



Kiama Jamberoo Uniting Church

Sunday, 31 March 2024
Postal Address: PO Box 140 Kiama

Easter 2B – Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133; 1 John 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-31



As we journey through the season of Easter, the alleluias ringing in our ears, we celebrate the many ways the risen Christ touches our lives.

Daylight Saving Ends on Saturday evening - so put your clocks back an hour before you go to bed! If you have a smart device (phone or watch), don't worry - the magic happens while you sleep! Of course, if you forget, you will be early for church - but that's not a bad thing!!



Worship Times

Worship

Sunday 7 April - Easter 2 - 9.30am at Kiama

Sunday 14 April - Easter 3 - 9.30am at Kiama (Communion)
5.30pm - Dinner and Conversation at Jamberoo Blowing Club

Note: Our next *mission planning* conversation has been postponed to after church on 21 April.

Easter Messages

Messages from Rev Sharon Hollis, the President of the Assembly, and Rev Mata Havea-Hillau, the Moderator of the NSW/ACT Synod, are available online.

President: <https://vimeo.com/920778971>

Moderator: <https://www.nswact.uca.org.au/resources/easter-2024/>

This Week

Monday 8 April - Craft at Kiama, 9.00am-11.30am

Tuesday 11 April - Church Council meets at Kiama, 3.30pm-5.30pm

Wednesday 10 April - Meditation at Kiama, 4pm-5pm

Living The Questions at Kiama, 7.30pm-9pm

Coming Up

Cake stall for Mother's Day

On Saturday 11 May, there will be a cake stall to raise money for the church. If you are able to help organise this, please speak with Kath or Janice. The Presbytery meeting is on that day at a different venue and so Kath, Janice, Diane and Meredith will be elsewhere.

Suicide Prevention Workshop (rescheduled) - save the date - Saturday 1 June, 9am-1pm - registration details to come.

Your help is still needed for the Men's Shed

If you would like to help the Men's Shed gain a grant through the Community Building Partnership Scheme, just open the link, provide a few details and tick the box to indicate your support. The grant is for a significant amount of money to upgrade our facilities with tools, dementia awareness resources and an additional shade area.

https://www.garethwardmp.com.au/cbp_kms

Many thanks - Ian Yabsley

South Illawarra Older Women's Network

Kiama now has a new branch of Older Women's Network. It is named SLOWN being South Illawarra OWN and covers Shellharbour to Berry. They have had one meeting and it seems very interesting with women from all sorts of backgrounds. It will meet on the third Friday of the month at St Peter & Paul's meeting room from 2pm till 4pm. Speak to Marion Rattray for more details.



Strategic / Mission Planning

Over the past few months, the Church Council has been considering how we go about planning together as we dream about God's future for us as a community of faith. Towards the end of last year, we agreed that we need to try something a bit differently and to consider how we might listen deeply to the hopes, dreams and needs of our local community, and then how we might work in partnership with others to share the love and life of Christ with our community. But where to start?

Just this last week, I heard a phrase this week that points to the kind of skills we want to refresh – “relational competence” – which, I think, speaks to our ability to engage with people around us in conversation that is more than “small talk”, such as the rainfall and sports results. We need to learn again how to engage deeply with the people around us and to have the confidence to ask deeper questions of ourselves and of others.

We are hopeful that a good portion of our congregation will engage in this process and learning, and we are conscious of not imposing too much on people's availability for “extra commitments”. So, we are going to hold 3 sessions after church on Sundays for no more than 2 hours at a time (say, 11.30am-1.30pm) and we will serve a simple lunch. Please put these dates in your diary now:

- Sunday 21 April - What have we heard?



Find out how public actions can be a part of a broader push to shift climate policies and move us towards a safer, more equitable future. We will focus on understanding the current political system, what needs to change and how we as a faith-based community, concerned about care for people and the planet, can contribute to that.

Topics will range from issues facing rural communities, how catastrophic climate change magnifies social disadvantage, the importance of youth climate action, how to have effective climate conversations, Pacific climate impacts and solidarity and more!

It will also be a chance to get informed and involved in our climate advocacy strategy in the lead up to the next Federal Election (this year or next!) - aiming to keep strong climate action on the agenda regardless of the outcome. Your feedback and active involvement will be vital.

The conference will be held at Uniting Centre for Ministry for those who can attend personally, but all keynote sessions will be streamed for online participants. For the first time, there will be dedicated workshops for both face to face and online attendees. This is to provide fuller participation for our online community.

Save your seat for the conference through the following link

– https://events.humanitix.com/ucan-conference?mc_cid=8158c61fb1&mc_eid=48bbd1acfe

News

HOLY LAND

Religious leaders issue resounding call for permanent ceasefire

Uniting Church President Rev Sharon Hollis, three Uniting Church Moderators and several other senior UCA leaders are among 106 signatories to an Open Letter calling for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza.

Signed by religious leaders across the country, the letter urges parliamentarians to advocate for an end to military support for all parties, the immediate and secure flow of aid into Gaza, and the return of hostages held by Hamas and Israel.

“The war is inflicting immense pain and suffering on Israeli and Palestinian communities across the globe, including Australia,” said Rev Hollis.

“It’s vital that our politicians show courage and wisdom by uniting to calm community tensions and call for a permanent end to the horror unfolding in Gaza.”

Uniting Church Moderators Rev David Fotheringham (Vic/Tas), Rev Bruce Moore (Qld) and Rev Peter Morel (SA) also signed onto the letter, alongside other senior leaders from UCA agencies and theological colleges.

The Uniting Church Assembly has been calling for an immediate ceasefire and the urgent protection of civilians since war broke out in October. We will continue to pray and advocate as our hearts ache and cry out for a just peace in the land of Jesus' birth.

News from Illawarra Presbytery

The Illawarra Presbytery newsletter can be read here: <https://kiama-jamberoo.unitingchurch.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Newsletter-IP-Mar-2024.pdf>

Or see Kath if you would like a printed copy.

Advance Offering

The Church Council asked the Presbytery if it was able to advance the Congregation the amount we need to replace the roof on Uniting House, however the Presbytery is not able to assist at this time. So, we are moving to "Plan B" which we floated in January. We are therefore asking church members who are able to, to make an advance payment of some of their offering and then reduce their offering over the next 2-4 years to compensate.

Some examples:

Advance \$1000 to the congregation and reduce your offering by \$500 for the next two years.

Advance \$10000 to the congregation and reduce your offering by \$2500 over the next 4 years.

This means that you have not increased your giving commitment and the congregation has effectively received an interest free 'loan'. If you are able to assist the church in this way, you can simply make a deposit to the Building Fund (account details on the back page) and decide for yourself the number of years you will reduce your offering amount for. If you have any questions, please speak with Geoff Boxsell on 02 42360161 or vboxsell@bigpond.com

Can You Help?

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.

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.

PRAYER



Risen Christ,
 you break through the locked doors of our hearts and minds,
 showing us the wounds your body carries,
 holding our doubts and our questions, and breathing peace.
 May we have courage to leave the safety of our sanctuary,
 may we recognise the wounds each one of us carries, may we be
 comfortable in uncertainty and ready to engage with questions and doubts,
 and may we be peace-makers in our homes and communities. Amen.

Focus Families

Thelma Allman
 Anna Ambrose
 Diane and Peter Anderson
 Rhonda and Daryl Back
 Susan and Maurice Barton
 Evelaine Berry

April Roster

Date	Day	Leader	Comments	Readings	Musicians	Reader	Prayer	Stewards/ Counters	M/T
07-Apr-24	Easter 2	Kath	<i>Daylight saving ends</i>	Acts 4:32-35 Psalm 133 1 John 1:1 - 2:2 John 20: 19-31	Val	Pam W	Julia	J Lambert/ G Ricardson <i>BB/HC</i>	<u>A</u> Ambrose
14-Apr-24	Easter 3	Kath	Communion	Acts 3:12-19 Psalm 4 1 John 3:1-7 Luke 24:36b-48	Kathy	Geoff	Tania	R/J <u>Szulerowski</u> <i>RC/DB</i>	S Booth
21-Apr-24	Easter 4	Meredith		Acts 4:5-12 Psalm 23 1 John 3:16-24 John 10:11-18	Val	Jessica Sz	Rhonda	Wendy/Tom <u>TMcB/IP</u>	V Milas
28-Apr-24	Easter 5	Kath		Acts 8:26-40 Psalm 22:25-31 1 John 4:7-21 John 15:1-8	Phillip	Helen L	Zoe	R/D Back <i>RB/RC</i>	J Parker



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