

THE OLIVE BRANCH

July 2017 Brunswick Uniting Church Congregation Worship - 9:30 am

> Meditation

Dance and Spirituality

Two guiding passions have shaped my life, dance and faith. These two passions have also shaped one another – my faith shapes the way I dance and my dance shapes the way I understand and live out my faith. Since ceasing to work as a professional dancer, I have kept up one particular form of dance called Contact Improvisation (CI). In CI the movement of the dance emerges from shared weight, giving in to gravity and momentum between bodies. Having recently returned from a 6 day CI event, the annual Australian “Convergence”, my current reflections on faith are inevitably full of dance.

Embodied Spirituality

For me, spirituality is an embodied thing. I understand a healthy spirit to be a truly embodied spirit, and a healthy spirituality one that seeks to overcome a dualism which sees body and soul as separate, diminishing the body and elevating the soul. This dualism is historically very strong in Christianity, but is not of its essence.

For me, three characteristics of embodied spirituality are: incarnation, communion and transcendence.

Incarnation means becoming flesh, the divine becoming human, spirit becoming embodied, each of us becoming whole physically and spiritually to the extent that I can say, “I am my body”.

Communion points to the fact that we are creatures who live, move and have our being in relationship, in community. Individual bodies have evolved in and for relationship. We become ourselves in communion with others – we become fully incarnate in communion.

Transcendence means encountering and entering into that which is greater than oneself. The mystery within and beyond individuality. The spiritual paradox at play here is that in becoming more fully myself through incarnation and communion I transcend myself and commune with the divine

Dance as Sacrament

For me CI is like a sacrament of this spiritual process (here, sacrament = a ritually enacted symbol that accomplishes what it represents). It is a process of being embodied, becoming incarnate; communing with other embodied beings;



and in that communion transcending what is possible as a body alone.

I love that every dance is different because every body is different because every soul is different.

I love the moment of first encounter with another person – listening and learning – who is this body? Who is this incarnate spirit?

I love moving through that encounter to the place of communion where we dance one transcendent dance together that is not mine or theirs but ours.

I love those special moments of transcendence that come by grace when we fly (sometimes literally) – giving in to gravity together and going places that we could not go alone.

And because this might be sounding a bit solemnly spiritual, I also love the playfulness that is inherent in this dance form. It is joyous, and spirituality is ultimately about the joy of living.

A Theology of Dance

The Christian God is one divine dance of love between three: a dance that becomes incarnate in Christ, “the Lord of the Dance”. The Holy Spirit draws us in to commune with God as partners in this holy incarnate dance of transcendence.

If you would like to know more about CI follow these links:
<https://contactquarterly.com/contact-improvisation/about/>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zORF2sLK1vY>

Ian Ferguson

> Worship Calendar

Meditation

There will be a trial of Sunday morning meditation in the Youth Hall from 8.15 am until 8.45 am on the first Sunday of the month. We will start this on **Sunday 2nd July**.

Celebration of Ministry

We will acknowledge and celebrate Julie Perrin's ministry as our Children & Families worker during worship on **Sunday 23rd July**

Reflective Service

On the fifth Sunday of the month - **30th July** we will offer a reflective quieter service in the morning. Please note that morning tea will not be offered after this service as we look forward to the wonderful hospitality of the BIUC congregation.

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> Special Events

A July & August Summary

Lots happening, here's a summary to help you keep track and page numbers so you know where to find the details.

Also see Regular Events p 12.

Check out the new Regular Event - BUC Cycle!

- 'Deepening Faith', **Thursdays in July**, see p 10
- 'Grow your own organic food' worship, **15th July**, see p 5
- 'Cafe style morning tea', **16th July**, see p 10
- 'Working Bee', **16th July**, see p 17
- Celebration of Julie's ministry, **23rd July**, see above
- 'Peacemaking in the modern world', **25th July**, see p 5
- 'Olive Way Potluck Cabaret', **29th July**, see p 6
- Reflective Service, 9:30 am & Combined Service with BIUC, 5pm, **30th July**, see above
- BUC Arts 'Knit In', **5th August**, see p 8
- 'Bag It' screening, **19th August**, see p 5
- Community lunch (after worship), **27th August**, see p 10

> Culture of Safety

Contact person

If any member of the congregation – child or adult - has concerns about the safety of our children, particularly in relation to child sexual abuse, or the welfare of vulnerable adults, it is important that you report this in confidence so that support can be provided. You may speak to Helen Rowe in confidence about your concern. Helen is the Safe Church Contact Person appointed by Church Council. Brunswick Uniting Church has a process for following up any concerns raised. Follow this link to the flow chart for reporting and responding. Please contact Helen in person or by telephone at 0423 009 813

> Sharing our Faith

Uniting in Song



Uniting in Song (on **Sunday 25th June**) was a wonderful way to celebrate the UCA 40th Anniversary, bringing together the Brunswick and Wesley congregations with our quite different liturgical and musical expressions into one seamless event. We enjoyed singing a wonderfully diverse selection of 25 songs to the glory of God and very much for our pleasure. We are grateful to Rev Dr D'Arcy Wood for offering us four reasons 'Why Christians sing', one of them being 'Christians sing because we want to'. Amen to that.



Our celebration was greatly enriched by the contributions of the Brunswick Indonesian, Wesley and Gospel Hall choirs and Brunswick musicians.

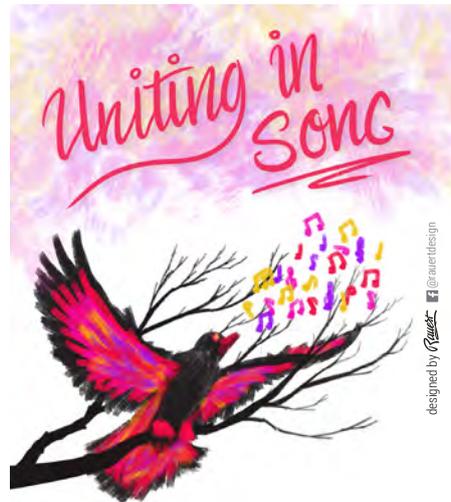


Thank you to everyone who came – your voices made it all work.

A recording has been made of the event and copies of the booklet are available. Let us know if you want access to them.



Saide Cameron



A LITURGICAL CELEBRATION 

> Sharing our Faith

News from Steph

Steph Gesling is on route to Melbourne!

I've been doing supply ministry in Broome, WA for 3 months now and it felt strange to be leaving last Wednesday for what I now know will be a 3 week break.



I'm heading to Darwin, to Melbourne and then back to Broome for Rev Helen and Rev Chris Paine's Close of Ministry Service. Chris and Helen have decided to move to Darwin to be closer to the hospital and for

Helen to do some work for the Northern Synod.

I'm now part way through my first week out of Broome...



I arrived in Darwin on Wednesday evening (June 21).

The next part of the Ministry of Pastor training was held on June 22nd with a focus on the sacraments, those "visible forms of invisible grace" - St Augustine (354-430AD), baptism and holy communion.

As part of the training, led by Helen Richmond from Nungalingya College, we prepared a communion service that we all took part in together. It was beautiful and good to learn some practical tips as well as exploring the good news and history of the sacraments.

Since then I've been at the Northern Synod and Pilgrim Presbytery of Northern Australia meeting and will come on from here to Melbourne.

Agreeing to stay on at Broome was a difficult decision in some ways and very simple in others. The congregation have been very kind and have expressed great confidence in me.

This time at Synod has been time of deep learning. There is so much to take in... meeting my Yolngu family, seeing how things happen at meetings "in the North", leading some singing for worship at the Presbytery meetings and connecting with other people from around the Northern Synod.

I've been challenged by the bible studies on the role of stewardship, the concepts of service to and preservation of the land, and the year of Jubilee. We were asked to think about who

speaks for the land (Soverienty), who's blood cries out, what the relationship is between sabbaths and exile, and the question of where our heritage is.

In small groups, people from NRCC (Northern Regional Council of Congress) shared stories of first contact with those of us from PPNA (Pilgrim Presbytery of Northern Australia), while we shared something of why and how we came to be at the Synod meeting.

The Northern Synod is very special, it covers a huge geographical area, and it has two Presbyteries an Indigenous Presbytery and and Multicultural non-indigenous Presbytery that operate separately but come together for some decisions, to pray and eat and worship and to celebrate and recognise important people, changes, challenges and happenings within the life of the Synod.

Tonight we had a 'Synod's Got Talent' show. Bette Lake (from Broome) and I kicked off the night with a dance / karaoke performance to the song 'We are family' by Sister Sledge.

I'm looking forward to coming home to Melbourne this week, connecting with my Brunswick Uniting Church family, and wearing the beanie that one of the volunteers picked out for me at the Broome Uniting Church Op Shop last week. I'm ready to embrace and be embraced by the winter weather.

PS - Here's a [link](#) to a short video of the Ministry of Pastor training



Kirsty Burgu (Mowanjum Uniting Church)
Bette Lake (Broome Uniting Church)

From the JAM Committee

This year the Justice & Mission Committee is taking on a very intentional role in supporting committees and programs that we have a clear connection with - Olive Way, BUC Arts, FUNdraising, Food Co-op, Stewart Lodge and the Asylum Seeker Welcome Centre (ASWC). JAM has facilitated an update of governance of the Olive Way (Kirsty is our Olive Way contact), and members have direct input into BUC Arts, Fundraising and Food Coop. Read on for some more stories.

In addition to these connections, Abi has maintained her enthusiasm for making our **compost bins** a working proposition through conversation with the ASWC and with interest expressed from members of the congregation (Simone Alesich, Tim Budge, Julie Perrin and Helen Rowe).

The **landscaping project** initiated by the Children, Youth & Young Adult committee is taking shape with groups who use the space regularly being consulted. Meredith and Abi are keeping us well informed about progress on this project. We've suggested that attention also be paid to the Community Garden as part of the project.

We have developed clear lines of communication with the **ASWC** through Nicole Batch who is a member of the Reference Group. This will be particularly helpful in relation to our FUNdraising support for specified programs. Maintenance issues and requests will be referred directly to the Property Committee. Saide is our JAM contact for the ASWC.

Olive Way

Talking with a lovely old fellow a couple of weeks ago, he got up to go and said to me, 'Thank you Peter, you really are my mister'. I smiled and said my goodbyes not really knowing what he meant by that. His first language is Arabic, and he struggles to be understood in English, and consequently keeps to himself for most of the time he is in Olive Way, usually reading the newspaper outside or at a table by himself.

Last week I was talking to him again, I'm not sure how he got onto it, but he started talking about the gospel stories of when Jesus washed his disciples' feet. 'Jesus said', said the old man, 'no slave is above his mister.' Now I was really confused, was he saying to me that I was his master? I'm really not sure what could have done to earn the title of master (or mister for that matter). In fact there's not a lot I can do for this old man. He is warm and friendly, but he himself knows he is hard to understand, and lacks confidence to build friendships outside of his Arabic speaking network.



The jury is out (in my mind) as to what he meant, I'm assuming it means he is glad for my company. When there are few words that can pass between people, the best we can offer each other is company. I have experimented lately with different ways of doing this around tables, such as doing colouring pages, playing guitar, playing chess, and so on. The company that we can offer our guests at Olive Way is a shared presence and open hospitality, and an open invitation to participate.

We would love for more people to come and help out at Olive Way. We would love for you to come and share a bit of yourself with people and try different ways of relating to people. Often it is in the act of doing that people feel invited to come and participate. We would love for you to come and be a mister to some of our guests. If you are interested and have some time on your hands please let me know.

Peter, Olive Way Coordinator

Ph: 0431193810, Email: peteblair75@gmail.com

Meredith will support our participation in '[Plastic Free July](#)' with regular tips in the Olive Press and on our Facebook page.

We are looking forward to hosting or supporting a number of special events in the coming months

- '[Growing your own organic food](#)', **15th July**, 2-4pm, in the Youth Hall, \$30. Book [here](#)
- '[Peacemaking in the modern world](#)', An evening conversation with Jasmine on **Tuesday 25th July**, 7:30-9:30pm in the Worship Space
- '[Olive Way Potluck Cabaret](#)' on **Saturday 29th July**, celebrating 10 years of this important ministry, see page 6
- BUC Arts 'Knit In' on **5th August**, noon-4pm, see page 8
- A screening of '[Bag It](#)' after Food Co-op on **19th August**, 12:30pm, BYO plastic free lunch, stay on for conversation
- Joan Fisher preaching on **17th September** for [World Week for Peace](#), a FUNdraising stall after worship will support [EAPPI](#)
- A civil dialogue exploring the [Uluru Statement](#) in **2018**.

The JAM committee always enjoys a meal as part of our meetings. And we'd love to welcome new members. We usually meet on a Thursday every 4-6 weeks. Please let one of us know if you want join us (Saide Cameron, Kirsty Bennett, Meredith Budge, Abi Benham-Bannon, Gwen Arnold, Leanne Salau).

Saide Cameron

FUNdraising Update

The Olive Way opened it's doors on 5th June 2007!! So ... The **Olive Way is celebrating 10 years of welcome** this year. It made complete sense then to turn our Olive Way Potluck Cabaret into a big 'Happy Birthday to the Olive Way' celebration!!!

The FUNdraising team (Saide Cameron and Glenice Cook) welcomed Jessica Kvenskul and Peter Blair to plan the Olive Way Potluck Cabaret. Please make sure you keep **Saturday 29th July** free. Here's what we're doing to make sure this event is completely amazing:

- Our colour theme for the evening is silver and purple! Oh and if you have fairy lights that you can loan us that would be great.
- Jessica has emailed all the groups and committees inviting them to contribute items to the program that she and Alistair Hunter will be putting together. SROC (Sydney Rd. Opera Company, an Olive Way activity) will be the headline act for the evening. Make sure your group or committee is involved. Call Jessica, 0432 910 152.
- Saide and Glenice are in the process of organizing table hosts. Table hosts will be asked to invite guests, organize pre-dinner nibbles and the main course for their tables, come in the afternoon to organize, set and decorate their table in the colour theme of silver and purple. If this sounds like something you would enjoy doing please let one of us know.
- Tea and coffee will be provided. BYO all other drinks.

- Saide and Glenice are looking forward to hosting a dessert bake up on the afternoon of the event, so if you like the idea of spending a fun afternoon cooking desserts for, we hope, 100 people you are most welcome.
- There will be a birthday cake - or course, and speeches (thanks Barry for agreeing to speak about the Olive Way ministry and what it means for everyone who is involved, those who come, those who volunteers and all who offer support in whatever way they can).
- Entry will be by donation, you'll find envelopes on the tables and the invitation is, very simply, to donate whatever amount works best for you in celebration of this fabulous ministry.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to and participated in our **Share Winter Appeal** activities in June.

- The stall held after worship on 4th June raised \$429.20.
- The 'three great offers' event resulted in Courtney's MS Ride bicycle being purchased for \$600, Ray & Saide's 6 course international meal with mystery wine tasting being fully subscribed with 6 guests, a total of \$300 and one person (so far) signing up for the art trail with Linda & Jamie (there are still spots for two more people). Call Saide if you are interested.

Out total at this stage is **\$1329.20**.



CABARET









Entry by
donation



Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the Olive Way at Brunswick UC

Join us for a FUN filled evening of

- delicious food,
- excellent company and
- outrageous entertainment.

Saturday 29th July
6:30-10:00pm
Brunswick Uniting Church



Contact Saide
0407 096 743 for
more information or
to book your seat.

- The Olive Arts program will be helping out with some special 10th Birthday decorations.
- If you are a past or current volunteer and have photos that we can use with our decorations/displays please email them to saide.cameron@bigpond.com as soon as possible.
- We are inviting back previous co-ordinators and volunteers so make sure you ask them to share a story or two with you during the evening.
- We'll be offering an Op Shop and Preserves table.
- Finally if you want to be invited to join a table please let Saide know.
- Saide Cameron, 0407 96743, Glenice Cook, 0414 319 649.

Our after worship stall for term 3 will be held on **Sunday 17th September** at the beginning of World Week for Peace and will once again support the **Ecumenical Accompaniers Program Palestine Israel**. More on that in the coming months.

Saide Cameron



BUC Arts ...



World Wide Knit in Public Day

A community was born at our event for the World Wide Knit in Public Day 2017, taking knitting out of isolation and creating a public event of connection and contribution. On **Saturday the 10th of June**, we brought together many with a love of knitting who wished to share their passion with others. The excitement was palpable. The clatter of needles, all pervasive. The chatter constant. Some came through Facebook, some from seeing our big sign outside and a few who were passing by on the day. A significant group of women of all ages came from groups such as the Brunswick Brown Owls, The Victorian Knitters Guild and knitters from the Campbell Turner library.



Our ecumenical neighbours from St Ambrose, St Joseph's and Church of Christ also came along and one enthusiast travelled all the way from Frankston! Anchoring the day was the spirit and enthusiasm of our own congregation's passionate knitters who arrived in droves!

Altogether, over 50 people were present including a small minority of men. In the mix were straight out beginners and old hands who had been knitting for decades and everyone in between. For morning tea we enjoyed a generous serve of scones provided by Glenice Cook, Dani Chamberlin, Julie Perrin, Saide Cameron, Ann Soo.

Later, we shared lunch in the main hall with a choice of seven hearty soups, many thanks to our generous congregational cooks! However lunch was quickly spent, as all were eager to return to the task at hand. Knitted squares started to appear and many many more were well on the way. A group located in the west end of the church worked on stitching the squares into warm and beautiful blankets. An exacting and labour intensive task but the results speak for themselves (please see photos). These beautiful items will be given to Knit One Give One (KOGO) for distribution to a number of services nationwide reaching those most in need of warmth this winter. For example KOGO have recently sent a huge parcel of beanies and scarves to Alice Springs. The second non-profit organisation we supported on the day is Wrap With Love that for many years has provided blankets to the Hamlin Fistula Hospital in Ethiopia. When the women arrive for their treatment and surgery they are promptly given a blanket to welcome them, demonstrating care and concern through this simple gesture.

Thanks to the team who made all this happen. To Glenice Cook for her amazing hospitality throughout the day, to Julie McKinnon for looking after all the details in the kitchen, serving lunch and making it all look so easy! To Natalie Papworth, Dani Chamberlin and Val Remedios for knitting while on their feet showing warm welcomes, care, tuition on the go and tireless energy along with Graham Lawrence and Peter Blair who covered all tasks apart from knitting! A huge shout out to Saide Cameron for a stunning street sign that stopped people in their cars and grabbed the attention of commuters. Thanks to Ann Lawrence for the seed of an idea and organising the event. Without our own church community none of this would be possible so the biggest thanks go to all who came.

Our time was so enjoyable that many were hopeful that we could come together again as a new knitting community. For in our knitting circles we share our craft and enthusiasm. Plus through our individual efforts, when combined together, we can provide for the needs of others. In one word – Community.

Tim Hoffmann, (new knitter), BUC Arts Committee



We will be gathering together on **5th August** from noon to 4pm to stitch up the many squares we have been receiving over a cup of tea and in the warmth of the Olive Way! We will also have the opportunity to discuss our next knitting project with everyone – we will be making knitted nativity sets to sell at our Christmas Bowl Appeal stall for end of the year. Yes, it does seem early but Glenice and I have cut down the process and got it all ready and ensuring ease and success. Please join us.

Ann Soo

Olive Arts Program

We have enjoyed a lively and busy month at The Olive Arts on Wednesdays between 10am and 12noon in the west end of the church hall. Anchored by two volunteer lead artists Geoff Falk and Phil Kreveld we are keeping good numbers and recently, welcomed two new members to the group.

Currently, we are working on Sydney Road street scenes as requested by our German friends Klaus and Sandra from Munich. Having experienced life in Brunswick, they are looking forward to viewing the vibrancy of the area through the artists' eyes. With this in mind, we took a short stroll down Sydney Road taking photographs and sketching images. The next week, we developed these sketches into drawings and considerations were made by each individual artist about the use of colour or black and white for their final art piece. It will be interesting to see how each art piece develops as artists are working with a range of medium from pastel, water colour, acrylic to charcoal. We look forward to Phil Kreveld's demonstration of a cityscape this week using charcoal of various thicknesses.

We have also been drawing and painting portraits of each other sparking a lot of conversation and humour and were also privileged to have David (new artist) demonstrate the use of spray paint with some amazing results.



Please feel free to drop in and witness some of our art processes, demonstrations and even, join us in some art making. No experience required!

Contact Ann on 0422 842 244



> Children, Youth & Young Adult Ministry News

From Julie Perrin



As was announced on **Sunday 4th June**, my time of discernment in May has led me to the decision to step aside from my role as Children's and Family worker at BUC.

Many of you will know that this has been work that is dear to my heart and began when I was asked to research the report that became 'Pathways to the River' in 2013.

I could not have asked for a more inspiring group of people to work for and with. My heartfelt thanks to the CYA committee and the Ministry Team.

I will be finishing up in July and look forward to finding ways to continue participating in the life of the congregation. I will be in conversation with Ian about ways to do this without occupying the space the new incumbent of the role will need to take up.

Julie will conclude her ministry on **13th July**. We will acknowledge & bless Julie during worship on **23rd July**.

Assistance with tasks

Anita Brown-Major, Chair of the Children, Youth & Young Adult committee has requested assistance with various tasks related to Sunday Morning Program as the committee prepares for the transition period between Julie's ministry concluding and the employment of a new Children & Families worker.

Please call Anita if you want to find out more or offer to help, 0424 034 096.

Anika on leave

And finally a brief note to let you know that Anika is on leave doing Interfaith work in Korea for a month, returning towards the end of July.

Nourish

For the first two sessions of Nourish this term Faye Findlay told us beautiful stories about the Good Shepherd in the Godly play tradition. Games in the hall and singing with Ian helped to get us ready to listen, wonder, pray and celebrate Holy Communion.



Farewell to Beth

During worship on **18th June** Anika announced that Beth Davey of Green House is going on exchange to Panama for a semester to study. She offered a blessing on her in this time with the work she will do, the people that she will meet and the places that she will discover. Ian prayed a blessing and we sang 'May God's sheltering wings' as she stood surrounded by members of the Student House and the committee members.



Saide Cameron

> Pastoral Care News

The Pastoral Care Committee met on **28th June**. Due to work commitments, Meg Orton has had to step down from the committee. We thank her for her wise council over the last few years and wish her well. Recruitment issues were discussed as were updates on the Pastoral Care Ministries.

Cards are sent to members of the congregation offering our condolences on the death of family members, baptisms or to celebrate a special occasion. If you know of someone or a situation where a card would be appreciated please let us know.

Jane Allardice

Hospitality

The Hospitality team along with the whole congregation continued to welcome newcomers and assist them in finding ways to "belonging" at Brunswick Uniting Church. This has been running well due to a number of reasons - we now have a full and organised team, more than the Hospitality team takes the initiative to pass on information to the relevant leaders, the welcoming culture at BUC and in the future I expect the new website will also be more useful to newcomers. The new brochure on all the activities and groups at BUC has been widely used as a handout as well. If you are new or newish to the congregation and would like to talk to us, please contact Jane Allardice or Ian Ferguson.

Jane Allardice

Community

We continue to enjoy hosting and supporting events that bring the congregation together. Coming up in term 3 we are hosting:

- Cafe Style morning tea after worship on **16th July** which will be followed by a Property Committee Working Bee.
- Community Lunch (delicious soup and rolls) after worship on **27th August**.
- Triple letter dinners & lunches over the weekend of **15th-17th September**.

We are also looking forward to supporting a whole range of fabulous events hosted by the JAM, FUNdraising, BUC Arts, Discipleship & Education. See Special Events, page 2 for a summary of the events.

Saide Cameron

Compassion

This ministry continued to offer support to people in times of crisis often with the simple gift of a home cooked meal as well as other forms of support where appropriate. Please let us know if this support could help you.

Leanne Salau has stepped down temporarily for family reasons and we thank Leanne for all the pastoral care support she has offered and her commitment to Compassion care. Claire Foley has joined this small team and we warmly welcome her to this important role in the life of BUC.

A ministry of personal prayer is also offered through which members of the congregation, friends and family are prayed for on a daily basis until a request is made to be withdrawn. This is a personal and confidential act and we do not need to know why you have requested prayer if that is your wish. We believe that God knows the innermost workings of our hearts. If you wish to be included and prayed for please just telephone or email Glenice Cook or Ian Ferguson. Each Friday the Prayer group will be emailed the names of those participating. If you know of someone who may need prayer please feel free to ask them if this would be helpful and forward their name to us. If you would like to join this prayer ministry please contact Glenice, 0414 319 649.

We offer our prayerful love and support to those of our congregation at the Aveo Retirement Village which has been in the news lately.

Glenice Cook

> Sunday Snippets

Pentecost Sunday

We built a fire together during worship on Pentecost Sunday and the children created branches of fire during the all age activities in the Gathering Space. Later we moved parts of it into the **Tower Room Window** to create a new display for passers by on Sydney Rd. to enjoy.



Later in the day we shared an **ecumenical service** at Christ Church Anglican with all four congregations sharing the liturgy. Responding to the story of the Prodigal Son, Bishop Lindsay Urwin reminded us that we are ministered to by the Cross and ministers of the Cross, called to offer love and reconciliation.



Commissioning

Behzad Farhangi was commissioned as a member of the Church Council during worship on **18th June**. Ian blessed Behzad for this role and we sang one of our much loved blessing songs 'May God's sheltering wings'.

BUC Cycle

Here's a fantastic example of how a group is formed. It all started with Colin inviting people to join him on the MS Bike ride back in March.



And then the cyclists wanted more. So far five or six cyclists have enjoyed two rides after worship, most recently on **18th June** on an absolutely perfect day for cycling. A stop for icecream was very much enjoyed.

Save the date for the next ride **Sunday 23rd July**. See Regular Events.

> Communication News

Our website

After many months of behind the scenes work our website now has a brand new look: <http://brunswick.unitingchurch.org.au>



We have moved to a word press format and during worship on **25th June** we launched and dedicated the new look website. Ian Ferguson thanked Matthew Cameron for his work over the last 5 years particularly with respect to re-coding, updating and then maintaining our previous website which was actually designed in 2007 by Chris Lees. Matthew was quite right, at the end of 2015, when he said it was time to build/create a new website. It's taken us a while longer than we'd hoped but we've got it done just in time for Matthew to be released from this important work in time for he & Lydia to leave for England in August (for 2 years).

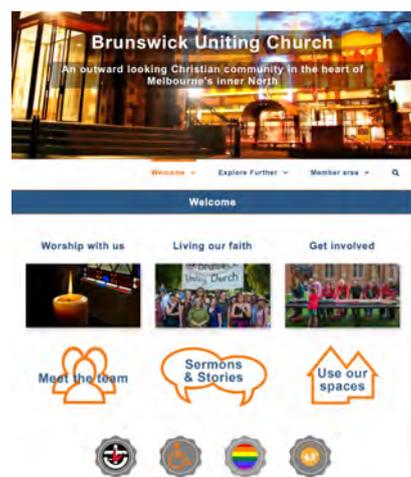


We invite you to have a look, investigate and explore. The **Welcome and Explore Deeper** pages are our public pages. There are pages for the different groups that enrich the life of our congregation. In time representatives from these groups will be trained



in creating blogs for their pages adding a layer of interactivity to the website and allowing it to become the work of the whole congregation. We greatly appreciate the contributions of those of you who have already provided content and feedback.

The **Members Section**, which will be accessible via log-in, is a resource for people within the congregation. You can request a log-in to this section but we won't be able to give you access until our designer/administrator returns from leave in two weeks time. When we have finished our training we (Ian, Shawn and myself) will be able to approve requests. There is still quite a bit of work to be done on this section in the coming weeks.



When you are exploring the website please take the time to give us **feedback**, tell us what you like, what you think needs improving and if you have suggestions for additional information and pages. We're only just learning about the blogging function so that's certainly a bit clunky. And there is certainly more for all of us to learn. We're considering adding in a Twitter function so if you already love to Twitter let us know and you can get involved in that way.

Saide Cameron (with Shawn Whelan and Ian Ferguson)

> Regular Events

BUC Cycle

Join an enthusiastic group of cyclists after worship every 5-6 weeks and explore Melbourne's bike tracks. We cycle for about two hours and usually stop off for icecream and/or a drink along the way. For more details contact Colin Hunter, 0407 522 587.

Our next ride is after worship on **Sunday 23rd July**.

Singing The Sacred Harp

The Sacred Harp Singing is a group of people who meet to sing from a book called "The Sacred Harp". This music is participatory, a cappella, loud, folk hymn singing, which originates from the USA. The book "The Sacred Harp" is a collection of shape note songs from various sources, from the 1770's to the present day. All singers of all abilities are welcome to come as often (or as infrequently) as they are able.

The style of music sounds something like a cross between Eastern European and Irish folk music. For more information on Sacred Harp music please visit www.fasola.org

Come along & join us on the **first Sunday** of every month, from 4pm-6pm in the hall. Contact Natalie Sims or Shawn Whelan, ph. 9495 6120, or email sacred_harp@yahoo.com.au

Table Church

We gather to share a simple meal of soup & bread and dessert on **Sunday evenings**, (6-7:30pm), shaped by a liturgy that invites us to reflect on the week that has passed and to pray for each other. The shape of the evening is informal and low-stress.

Everyone is welcome and you can come every fortnight or just as you are available. Next two dates: **2nd July**, hosted by Colin & Jenny Hunter, 11 Fitzgibbon Ave. West Brunswick, **16th July**, hosted by Ann & Graham Lawrence, 31 Barrow St. Brunswick. If you are interested, or just want to know a little more, please contact Tim (0412 051 574) or Helen (0423 009 813).

Mulling

Mulling in July will be held at the BUC church hall / Olive Way, where we will be making and walking a labyrinth with Chris Rowntree. We'll experience the mystery of the labyrinth, and then learn all about the history of labyrinths in Christian worship.

Tuesday 4th July from 6:30pm at the BUC church hall / Olive Way. For more details, contact Simone 0403 782 404.

Meditation

There are four Meditation groups available

With Richard: **First Sundays**, 8:15 am in the Youth Hall

Wednesday at 8am or **5:30pm** at 29 MacFarland St.

On-line every **Monday night** at **9.30pm** to **10.00pm**

Contact Richard Arnold, 0407 796 429, for more information.

The Olive Way

Our congregation's outreach program is open on **Tuesday to Thursday** from 10 am - 1:30 pm. Community Kitchen, & Art programs - Wednesday, Writing Workshop - Thursday.

New volunteers are always welcome.

Contact Peter Blair, ph. 0431 193 810.

Book Club at BUC

7.30 – 9 pm, Wednesday 26th July 2017

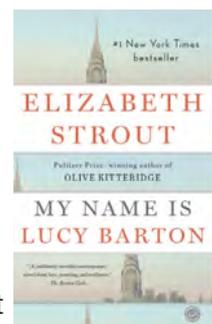
Youth Hall, Brunswick UC

'My name is Lucy Barton' by Elizabeth Strout – Lucy is recovering from what should have been a simple operation. Her mother, to whom she hasn't spoken for many years, comes to see her. Gentle gossip about people from Lucy's childhood seems to reconnect them, but just below the surface lies the tension and longing that have informed every aspect of Lucy's life.

Everyone welcome. Faye or Christine would be happy to talk to you about book club if you would like more information.

Faye 9379 1317 faye.findlay18@gmail.com

or Christine 9386 8919 christine@hornby.id.au



Out and About Group

A monthly social group for older, active women and men. We visit places of interest or meet up for lunch or coffee. New members always welcome. See notice in the Olive Press or contact Helen Rowe for further information about this month's activity. Ph. 0423 009 813 or email helen.rowe@rocketmail.com

Brunswick Uniting Food Co-Op

Next Food Co-op Distribution Day - **Saturday 15th July** from 10 am - 12 noon.

New members welcome! Bring your reusable glass, plastic, paper or cloth containers to purchase from a range of over 60 food and cleaning products. Reasonable prices. We aim to reduce our ecological footprint on the Earth by distributing food and cleaning products free of additional packaging. We meet in the Olive Way space. Food Co-op is a ministry of our congregation.

Further information from Helen Rowe 0423 009 813 or Meredith Budge 0403 717 714

Church Council

Enjoy this month's Church Council report, written as a readable listicle!

Top 4 moments Church Council made you say 'Whoa!' in June

1. Mission Appeal

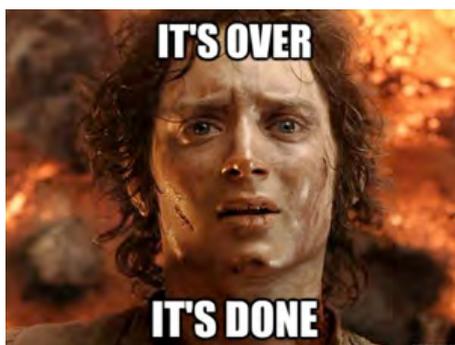


We've had a fantastic response to the Mission Appeal that Church Council ran over the month of June. Many members of the congregation indicated that

they were able to increase their giving, and the finance works indicate that we have every hope of being able to continue to fund our current levels of mission and staff for the foreseeable future. Thankyou!

2. The Website

The new BUC website is now being rolled out to universal critical acclaim. Church Council is thrilled with the result and lavishes praise upon the Website team - Saide, Shawn and Ian.



Thanks also goes to Matthew Cameron for his amazing work maintaining our digital presence over the last five years.

Worship Committee

Our June meeting was preceded by the second of this term's Nourish gatherings. In light of this, for our opening worship, Ian invited us to reflect on our experiences of Holy Communion remembering that we are Christ's people being fed by the good shepherd.

Topics discussed included:

- Our **regular reflections** on the worship services since our last meeting
- The tasks involved in **preparing for and cleaning up after worship**. We are working towards dispersing the tasks as much as possible so that this preparation becomes the work of the congregation rather than only that of members of the worship committee (and family members).
- **Uniting in Song** and the significant contributions being made by Saide Cameron, Natalie Sims and Elaine Potter towards organizing and hosting the event.

3. Staff

Church Council received Julie Perrin's resignation from her role as Children and Families support worker. We are speechless with gratitude for the time Julie has given to us and look forward to seeing what she accomplishes next! We are



Me when Julie Perrin resigns

working to develop a position description to begin the search for her replacement, and formed a hiring committee to undertake that task. We have affirmed that we want Julie's role to remain a pastoral one – not merely organisational, but engaged in the theological, teaching and worship life of the congregation.

4. Property Insurance

It's grown increasingly clear that there are potential cracks in our Property Liability Insurance. Sometimes it may not be clear that events on our property fulfil the criteria of our policy, or that users of our property are properly covered. We are looking into closing these gaps.



Daniel Broadstock

- Providing a **training session for the Grade 3-6 SMP** group to assist with their participation during the celebration of Holy Communion.
- The **preaching plan for Ian's long service leave** and the invitation to Joan Fisher to preach for the beginning of World Week for Peace (17/9). Joan has participated in the Ecumenical Accompaniers Program in Palestine Israel.
- The continuing conversation about the **needs for storage** and the most appropriate way to meet these needs with a new shed.
- The new **Meditation series** to be offered by Richard Arnold prior to Communion Services, 8:15 in the Youth Hall. This is part of our response to the Contemplative Action conversation at the Leaders' Retreat in February.
- The development of a **Contemplative Garden** in front of the youth hall, a project to be investigated once the manor landscaping project is completed.

- Setting a date for the **conclusion of Julie's ministry** as the Children & Families Worker, we have recommended **Sunday 23rd July**.



4/6 Pentecost Acts 2:1-21, 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 The sound of rushing wind (thanks James) accompanied the beginning of worship on Pentecost Sunday and continued through the prayers of adoration and confession with the children. Ian talked about fire with the children and then laid the beginnings of a fire with them in the centre of the circle. As the children moved to the activities in the Gathering Space the rest of the congregation was invited to lay 'pieces of fire' to create a congregation fire to celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The focus of Ian's Pentecost sermon was the question *'What constitutes a good life?'*. He explained that in his opinion *'it's not happiness'* but rather, as the Bible offers it is *thankfulness, gratitude, contentment, that state of being like God, like God resting on the seventh day of creation revelling in the goodness of it'* and further *'that the way to achieve this state is by becoming more materialistic'*. He went on to illustrate this point by talking to us about the flip down seats in our hall (you really need to listen to the sermon) and later reminded us of Jonathon Cornford's three words that summarise Jesus' teachings about money – renunciation, generosity and gratitude.

Concluding Ian drew our attention to this Pentecost Sunday also being our Pledge Sunday, the conclusion of our Mission Appeal Month which began in May. He commented that the money we pledge is unlikely to be used to replace the flip seats but that it will go towards less tangible things like the ministry and mission that we do here together and reminded us *'That we are called to live together into being as Christ's material body in this material world, the body of Christ that is gifted by the Spirit. The Holy Spirit moves in materialistic ways it turns out. And here we again on Pentecost Sunday to be re-ignited for that purpose, to live thankfully in the creation that God has gifted us.'* Ian invited us have a conversation with each other responding to the question *'what are you thankful for today?'*

Later as we came forward to receive Holy Communion we placed our completed pledge forms on and around the Pentecost fire.



11/6 Trinity Sunday Genesis 1:1 – 2:4a, Matthew 28:16-20 To help us think about the Trinity, during the children's time Andrew read a children's story version of creation, we talked about Jesus ministry and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Saide, Hoth and Daniel offered prayers of adoration and confession in response to each part of the conversations.





We welcomed Graeme Garret as our preacher while Ian was away on a conference. Graeme suggested that Trinity Sunday is 'A moment to draw breath. To try to get clear what we have come through.' He reminded us of the journey from Christmas, through Holy Week and Pentecost. Graeme went on to explained that 'when it's all boiled down, Trinity Sunday is "God is love" Sunday.'

He showed us two pictures to help explore this. One, a painting begun by Andrea del Verrochio and finished by his famous pupil Leonardo da Vinci, dating from about 1475 which he said is 'Trinity looked at from below, and the other Andrei Rublev's great icon, probably the most famous Trinity image in the world, which depicts the Trinity from above. Graeme poetically described this icon and the love so evident in it.



Looking at both pictures together Graeme said 'Both pictures are important for our understanding of the statement that God is love. Leonardo's picture says that the love which is lived out in our house, in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, really is the truth and the life of the love of God. ...The humanity of Jesus gathers us into the immanent heart of the Trinity.

Rublev's picture says that the love which is the essence of the eternal Trinitarian life of God, is the same love that is manifest in the life of Jesus as he enters our world at Christmas and Easter and Pentecost..... The divinity of Jesus brings the love of God into our oikos, our home.



Graeme reminded us briefly of the 'un-love in the world', of Jesus' response to this through the Cross. He concluded 'In the teeth of all that is un-love in this world, we as followers of Jesus are called to say "God is love"; and live that, and stand up for that, in our church, our families, our work, our politics. 'Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God ... for God is love.'

18/6 Pentecost 2 Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-7, Romans 5:1-8 Anika and Ian talked about hope with the children. One of the children described hope as something that 'you want in the future that might come true'. Anika shared her ball of hope and invited the children to offer their hopes using the hope ball. Tameka agreed to be Sarah to help tell Sarah's story. Ian and Anika talked about Sarah's lost hope and explained that God didn't lose hope in the story. They said that we can join our hope with God's hope for the world.

Ian invited us to reflect together on hope. He began sharing the story of his rain drenched experience at the Australian Contact Improvisation Convergence, of laughing along with other dancers about his apparent lack of sufficient prayer with respect to the weather and divine intervention. He spoke of Sarah's laughter in the face of God's divine intervention into her barrenness. He told us a story of one man's 'real God moment'. And then he reminded us of Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane, of his cry for release from the suffering that was to come. Ian observed 'everything is possible for God but not everything is promised. God does not promise that we will avoid suffering in life, that we will avoid the storms. Right Sarah? Right Jesus? What God does promise, the promise that Sarah laughs at and Jesus weeps before, what God does promise is a future arising, a future being born where hope is dead.'

Ian then invited us to travel through a truck and car scenario depicting 'God's promised future and human power and progress on a collision course' and asked 'What will happen next if we press the play button in this God moment?' He spoke of the challenge of believing in the promise of hope beyond and hope and prayed 'Our God for you all things are possible, we wish you would change the weather of our lives, calm our storms but we pray not our will but yours be done. Give us the faith to hope in you. Amen'

25/6 UCA 40th Anniversary John 17:20-26, Genesis 21:8-21 We began our celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the UCA sharing a responsive candle lighting liturgy which honoured each of the traditions (Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian) that gave birth to the UCA and other traditions which inform our faith and experience of God.





With the children Ian described and built our UCA symbol piece by piece: the big black circle that reminds us of the mystery of God, the cross of Jesus through which we see the light of God shining through the darkness, the U for the Uniting Church, half a circle which says that the Uniting Church is not complete and commented that some people see the picture so far as a boat, the red flame which reminds us of the fire of the Holy Spirit that fills our church and inspires us and brings us close to God, revealing the beak of the dove he commented that this part of the picture inspires us and brings us peace and unity. Ian commented that this is our badge, our symbol.

Beginning his sermon Ian observed that we are given the Biblical image of Hagar in the desert for our 40th celebration of the UCA. He asked *'Friends do you see any similarities between Hagar and our own UC. Is our future looking any brighter than hers? I mean we're doing alright here with humility and without complacency I hope. But overall the UC is in significant numerical decline.*

He told us of the four possible futures of the UCA as described by futurist [Keith Suter](#) and past President Andrew Dutney's response. He invited us to tune into our feelings about the future and bring them to Hagar's story. Using this and Sarah's story Ian reflected on *Two children, two possible futures. The future God gives or the future we make for ourselves. The future of God's promise or the future of human planning – Isaac or Ishmael.'* He wondered which way is better and reminded us of hope – *Even when our hope dies God's promise lives.* Ian reminded us of the attack on the Finsbury Park Mosque and Imam Mohammed Mahmoud peaceful and inspiring [response](#).



Picking up the water jar, symbolic of Hagar's water jar in the desert and the invitation to fill it at the newly appeared well of water, Ian spoke of human endeavours and plans and of *the well of God's promise, God's grace, God's faithfulness which renews and sustains our hope.* Concluding, and continuing to use the jar to illustrate these beautiful words he said *God's future will grow through Isaac and Ishmael by grace and through human endeavour. And when our endeavour inevitably arrives at the empty jar, the empty church, the empty human promise then comes faith. Faith in the desert spring that never runs dry. Then comes hope, for us Christians, hope in the risen Christ who says 'the water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life'. Friends drink deep, drink deep from that spring, drink deep of the future promise that flows into our present, drink deep. Amen*



Saide Cameron

Discipleship & Education Committee

On Thursday evening **1st June** over 30 people gathered at BUC for our third "2017: a Spiritual Survival Guide" session entitled "Yummy Money - surviving consumerism" - a conversation with Jonathan Cornford about the hard teachings of Jesus on money. Jonathan Cornford is one of the founders of Manna Gum www.mannagum.org.au, an independent non-profit organisation which seeks to: 1. Help Christians reclaim and practise Biblical teaching on material life; and 2. Promote understanding of the ways our economic lives impact upon ourselves, others and the earth. He spoke to us and engaged us in conversation about three themes derived from Jesus' teachings about money: renunciation, generosity and gratitude. These themes have informed our worship through May as we have explored the way we understand and use money in the church. To read Jonathan's writings on the subject go to Manna Gum matters - [May 2015](#), [August 2015](#), [Advent 2015](#), [May 2016](#).



[Deepening Faith](#) will be offered on **Thursdays in July**, 7:30-9:30 pm, at the Manse. We will read and discuss the book 'Being Disciples: Essentials of the Christian life', by Rowan Williams.

Ian Ferguson

Property Committee

The following activities have been undertaken/completed over the past month:

- The apse walls have been repainted.
- The solution to maintain the air flow under the church to ensure the soil remains dry has been found to be effective.
- Graffiti has been removed from walls at the church.
- European wasp nest removed from student house.
- Faulty Church lights have been replaced.
- Wooden bench seats have been oiled.

The following activities are being attended to over the coming months:

- **Working Bee** is being organised for **16th July**, during which gardening, clean up & removal of the sand pit and swing in front (north) of the youth hall are to be removed.
- Repair the heater on the south wall in the west end of the hall. Initially the gas is ignited, however it won't maintain the gas flow.
- Smoking on the church property. Signs have been prepared and will be installed near the Olive Way, Hall and Youth Hall doors.
- The 4 Merri Street roof to be repaired (now, autumn) and then replaced in the summer months.

- The storage space (shed) in front of the youth hall has been assessed and its allowable size has been determined. The groups that wish to utilise the space will be engaged. Current proposal is multiple sheds, with separate doors. The requirement for planning permits to be determined.
- A community garden proposal (being led by the JAM committee) is being developed for the church's property. The current thinking is, it will be located in the south west corner of the property along the Sydney Rd foot path.
- A door closer is to be installed on the door between the Olive Way and the hall, that will ensure that it closes slowly, also that it is able to be held open.
- Synod Annual Child Safety Check ongoing actions are being taken to conform.
- Cause of the leaks in the church and hall has been investigated and identified. These to be attended to.
- Install posts and cabin hooks to hold the youth hall south doors open as required.
- Youth hall internal office door to be replaced with an external rate door.
- Repairs being undertaken to the external lighting, particularly the bollards.

Ray Cameron

Finance Committee

Giving - how are we tracking?

The congregation at the February AGM agreed to a budget for Giving at a level of approximately \$16,000 per month. The graph to the right shows how we are tracking against that Budget

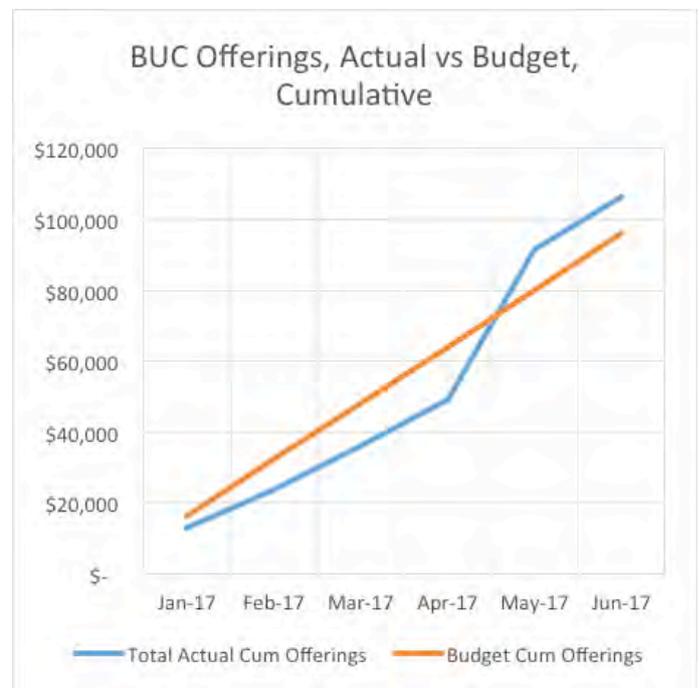
There will be some natural variation related to the number of weeks, and Sundays, in any month.

While it will take a few months to see the full effect of the May Mission Appeal month, you will notice an increase already to Giving through direct credits to the BUC ANZ account, and the Thanksgiving Offerings. These are larger likely-one-off gifts to the work of the church.

More information will be provided in the coming months.

From The BUC Finance Folk:

**Tim Budge, Mal Rowe, Linda Wannan,
Abi Benham-Bannon, Tabitha Robert**



> Happy Birthday

Kate Allan, Jane Allardice, Nicole Batch, Sophie Blake, Helen Burnham, Andy Calder, Joshua Calwell, William Coulson-Bourke, Andrew Cowell, Kylie Crabbe, Narelle Crabbe, Erica Cumming, Klaus Fiedler, Ray Hardman, Sharon Hollis, Steven Hornby, Andree L'Estrange, Susan Matthews, Allason McNamara, Rupert Moore, Emily Moorhouse, Meg Orton, Owen Parris, Olivia Potter, Janet Reus-Smit, Kate Salau-Thom, Kate Scull, Hamish White

> Preaching Plan

July 2	Ian Ferguson Pentecost 4, Holy Communion	July 30	Ian Ferguson Pentecost 8, Reflective service	August 20	Ian Ferguson Pentecost 11
July 9	Ian Ferguson Pentecost 5	July 30	Ian Ferguson, 5:00 pm Pentecost 8, Combined BIUC	August 27	Ian Ferguson Pentecost 12
July 16	Ian Ferguson Pentecost 6	August 6	Ian Ferguson Pentecost 9, Holy Communion	September 3	Ian Ferguson Pentecost 13, Holy Communion
July 23	Ian Ferguson Pentecost 7	August 13	Ian Ferguson Pentecost 10	September 10	Ian Ferguson Pentecost 14

> Lectionary

After Pentecost

A period of time that varies in length depending on whether Easter is early or late. In this period, the Church recalls its faith in the Holy Trinity. It seeks to relate its faith as a people of God to Christ's mission in the world. It commences with Trinity Sunday and concludes with feast of Christ the King

Date	Day	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel	C
2/7	Pentecost 4	Gn 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67	Ps 45:10-17 or Song 2:8-13	Rom 7:15-25a	Mt 11:16-19, 25-30	G
9/7	Pentecost 5	Gn 25:19-34	Ps 119:105-112	Rom 8:1-11	Mt 13:1-9, 18-23	G
16/7	Pentecost 6	Gn 28:10-19a	Ps 139:1-12, 23-24	Rom 8:12-25	Mt 13:24-30, 36-43	G
23/7	Pentecost 7	Gn 29:15-28	Ps 105:1-11,	Rom 8:26-39	Mt 13:31-33, 44-52	G
30/7	Pentecost 8	Gn 32:22-31	Ps 17:1-7, 15	Rom 9:1-5	Mt 14:13-21	G
6/8	Pentecost 9	Gn 37:1-4, 12-28	Ps 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b	Rom 10:5-15	Mt 14:22-33	G
17/8	Pentecost 10	Gn 45:1-15	Ps 133	Rom 11:1-2a, 29-32	Mt 15: (10-20), 21-28	G
24/8	Pentecost 11	Ex 1:8 – 2:10	Ps 124	Rom 12:1-8	Mt 16:13-20	G
31/8	Pentecost 12	Ex 3:1-15	Ps 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c	Rom 12:9-21	Mt 16:21-28	G

July Diary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
July 2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8:15 – Meditation 9:30 – Ian Ferguson HC,AA		10:00 – Olive Way	8:00 – Meditation 10:00 – Olive Way	10:00 – Olive Way		
4:00 – Sacred Harp 5:00 – Indonesian W’p 6:00 – Table Church		6:30 – Mulling	5:30 – Meditation 6:00 – Nourish	7:30 – Deepening Faith		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9:30 – Ian Ferguson		10:00 – Olive Way	10:00 – Olive Way	10:00 – Olive Way		9:30 – Shape Note Singing 10:00 – Food Co-op
5:00 – Indonesian W’p		7:30 – Church Council	5:30 – Meditation	7:30 – Deepening Faith		2:00 – Organic Food Workshop
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9:30 – Ian Ferguson 11:15 – Working Bee		10:00 – Olive Way	8:00 – Meditation 10:00 – Olive Way	10:00 – Olive Way		
5:00 – Indonesian W’p 6:00 – Table Church			5:30 – Meditation 7:30 – Worship C’tee	7:30 – FUNdraising M’g 7:30 – Deepening Faith		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
9:30 – Ian Ferguson 11:30 – BUC Cycle		10:00 – Olive Way	8:00 – Meditation 10:00 – Olive Way	10:00 – Olive Way		2:00 – Dessert baking
5:00 – Indonesian W’p		7:30 – Peacemaking C’n 7:30 – Property C’tee	5:30 – Meditation 7:30 – Book Club	7:30 – Deepening Faith		6:30 – Potluck Cabaret
30	31	August 1		2	3	4
9:30 – Ian Ferguson (Reflective Service)		10:00 – Olive Way	8:00 – Meditation 10:00 – Olive Way	10:00 – Olive Way		12:00 – Knit In 2:30 – Coffee
5:00 – Combined BIUC W’p			5:30 – Meditation	6:45 – JAM C’tee		