



# NEWSLETTER

12 December – 18 December 2022

Revive  
Restore  
Reach Out

## NRCC News and Notices



Please come and invite your family and friends to a great time of joy, fun, fellowship on Christmas Eve and also a time of bringing our heartfelt thanks and praises for the birth of Christ Child on Christmas Day. The Korean church is going to join us for both services.

## Community News and Notices

### 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!

### **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**

Our culture most certainly recognizes Christmas as the season of giving. Believers and unbelievers alike see it as a time of gifting, celebrating, and gathering with friends and family—a time when we overload our schedules with events and obligations, when we make lists and worry about the right gift or about having to get another gift. In the midst of all the bustle, for many, it's also a time of depression, loneliness, despondency, and discouragement. Why? Because we buy into the message of our secular,

commercialized culture that turns Christmas into a carnival—a time of superficial indulgence—rather than the deeply satisfying, soul-awakening celebration it truly is.

The holy God, who is from everlasting to everlasting (see Psalm 90:2), who does not need anything from us, not praise nor love nor sacrifices (see Acts 17:24-25), created the universe from the outpouring of His love, which has existed from eternity between Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He made us to enjoy Him—to partake of His divine love and enjoy abundant life in His presence. And when, in the Garden of Eden, humanity rejected Him—God was yet faithful, promising a Savior to redeem mankind to Himself. Christmas is the celebration of the fulfillment of this incredible promise of grace and love. Jesus, God the Son, emptied Himself and was born as a baby to die on a cross to give you His glory forever (see John 17:22). Let us celebrate.

*Prayer: Father, thank You that though I and all humanity rejected You, You pursued us out of Your love. There is no love like Yours. I am in awe that the holy God would come for me. Help me worship You in this season and more deeply celebrate the wonder of Christmas, when God came down. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.*

**"And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else" (Acts 17:25).**

### **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](mailto: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   Sustainability: Bill Vasilevski

## **North Rocks Community Church**

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Facebook: North Rocks Community Church

Email: [enquiry@northrocks.org.au](mailto:enquiry@northrocks.org.au)

Phone: (02) 9683 2586

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

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

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