



Crookwell Uniting Church

“To Know Christ and Make Christ Known”



*Witnessing to God's love for the world
From the main street to the paddock.*

February 2021

Lent: A Season of Discipleship

Since ancient times, the Church has used the 40 days of Lent (which start this year on 17 February) as an intentional season of prayer and discipleship. Indeed, still today this is the time of preparation for many new Christians seeking to be baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ.

In the Methodist tradition (one of the traditions that forms part of the Uniting Church), there was a practice known as the covenant service. Each year, the whole congregation would gather in worship and share in renewing the covenant with God and making promises about how they would attempt to live for the next twelve months. Covenants were also an important part of the Presbyterian and

Congregationalist tradition, and so for many of you there is a good chance you remember these covenant services.

This year, you are invited to use the season of Lent as an intentional season of discipleship – to discern how you might draw closer to God, participate in the life of the congregation, and serve your neighbours.

Attached to this newsletter is a template for a Discipleship Covenant. This form is a guide – an outline of some things you might like to think about. ***You may choose to discuss it with Daniel or one of the Elders (especially when it comes to the resources section), or you might prefer to just use it***

Contact Us

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as a guide for yourself. Participation is, of course, optional, but I strongly encourage you to use these 40 days of Lent to intentionally reflect on where you might focus your faith this year. You might even like to put the covenant up on your fridge as a reminder.

In 2018, we discerned the Mission of the Crookwell Uniting Church as:

Witnessing to God's love for the world from the Main Street to the Paddock.

In working through this covenant, I invite you to think about where you might have seen God's love at work in your own life. Where is God moving today? Why is this story of faith important to you? Where might you be called to witness God's movement? How (word, deed, prayer) might God be calling you to participate in the story of redemption for the *whole* of creation?



Pastoral Notices

Since the last newsletter, there have been two deaths linked to the life of our congregation.

Betty Stokes (the mother of Louise Stokes) was a resident of Viewhaven for the last four years and had previously been a member of the Methodist and then Uniting Churches in Sydney. Betty was an artist who had a knack for seeing the beauty of God's creation, as well as a loving mother of her three children. We held a graveside service for Betty during January.

The second death was my grandmother, May Sell, who was also a friend of several Crookwell members through the old exchanges between Crookwell and Carlingford United Churches. We held a funeral for Grandma at Carlingford during the last week of January.

In addition to these situations, please continue to keep in prayer all those who are grieving. Grief is not something that passes in a matter of weeks, months or even years, and your ongoing love for neighbours and friends is important.

Further, please keep in prayer members and friends of the congregation in residence at Viewhaven and other nursing homes. These include (but are not limited to) Wal Redfern, Helen Campbell, Judy Offley, Beryl Rodgers and Claude Collins.

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If anyone is missing from this list, please let me know. We are glad that worship services at Viewhaven will resume this month.

Covid-19 and Worship until Easter

We are thankful that we have now been able to worship together for three months straight. After so long apart, this really is a gift.

Church Council has made the decision to continue in a pattern of holding worship on the **1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays of the month only** until at least Easter, at which point we will re-evaluate the situation. Communion will be on the 1st Sunday of the month, and Jerrara services on the 3rd at 2.30pm.

As I write this, we aren't allowed to sing. This may change before you read this (who knows?). But we are able to continue gathering as the people of God to be met by the living Word of God, Jesus Christ.

Thanks be to God.

- Daniel

Worship & Readings

Church Council have agreed to hold services on the first, third and fifth Sundays of each month at least until Easter Sunday. Readings for other services are also listed below. More detail can be found in the accompanying prayer pack.

Sunday 7 February

9:00am Crookwell Wesley

Readings: Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11;
1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

Sunday 14 February

Readings: 2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50: 1-6; 2
Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9

Sunday 21 February

9:00am Crookwell Wesley
2:30pm Jerrara

Readings: Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10; 1
Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15

Sunday 28 February

Readings: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm
22:23-31; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38

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Happy Birthday

Although we cannot always physically gather, let's join together to celebrate the birthdays of our fellow congregants.

Gill Aynsley – February 17th

If your birthday is in February, and your name is not on our list, please let us know. And have a very Happy Birthday!!



Returning to Viewhaven

Services will resume at Viewhaven from February 9th. The services will be held on the second Tuesday of each month at 10:30am.

While we appreciate the assistance of volunteers to help residents, at this time we are only allowed to have three people join the residents at the service.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Daniel on 0432 648 676 to ensure we comply with the restrictions on the number of people who can attend. This will avoid disappointment, and ensure the safety of the Viewhaven residents.

Thank you for your co-operation.



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