



Kiama Jamberoo Uniting Church

Sunday, 17 December 2023

Postal Address: PO Box 140 Kiama

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 Psalm 126 or Luke 1:46b-55; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 John 1:6-8, 19-28



Worship

Sunday 17 December - Advent 3—"How does a weary world rejoice?" – We allow ourselves to be amazed - 9.30am at Kiama (including Uniting World Shop)

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—"How does a weary world rejoice?" 9.30am at Kiama

Christmas Eve Celebration (Communion) - 7.30pm at Kiama

Monday 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!

This Week

Monday 18 Dec: A "Special Christmas craft morning "
Craft resumes on 5th February 2024.

Tuesday 19th Dec: The next Men's Mate Meet commencing at **10.45 AM at the Quarry Café, Burnetts Nursery, 80 Barney St Kiama.**

This is for all men of our Church and any other male friends you think may be interested in joining us. The topic for this meeting will be: "What's the best concert or musical theatre event you have experienced and why was it so good?"

Talk time is limited to 3 minutes.

So come along and enjoy listening to the stories that emanate from the topic.

As this is our last meeting for the year we have arranged to stay on at the café and have lunch.

Coming Up

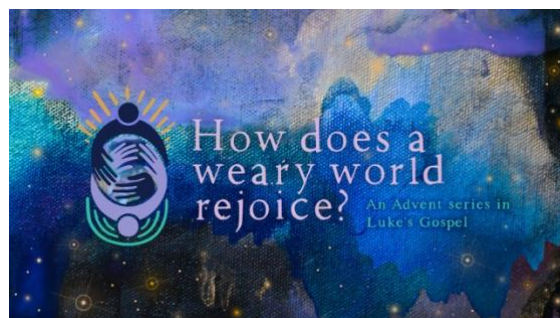
Adult Fellowship Lunch

All are welcome to a fellowship lunch at Jamberoo Bowling Club, **Thursday 11th January, 2024, commencing at 12 o'clock .**

If interested, please write your name on the list which is on the church notice board.

Advent 2023

We continue 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

Thank you to all the members who have generously supported the plan to provide a scholarship to students at Tupou Tertiary College in Nuku'alofa in Tonga, which is run by the Free Wesleyan Church. After the volcanic eruption and tsunami many people have been displaced and are financially stressed. TTI is the Tongan version of TAFE. So far \$1,000 has been donated and \$A1 = TOP1.5, so will be very helpful. This is a "one off" donation for 2023, and I plan to call it *Kiama Uniting Church Scholarship* and allow the Institute executive choose the student (or students) most in need. I hope to send our donation before the end of the year so do contact me if you are happy to donate. Blessings. Helen Laidlaw 0439 427 174 or laidlaw.helen8@gmail.com



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

Advent Prayer

For the desert places in which
we walk, the streets we roam,
the paths we cross: Guide our feet.
Take us to places where you would go,
Give us words that you would use,
that in this Advent season
of promise and preparation
we might point the way
with John the Baptist
to the Lamb of God,
who takes away the sin of the world!
Amen.



Paris and Annabelle Hudson
Margaret Jones
Loris Kelton
Ruth and Neville Killmore
Helen Laidlaw
Jill and Phillip Lambert

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 100018657