



Crookwell Uniting Church

“To Know Christ and Make Christ Known”



June 2026

The Peace of the Changing Season

As June arrives in Crookwell, there is a distinct, unmistakable shift that settles over our town. The mornings bring an extra biting chill, and the first gatherings of woodsmoke are a visual testament to warmth being cultivated indoors as the cold becomes colder.

In a world that can often feel loud, unpredictable, and even exhausting, the changes in natural environment give us an opportunity to slow down, reflect, and remember that God’s world is one of peace.

It is a peace that has been promised to us, as we will see this month in our readings. In Romans 5, we are reminded that *“we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God. [...] suffering produces endurance, endurance character, and character, hope.”* The message of endurance through the cold winter months ahead is echoed through the natural world – the hills that surround us stand steady, rooted in the bedrock that has supported them for millennia.

For those of us who have lived sixty, seventy, or eighty years, we possess a

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unique theological wisdom that youth cannot buy: we know that the winter is not permanent. We have lived through enough seasons to understand that the bleakest, darkest days of June and July are not dead ends. Rather, they are a time of hidden preparation.

Deep beneath the frosted soil, out of sight and away from human praise, God is at work. The earth is resting, gathering its strength, and preparing the seeds for the inevitable rebirth of spring.

Our lives operate under the exact same spiritual law. There are seasons when our health throws up challenges, when loneliness creeps in like the winter chill, or when we look at a changing world and feel left behind. In those moments, it can feel like our spiritual landscape is dormant and bare. But Romans 5 reminds us that this "endurance produces character, and character produces hope." The cold seasons are where the roots of our faith grow deepest.

This theme of hidden, winter-like preparation is woven deeply through the other scriptures we encounter

this month. When we look at the call of Abraham in Genesis 12, we see a man being asked to step out into his own spiritual winter. God commands him to leave his country, his kindred, and his father's house to go to a land that would only be shown to him *after* he started walking.

For those of us navigating the shifting landscapes of our later years, Abraham's story is a profound comfort. It reminds us that God's call on our lives doesn't expire as the days grow shorter.

Sometimes, the most significant spiritual growth happens when we let go of what is familiar, stepping forward with a sense of quiet anticipation, and trusting that the cold, dormant ground ahead of us is already being prepared by God for a future regrowth.

As we draw our blinds against the early June nightfall, let us wrap ourselves in the comfort of these timeless truths. The frosty fields, the quiet patience of the stock in our paddocks, and the radical steps of an elderly Abraham, all point us toward the same beautiful reality: God is

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never closer than when things seem still. We do not need to fear the winter of our year, the winter of our lives, or the chaotic noise of an unsure world.

Our hope is anchored in a Savior who loves us too much to leave us alone in the cold. May the peace of our beautiful small town serve as our daily reminder of His constant presence.

- Matthew

June Roster

JUNE 2026	WORSHIP LEADER	ELDER/PRAYERS	BIBLE READER	STEWARDS
7/06/2026	Gill/Margi	Gill	Bret	Joi & Reta
14/06/2026	Christine Jameson	Phyllis	Elina	Louise & Elina
21/06/2026	Kate Thornley	Barbara	Barry	Pat & Kate
28/06/2026	Bret	Bret	Gale Collins	Barbara & Cheryl

Worship & Readings

Sunday 7 June

9:30am Crookwell

Readings: Genesis 12:1-9; Psalm 33:1-12; Romans 4:13-25; Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

Sunday 14 June

9:30am Crookwell

Readings: Genesis 18:1-15; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; Romans 5:1-8; Matthew 9:35-10:8

Sunday 21 June

9:30am Crookwell

2:30 pm Jerrara

Readings: Genesis 21:8-21; Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17; Romans 6:1-11; Matthew 10:24-39

Sunday 28 June

9:30am Crookwell

Readings: Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 13; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42

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Help For Carers

For those among us who provide care and support for a family member or friend living with a medical condition, disability, mental illness, or who is frail due to age, there can be times when we ask “Who cares for the carer?” The role can sometimes feel overwhelming, but there is help at hand.

Carer Gateway provides free support services and information to carers, without the requirement of being on a carers’ pension payment, or any other Centrelink assistance. The support is for people, whether they are full time carers, or those who help just a few hours a week.

Services are provided in person, via phone, or online, and include coaching, counselling, respite care, and peer support groups. They also offer online skills courses and tailored support packages.

Visit carergateway.gov.au or call 1800 422 737 for more information about what assistance is available for you. They can talk about your specific situation and help access services that suit your needs.

For sometimes, we all need a little care.

Transforming Community

In May, the Uniting Church hosted a workshop for senior school students, with the theme of Transforming Community.

Using the feeding of the 5000 as their starting point, the students were encouraged to think about how they and their generation could transform the world around them.

Stories were shared about raising funds for charity, implementing local initiatives to help combat climate change, and understanding risk assessments with their vulnerable fellow students.

At the end of the workshop, the students were reminded that for all the good works they are doing, their role in the future is just beginning; and that fairness and kindness should anchor the world they wish to see.

Of course, it is not just young people that will shape our world – we all have our part to play, no matter how small. As Gandhi famously said, “we need not wait to see what others do”. The world around us is a reflection of what is unseen in ourselves.

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