



NEWSLETTER

13 – 19 January 2025

Revive
Restore
Reach Out

Sunday Worship 9am

Guest Preachers

This Sunday Jacky & Mike will be giving us an update of their mission work and Mike will be preaching.

On January 26 we will be joined by Rev Geoff Stevenson.

Games Night

The next games night will be held on Friday 24 January from 7.30pm.

News from Sandra & Bill Callister

Please click [here](#) for the latest newsletter from Sandra & Bill Callister

NORTH ROCKS RD UPDATE -- Jan, Feb 2025

Mon 20th Jan to Thu 23rd Jan: Night roadworks 8pm to 5am, some lane closures and delays, two way traffic except on Wed 22nd when there may be alternating one way traffic. Buses run as usual.

Weekend Fri 7th Feb 9pm to Mon 10th 5am: COMPLETE CLOSURE of North Rocks Road except for buses still running.

The suggested detour for those normally coming up from (or down to) the bottom end of North Rocks Rd is via James Ruse Rd, Pennant Hills Rd, Bettington Rd/Statham Ave to the top end of North Rocks Rd and then down to the Church (or the reverse). This detour is about 7km and you should allow an extra 15 minutes drive time on Sunday morning, and more at other times.

Access to and from Woolworths car park will only be from the North.

Dates for your Diary

Craft Group @ 10 am-noon Fridays will resume on 7 February

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

Jan	
19	Guest preachers: Jacky & Mike Hammond
24	Games Night 7.30pm
26	Guest Preacher: Rev Geoff Stevenson
29	Zoom Prayer Meeting
Feb	
7	Craft Group
11	Church Council Meeting

Community News and Notices

For Freedom Global Prayer Gathering 1: 18 February 2025 07:30 AM UTC (18 Feb at 6:30pm in Sydney)

Register for this meeting on the link below. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlqcuChqzotGdNYsucl_8Xo2JTRz8oMdfOw

For Freedom Global Prayer Gathering 2: 18 February 2025 09:30 PM UTC (19 Feb at 8:30am in Sydney)

Register for this meeting on the link below. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0ucOmoqDloHN3hvKpWgHz1HxnLYGiMYWag>

Uniting Church Assembly and Synod News Links

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

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

Reflection of the Week

The ancient Romans called the first month of the year January, naming it after the Roman god Janus. You see, Janus has two faces. One face looks back at the past year, and this face is filled with sorrow and dismay and perplexity; the other face looks forward to the new year with hope and cheer and confidence. This cycle repeats year in and year out, with the new year becoming the old and optimism turning to despair.

On New Year's Eve, you can feel the excitement in the air. It's almost electric. But as those two faces of Janus reveal, it's short-lived. A funny thing happens a couple weeks into January: People begin to realize that the problems they had last year followed them. Whatever catharsis they

received from saying goodbye to the old year and ringing in the new one has faded away.

However, we who love Jesus Christ don't have to tie our hope to a new year, nor do we have to wallow in grief when that new year disappoints. That's because the God we serve is the same "yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8). He is the God who overrules our past sins and forgives our trespasses. He rules over the present, and He also guarantees our future.

Because this is true, it doesn't matter what date it is. Whether it's January 1 or December 31 or any day in between, we can spend every day thanking and praising the Lord for each circumstance that comes our way. We are free to praise God and thank Him for the ups and downs of life. We can worship and be grateful on good days and bad. We can bless the Lord for the joys and for the sorrows. Why? Because God's promises to us are as sure as God Himself.

Here's one of the greatest promises in the Bible: God says to us, His children, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5). This promise was for last year. This promise is for this year. This promise is for all our future years, whether we are here on earth or with Him in eternal glory. Whatever the future brings, those of us who love God and follow His Son can have peace and confidence, for our God will never leave us.

Prayer: Father, I praise You for the promise of Your enduring presence. What a gift to have the Lord of all on my side, orchestrating all things for my good. I give You all the glory for the peace and hope I have in You. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

"Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, 'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you'" (Hebrews 13:5).

Prayer Points for This Week

For Our Church:

- Pray for spiritual growth this new year, for healing, and for encouragement to share the good news, with each other and those in our wider community.
- Pray for those serving in our church, for compassion, wisdom and guidance.
- Pray for our church leaders, for wisdom in their decisions, unity in their vision, and care for our church's well-being.
- Pray for healing and restoration for those in need.
- Pray for those mourning lost loved ones.

For the Wider Church:

- Pray for revival, that churches become centres of spiritual renewal, bringing transformation to their communities.
- Pray for churches without ministers in the UCA, asking for guidance, provision, and effective leadership during this time.

- Pray for strength and wisdom for mission organizations and missionaries as they share the Gospel across nations.

For Australia:

- Pray for those facing financial hardships and sorrow. May God's love surround them and bring them comfort and renewed hope.
- Pray for political leaders to govern with wisdom, integrity, and compassion, especially when shaping policies that impact vulnerable communities.
- Pray for churches and Christian organizations to effectively share God's love and bring hope to communities across the nation.
- Pray for effective efforts focused on the prevention, treatment, and support of those affected by substance abuse.

For the World:

- Pray for world leaders, that they govern with wisdom, justice, and compassion.
- Pray for international cooperation, that wealthier nations respond generously to humanitarian needs and support sustainable solutions to poverty and food insecurity.
- Pray for peace in conflict areas like Ukraine and Israel, and for leaders to find effective solutions to these tensions.
- Pray for compassion and effective support for migrants and refugees, that their needs may be met and that they find safety and hope.
- Pray for the just and consistent application of anti-trafficking legislation in countries around the world.

E - give (Anonymous Direct Electronic Giving)

Account Name: North Rocks CC - Giving
(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: 0424 791 916

Ministry Leaders

Church Council

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