



“Church in the Trees” - Morisset Uniting Church

RUSTLING LEAVES

30-08 -2020

COVID 19 EDITION 11

THIS SUNDAY; SERVICE LED BY OWEN SMYTHE

The regular newsletter will commence next week and will appear weekly or fortnightly depending on how much news is forthcoming.

Mask Up

We suggest the wearing of masks at church until told otherwise. Don't forget, stay safe. Practice social distancing and wash hands with soap and water or sanitizer regularly. We are a COVID Safe business with a COVID Safe plan.

Rosters Aug /Sept

Date	Welcomer	H C server	Bible Reader	Collect/ banking
30 th	<i>Morven C</i>		<i>Cathie, Owen</i>	<i>Winston/ Gordon</i>
6 th Sept	<i>Rhonda</i>	<i>Barbara D, Parriss</i>	<i>Joan Horgan Sue Kesterton</i>	<i>Gordon and Joe</i>
13 th	<i>Sue Kesterton</i>		<i>Shirley, Helen</i>	<i>Phill H, Max Plumb</i>
20 th	<i>Joe Sloey</i>		<i>Winston, Anne H</i>	<i>Jan, Hazel + Bob</i>
27 th	<i>Leanne K</i>		<i>Parriss, Owen</i>	<i>Winston, Owen</i>

If you are unable to come on the day you are rostered, please try to arrange for someone else to take your place.

Leaders in Worship for August and September

Aug 30 th	Owen Smythe with some male contributors.
Sept 6 th	Ron Loom
Sept 13 th	Marc Erbsleben (worship leader Cathie Smythe) Marc is paid by SLCEA to work in the high school
Sept 20 th	Joan Horgan
Sept 27 th	Owen Smythe

Congregation Meeting

Our Annual Congregation meeting was held last week.

The following people were elected;

Chairperson Parriss McDougall

Deputy Chairperson Bob Starling

Secretary Cathie Smythe

Presbytery Reps (2) Parriss McDougall

SLCEA Reps (2) Cathie Smythe, Joan Harley

Communion Stewards (2) Elaine Kingston, Val Sloey

Other positions filled; see noticeboard.

Church Councillors

Those elected or re elected were: Barbara Dufty for 3 years (re-elect), Bruce Edgell for 3 years (new member), Phillip Hart for 1 year (re-elect), Betty Small (recently co-opted) for 1 year, Owen Smythe (re-elect) for 1 year and Catherine Smythe (recently co-opted) for 1 year.

Connect in Prayer

- 1 Pray for the people of Lebanon following the explosion in Beirut
- .2 Students sitting trial HSC exams and all other students preparing for end of year exams, with all the difficulties they have faced this year with lockdowns and disruption.
- 3 Our SRE teachers and their students as they resume their Scripture classes after a very long break

Morning Tea. ???

At the Church Council meeting on 27th August we discussed whether we could start having morning tea again after the Sunday Service. There are certainly issues involved but several other churches in our Presbytery have successfully recommenced morning tea so we thought we would give it a go on Sunday 13th September. If you look at the preaching roster you will see that Marc Erbsleben is our guest speaker. Marc works with SLCEA at Morisset High School.

The main issues we have to deal with, beside social distancing is that only one person can touch the tea pot, coffee pot and milk jug, so you will be served your drink ready to go. Biscuits have to be individually packed so that they are opened by the consumer. For this trial at least, we will use disposable cups.

With Love to the World

A small group within the Morisset Uniting Church congregation have benefited from using the publication With Love to the World for daily readings and commentary on the Scripture set for each week during the church year and find it helpful to keep disciplined about our daily devotions.

The publication is produced four times in the year and current subscriptions, (which have just increased) are \$24 per year from November. At present there is one spare copy available. Gordon Robertson is the Coordinator.

The publishers of With Love to the World have now released an App for With Love to the World available from “your App Store or Play Store” Dr. Deidre Palmer, President of the Uniting Church in Australia, “commends this resource to local churches and individual members of the Uniting Church.”

Op Shop

By making several changes to the layout of the Op Shop, we were able to open again and we have had 3 weeks of trading. A very successful first week was followed by 2 average weeks based on comparative figures from last year.

Church in the Trees but which trees?

We pride ourselves at being *The Church in the Trees* and we are known by that name both in the local community and in the wider Uniting Church. The Church sits on a parcel of land that has many original local plants. In fact the Lake Macquarie City Council has zoned us as Environmental land partly because of the endangered *Tetratheca Juncea* plant, found only on the Central Coast between the Hawkesbury and Hunter rivers, and because of several native animals and birds living here.

Several people have thought that it would be a good idea to enhance the beauty of the site by planting more local endemic plants that are not here now. Plants that are attractive to the human eye and food for local birds are high on our priority, eg Wattles, Grevilleas, Gynea Lilly.

Bob Starling is interested in hearing from anyone who is interested in planning an overall layout for the surrounds of the church, working with what has already been done and what improvements we could make. We have made a small allocation in the budget to get the project up and running.

Healthy Churches Expo. 5th September 2020



Highly recommended for leaders and those interested in the future of the church. There are many different talks available on line but you need to register. Have a look at the offering. I think you will be impressed

<https://ume.nswact.uca.org.au/event/healthy-churches-expo-2020/>

Articles for the weekly newsletter should be submitted in writing by Wednesday

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