

News from the Minister...

As we are all aware the issue of Same Sex Marriage is currently very prominent in public conversations. It is an issue which touches people's lives, experience, and beliefs at a number of levels and as such strong feelings are regularly expressed in the exchanges. It is also an issue over which Christians have (and can) faithfully come to different views having prayerfully wrestled with the significant complexities present in the debate. In that sense it is a true test of the maturity of Christians (and the public in general) to be able to have a conversation respectfully and lovingly on a topic where there is significant divergence of opinion and the lived experience of people is open to public comment (a test we sadly sometimes fail). The Uniting Church has put out a statement which does not encourage its members to vote one way or another, but recognises the diversity of opinion within the church, while re-stating its current position which says that marriage is the, "freely given consent and commitment in public and before God of a man and a woman to live together for life." It also encourages all people to converse respectfully and graciously, giving particular heed to the experience of the LGBTIQ community. It is, I believe, incumbent on all of us to listen and learn from each other while maintaining grace with those who may think differently. Whatever stance one holds, I hope and pray we can all engage with love and thoughtfulness as the conversation proceeds. I believe that is what Jesus would have us do. You can read the full statement from the UCA at <https://assembly.uca.org.au/news/item/2693-marriage> and I am always available should anyone wish to speak more about any of the issues raised here.



Blessings Michael



Do we hear Prophets' voices today...?

Rev Michael Earl will preach a series in August/September called

'The Word of the Lord: Hearing the Voice of the Prophets Today'

Each Sunday will bring us the voices of Micah, Amos, Isaiah, Malachi, Jeremiah and Daniel.

Don't miss this little sojourn away from the set lectionary for a while!

Bowral Uniting Church

"A church for all people..."



Sunday 27 August 2017 (Pentecost 12)

Our ministry focus areas are:

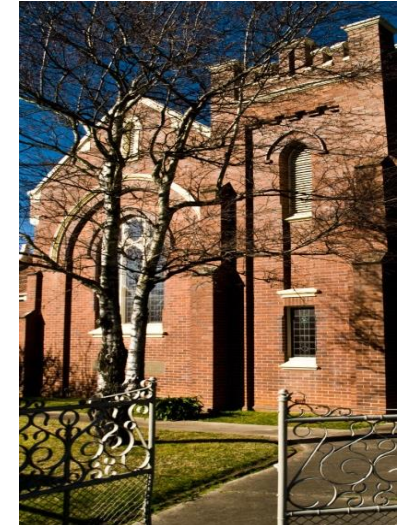
*Worship & Discipleship
Children & Families
Seniors
Community engagement*

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

Church Council Secretary

Mrs Sharon Hoogland 4871 1583

Church Council Treasurer

Mr. Bruce Tredinnick 4861 6990

Elders' Convenor

Mr Jim Layton 4862 4623

Readings:

Malachi 3: 1-7a Matthew 16: 13-20

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?

<u>Monday 28 August</u> 2.00pm Bible Study @ the Bunkers'	Meets at the Bunker's home 12 noon – 1.30pm OPEN CHURCH
<u>Tuesday 29 August</u> 9.30am Playgroup 9.30am Pieces & Yarns 7.00pm Bible Study @ Netta McKay's, Mittagong	12.30pm Food & Fellowship in the Gallery... All welcome! <u>Thursday 31 August</u> 10.30am UWISH meets in the Gallery Guest speaker: Barbara Towers – "Granny Science" <u>Don't miss it!</u>
7.30pm Bible Study @ the Dinning's, Mittagong 7.30pm Young Women's Bible Study @ Lucy Earl's	2.00pm Grey Gardeners meet at the Hoogland's to potter around... 3.30pm Kids Connect
<u>Wednesday 30 August</u> 10.00am Reflections Study Group	<u>Friday 1 September</u> 6.00pm Bell Ringing Practice

TODAY'S SERVICES 27 August 2017 (Pentecost 12)

9.00am Service of Worship (Rev Michael Earl) (*The Prophet Malachi*)
11.30am Uniting Families Connect (followed by lunch)
6.00pm Evening Fellowship Time

NEXT SUNDAY 3 September (Pentecost 13)

9.00am Service of Worship (Rev Michael Earl)
6.00pm Evening Worship Service

Readings Next Week:

Exodus 3: 1-15; Psalm 26: 1-8; Romans 12: 9-21; Matthew 16: 21 - 28

ROSTER	THIS WEEK: 27 August	NEXT WEEK: 3 Sept
Organ	Ann Clipsham	Heather Tredinnick
PowerPoint	Narelle Harwood	Barry Roberts
Elder	Barbara Towers	Ann Clipsham
Stewards	Barry/Ruth Roberts	Jon/Sharon Hoogland
Flowers	J Hamilton, J O'Reagan	Pam Wood, Nina Fergusson
Kids Church	11.30am Uniting Families Connect	Lucy Earl
Morning Tea	Lorraine R/Robyn S	Keith/Sue Henshall

Thank you to our wonderful volunteers!

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 lucyearl79@gmail.com

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Love all God's creation, the whole of it & every grain of sand in it. Love every leaf, every ray of God's light. Love the animals, love the plants, love everything. If you love everything, you will perceive the divine mystery in things. Once you have perceived it, you will begin to comprehend it better every day, & you will come at last to love the world with an all-embracing love.'

Fyodor Dostoevsky (1821-81) Russian Novelist

COMING EVENTS

Monday 4 September 5.30pm Rehearsals for Uniting Voices recommence
Thurs 7 September 7.00pm Good Neighbours meet in the Gallery
Thurs 14 September BUC Church Council Executive meets
Fri 15th & Sat 16th September BUC SPRING FAIR



SPRING FAIR IS IN 3 WEEKS!!!

BOOKS, CRAFT, PLANTS, BRIC A BRAC – WELCOME!

We can collect all donations!!

MANY VOLUNTEERS are required for the two days 8.00am – 3.00pm. Please put your name onto the Roster which is posted in the Gallery.

Spring Fair Flyers are available TODAY to notify groups you are involved in.

SAMARITAN'S PURSE SHOEBOXES are due for collection by the end of September! Please see Barbara Learmont.

It's Pantry Sunday again on 3rd September.

Food store is well stocked at present, so items such as deodorant (male and female), laundry powder/liquid, shampoo/conditioner and items for school lunches e.g. Juice poppers, fruit bars, Up & Go, muesli bars would be most welcome. Brooke at Anglicare thanks you for your support.



MITTAGONG NOTICES

SINGALONG Monday August 28th from 1.30pm. Come along and be entertained by Adrienne Bradney-Smith on Clarinet, Roma Dix on flute and Elizabeth Dalton on Horn. Afternoon tea provided. Large print songbooks. Gold coin donation. All welcome.

BIGGEST BBQ for Frontier Services... 12.00 Midday for 12.30 on Tuesday 19th September. Mittagong Uniting Church. Enquiries to Shonagh Moore 4871 1369 All welcome.