



NEWSLETTER

20 - 26 January 2025

Revive
Restore
Reach Out

Sunday Worship 9am

Guest Preachers

This Sunday we will be joined by Rev Geoff Stevenson. There will also be some discussion about what we might expect this year with a new supply / interim minister.

Games Night

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

NORTH ROCKS RD UPDATE -- Jan, Feb 2025

Monday 20th January sees the start of major disruptions to, and some closures of North Rocks Rd between Church St/Windsor Rd and the Woolworths traffic lights for **over a year** as the Hunts Creek Bridge is reconstructed. We will keep you up to date with the details as they come to hand. If you wish to keep up to date yourself, then see the official site at [Hunts Creek Bridge | City of Parramatta](#)

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	
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

Today, loneliness is an epidemic in our culture. How I long for the lonely to know and trust in the one who promised, "Never will I leave you, never will I forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5).

Do you realize that as New Testament Christians, we have something our Old Testament counterparts could only dream of? When someone today puts their faith in Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit comes to live inside them. God Himself takes up residence within the believer. Of course, before Christ, the Holy Spirit came upon certain individuals—Moses, Samson, and David, to name a few—but He came only for a particular task or assignment, not to stay. Things are different now. Because of Jesus, we have the presence of God's Spirit with us, day in and day out.

We may grieve the Holy Spirit from time to time (see Ephesians 4:30); we may even quench Him (see 1 Thessalonians 5:19). But He's never going to leave us or abandon us. On the day of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit of God came to dwell on the earth in every believer, He came to stay. That means that if you have the Holy Spirit, you are never alone. You have a constant companion and the most loyal of friends. And the Holy Spirit is not just any friend; He is the very breath of God, the Spirit of the living God come to earth to do God's will in and through you.

Moreover, through the Holy Spirit, we are connected to God the Father and God the Son (see John 14:16-17, 23). This is why Jesus could promise to be with us "to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:20). And contrary to what some people may think, Jesus isn't some genie or good-luck charm we take with us on the journey for when things get rough. Instead, He is the most loyal, gracious, and precious friend you could ever have. He is closer to you than your own hands or feet—and He loves you so much He willingly laid down His life for you. Proverbs tells us, "There is a friend who sticks closer than a brother" (18:24). Make no mistake about it: Jesus is that friend.

So, as you step into this new year, remember: You are not alone. The Lord is always with you. He is your constant companion; He is the lover of your soul, and He will never abandon you.

Prayer: Holy Spirit, thank You for coming into my heart to guide and renew me day by day. I know I am never alone because I am a temple of the Spirit of God. What a wondrous gift! Help me to draw on You every day to live for Christ. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

"One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother" (Proverbs 18:24).

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