



# NEWSLETTER

27 November – 3 December 2023

**R**evive  
**R**estore  
**R**each Out

## NRCC News and Notices

### Advent 1: HOPE

#### Meeting with Presbytery

**This Sunday we will be meeting from 9-11am** Geoff Stevenson is joining us for our second Mission Planning Consultation.

#### ▪ Advent Studies by Rev Dr Chris Walker

If you are looking for a resource for a Bible study group or for private reflection this has been recommended by presbytery.

Chris Walker has written three Advent studies over the past three years covering each of the readings in the three year lectionary. This coming Advent begins Year B of the lectionary. The Coming of Jesus Christ: past, present and future -4 studies on hope (B)

Each study covers the biblical readings but also has a quote, a story and reference to a hymn/song and prayers. There are questions for consideration or discussion.

The studies can be readily found on the MediaCom Education website:

[www.mediacomeducation.org.au](http://www.mediacomeducation.org.au) Click on Shop then Advent studies.ill be leading us in our Mission Planning / discernment process - the questions below will form the heart of our conversation and worship on Sunday .

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## 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

Nov		
19	Congregation discussion	Presbytery
Dec		
3	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent	
3	Congregation discussion	Presbytery
10	Potluck Lunch          POSTPONED	Sue
24	Christmas Eve	
25	Christmas	

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## Community News and Notices

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

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

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

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## Reflection of the Week

God wants to see our whole being involved in sacrificing for Him. "To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices" (Mark 12:33). Sometimes we think half-heartedly donating our money or time will "appease" God, but God would rather have our genuine love than empty offerings. When we wholeheartedly love God, we will joyfully desire to give back to Him.

But first we must be fully transformed. We can easily fall into the trappings of this world and give in to the desire to fit in and to be accepted by others, building a large social network rather than developing intimacy with God. Or we may fear being different to the point that we compromise our beliefs. But we must stop conforming to this world—and start transforming our minds for we are new creatures in Christ.

How do we know when we've been transformed? When we see our coworkers lie and cheat to get ahead, we maintain integrity—even if it costs us promotions. When our friends depend on alcohol to help them relax and to cope with life, we are filled with the Spirit of God. When our nation struggles with anxiety, worry, and fear, we experience the joy of the Lord. When the world is pressed with wars and disasters, we have peace that the multitudes cannot understand.

The transformation process is not easy—it demands daily study of God's Word and time spent in prayer. We must hide His Word in our hearts and constantly draw on the power of the Holy Spirit.

*Prayer: Father, help me to be transformed so that I can genuinely and completely give myself to You. Help me to spend time in Your Word and in prayer. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.*

**"Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure" (1 John 3:2-3).**

### **E-give** (Anonymous 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, or Pastoral Care Team.  
Robyn: 0424791916

## **Ministry Leaders**

### **Church Council**

Chairperson: Cathy Nelson

Secretary: Steve Turner

Treasurer: Anne Crabb

### **Team Leaders**

Worship: Cathy Nelson   Discipleship: Alex Chow   Pastoral Care: Robyn Pike   Fellowship: Sue Vasilevska

Intergen: Cathy Nelson   Mission: Steve Turner

## **North Rocks Community Church**

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

Facebook: North Rocks Community Church

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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/>