



Uniting Church in Australia
SEACLIFF WEEKLY NEWS
Sunday 1 December 2024
ADVENT 1



Luke 21: 25 - 36

²⁵ “There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. ²⁶ People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. ²⁷ At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹ He told them this parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees. ³⁰ When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. ³¹ Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

³² “Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

This Week.

Advent Group 10 am Tuesday 3rd December
Christmas Dinner 6 pm Tuesday 3rd December
Book Club Luncheon 12 Noon Wed. 4th Dec.
Advent Group 10 am Thursday 5th December
Yarn Sisters 10 am Friday 6th December

What's News

Advent Groups 2024

The Advent Groups will be held on **Tuesdays (3,10 and 17 December) at 10a.m.** and **Thursdays (5,12 and 19 December) at 2p.m.**

The theme this year is: **'The Weary World Rejoices'** an advent study by Kate Bowler. This is based upon her book **'Everything Happens for a Reason: And Other Lies I've Loved'**

We will consider the Advent themes: ***The Promise of TRUTH, COMPASSION, RESTORATION and JUSTICE.***

These will be very informal groups with plenty of opportunity to listen to each other; share our own thoughts if we wish and reflect on a bible passage. **DO JOIN US!!**

If you wish to attend, please sign one of the sheets at the back of the church, indicating your preference for dates.

Please note the Thursday group will be a repeat of the Tuesday group for that week. Just in case one of the days is under subscribed please indicate if you could make the alternative date.

Graham.

Uniting Church calendars

We have ordered 10 copies of the calendar put out by our Synod office. These will be available at no charge. If you wish to reserve one for your use, please let me know very soon – four are already accounted for!! If we need more, we will get them. *Max*

The Advent Season

Today, the **first Sunday of Advent, Dec 1st**, we invite worshippers to bring donations of food items for distribution to people doing it tough.

Brighton Community Care will be packing 110 hampers for distribution to struggling families through local schools: they will have a few specific luxuries: **a Christmas pudding, long-life custard, a Christmas cake, fruit mince pies and tinned ham** – if you would like to contribute to the hampers in particular, please note that the deadline is today: you'll need to get that to a Church Council member today: we will deliver them tomorrow.

As well we are all invited to bring along donations of general food items – long life or fresh produce, all welcome – and these will go to Grocer with a Heart. There is also provision for financial gifts if you prefer.

The theme for the first week of Advent is **Hope** – this is our opportunity to raise, even create, some hope for people in need living even in our own community.

Materials for the **Christmas Bowl** appeal are being made available today. There will be a note about this programme in the newsletter each week, as well perhaps as mention during worship. Please support this programme, an activity of Act for Peace, a programme of the National Council of Churches. This year is the 75th anniversary of the first Christmas Bowl event.

Max



Seacliff Uniting Church Christmas Dinner

There has been a good response to the dinner again this year. We look forward to a most enjoyable evening.

Date, Time and Place - **Tuesday 03 December 2024. 6:00pm for 6:30 start at Brighton & Seacliff Yacht Club 246 Esplanade Seacliff.**

Annette

Watery Advent Wreath

Today is the first Sunday in Advent – a time of waiting for hope to be fulfilled as we prepare for Christmas. If you look at most litanies for Advent candle ceremonies, it might strike you that they are very ‘Northern Hemisphere’. The symbol of light coming into darkness is very appropriate for people heading into midwinter but in southern Australia, it might be good for a change to think of Advent in terms of what we most long for and hope for at this time of year “down under” – **water!**

From a cool drink to a drenching summer storm, to protection from bushfires when much of our state is tinder-dry, water symbolises what we most need and hope for as we move into summer.

So for our Advent season this year, we will fill a bowl with precious water, and float our Advent candles on it.

Maureen

Yarn Sisters

Next Friday will be our final gathering for this year and we plan to have a light luncheon at the Surf Lifesaving Club at the conclusion. So we meet at 10am as usual and have our Christmas luncheon at 12noon.

Heather G

Good Cleaning!

As I indicated last week the two young lads did an exceptionally thorough job of cleaning the Solar Panels. When they then went onto to clean the Wheatland House gutter they found that the downpipe was also blocked. They could have ignored this because we wouldn't have known, but they didn't and spent some time clearing the blockage. Afterwards they cleared all the mess and left the place clean.

I was impressed with their work ethic and quality of work. If you want gutters, solar panel, roof, bins and/or pressure cleaning I can recommend them. Contact 1800 027 827. Their company name is “ALLSTAR Exterior cleaning”.

Geoff

Cogs N coffee

7 of us did our first wintry ride in a long time, with the occasional shower as we meandered our way to Seaford Station.

Always a very pleasant ride.

Next week we will do Willunga, catching the 8.40am train to Seaford.

Brian

A Call to Churches to Stand Up for Peace in the Holy Land

The Palestine Israel Ecumenical Network (PIEN) is calling on churches to show collective support for justice in the Holy Land, and especially in Gaza. PIEN will, as it did in 2023, produce a video comprising photos of groups of Christians holding signs relating to the situation in Gaza and the West Bank such as "One year on.....Ceasefire Now/Free the Hostages/End the Occupation".

The video would then be included on social media as a simple but powerful message of support, by Christian churches, for a just peace in the Holy Land including an end to the catastrophic war in Gaza.

Church Council has agreed that members of our church community can be invited to participate in a photo, if they wish, and can elect whether or not they will hold a sign. Anyone agreeing to be included in the photo will, at the same time, be consenting to their photo being shown on social media.

The photo will be taken after church next Sunday, 8 December. If you would like to discuss this further please speak with Andrew Telfer.

Andrew

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Worship Leader for Today: Rev. Graham Sturdy HC
Lectionary for Today: 1 December 2024: Jer 43: 14 - 16;
Ps 25: 1 - 10; 1 Thes 3: 9 - 13; Lk 21: 25 - 36.
Reminder for Stewards: **8 December 2024**
Dave Rickard Brian Gepp

Welcome to our Church.

Things you need to know, especially if you are a visitor.

Fire exits are marked. Please take note. In the case of an emergency evacuation please gather on the Western Lawns under the Pine Tree. **St John First Aid Kit** - on top of the pigeon holes up from the ramp.

Toilets are available through the door front right of the Worship Area or out through the turn around point on the ramp.

Morning tea is held after the service – we hope you will join with us.

Items for the Newsletter

Please email items to
newsletter@seacliffuc.org.au
by 5pm on Wednesdays.
If you do not have access to email, please contact the church office and it will be forwarded for you.

Our Minister is Rev. Graham Sturdy.

Contact :

Mobile : 0474508824
email graham.sturdy3@gmail.com
[ail.com](http://www.seacliffuc.net)

For all general matters other than pastoral care,
please contact the **Church Office** as follows:

Phone contact: ☎ 8296 1517

Email: office@seacliffuc.org.au

Website: www.seacliffuc.net