



Kiama Jamberoo Uniting Church

Sunday, 3 December 2023

Postal Address: PO Box 140 Kiama

Isaiah 64:1-9 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Mark 13:24-37



Worship

Sunday 3 December - Advent 1 - "How Does A Weary World Rejoice?" - 9.30am at Kiama
(including Christmas Trading Table and Uniting World Shop)

Sunday 10 December - Advent 2 - Communion - 9.30am at Kiama
Dinner and Conversation at Jamberoo Bowling Club, 5.30pm-7pm (last one for 2023)

This Week

Sunday 3 December- Trading Table baked goods after 9.30am service
Monday 4 December - Craft at Kiama, 9.00am-11.30am
Tuesday 5 December - Church Council meeting at Kiama, 3.30pm-5.30pm
Wednesday 6 December - Meditation at Kiama, 4pm-5pm
Thursday 7 December - Adult Fellowship Christmas Celebration at Kiama, 9.30am-11.30am

Coming Up

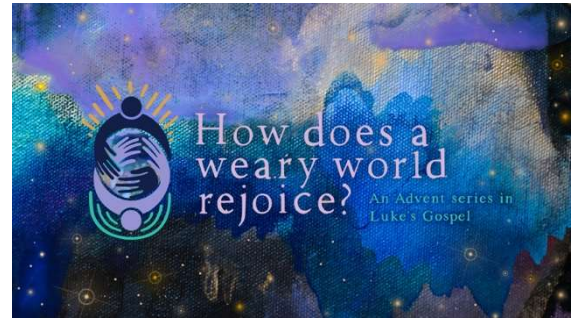
Tuesday 12 December - Jamberoo Carols - Reid Park from 6.30pm
Wednesday 13 December - Songs of Joy - Ss Peter and Paul Catholic Church, 6.30pm-8.00pm

Save the Date

Thursday 21 December - "For The Weary" - a quiet space of reflection and contemplation as we prepare for Christmas
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.



Christmas Trading Table – This Sunday, 3 December

There will be an end of year Christmas Trading Table, after our service, Sunday 3rd December. Please add this to your calendar. This is an opportunity to raise money for our church funds. All contributions of Christmas cakes, biscuits, sweets, cookies, preserves, craft, gifts etc, from our church members would be appreciated.

For baked cakes etc, please list ingredients, price and initial your contributions.

UnitingWorld – Everything in Common gifts – Sunday 3 December

How many chickens does it take to help a community break free from poverty? In Gokwe South, Zimbabwe, we (roughly) know the answer. Through the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe's Development Agency (MEDRA), you've been supporting projects with a few communities for several years: providing chicks, equipment, seeds; training groups in budgeting, bookkeeping, and breeding of livestock; giving advice on how to market the products to get the best profit.



We're delighted to let you know that the groups are now self-sufficient and have now transitioned away from MEDRA's support.

"All six of our broiler (chicken) project groups have managed to survive the impact of COVID-19 and are fully operational again," our partners report. "Two of these groups increased production from 50 to 100 broilers, meaning that families are self-sustaining as they buy groceries, use health services and pay school fees."

The gift stall will commence on Sunday 3 December. If you are willing to assist to take people's orders, please speak with David or Janice Freeston.

Adult Fellowship – Thursday 7 December

Our next Adult Fellowship meeting will be our last for 2023, Thursday 7th December.

After a brief general meeting, Stephanie and Val will lead us in a Christmas devotions.

Please could members bring a small plate of food to share for our end of year morning tea. This year our members have decided NOT to have the Kris Kringle activity, but to donate items to Bay and Basin. There is a need for toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap and other toiletries. It would be appreciated if you could bring these items to our December meeting, thank you. All are welcome.

News

Bereavement

Mrs Lois Longmuir, wife of Rev Ray Longmuir, died on Sunday 19 November aged 88 years. Ray and Lois served in Kiama in the 1990s.

Lois' funeral was held at Tea Gardens Uniting Church on Thursday 30 November. Please keep Ray and their family in your prayers.

Property Update

At the Annual General Meeting, the Treasurer mentioned a number of additional property expenses that have placed pressure on our budgets. These include:

- Repairs to the roof at Jamberoo and additional ground works behind the building
- Chairs for the Jamberoo church space (the cost will be partially off-set by the sale of the pews)
- Uniting House - removal of asbestos in the ceiling space
- Uniting House - repair to brickwork, windows, repainting the eaves and repairing guttering and drainage (budgeted for in 2023-24)

The total cost of these works amounts to around \$36,000.

We are grateful that the recent referendum brought in additional income for the hire of the Lecture Hall and Church and the Property Committee will continue to monitor costs and expenses. However, it is important that we continue to be actively looking to improve our income and fundraising activities.

If you would like to make an additional financial contribution to help cover these additional costs, bank details are at the end of the newsletter.

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



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

Your support has been greatly appreciated and celebrations amongst the volunteers can be heard as they unpack my boot each week. It would be lovely if people could include an item or two in our shopping trolleys on a **regular basis** and leave it at the back of the church in the green trolley or basket. We are desperately low on toiletries and can always use long-life milk, rice and pasta.

Any tinned food or fruit, cereals and jams etc are also very welcome. Perhaps you have a return and earn docket you would be happy to donate to the Food Pantry. Just a thought!

Staff Wanted

Chittick Lodge in Gerringong needs **experienced cleaners and kitchen staff**. For more details email enquiries@chitticklodge.org.au

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: In the book of Mark we learn, "Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father in Heaven may forgive your trespasses."



Loving God, how easy it is for me to distinguish myself from "them".
For the times I believe I am better than others, forgive me.
For the times I put my ways on a pedestal to the neglect of others, forgive me.
For the times I avert my eyes, so I won't have to see the conditions of others, forgive me.
Through you Jesus we have redemption and forgiveness.
Our hearts are filled with gratitude for this grace. May it flow to others. Amen.

**Pray for our
Focus
Families -**

Karen and Neil Douglas
Alan Fowlie
Jeanette Gilbert
Zoe and Rebecca Falconer

Wendy Fenton and Tom Rodgers
Janice and David Freeston
Ruth and Ron Haddon
Carol Jane



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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