

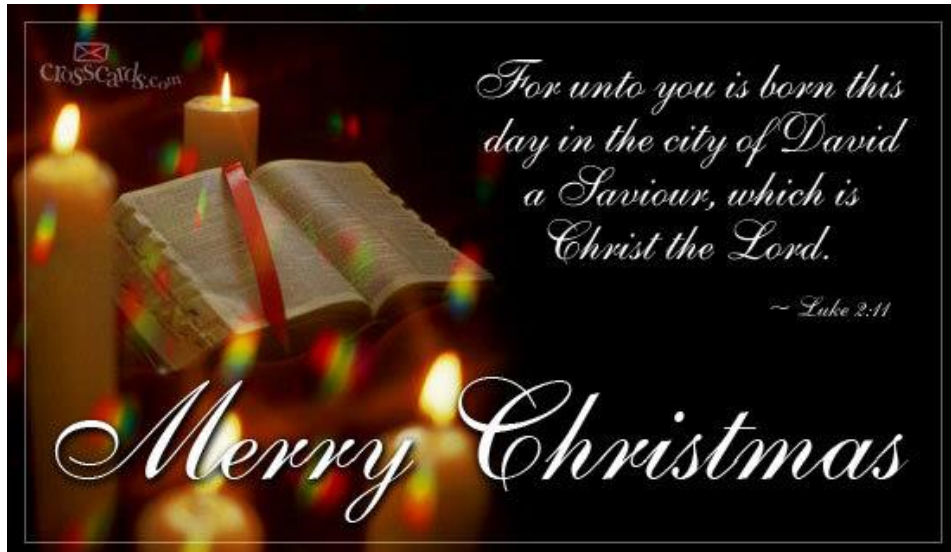
The Minister's Weekly Word...

If you were going to invent a religion you wouldn't invent Christianity. God does not come with force, or coercion, or any authority other than an invitation to see a deeper reality which is at the hidden heart of things. So much of our world relies upon the kinds of ways of being that God rejects.



Instead God gives us a vision in Jesus' birth of utter vulnerability and wonder-ful new life. We always want to appear strong and in control, yet Christmas, a time that can be as difficult for some people as it is joyful for others, reminds us we don't need to adhere to preconceived notions of what the world regards as 'success' or says is 'important'. God loves us just as we are. And while we are to grow into the people who live in Jesus' way of love and peace, we never have to worry about earning God's favour with our 'good' lives. There is so much pressure around for people in different ways, especially at Christmas time. Maybe this Christmas is the time to let the pressure go, and let the baby in the manger remind us we don't need to play act. I'm guessing we might find greater peace and joy in life, if we could learn to live that way.

Blessings to you all and happy Christmas. Michael



Bowral/Kangaloon Uniting Church



"A church for all people..."

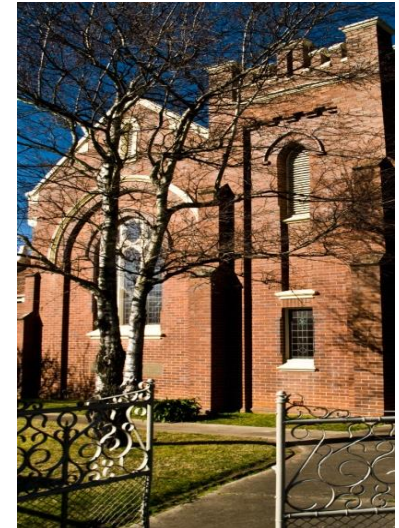
Sunday 25 December 2016 (Christmas Day)

Our ministry focus areas are:

*Worship & Discipleship
Children & Families
Seniors
Community engagement*

You are most welcome at worship today, particularly if you are a visitor or a new resident of the area.

We would love to get to know you, and help you feel at home. Please make yourself known. Join us for coffee after the service!



For matters concerning the life of the congregation, contact:
Reverend Michael Earl, on (mobile 0422 433 569).

**Office: 28 Bendooley Street
Telephone: (02) 4862 1350
Internet: bkuc.com.au**

Church Council Chairperson

Mrs Kathryn Searle 4872 1002

Church Council Secretary

Mrs Sharon Hoogland 4871 1583

Church Council Treasurer

Mr Bruce Tredinnick 4861 6990

Elders' Convenor

Mr Jim Layton 4862 4623

Readings:

Isaiah 62: 6-12; Psalm 97; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:(1-7), 8-20

A Hearing Loop is in place in the Church and Hall.
To access it, switch your hearing aid to the "T" position.
It is advisable not to sit right against the wall

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK?

Wednesday 28 December

12 noon – 1.30pm OPEN CHURCH
11.30pm Food & Fellowship in the Gallery... All welcome!

Saturday 30 December

11.45pm Bell Ringing for the New Year!

TODAY'S SERVICES 25 December (Christmas Day)

9.00am Service of Worship (Rev Michael Earl)

There is no Evening Fellowship today.

NEXT SUNDAY 1 January 2017 (Christmas 1)

9.00am Service of Worship (Rev Michael Earl)

6.00pm Evening Fellowship Time

Readings for next week: Is 63: 7-9; Psalm 148; Heb 2:10-18; Mt 2:13-23

ROSTER	THIS WEEK: 25 Dec	NEXT WEEK: 1 January
Organ	Gail Reid	Heather Tredinnick
PowerPoint	J & S Hoogland	Barry Roberts
Elder	Heather Fiala	Sandra House
Stewards	Denise Layton, Elaine Hills	Clive & Elaine Hills
Flowers	Denise Layton, Elaine Hills	Narelle Harwood, L Pattinson
Kids Church	At back of Church	At back of Church
Morning Tea	Volunteers Please	Keith & Sue Henshall



*Thank you to our wonderful volunteers!
If you would like to assist in any of our activities,
please see the Rosters on the Gallery Noticeboard*

2016 REGIONAL PLANNING DAY REPORT

There is a report from the Planning Day which has been accepted by the full Mission Council and the BUC Church Council.

This report is available if you wish to read it.
Please see Mission Council secretary, Kathy Searle.

Material for **WEEKLY NEWS** needs to be provided by noon each Wednesday to Rev Michael Earl or Sharon Hoogland, 48711583 or hooglandsj46@gmail.com.
Photos, information or notices promoting the work of the church for our **Website** (bkuc.com.au) should be sent to lucyear179@gmail.com

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

“To the people of the world: Christmas is not a time or a season but a state of mind. To cherish peace and good will, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas. If we think on these things, there will be born in us a Savior and over us will shine a star sending its gleam of hope to the world.” *Calvin Coolidge (1872-1933), US President in his Presidential message (December 25, 1927).*



*Don't Forget the **CHRISTMAS BOWL APPEAL** as you leave the Church this morning! Started by Rev Frank Byatt at his Christmas Table in Victoria nearly 70 years ago, it now reaches out (under the name "Act for Peace" for the National Council of Churches in Australia) to over a million people in need around the world each year. Please make a donation &/or take an envelope (at the door) as you leave.*

Minister's Diary...

-The Minister is on Annual holiday leave 9th to 30th January 2017

WORSHIP SERVICES AT BOWRAL IN JANUARY 2017

Sunday 8 Jan	9.00am	Rev Michael Earl
	6.00pm	Mr & Mrs Barry Roberts
Sunday 15 Jan	9.00am	Mrs Sandra House
	6.00pm	Rev Dr David Manton
Sunday 22 Jan	9.00am	Rev Elizabeth Walker
	6.00pm	Rev Dr David Manton
Wednesday 25 Jan	11.30am	Mid Week Communion Rev Kathryn Wyndham
Sunday 29 Jan	9.00am	Elders' Service

CAN YOU ASSIST?

"Young Christian couple looking for a granny flat to rent. Hoping to move in from February-July. Own 1 rabbit which lives outside in a small pen. Looking in the Southern Highlands/Sydney side of Goulburn area. Please contact Brittany on 0434 443 915"

*May the peace and hope of
Christ's birth
be with you now and in the days ahead...*