



NEWSLETTER

24 - 30 July 2023

Revive
Restore
Reach Out

NRCC News and Notices

▪ Guest Preachers

Steve is on leave until July 30. We are fortunate to have Rev Je-Kon Oh preaching this Sunday.

▪ BUPA Nursing Home Monthly Service

We are looking for volunteers who are interested in joining the monthly service for the residents and the staff at BUPA North Rocks. Our first visit has been planned for Saturday August 5 from 10am. Please contact Steve L or Cathy for more information.

▪ Men's BASECAMP at Katoomba

An annual event for men to renew their strength in Christ. 2023 Theme, "Unravelling Our Emotions". 11–12 August 2023. Katoomba Convention Centre.

Please contact Alex or Mike for more information

▪ North Rocks Public School Fete

NRPS are holding a fete on August 26, 10am-4pm. We have been asked to assist on one of the stalls. Steve T will be organising a roster. Please speak to him for more details or if you would like to help out on the day.

▪ Trivia Night

We are planning to hold a Trivia Night on September 9. If you are interested in helping to plan the night please contact Sue V.

▪ News from Mike and Jacky

The *For Freedom* team invites you to our next Zoom Prayer meeting on 1 August. This time we'll be focussing our prayers to support those we serve in the *For Freedom* network. We'll hear about and pray for:

- SIM and partner ministries focused on serving people impacted by trafficking
- Current opportunities and challenges
- *For Freedom's* involvement in global anti-trafficking efforts

***For Freedom* Prayer Zoom Registration – please register for one of the two time options below that suit you best (you can check your time zone at www.worldtimebuddy.com)**

When: 1 August 2023, 08:30 AM Universal Time UTC

Register in advance for this meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0pd-urqT8oHtfcMMTOuZXUyOc0svBRShGo>

When: 1 August 2023, 10:30 PM Universal Time UTC

Register in advance for this meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYkc-yvqjltGNYTUtLvzGyA0Sqr6xpNHhTt>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Dates for your diary

▪ CC and the ministry team leaders have discerned together and put the dates of the events/activities for this year on our church calendar. Please feel free to contact any of the leaders if you feel led to participate or want to share your thoughts and ideas.

NRCC 2023 Calendar

July			Aug		
			11-12	Men's BASECAMP	Alex, Mike
			26	NRPS Fete	Steve T
Sept			Oct		
9	Trivia Night	Sue	15	Potluck Lunch	Sue
23	Fair Trade Markets	Jacky	28	NRCC Spiritual Retreat	
Nov			Dec		
			3	Advent	
			25	Christmas	

Community News and Notices

▪ 'Winter Classics' Fundraising Concert for Parramatta Mission

When: Sunday 30 August @2.30pm

Where: Leigh Memorial Uniting Church, Parramatta.

For more information please click [here](#)...

▪ **West Epping Uniting Church** are looking for a new Office Administrator starting 1st August. If you are interested in finding out more information, please click [here](#).

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

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

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

Reflection of the Week

Read Luke 13:1-9.

In Jesus' time it was commonly taught that suffering is always judgment. For example, when Jesus' disciples encountered a man born blind, they asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" (John 9:2). And Jesus took time to correct this false understanding of God's Word. Truly, He offered a wake-up call—offensive to those who believed they had no need to repent.

But before we turn to Jesus' correction, let's be reminded of the ways God uses our suffering in this world for our good.

First, suffering helps to purify God's children. Just as fire cleanses that which is pure and valuable, so too are we purified by times of suffering. God allows us to walk through seasons of suffering to produce within us perseverance, character, and hope (see Romans 5:3-4).

Second, suffering brings us closer to God. Paul endured that which was "far beyond [his] ability to endure" by relying on God (2 Corinthians 1:8-9). God is with us, strengthening us and comforting us.

Third, suffering empowers us to have compassion on others who suffer. As God comforts us in suffering, we are equipped to then comfort others (see 2 Corinthians 1:4).

Finally, suffering prepares us to bear more fruit. When we have that peace that transcends understanding in situations the world says should crush us, it bears witness to the eternal hope we have in our sovereign, faithful God. So don't waste your affliction. Let it polish your testimony.

The crowd that had gathered to listen to Jesus beginning in Luke 11 had no such understanding of suffering. And goaded by Jesus' hard teaching, they tried to highlight their righteousness by bringing up two recent disasters—deadly disasters that, in their eyes, were clear indications that those who suffered had been deserving of such horrific pain (see Luke 13:1-5). The crowd wanted Jesus to affirm their belief system and their piety. But His response took them all by surprise.

Jesus made it clear that those who died were not worse sinners than those who survived. He assured the crowd (and us) that we are living on borrowed time; we all need to repent. It is only because of His astounding love that God allows sinners to live. He is patient because He longs for us to respond to His merciful invitation to receive salvation through His Son. All tragedies are loving warnings to turn to the Lord and escape the righteous judgment that is coming.

Prayer: Father, thank You for Your patience with me. Thank You that You have called me out of darkness and brought me into the Kingdom of light. Help me to see seasons of suffering as opportunities to draw near to You and point others to the hope of glory through Jesus Christ. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

"Jesus answered, 'Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way?'" (Luke 13:2)

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

North Rocks Community Church

132-136 North Rocks Rd, North Rocks. NSW 2151

<https://northrocks.uca.org.au>

Facebook: North Rocks Community Church

Email: 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/>