prompt for thought, prayer and action for each day during December. If you would like a copy either in print or electronic form, please put your name on the sign-up sheet on the noticeboard.



UnitingWorld – Everything in Common gifts – Sunday 10 & 17 December

We have a selection of gifts you can buy on behalf of another person including seeds, pigs, chickens, schoolbooks etc. (See full catalogue). We also have Christmas Cards in packs for \$15-00. Cash or credit card are possible. .



News

Property Update

As the renovations to Uniting House continue, there are two things to report:



- in undertaking work in the ceiling, it has also become evident that the roof is in need of repair/replacement. Further investigations revealed that it is prudent to replace the roof rather than to attempt to repair the cracking and crumbling tiles. Quotes have been sought to replace it with roofing similar in style and colour to the Lecture Hall roof. This is another significant cost but unavoidable at this stage
- car parking is an ever increasing problem across Kiama. The Church Council has agreed to the trial placing a chain across the driveway on Bong Bong Street on days when we know there are significant events occurring at the Showground/Pavilion. Once it is in place, information will be sent to group leaders in relation to opening and closing the driveway. In the meantime, please **do not park** outside the marked parking spaces. The front carpark is designed to allow for vehicles to move through the area which becomes difficult when vehicles are parked on the curved edge next to the Lecture Hall. While the renovations are occurring, if there are trades vehicles in the carpark, please approach them politely and ask them to move (ask for George if there are any concerns).

Can you help?

Annual Fund Raiser: January BOOK SALE

Over the years, the Adult Fellowship has held a book stall on the last weekend in January to raise money for the church. The Church Council is very grateful for all the work this group has done and will continue to do to support the work of the church. However, this project has become too big for the current members to manage on their own, so the Church Council has decided to open it up and ask for the congregation's help. It will be held on **Saturday 27 January** to coincide with the Kiama Show and we will be holding a BBQ as well. We are looking for 3 teams of people for the book sale (preparation, roster on the day, and pack up and disbursement

of books afterwards). We will also need people to be on the roster for the BBQ. The Adult Fellowship is willing to organise the roster for Saturday to sell the books which is wonderful.

Please start to gather together any books you no longer need and we will let you know where we will be storing them closer to the date. If you have ideas about advertising this event, please let Janice Freeston know. Your assistance is greatly anticipated!

Scholarships for Students in Tonga – Helen Laidlaw

Kiama Uniting Church have supported my work in Tonga over the last ten years and I am very grateful. I have just returned from a two weeks visit to catch up with old friends, review projects and see the effects of the volcanic eruption and resulting tsunami. The Tongans are a resilient people with a very strong faith.



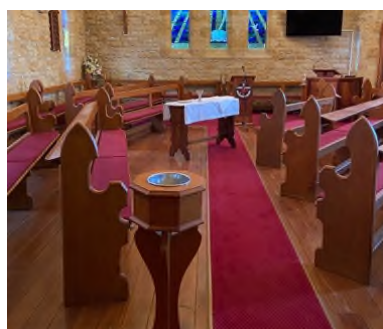
This is a good friend, Rev 'Ungatea Kata Fonua BA MA(Uni of Tasmania) who is the Principal of TTI (Tonga Tertiary Institute) which is the Tongan version of TAFE. Many courses are offered including teaching, architectural drawing, business and music. A number of students come from very poor villages and struggle to pay the fees. **I would like to organise a scholarship to give them a chance for post High School education.** I have a detailed list of all courses and their fees which I shall have printed, as well as 'Ungatea's explanation as to how any scholarships would be allotted. If you would like to assist I shall

have copies of these details at church each Sunday. My email is laidlaw.helen8@gmail.com.au



Lids4kids (<https://www.lids4kids.org.au>) is a volunteer project to rescue plastic bottle lids from landfill to protect our environment for future generations and wildlife. Once processed these lids are sent to recycling workshops to create sustainable products such as park benches, kitchen splashbacks, skateboards and cubbyhouse roof tiles. They also collect used plastic and foil medicine blister packs.

There is a small box at the front entrance, and a large container at the back of the Worship Centre to place your donations. They are taken to The Kiama Community Garden who collects them and sends them to Canberra for processing.



Pews for Sale: Church Council and the Property Committee have agreed to sell the longer of the red cedar pews at Jamberoo and to replace them with chairs. We will retain the 4 or so shorter pews and a couple of longer pews; the rest are up for grabs - so we are offering them first to you and to anyone you may know before we advertise them more widely. **They are \$400 each** - no discounts unless you buy 10(!) and you will need to arrange pick-up. If you are interested, please speak to Meredith or one of the Property Committee.

Wider Church News



Bay and Basin Food Pantry

We were delighted this week when one of the Uniting Firefly workers arrived with donations from **Berry Public School** who did a food drive. Years 5 & 6 donations arrived which was a full card load and more is coming from the younger years at the school. The ongoing support from many different parts of the community is such a blessing.

Save The Date: Lay Leaders' Retreat 2024 - Saturday, 3 February 2024

"In Joyful Obedience".

Drawn from the hymn "Lord of creation, to you be all praise," the hymn will guide the day especially verse 2. Every phrase in that verse has something for us to reflect on as lay leaders in the church (and the ordained too!).

Led by: Rev. Dr. Peter Walker, Principal of United Theological College. Learn more about Peter here <https://www.nswact.uca.org.au/team/rev-dr-peter-walker/>

For Church Council members, small group leaders, Elders and Pastoral Partners, musicians and anyone interested in a day of reflection, connection and growth. This is an opportunity to recharge, connect, and reinforce your leadership journey. Your church values your commitment and wants to support your growth. Join us in beautiful Kiama to share experiences, insights, and inspiration.

We are hosting this event at Kiama Uniting Church, 10am-3pm so please mark the date to either come along for the teaching or to offer hospitality to others – or both!

Morning and Afternoon Tea, Tea, Coffee, Juice provided. BYO Lunch.

RSVP: Admin.ip@nswact.uca.org.au

Let us Pray together:



Prayer

God of Hope, who brought love into this world,
Be the love that dwells between us.

God hope, who brought peace into the world,
Be the peace that dwells between us.

God of hope, who brought joy into the world,
Be the joy that dwells between us.

God of hope, the rock we stand upon,

Be the centre, the focus of our lives always,

And particularly at this Advent time.

Keep our hearts aflame with the hope of Christmas,

And the promise of the Saviour.

Amen

Pray for our Focus Families -

Tanya Ferraro

Wendy, Alana and Khaleesi Harris

Ros and Jim Henry

Teena and Clive Hollands

Yvonne Holmes

Yvette and Brendan Howarth

Minister: Rev Kath Merrifield 0409 650 118

revkath@ozemail.com.au

Pastoral Convenor: Rhonda Back 0400 980 977

homeunit71@gmail.com

Email for general inquiries: kiamaunitingchurch@outlook.com

Email for Newsletter articles: kiamauc.notices@gmail.com

Website: kiama-jamberoo.unitingchurch.org.au

Facebook: www.facebook.com/kiamajamberoo.unitingchurch

Donations welcome to either:

Kiama UC - Jamberoo Building Fund Account:

BSB 634 634 A/c No. 100079849

Kiama UC Transaction Manager Account:

BSB 634 634 A/c No. 100018657

