



Kiama Jamberoo Uniting Church

Sunday, 24 December 2023

Postal Address: PO Box 140 Kiama

2 Sam 7:1-11,16; Ps 89; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1 26:36

Advent 4



For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be upon his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this. Isaiah 9:6-7 (NIV)

Worship Times

Sunday 24 December - Advent 4 - "How does a weary world rejoice?"

Morning: 9.30am at Kiama

Evening: 7.30pm at Kiama Christmas Eve Celebration (Communion) -

Monday 25 December - Christmas Celebration (all-ages) - 9.30am at Kiama followed by Christmas lunch - come and celebrate with us. Everyone is welcome!

Sunday 31 December - 9.30am at Kiama - Christmas 1 - How Does A Weary World Rejoice? We Root Ourselves In Ritual

Sunday 7 January - 9.30am at Kiama - Epiphany / Baptism of Jesus - How Does A Weary World Rejoice? We Trust Our Belovedness

Sunday 14 January - 9.30am at Kiama - Epiphany 2 (Communion)

From Rev Kath

As we approach Christmas and 2023 draws to a close, it is easy to get drawn into the frenzy of shopping, cooking, lawn mowing and all that goes into preparing for a great celebration. It is also too easy for some people to get lost in the noise and activity, swept aside when it gets too hard to keep

up. So, as we pause to ponder with Mary, to wonder with the shepherds, to worship with the Wise Ones, the story of this child, Jesus, born in humble circumstances and yet announced by angels as good news for all humankind, may we be drawn into making space for those around us, particularly the ones who find all the "hoo-ha" just a bit overwhelming. May our hearts be open, our tables be long and may we be extravagantly generous with our time, resources and the grace God gives.

Greetings from our church leaders can be found here:

Moderator's Christmas message: <https://www.nswact.uca.org.au/resources/christmas-2023-coming-home/>

President's Christmas message: <https://uniting.church/christmas2023/>

Dear Friends,

How many ways can one say "thank you"? They are simply not enough for cards, phone calls, prayers & simply knowing you are there. Rob and I appreciate everything you as a church have done for us. I thank God for you each day and for my growing health and strength.

Happy Christmas and New Year to you all.

Thanks Gail.

Coming Up in 2024

Adult Fellowship Lunch

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

Annual Book Sale as a fundraiser for the church, January 27, 2024

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

Adult Craft resumes on February 5, 2024

Men's Mate Meet resumes on February 20, 2024

News

Children's Resources for Christmas

If you have children or grandchildren staying with you over Christmas, then please take one of the books provided by the Bible Society.

There is a book for younger children, "God's Christmas Promise", a delightful rendition of the story of the birth of Jesus illustrated by Fern Martins, a Waka Waka and Bungling woman from New South Wales and South-Eastern Queensland. And another book for older children, "Christmas : Who? What? Why? How?" By Susannah McFarlane.

Act For Peace - Christmas Bowl

All offerings received at our Christmas Eve (evening) and Christmas Day services will be given to the Christmas Bowl. If you would like to make a donation electronically, you can the link: <https://christmasbowl.actforpeace.org.au/1221169>. Or use the QR code here or on the poster in the church.

Property Update

Church Council recently agreed to trial the use of a chain across the driveway to control access to the carpark in busier times. This weekend will be the first time this is used while the Changing Tides Festival is on over Saturday and Sunday at the Showground. Please let one of the members of the Property Committee know if you have or hear any feedback.

During the building work, and as the bakery begins to operate, there will undoubtedly be further changes to navigate.

Please remember that Richard and Lucy, the owners of the bakery, are permitted to park in the carpark as part of our lease agreement. If you see someone in the carpark you think shouldn't be there, and if you choose to approach them, please do so politely and gently and engage with a question like "Are you visiting the church today, I don't think we have met?" If the answer is no, then introduce yourself, let them know that the space is needed for people visiting the church and invite them to move on. There are also notes in the reception area to put under the windscreen wipers if you can identify a car that is a "repeat offender".

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, ono**, 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/>

It is designed 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

Our prayers for others



Heavenly Father,
The whole meaning of Christmas can be explained in one little four-letter word...LOVE.

You sent your gift of pure love to us that first Christmas. Love descended from heaven to be born of a virgin. Love lay in the scratchy hay of a manger in a meagre barn in Bethlehem. All of your love, God, was robed in the delicate skin of a baby and wrapped in swaddling clothes. This final week of Advent, help us to reflect on the magnitude of love that was made manifest in Jesus. Amen.

Focus Families

Helen Lee
Linda and Gary Long
Julie Harvey
Val and Cliff Mason
Melissa and Michael Malone
Jeanette and Trevor Macbeath

Uniting House - Slow Dough opening.

We are planning to open for our first day of trade on **Friday 5th January**. We plan to be open Friday, Saturday and Sundays to begin. Thanks so much for all your support in getting us to this point. It's been a very long road and we're grateful for your patience as we get this bakery up and running!

Have a wonderful and joy filled Christmas.
Rich and Lucy



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Website: kiama-jamberoo.unitingchurch.org.au

Facebook: www.facebook.com/kiamajamberoo.unitingchurch

Donations welcome to either:

Kiama UC - Jamberoo Building Fund Account:

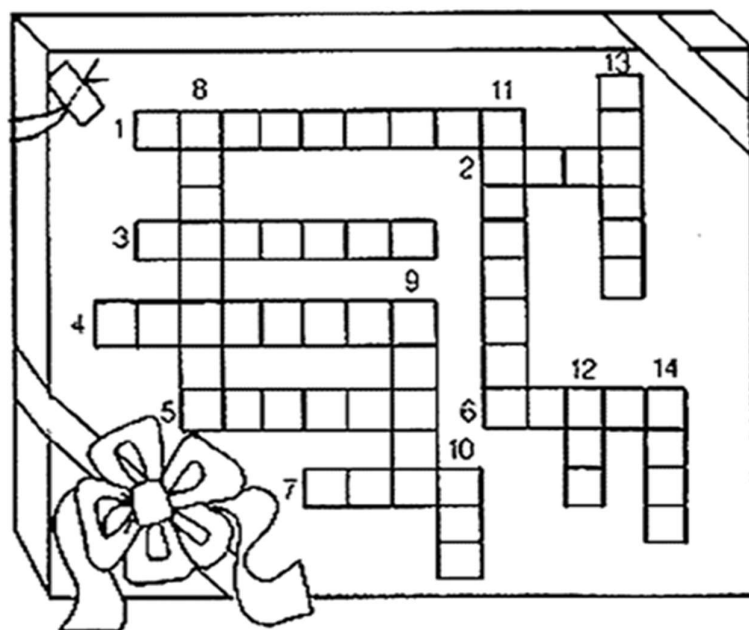
BSB 634 634 A/c No. 100079849

Kiama UC Transaction Manager Account

BSB 634 634 A/c 100018657



Christmas Crossword



Across

1. Hang these on the tree
2. Evergreen or pine
3. Frosty is one
4. You give and receive these
5. Tie this on your package
6. A Christmas color
7. For the top of the tree

Down

8. Rudolph
9. Jolly toymaker
10. Color of Santa's suit
11. Hang this from the mantle
12. Santa's Helper
13. Santa's transportation
14. Christmas carol