



## 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.*

July 2022

### Struggling To Keep Up?

Are you feeling worn out at the moment?

In his book, *The Congregation in a Secular Age* (released during the pandemic) Andrew Root speaks of the difficulty being the church in our current culture. In particular, Root engages with the idea that our modern culture is one of *acceleration*. To be ‘successful’ in our present age, one always needs to be growing, speeding up, gaining more members, doing more new things. We assume that a busy life is a full life, and to stay still is to die.

When I have heard Root speak about his book on podcasts, one of the things that

struck me most was his warning about the affect on the pandemic on this acceleration. The lockdowns of 2020 and 2021 crashed up against this culture of acceleration and forced us all to stop – to slow down. But, Root warned, once lockdowns lifted the world would speed up to try to make up for ‘lost time’.

And sure enough, the world has. My ‘to do’ list is longer than it has ever been. I seem to be busier than ever, and the amount of need in our world has increased. Things are more expensive, there isn’t enough housing or services, and we seem to be struggling to keep up.

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### Contact Us

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No wonder we are feeling worn out and depressed.

Root explains that such depression (the feeling of not being able to keep up with the accelerating world) affects congregations just as much as it does individuals. Churches too buy into the narrative that we need to 'keep up' and 'grow faster', and once we can't keep up anymore, we give up and feel like failures.

But our faith offers an alternative narrative for the world – one in which our meaning and value does not depend on our ability to speed up. Indeed, the Christian faith proclaims that we are unable to transform ourselves no matter how fast we run the race. Instead *our* transformation can only come about when we are transformed from without, by an encounter with the risen Christ.

The Church cannot save itself, and our goal should never be 'success'.

Instead, Root suggests, the role of the Church is to be a community that waits upon the arrival of God intentionally and expectantly. We are called to be a community that sits prayerfully and listens for what God is doing today in our midst; a community that names the resonances of the gospel in our lives and seeks to follow them confidently into an unknown future; a community that

ministers to one another and our towns as we await the arrival of our God.

We are called, as I was once taught in a chaplaincy course, to *loiter with intent*.

As Root writes, 'If a congregation wants change, it will start not by being concerned with relevance and resources, but with the good life of resonance, seeking for the living Christ where Christ can be found.'

I look forward to working with you in naming that life.

- Daniel

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## Looking for Work?

A friend of the Church is looking to employ a cleaner on a part time basis. Initial hours will be 5pm to 7pm Monday to Friday, with the possibility of extra hours. They are looking for someone fit, reliable and preferably with own transport. Applicants will be required to have a Working With Children check, and also pass a police check. If you or anyone you know is interested, please call Julie on 0428 433 701.

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## Worship & Readings

### Sunday 3 July

9:30am Crookwell and  
crookwelluniting.org

Readings: 2 Kings 5:1-14; Psalm 30;  
Galatians 6:7-16; Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

### Sunday 10 July

9:30am Crookwell and  
crookwelluniting.org

Readings: Amos 7:7-17; Psalm 82;  
Colossians 1:1-14; Luke 10:25-37

### Sunday 17 July

9:30am Crookwell and  
crookwelluniting.org  
2:30 Jerrara

Readings: Amos 8:1-12; Psalm 52;  
Colossians 1:15-28; Luke 10:38-42

### Sunday 24 July

9:30 Crookwell and  
crookwelluniting.org

Readings: Hosea 1:2-10; Psalm 85;  
Colossians 2:6-15; Luke 11:1-13

### Sunday 31 July

9:30 Crookwell and  
crookwelluniting.org

Readings: Hosea 11:1-11; Psalm 107:1-9,  
43; Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21

## Future Directions

In 2021, The Uniting Church Synod of NSW and ACT agreed on a strategy to renew the church and called us to become a contemporary, courageous and growing Church, across all cultures, geographies and generations. The strategy, formed in prayer, is known as *Future Directions for the People of God on the Way*.

The *Future Directions Resourcing Framework* is designed to enable the growth of the Church's witness to Jesus Christ by providing greater resources for ministry, including in rural and regional areas. This period of renewal will be a significant journey.

More information is available at <https://nswact.uca.org.au/future-directions/>



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## Connecting Faith and Action

On June 1<sup>st</sup>, the Uniting Church Assembly launched a new initiative known as *Living the Covenant Locally* as part of its covenant relationship with the Uniting Aboriginal Islander Christian Congress (UAICC).

The launch followed the renewal of the Covenant by the 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly between the Uniting Church Australia and the UAICC in May 2022.

Uniting Church President, Rev Sharon Hollis noted “we pray that our commitment to this Covenant will be renewed and enlivened.” And “remind us to work in solidarity...with our First Nations siblings.”

Advocate for the *Walking Together Circle*, Alison Overeem urged people across the church to help grow a grassroots movement committed to relationship and to living out the Covenant locally.

It is an invitation open to congregations, church and faith based communities, schools and youth groups to undertake study in any of the following three areas:

- 1) Listen and Learn from Indigenous Australians
- 2) Bible and Theological Resources for non-Indigenous people
- 3) Action: Worship, Advocacy and Partnership.

*Living the Covenant Locally* is a way for people to commit to local expressions of the Uniting Church Australia’s covenant with the UAICC to place Indigenous Australians at the heart of our church.

Rob Floyd, Associate General Secretary of the Assembly, encouraged the church to get involved. “I whole-heartedly recommend this exciting new initiative to all members of the Uniting Church. We intend to continue adding resources to this website (<https://uniting.church/livingthecovenantlocally/>) over time, so I encourage people to revisit the site in coming weeks as they enter further into living the Covenant in their own local community.”

More information on the three areas of study is available at <https://uniting.church/livingthecovenantlocally/>



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