



NEWSLETTER

5 December – 11 December 2022

Revive
Restore
Reach Out

NRCC News and Notices

▪ Our Guest Preacher this Sunday is Cathy

Steve will be on annual leave until 11 December. **Cathy (11 Dec)** will be our guest preachers this week. For any pastoral needs, please contact Robyn (Pastoral Care Team Leader). Other church matters please contact Cathy (Church chairperson).



Join us for Retreat Yourself 2023!

We warmly invite **all young adults aged 18ish to 30** to come and join us for a weekend of community, worship, beach fun, great food, prayer, and sharing as we discuss **Courageous Discipleship**.

Who: Young Adults aged 18ish-30

When: 3-5 February 2023

Where: Chittick Lodge, Gerringong

Cost: \$200 early bird (expires 31/12/22);
\$240 full price

Registration: [Register here!](#)

Registrations close: Mon 24/01/23

This will be an amazing time that will set you up for a big year ahead, along with building great relationships with other Young Adults across the Synod. Expect big things and prepare to be challenged as we seek to grow closer to God as disciples of Jesus Christ.



NEW - (optional) RY23 LEADERSHIP DAY

The Synod leadership and PULSE are putting on a day of leadership conversation, community, and challenge from Thu 2 Feb (starting 7pm with dinner) through to about 5pm Fri 3 February.... right before RY23 kicks off proper!

Anyone is welcome to participate in this extra day - just select the text box when you register to say you are coming. Best part - IT'S FREE. No additional cost. 3 nights for the price of 2!

Community News and Notices

Are you looking for Christmas presents?

Our new gift guide is here! It's such a great opportunity to make a difference in the lives of people striving to overcome poverty and injustice.

You can champion the ethical gift-giving movement this Christmas by giving gifts that fight poverty and build hope.

These are gifts that won't be left collecting dust but will transform the lives of those who need them most!

Go to <https://everythingincommon.com.au/> to start shopping



▪ **Uniting Church Assembly and Synod News Links**

Uniting Church Assembly: <https://uniting.church/news/>

NSW & ACT Synod: <https://nswact.uca.org.au/communications/newsroom/>

▪ **Moderator's Flood Appeal to help devastated communities**

The Uniting Church NSW/ACT has launched a special appeal to help those communities devastated by record-breaking floods.

<https://nswact.uca.org.au/communications/newsroom/media-release-moderator-s-flood-appeal-to-help-devastated-communities/>

Reflection of the Week

When you read through Nehemiah's prayer following the dismal report of Jerusalem's vulnerability and shame, you can see that his heart was broken. But it wasn't the ruined walls that broke Nehemiah's heart. It wasn't the burned gates. It wasn't even the desolate temple. There was only one factor in this entire situation that wounded Nehemiah to the heart: God's name was disgraced. The pagans not only mocked God's people, but they mocked God Himself.

Nehemiah experienced agony at the thought of the holy name of Yahweh being ridiculed by the pagans. So he went to his knees, and he prayed the threefold prayer in Nehemiah 1.

First, Nehemiah began his prayer with praise (Nehemiah 1:5) When we pray, we must acknowledge that we stand before an awesome God who deserves our deepest reverence and respect. Because of Jesus, we can come to Him boldly—but not arrogantly. If we want God to hear our prayers, then we must approach Him prayerfully, not pridefully. Our prayers will have no power until we learn to praise Him and recognize our complete dependence on Him.

Second, he persisted in prayer (Nehemiah 1:1, 1:4, 2:1). Nehemiah was a prayer warrior—he prayed, fasted, wept, and sought God's will for four months from the time he received the report about

Jerusalem. Why? Was God reluctant to bless Nehemiah? No, God is eager to bless us, but His chosen means of distributing His blessings is through the power of prayer. Through prayer, God is able to perform miracles in and through us, but we must be willing to do what He wants, the way He wants it done. So while Nehemiah persisted in prayer, God was preparing him for battle

Third, through prayer, he prepared himself to do whatever God asked him to do (Nehemiah 1:11). In prayer, Nehemiah identified himself as God's humble servant, and he asked God to give success to him as His servant, going about His business. You see, prayer is not an excuse for doing nothing. Prayer does not absolve us of the responsibility to act. When we pray, we are reporting for duty. We must be ready to surrender, to sacrifice, and to serve.

Nehemiah understood the simple equation: one + prayer = great power. One individual plus God is a majority in every situation. Are you ready to see the power of God work in and through you? Then watch out! As you pray, great power is coming.

Prayer: Lord, thank You for the example of Nehemiah's prayer. May I humble myself before You, remembering that everything I have comes from You. Give me the humility and thankfulness to respond to Your call with "Here I am; send me!" I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

"Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name" (Nehemiah 1:11).

E - give (Direct Electronic Giving)

Account Name: North Rocks Community Church
(BSB): 634634 **Account Number:** 100025906

Prayers

If you have any prayer requests or would like to know of those with particular pastoral needs to pray for, please contact Robyn, Steve or Pastoral Care Team.
Robyn: 0424791916

Ministry Leaders

Minister: Rev. Steve Lee / minister@northrocks.org.au / 0433 698 690

Church Council

Chairperson: Cathy Nelson

Secretary: Sue Vasilevska

Treasurer: Anne Crabb

Team Leaders

Worship: Steve Lee Discipleship: Alex Chow Pastoral Care: Robyn Pike Fellowship: Sue Vasilevska

Intergen: Cathy Nelson Mission: Steve Turner

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Uniting Church in Australia <https://uniting.church/>

NSW & ACT Synod <https://nswact.uca.org.au/>

Parramatta Nepean Presbytery <https://parramattanepean.uca.org.au/>