

# e-News

## Friday 2nd Sept 2022 - 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Pentecost



Berry Uniting Church



### Reflection

A reflection written by members of our local ARRCC group (Australian Religious Response to Climate Change) for this week in the Season of Creation:

#### Ocean Sunday

Wisdom (Sophia) teaches that what God has gathered up in Christ Jesus, we humans should make healthy, free from toxins, cleaned of trash, and restored to abundance. (Leah Schade) Our species are caretakers of Creation, not simply beneficiaries.

“Now the earth was a formless void, there was darkness over the deep and God’s spirit hovered over the water.” (Gen 1 1-2) Both our creation stories and those of First Nations see the importance of the Oceans. First Nations have many stories of sea level rise similar to stories of Noah’s flood. From space earth is not a green planet; but a blue planet. 70% of the surface is water.

In this water, fed by the elements drawn from stardust, life began, created first as simple cells, then as single celled algae then, less than a billion years ago as seaweeds and then complex animals. From this, the sea produced and still produces the oxygen we need. From evolution we inherited many genes that make us what we are. The oceans hide the tallest mountains and deepest valleys on earth. In their shallow waters they hide the coral reefs and wetlands that breed some of our food. They provide the water cycle that keeps us, who are more than 50% water, alive.

But the water developed the great carboniferous forests that formed coal and micro species forming the oil and gas reserves. We, as a species, used these materials to develop our advanced lifestyle. We powered our industrial revolution, developed organic chemistry that produced advanced pharmaceuticals, and developed plastics and fertilizers. All this before we became aware of the consequences of these developments.

Now we know that our sewerage and drainage systems pollute the oceans. Our dependence on plastics means that geologists and anthropologists identify our era in sedimentary layers in the oceans by plastic debris. Our use of fossil fuels has raised global temperatures. Most of this heat is stored in the oceans. Because of ocean warming and the melting of land-based glaciers, ocean levels are rising. Our Pacific Island neighbours and low-lying coastal land will be inundated. Storm surge will be worse. Heated oceans put more water into the atmosphere, drastically increasing the violence of storms and the amount of rainfall. And the warming of the oceans kills the coral reefs, destroying the nursery of fish stocks.

In this Season of Creation, we are called to be Caretakers of creation. In the next 34 days try to develop a lifetime habit that helps protect. Be careful of what you dispose of in the sewer. Avoid single use plastics. Move away from fossil fuels. Support the development of renewables. Support First Nations people fighting

the development of fossil fuel sources on their land. Support Australia's increased aid to Pacific Island nations affected by sea level rise. Consider the policies of the parties you vote for.

Join in the Incarnation of Christ in Creation.

*May the love of God be as deep as the ocean floor, as sweeping as the currents, and as soothing as the waves crashing on the shore. Creator of mysteries, help each of us be stewards of the ocean. Stir our spirits with wonder and amazement knowing that Your love for us extends even beyond the horizon of the open sea. We rejoice in the living waters of the ocean and tread lightly on Your shores, hoping to leave this miraculous creation a mystery to behold for all future generations. Amen. Mercy International Association.*

## General

### COVID-19 Update

COVID infections seem to be on the increase and there is news of new variants becoming active. So, please continue to:

- Maintain 1.5m physical distancing, where possible;
- Maintain good hand hygiene;
- Practice respiratory hygiene (masks are encouraged in indoor areas);
- Stay home when sick;
- Maintain strict cleaning regime;
- Get tested if unwell;
- Minimise contact with common items e.g., collection plate, hymn books, communion trays, etc.

Blessings.....

### Worship from Home

For those worshipping at home this week, here are the Zoom joining details:

#### Berry UCA Worship

Time: Join from 9:00 am

Zoom meeting link: <https://tinyurl.com/xu6v4hw3>

Meeting ID: 916 5034 4362

Passcode: 437806

Phone in no.: 02 8015 6011

Meeting ID: 916 5034 4362

#### Berry UC Prayer Group

Time: 8.15 for 8.30 start

Zoom Meeting link: <https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/92583877354>

Meeting ID: 925 8387 7354

Phone in no.: 02 8015 6011

Meeting ID: 925 8387 7354

## In this Week's Edition

Reflection.....	1
General.....	2
The Work of the People.....	4
Celtic Journey.....	5
Out and About.....	6
Pets of the Congregation.....	8
Happy Birthday.....	9
Assembly News.....	9
Synod Media Releases and News.....	9
From the Henri Nouwen Society.....	9
Join us in Prayer.....	10
Calendar.....	11
Calendar Event Details.....	12
Safe Church Awareness.....	14

Please send your news, photos, ads and funnies for inclusion in the e-News to the (stand-in) Newsletter editor Tony Watkin at email address: [ozwatters@outlook.com](mailto:ozwatters@outlook.com)

# The Work of the People

## 4<sup>th</sup> September

Ocean Sunday - Diving into the Season of Creation, we begin by wondering about our connection to Oceans, to ourselves, and to God after being tossed and turned in the waves of the pandemic. We dig deep into what could be and the crisis of climate change that has defined our present moment.

Church Year: Pentecost 13

Colour: Green

Lectionary Readings: Job 38:1-18 Psalm 104:1-9, 24-26 Ephesians 1:3-10 Luke 5:1-11

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: Benin, Ivory Coast, Togo

Preacher: Andrew Watts

Duty Leader: Peter Witton

Reader: Christa Watkin

Prayer: Peter Witton

Greeters: Sandra Escott and Virginia Munro

Communion Servers: Julie Watts and Gordon Munro

Morning Tea: Barbara and Lawrie Cowell, Christa and Tony Watkin

Piano: Marion Shopland

## 11<sup>th</sup> September

Fauna and Flora Sunday -We open our eyes and ears to find that the plants, trees, animals, creeping things, and even the food we eat have the wisdom to teach us and offer our praise to God for the ways we learn from the wilds.

Church Year: Pentecost 14

Colour: Green

Lectionary Readings: Job 39:1-8, 26-30, Psalm 104:14-23, 1 Corinthians 1:10-23, Luke 12:22-31

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: Ghana, Nigeria

Preacher: Nerida Miller

Duty Leader: Gillian True

Reader: Gordon Munro

Prayer: Ona Frazier

Greeters: Stuart and Dorothy Horsman

Morning Tea: Ona and Roy Frazier

Piano: Roy Frazier

# Celtic Journey

## John and Janet's Trip

John and Janet will be spending from 7th September to early October on a Celtic journey. We wish them well and a safe return. It seems appropriate, therefore, to provide a few words from a Celtic point of view.

## Morning Prayer

Breath of God, permeating the heart of creation,  
Lift our eyes to your glory which surrounds us,  
Wind of God, vibrant in every movement,  
Open our minds to the mystery of your presence,  
Spirit of God, source of transformation and life,  
Propel us to be people of light.

*Peter Millar, An Iona Prayer Book.*

## Meditative Moment

As we give thanks for some aspect of creation that has been a source of grace for us, let us take the time to fill our minds and imaginations with its image and expand our hearts in gratitude to our God the creator of all that is.

## Reading

When praying the Celtic way we need to make Christ our friend and talk to him in a very simple manner. The Celtic saints prayed by chatting to their loving God as they walked through life. Their favourite prayers, songs and psalms were committed to memory and stored in the treasury of the mind, to be dipped into and drawn upon when needed. The rhythm of a prayer made remembering easy. The Celtic Saints sang their praises to the skies, with wonder, reverence, and awe.

*Celtic Liturgy by Pat Robson.*

## Prayer

God be with you in every pass,  
Jesus be with you on every hill,  
Spirit be with you in every stream,  
Headland and ridge and moor.  
Each sea and land, each path and meadow,  
Each lying down, each rising up,  
In the trough of the waves,  
On the crest of the billows,  
Each step of the journey follow.

*Gaelic Traditional Iona Prayer.*



*Iona MacLean Cross.*

## Out and About

### Spruce Up

Many thanks go to the energetic band of workers who joined together to spruce up windows and windows sills in the Main Hall on Saturday. Julie tackled some outside doors and woodwork, Ross pruned, Erica cleaned the outside doors and John climbed ladders. We were very pleased to have Andrew's help and he didn't need a ladder!! Morning tea was enjoyed by all.



*Technique is everything.*



*Just had an epiphany - When you clean a vacuum cleaner, you become a vacuum cleaner.*



*No problem, got it!*



*Cleaning reveals unexpected things. Look what I found.*

## Annual General Meeting

Thanks to all those who were able to attend our AGM last Sunday. After a delicious morning tea, it was down to business reading through reports and voting. Congratulations to Virginia Munro who accepted nomination to Church Council. Grateful thanks go to our retiring Church Councillor Erica Nielsen for her wise contributions over her term.

If you were unable to attend, please take the reports and a copy of the Mission Plan which will be on the back pew on Sunday.



## Scholarship Awards

Andrew and John attended the Berry Men's Shed on Tuesday morning to meet Lily Bruce and Charmian Notley, the recipients of the Berry Mens Shed/Berry Uniting Church scholarships for their school for this year. Lily and Charmian were highly recommended by their teacher. Congratulations Lily and Charmian and best wishes for the future.



## Basics and Beyond

The monthly Basics and Beyond discussion group meeting was held last Sunday in the Berry Uniting Church Library. The topic at this meeting was "The Philosophy of Prayer". As always, it was interesting hearing people's views. Known as B&B, the group was formed some 20 years ago by a group of parishioners from the Nowra Uniting Church. A generally liberal group of people discuss a topic chosen at a previous meeting. Often, the topic relates to religion, and, at other times, to people and life in general. But there is usually some spiritual or life context at the heart of the discussions. B&B used to meet in other people's homes but now holds its monthly meetings at the Berry Uniting Church Library. Newcomers are always welcome (but please bring your own lunch with you). See the Calendar further below for details of the next meeting.



## Pets of the Congregation

### This Week's Pets

Thanks to Andrew, Ona and Virginia for this week's pet photos.

Pets have become an important part of our culture and more and more places are starting to welcome and accommodate pets. It's becoming common to see hotels with dog beds, stores with water dishes out front and even car companies designing vehicles with pets in mind.

Religious groups are no exception. Churches have long held blessing of the animal events and some are even inviting pets to attend service. But some congregations are starting pet ministries in order to reach and connect with animal lovers on a new level.



*Pierre – I'm the Church Mascot.*



*Rexie - Yesterday I was a dog. Today I'm a dog. Tomorrow I'll probably still be a dog. Sigh! There's so little hope for advancement...*



*Prinnie – Looks like I'm outnumbered here!*

## Happy Birthday

**Hedley Garrard on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, and**

**Judy Leal on 9<sup>th</sup> September.**

May God bless you on your birthday, and always.

## Assembly News

For the latest Uniting Church News please click on the picture links below:



## Synod Media Releases and News

For the latest Uniting Church Synod News please click on the picture link below:



## From the Henri Nouwen Society

### **Live Without Division Between Word and Action**

In Jesus, no division existed between his words and his actions, between what he said and what he did. Jesus' words were his action, his words were events. They not only spoke about changes, cures, new life, but they actually created them. In this sense, Jesus is truly the Word made flesh; in that Word all is created and by that Word all is re-created.

Saintliness means living without division between word and action. If I would truly live in my own life the word I am speaking, my spoken words would become actions, and miracles would happen whenever I open my mouth.

*Henri J. M. Nouwen.*

## Join us in Prayer

Let us pray for Uniting Church children and young people as they live with faith, curiosity, passion and conviction in our church and world. We thank God for their leadership, unique insights and many gifts.

### **The World Council of Churches Ecumenical Prayer Cycle**

"Prayer is at the very heart of the ecumenical movement. Jesus prayed that we - his followers - may all be one. When we pray with and for one another, we can feel God's gift of unity."

<https://www.oikoumene.org/resources/prayer-cycle>

### **Benin, Ivory Coast, Togo Intercessions, 4th September – 10th September**

We are thankful for:

- the beauty, natural resources, wildlife and different cultures in these countries,
- the produce that small farmers continue to grow amid environmental and other hardships,
- the spiritual vitality and growth of the churches and how they are cooperating with each other and those of other faiths and practices, and
- the relative peace and stability that prevails after long years of civil war and political struggle.

We pray for:

- more democratic governments that are free of corruption and that prioritize what the people most need,
- those working to alleviate the poverty, illiteracy and hunger that so many in these countries still experience,
- churches faithfully bringing the gospel to, and serving, all people with greater respect for how those of other faiths express their spirituality, and
- emotional and physical healing, and restoring hope in people who are victims of conflict, disease and human rights abuses.

# Calendar

Saturday 8.30am every week: Prayer Group on Zoom

## September

**From Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 6.00 to 8.30pm:** via Zoom, Living our Faith: Proclaiming Jesus Christ.

**Wednesday 7th September:** Berry Computers for Seniors.

**Wednesday 7th September 7pm to 8.30pm:** Electric Vehicle Information Forum (see advert below).

**Saturday 10th September 9am to 1pm:** via Zoom, Living our Values Session 1.

**Saturday 17th September 9am to 1pm:** via Zoom, Living our Values Session 2.

**Sunday 18th September 2pm:** THREE16 Fundraiser, Wollongong Welsh Choir at Scots Presbyterian Church.

**Monday 19th September:** Social Craft Group.

**Wednesday 21st September 10am to 12pm:** Ecumenical gathering for the communities of Kiama, Berry, Nowra and Milton to mark the Season of Creation, hosted by St Michael's Catholic community and will involve a walk down to the river. More details will come later.

**Wednesday 21st September:** Berry Computers for Seniors.

**Sunday 25th September from 12pm:** Basics and Beyond, Berry Uniting Church Library

**Monday 26th September 11am:** Berry Parkinsons Support Group in Main Hall.

## October

**Wednesday 19th & Thursday 20th October 9am to 5.30pm:** Centre for Ministry, "Understanding the Sacraments".

**Saturday 22nd October 9:30 am to: 4:45 pm:** "Walking Together Conference," Wesley Conference Centre, Sydney. "How can the Church Embrace First Peoples' Theology in a Post-Colonial Australia".

# Calendar Event Details

UCAN  
UNITING CLIMATE  
ACTION NETWORK

Uniting Church  
SYDNEY OF NSW & ACT

Uniting

## Electric Vehicle Information Forum

September 7 | 7pm-8.30pm

Free Online Event

If you've ever considered buying an electric vehicle or are just curious to learn more about them, join us at our **Electric Vehicle Information Forum.**



Cars are responsible for about **half** of all **transport emissions** in Australia. Could switching to an electric vehicle be the right investment for you and the planet?

Come along to hear from guest speaker Dr Jake Whitehead, Head of Policy at the **Electric Vehicle Council** and get answers about the benefits of EVs, how they work, the factors that influence their uptake and more.

This forum is aimed at any in the wider church community but open to all  
Click the link below to register:

[Register on Eventbrite](#)

Jake is Head of Policy at the Electric Vehicle Council of Australia. He was formerly a Lead Author for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), a member of the International Electric Vehicle Policy Council at the University of California, Davis, and also runs his own mobility-as-a-service company in Queensland, ODIN PASS.



## Berry Uniting Church's Mission

**Our Vision** - We aspire to be people walking with Jesus, sharing God's love.

**Our Mission** - We seek to share good news through welcome, hospitality and service to all.

**Our Goals:**

- To provide generous, intentional hospitality and welcoming inclusion to all;
- To provide educational, social justice, spiritual and recreational activities in our community;
- To develop, nurture and enrich our Christian faith and spiritual life guided by the Basis of Union;
- To explore, encourage and develop ways of connecting with our community;
- To integrate and be an example of "creation care" in all we do and say.

## Offerings

Thank you for your continued support of our ministry and mission, in the Berry community and the wider church, through your offerings. Offerings may be made in person by dropping your envelope in the plate at the back of the church, or by direct deposit to our bank account:

Account Name: Berry Uniting Church

Account: BSB: 082 435

Account number: 563783969

## Causes We Support

**Nowra Family Support Service** with donations of items such as:

- breakfast food;  
tea, coffee, full cream long-life milk;
- rice and pasta etc;
- tinned food such as soups, baked beans, stews etc;
- toiletries such as toothbrushes and toothpaste, tissues, deodorant, soap, shampoo etc.

Donations may be left at the back of the Church or in the Community Library.

**NSW Synod Stamp Committee** with our used postage stamps, carefully cut with a 5mm border around them.

**Berry Men's Shed/Berry Uniting Church Scholarship Program** - our gold coin donations at morning tea support our share of the scholarships awarded to deserving high school and TAFE students each year.

## Our Minister

Rev Andrew Watts  
mobile: 0400 059 191  
e-mail: [minister@berryuniting.org](mailto:minister@berryuniting.org)

**Monday is Andrew's day off. Please save non-urgent emails and phone calls for other days.**

Church Council Chairperson: Peter Witton  
mobile: 0408 470 953  
e-mail: [chair@berryuniting.org](mailto:chair@berryuniting.org)

Church Council Secretary: Gordon Munro m:  
mobile: 0434 547 969  
e-mail: [secretary@berryuniting.org](mailto:secretary@berryuniting.org)

Bookings Officer: 0467 422 046  
e-mail: [bookings@berryuniting.org](mailto:bookings@berryuniting.org)



## Safe Church Awareness

Safe Church Contact Person:  
Julie Watts m: 0402 415 518  
e-mail: [treasurer@berryuniting.org](mailto:treasurer@berryuniting.org)

Reportable Conduct Contact:  
Phone: 8267 4300  
e-mail: [GeneralSecretary@nswact.uca.org.au](mailto:GeneralSecretary@nswact.uca.org.au)



### What is Speak Out?

Speak Out is a confidential reporting service, allowing you to raise any matter of concern. Matter of concerns about the safety, wellbeing and security of the Church and its people with confidence that it will be taken seriously and addressed. Where possible, issues or concerns should be dealt with as locally and directly as possible. However you are always welcome to raising issues through the Speak Out service, especially if other methods have not been effective or are not a suitable avenue.

More info here: [UCA - Speak Out in Confidence](#)

## Berry Uniting Church

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We respectfully acknowledge the Jerrinja Community of the Yuin Nation, who are the Traditional Custodians and First People of the land on which we meet. We pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging, acknowledge their deep and enduring relationship to their ancestral lands and thank them for the care they have shown the earth over thousands of years.