



ROSEVILLE UNITING CHURCH

“Sharing the love & welcome of Jesus”



roseville.unitingchurch.org.au



@530worship



@rosevilleuniting

‘Community of Christ’– this is how we identify ourselves as we sing one of our hymns. (473)

Community of Christ, look past the church’s door...

Community of Christ, through whom the word must sound...

Recently our Wednesday Small Group considered what it means to be a Community of Christ. We looked beyond human communities and saw how coral reefs, for example, “are complex and diverse biological communities” where survival depends on interaction and mutual dependence.

Is this so of human communities in all their diversity? There are on-line communities, ‘closed’ communities, crowds – people coming together locally, across the nation and across the world where survival, interaction and mutual dependence challenge us daily.

There are underlying issues here which come close to all of us: loneliness, even at times in a group, is an issue for people of all ages, and finding hope in our personal and wider world is something we long for. So, what is the essence of a particular community where no-one need be lonely, and where hope for ourselves – and for others – becomes tangible? Are these marks of a community of Christ?

How then, would we describe our Roseville Uniting Church Community – our ‘Community of Christ’? ‘Welcoming’ was our first, quick response - affirmed in the handout at the welcoming table in the foyer. Headed ‘Everyone is Welcome’, some of our ‘several inclusive community gatherings’ are there.

‘Overarching’ was another of our several descriptors, recognising that our many groups of workers and carers are small communities in themselves, but each a vital part of our whole church community, enabling us to be an ‘invitational’ community reaching out to others.

But is what we ‘do’ - the whole story? What of those times when we are asked ‘why’? According to Peter, the apostle, we need to be prepared to speak, to find words for the faith that is ours. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect....(1Peter3:15-16)

The words of the hymn continue:

our currency be love, and kindness our law,
our food and faith be shared as one, for evermore.

Margot

Sunday September 29th

<https://roseville.unitingchurch.org.au/livestream>

9.30am **Worship Service with Chris Goringe**
In person and online...

5.30pm **Worship Service at Turramurra UC**
Meet at Roseville at 5.30 if you need a lift, 6.00pm at Turramurra.

Bible Readings from the Lectionary:

Esther 7: 1-6, 9-10, 9: 20-22
Psalm 124
James 5: 13-20
Mark 8: 38-50

What’s on this week...

Fri: Christian Meditation 2.30pm

Sunday October 6th

<https://roseville.unitingchurch.org.au/livestream>

9.30am **Worship Service with Holy Communion with Jan Reeve**
In person and online...

5.30pm **Worship Service—Q&A Panel**
In person and online...

Bible Readings from the Lectionary:

Job 1:1 2: 1-10
Psalm 26
Hebrews 1: 1-4, 2: 5-12
Mark 10: 2-16

Links

[Service live \(or replay\) streaming](#)

[Zoom \(for meetings\)](#)

[Church website](#)

[Chris’ sermons](#)

Week of Prayer for Peace in the Middle East

September 24, 2024

The President of the Uniting Church in Australia Rev Charissa Suli has called the national Uniting Church to a **Week of Prayer for Peace in the Middle East** from **29 September - 5 October**.

The call comes after Israel launched hundreds of airstrikes in southern and eastern Lebanon yesterday, in an eruption of what have been simmering cross-border tensions between Israel and Hezbollah. The strikes killed at least 492 people including 35 children. More than 1,600 others have been injured and tens of thousands have fled their homes.

In a [pastoral statement](#) released today, the President lamented the escalation of violence in the region and urged the Uniting Church to stand in prayer and solidarity with the people of the Middle East and with diaspora communities.

"This ongoing conflict continues to cause immense suffering and loss on all sides," she writes.

"As we grapple with this news, we are reminded of the deep connections we have within our Uniting Church family."

"In the past 24 hours I have heard from people in our community grieving for their family, friends, and loved ones back in Lebanon. We hold them in our prayers, standing in solidarity as they process pain and uncertainty."

"In these troubled times, we turn to the Word of God for peace and hope. This peace, a gift from Christ, transcends the fear and violence that so often consumes our world. Let us hold fast to this promise, even in the darkest moments."

The pastoral statement and call to prayer will be sent to congregations, communities, councils and agencies of the Uniting Church.

"I invite every congregation, agency, faith community, school, family, and member within the Uniting Church to join in a Week of Prayer for Peace in the Middle East from 29 September to 5 October 2024"

The letter offers a theme and a short prayer for each day of the week, written by the President, which communities can use to guide and shape their own engagement in this time of prayer. Social media tiles for sharing the daily prayers are now available.

You might like to also use [the prayer on this page](#), written last week by the President for the World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel.

The letter also invites leaders of other faiths, Christian churches and ecumenical bodies to join in praying for peace. Uniting Church communities are encouraged to consider how they might pray together with other churches local to them.

In March, the Assembly Standing Committee [called upon members of the Uniting Church](#) to pray for, listen to, and promote the voices of those who are suffering in the region, to participate in events and actions in support of a just peace, and to consider donating where possible. Your community might like to explore one of these in support of this Week.

President Rev Charissa Suli will launch the Week of Prayer, live on the [Assembly's Facebook page](#), on Sunday 29 September at a time to be confirmed.

ROSEVILLE

Asylum Seeker and Refugee Support Group

Thank you to everyone who helped us welcome Murad's family. His face says it all. His children's English was fantastic. Great news! He was very excited to show the family our hamper.

Gwyn



Thanks to all who contributed to the cake stall on Election Day. We raised \$550.

Maz

eSoc Walk Saturday 12th October

Note the change of date! Meet at Roseville Station at 10.00am, train to Auburn and then Cabramatta. After a good look around the shops and food stalls we will have lunch at one of the fine Vietnamese restaurants.. Feel free to invite friends. Let Maz know by Thursday 10th if you are able to join us.

Maz: 0432 115 744

Church Council Vision Planning Meeting

Our first Vision Planning Meeting is set for Saturday 19th October, 2024, 9am to 12noon. Rev Martin Levine, Presbytery Minister Growth and Mission, will lead this meeting which is open for anyone to attend, especially leaders.

The results of the questionnaire which we have completed as part of a Life and Witness Consultation for Roseville Uniting conducted by the Sydney Central Coast Presbytery, will be used to assist in setting a vision for our church and planning our future path.

If you are planning to attend, please RSVP by email to paulineacallan@gmail.com.

Join us in prayer....

Gracious and loving God,
You are the source of all peace, justice, and reconciliation.

We lift before you the people of Palestine and Israel, whose lives are torn apart by conflict and division. For those who mourn the loss of loved ones, for those who live in fear, and for those who long for freedom, we ask for your comfort and healing. May your spirit of peace rest upon the children who cry out in fear, the families displaced from their homes, and the communities struggling under the weight of violence.

Guide the hands and hearts of leaders to seek justice and mercy.

Open the eyes of the world to the suffering in the Holy Land,

so that we may respond with compassion and action.

Lord, we pray for an end to violence,

an end to oppression,

and an end to the cycles of revenge and hatred.

In your mercy, soften the hearts of those in power, that they may seek paths of reconciliation and hope.

May your kingdom come, and your will be done, in this land and across the world.

Help us, your church, to be instruments of your peace.

Strengthen our resolve to work tirelessly for justice

and to speak out for those whose voices are silenced.

In all things, may we remember that what we do for the least of these,

we do for you.

In Christ's name, the Prince of Peace, we pray. Amen.

Rev. Charissa Suli

Combined Churches Picnic

Back for 2024

October 13th

11:30 – 2:30

Pymble Ladies College



Transport can be arranged. Contact Cath in the office
-9416 5185



Roseville Ministry Contacts

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