



21 JULY 2024

Welcome

Welcome to church this morning, we hope you enjoy being with us.

A special welcome to Michelle Burns from Holroyd Christian Ministers' Fellowship who will be speaking to us about what is happening with Special Religious Education (SRE) in our local area.

Guest Preacher next Sunday

Next week Rev. Ben Gilmour, the Director of the Vital Leadership Team, NSW/Act Synod, will be our guest preacher.

Lectionary readings

This week 14 July, 2024

2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19
Psalm 24
Ephesians 1:3-14
Mark 6:14-29

Next Sunday 21 July, 2024

2 Samuel 7:1-14a
Psalm 89:20-37
Ephesians 2:11-22
Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

Cumberland 4 the Common Good Council Candidates Forum

Cumberland for the Common Good is a community-driven group that actively engages with local government (Council) to address issues and create positive changes for the people in the Cumberland Local Government Area.

They are hosting a Candidates Forum for the Local Government Elections on Tuesday 20th August 2024 at Auburn Uniting Church, 151 Auburn Rd, Auburn, from 6.30-9.00pm.

This will be an opportunity to hear from candidates contesting our Council elections about their plans to address

- reducing domestic and family violence,
- promoting employment for all members of our community,
- ensuring affordable housing for our community and
- Supporting refugees, migrants and overseas students in our community.

If you are interested in attending, please ask Sue for the link to register on-line.

Local Government elections in NSW will be held on Saturday 14th September 2024.



Greystanes Uniting Church

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Intercultural Neighbouring Sunday – an explanation by Rev Dr Paul Goh (President Elect of the UCA Assembly)

"Australia is one of the most multicultural countries in the world, with 33% of us born overseas. The 2021 National Church Life Survey (NCLS) found that of the 37% of church attenders who were born overseas, 28% were born in a non-English speaking country. But compared to other churches or the general population, the Uniting Church has a small proportion of its people born overseas. Only 8.1% of us were born in non-English speaking countries. Our congregations still lag far behind their neighbourhoods and other community institutions in reflecting cultural diversity within the life of the Church. The idea of Intercultural Neighbouring Sunday is to seek ways for us to move forward in realising our vision and commitments. It emerges from a hope that we might become, not just a multicultural church in rhetoric, but a truly Intercultural Church living faith and life cross-culturally.

An opportunity to build relationships

Through planning and observing this annual Sunday Service, we hope to celebrate the UCA being a Multicultural Church and to create an opportunities for congregations and faith communities to connect and build relationships with culturally and linguistically diverse communities in their neighbourhoods. Love your neighbour is the Gospel, the next question is, 'who is our neighbour'? Who are those with whom we can build relationship and connection, learn about their vibrant faith, language and culture and share in mission and ministry together?

Enriching and renewing our Pentecost vision

Annual observance of Intercultural Neighbouring Sunday will remind, refresh and resource the whole Uniting Church in knowing who we are as a Multicultural and Intercultural Church. We are called to be "a body within which the diverse gifts of its members are used for the building up of the whole" (The Basis of Union, par 3) and that includes the "diverse gifts" showered upon us through being an Intercultural Church. Culturally and linguistically diverse gifts and expressions of faith can enrich and renew the UCA's Pentecost vision and identity as "a fellowship of reconciliation", and "a pilgrim people" from First Nations, "from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages." (Rev 7:9).

There are many things Uniting Church congregations can do. We need what I like to call 'bridge builders' who can exercise intercultural humility, intercultural friendship and intercultural competencies in our daily life."

Resourced from: <https://uniting.church/who-is-our-neighbour>

May God bless the Bridge Builders here in Greystanes and around the world!