



NEWSLETTER

21 - 27 October 2024



Worship Services Sundays 9am

Survey from Church Council

Church council has reviewed the draft church profile and is looking for some input from the congregation for some of the questions. This week you will receive a survey which we would like you to fill out. Responses can be handed in at church by November 3.

Term 4 Roster

The roster will be sent out this week. If you need to change your rostered date, please swap with someone and email the church office so that information is sent to the correct people.

Update from Church Council

- At our meeting we spent time looking over the draft church profile. A survey has been prepared for the congregation. We ask that you submit your responses by November 3. Church council will then meet for an extra meeting to complete the final draft of the profile to be shared with the congregation.
- Church Council discussed some feedback we received from Geoff Stevenson. We recommended that we invite Geoff to come to talk to church council in more detail about this as we are not able to answer some of the questions asked.
- Deborah will be taking leave November 4 - 10 and December 2 - 8.

Dates for your Diary

Craft Group @ 10 am-noon Fridays

Bring along your latest craft project and join us for morning tea and a chat. 10am each Friday in the church.

NRCC 2024 Calendar

Oct	
25	Craft Group
26	Fellowship walk at Parramatta Park
30	Zoom Prayer Meeting
Nov	
3	Survey forms due back
Dec	
1	Advent

Community News and Notices

Uniting Church Assembly and Synod New Links

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

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

Reflection of the Week

Are you hurting today? Maybe you are struggling with physical pain, such as a headache, an illness, or a disease. Or maybe you are experiencing the emotional pain of disappointment, depression, or hurt feelings. Or perhaps you are hurting spiritually from bitterness, unconfessed sin, or a broken spirit. If you are hurting today, then seek the help of Jehovah-Rapha, the Great Physician.

In Exodus 15:26, God introduces His name as Jehovah-Rapha, "who heals you." The word rapha means "to heal, to cure, to restore." God does not promise to heal us only in an isolated instance of illness or need. Rather, God says He is healing. By calling Himself Jehovah-Rapha, He is saying, "Healing is what I am."

Jehovah-Rapha is our wholeness. We see this Truth echoed in the New Testament every time Jesus says to a person, "Be made whole." Wholeness is God's desire for us. No disease—nothing that causes us pain or suffering—can withstand the healing touch of Jesus. As Christians, we experience wholeness even in death as we spend eternity with Him.

Jehovah-Rapha is our restorer. He is our healer not only of physical illness but also of the hurts in our hearts and souls. When we are emotionally overwhelmed, depressed, anxious, grieving, or distressed, God is there for us. Only God can repair a broken heart. Only God can purify an unclean soul. Only God can set us free from addiction. Only God can heal us of sin. The Scriptures tell us, "[Jesus] himself bore our sins' in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; 'by his wounds you have been healed'" (1 Peter 2:24).

Prayer: Father, thank You for being Jehovah-Rapha. You are the God who heals me. I thank You for Your healing power in my life now and for eternity. May no area of my life be kept from Your healing touch. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

"Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, . . . he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed" (Isaiah 53:4-5).

Prayers for this Week

For Our Church:

- Pray that God may give us the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so we may know Him better and that the eyes of our hearts may be enlightened to know the hope to which He has called us.
- Pray for the preachers, service leaders, music team, sound team, and the many other serving hands involved in the service.
- Pray for our congregation as we look to God for direction in the future. Ask God to give us clear guidance, unity, and faith as we figure out where He is leading us in our ministry, outreach, and impact on the community.
- Pray for healing and restoration for those in need. Also, pray for year 12 students as they sit their HSC exams.

For the Wider Church:

- Pray for pastors, leaders, and church members who are feeling tired or struggling with mental health issues. Ask God to bring healing, support, and open conversations about mental health in the church.
- Pray for the young generation, that they stay strong in their faith and feel excited to live out God's plan for them, even in a changing world. Ask God to bring wise mentors and leaders to guide them.
- Pray for persecuted Christians in the Middle East, particularly in Syria and Iraq, asking for strength, protection, and encouragement in their faith amid ongoing violence and displacement.

- Pray for the Parramatta Nepean Presbytery and the churches without ministers, asking for guidance, provision, and effective leadership during this time. Pray for the right individuals to be called to these congregations and for strength and unity within the churches as they continue their mission and service.

For Australia:

- Pray for small business owners across Australia who are facing higher costs and financial struggles. Ask God to provide creative solutions and government help so they can succeed.
- Pray for economic relief for those struggling to make ends meet and for wisdom in policymaking that addresses these challenges.
- Pray for wisdom and new ideas as Australia works on renewable energy projects. Ask God to bless efforts to care for the environment and future generations.
- Pray for those who feel lonely, especially in rural areas or older people. Ask God to bring community programs that help people connect and reduce loneliness in Australia.

For the World:

- Pray for world leaders to govern with wisdom, fairness, and kindness, and to find ways to promote cooperation and peace among nations.
- Pray for world leaders, scientists, and experts to work together as artificial intelligence grows quickly. Ask that AI is used in ways that help people and doesn't cause harm.
- Pray for artists, musicians, writers, and creators who shape our culture. Pray that God will inspire them to reflect His love and light in their creations.
- Pray for efforts around the world to stop human trafficking and modern-day slavery. Ask that those who are trapped are set free and helped to heal. Pray for the people and groups working to protect human rights and give them strength and wisdom.

Prayers

[E - give \(Anonymous Direct Electronic Giving\)](#)

Account Name: North Rocks CC - Giving
(BSB): 634634 **Account Number:** 100025906

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: 0424 791 916

Ministry Leaders

Supply Minister: Rev. Deborah Yun / 0424 922 312 / revdeborahyun@gmail.com

Church Council

Chairperson: Cathy Nelson Secretary: Samson Leung Treasurer: Anne Crabb
 Alex Chow, Nicole Critchley, Jenny Keyte

