

This Sunday @ BCUC

8th December

9:00am Children's Nativity Service

10:30am Lessons & Carols

Jesus is Coming : Joy

Romans 15:4-13, Isaiah 11:1-10

10:30am Café : Colette Williams

The kingdom of heaven is near

Matthew 3:1-12

Upcoming Week @ BCUC

Monday 9th December

10:00am mainly music

1:30pm Monday Day Fellowship

9:30am Prayer Meeting

12 noon "Unwrapping Joy"

Thursday 12th December

6:00pm Worship & Music Ministry

7:15pm Choir Practice

Tuesday 10th December

9:30am Ladies Table Tennis

9:30am Playgroup Farm Barn

Sunday 15th December

12noon Prayer Meeting

Wednesday 11th December

7:45am Prayer Meeting

Next Sunday @ BCUC

15th December

9:00am Contemporary, 10:30am Classic : Rev Dr Benji Callen

Jesus is Coming : Hope

Isaiah 35:1-10, James 5:7-10

10:30am Café : Rev Rob Williams

Reading the Signs

Isaiah 7:10-16, Matthew 1:18-25

Prayer Requests: prayer@burnsidecityuc.org.au

If you require more information please contact the church office or visit our website.

T: 8331 3914 E: admin@burnsidecityuc.org.au W: www.burnsidecityuc.org.au

384 Portrush Road, Tusmore 5065



Burnside City
Uniting Church

Sunday 8th December 2019

WELCOME

*Please stay for a cup of tea or coffee after the service
so that we can get to know each other better.*



Ministry Team Contacts

Minister: Rev Dr Benji Callen

0427 792 869; benjic@burnsidecityuc.org.au

Day off : Monday

Minister in Assoc: Rev Rob Williams

0424 123 171; robw@burnsidecityuc.org.au

Administrator : Stuart MacAdam

on leave until December 27; office closed

temporary opening hours

Mon,Tue, 9am - noon (8331 3914)

Ministers are available for Pastoral Care as required.



BCUC : Raising Children of God

A MESSAGE FROM BENJI

Advent is the season of waiting and preparing. You, like me, may have been confused about what we're waiting for. Often we think its about preparing Christmas, the time when God chose to become like us... Emmanuel (which means God with us). The Christmas carols we sing, the trees, the advent calendars, the parades, the Christmas parties, the decorations in shops and offices all seem to reinforce the same message: Jesus is coming/has come to us as a baby at Christmas, let's celebrate. If you do some research into the church calendar and what's called the Revised Common Lectionary (set Sunday bible readings for each year on a 3-year rotation used by many mainline denominations worldwide since its revision in 1994); you discover that advent is waiting and preparing not for Father Christmas or Christ coming as a baby. That happened over 2000 years ago. Rather, it is Christ's coming again in glory. The 'second coming'. Some writers and commentators who enjoy a strict adherence to the church's liturgical year get quite upset about what they see as "the Christmas creep" of advent. Christmas carols and decorations are for Christmas and the period after, not before. As a result, Christmas for them should come in sudden flurry!

At BCUC were mixing it together a bit. We can see both Christmas coming and elements of preparing for the time Jesus comes again. Up the front of the church we add each Sunday a golden trumpet. As Jesus described his return: *"he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other."* Matthew 24:31. The flags have a letter of the four traditional advent themes: Love, Joy, Hope, Peace. Their colour is purple: the usual colour of advent that represents both royalty (the sovereignty of God) and penitent preparation. The black background represents the pre-dawn. As Christians we live in the time between Jesus death and resurrection and his return, the darkness is nearly over. As we progress through the weeks we will see more light and life (including in the flowers). The bible in front of the cross symbolises the primary revelation of Jesus (come along at Christmas and you will see the word made flesh). It's not the bright tinsel and trees that you get at Burnside Village, its about showing Jesus return. We hope these visuals will enhance the message and your worship experience as we ask ourselves: are we prepared for Jesus to return?



The Christmas Bowl of Remembrance

Today is the first Sunday of the Christmas Bowl and we are continuing to respond as the Church together. From providing emergency relief for World War II refugees in 1949 to bringing life-giving water to families in drought-stricken South Sudan, you are sharing God's love amidst some of the most urgent crises of our time. **Thank you.**



CALL: 1800 025 101 VISIT: actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl

The Christmas appeal of Act for Peace, the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. ABN 86 619 970 188

THIS WEEK'S NEWS & NOTICES

Playgroup Farm Barn @ BCUC

December 10 from 9:30am. All children ages 0 to 5 are invited to this special Playgroup year end event. Come and see/hold a variety of baby farm animals. Cost \$4.

Seniors Second Sunday Lunch

TODAY at noon. Come and join us for friendship, fun and food. Chicken & Salad plus a fruit platter.

Christmas Day Lunch

Christmas is a time for families. If you are going to be on your own on Christmas Day and would like to share Christmas lunch with the church family, please stay on at the end of the 9:30am Christmas service for lunch in the Hall.

Please bring food to share. There will be sign up sheets in the foyer if you would like to let us know that you are coming.

BCUC Cares - Christmas Hamper

Uniting Communities at Clayton Wesley Church appreciates all hamper items donated for families in need. Hamper donations may be placed in the usual marked boxes in the church foyer. Suggested Christmas Hamper items include:

- Christmas Cake/Pudding
- Coffee, Tea, Milo, Soft Drinks
- Longlife Custard
- Biscuits/Cracker, Chips/Lollies
- Canned Fruit/Vegetables
- Canned Tuna, Ham or Turkey
- Spreads, Soup, Cereal
- Other non-perishable foods
- Toys

Christmas at Dr Jon's Pantry

Select one of our specialities to give to a friend : Tomato relish, Pear & Ginger chutney, Cumquat marmalade, among many others. Taste before you buy !!

Christmas Psalm Booklet

Submit your psalm to bcucchats@burnsidecityuc.org.au by 10 December.

Loss of School Chaplaincy Funding

In recent years BICC have supported chaplaincy in 4 local schools. We were informed that there will be no more government funding for 3 of those schools. This year the government has funded 40 hours/week and BICC has funded 36. The loss of the government contribution is a severe blow. Please pray for a resolution to this problem.

Administrator on Leave

Stuart is on leave and will return to the office on Friday 27 December. During this time, building opening hours are limited to Mondays and Tuesdays between 9am and noon (Dec 9, 10, 16, 17, 23). Benji will frequently be in the office throughout this period. You can reach him on his mobile number. See below for details on submissions for the newsletter & notices.

Summer Events for Children / Youth

CE Camp (ages 14 - 20)

Dec 29 - Jan 2
visit ce.asn.au

Jnr CE Camp (ages 9 - 13)

January 5 - 9
visit ce.asn.au/junior-camp

Big Week Out (high school aged)

January 13-17
visit bigweekout.org.au

Please e-mail articles for the BCUC weekly news to Leigh Duffett at leighduffett1@gmail.com no later than 10am on Wednesday