

CONTACT

Eastwood Uniting Church

Worship online: 8am (informal zoom), 9.30am (inclusive zoom), 2pm (Chinese language WeChat)
Recording of Worship highlights and Sermon can be found each week on
<https://www.eastwooduca.org/resources.html>



WINTER NEWSLETTER

JULY-AUGUST 2021

Living in lockdown

With Rev Amelia Koh-Butler

For some it is a time to invest in the most intimate of relationships – those within our own households. For others, it is a time of being in solitude. Some find this time almost a relief and some find it incredibly hard. Be kind to yourselves and one another. Even with the best attitudes and wills for good, there are challenges in living life so differently from what we have been accustomed to.

As I write, I am blessed to be sitting in the afternoon sun on my balcony. I can hear children playing in the courtyard below my unit and I am playing worship songs as I sit here. The sky has less pollution and the cranes above the city in Parramatta are still. Construction is on pause.

Yet I look at my balcony garden and observe that tomorrow will see three fresh tomatoes, ripe for picking. It is good there are three... at least one might make it as far as the kitchen!

How are you spending this strange time? Is this a time for cleaning out cupboards? Is it a time for making soup? Is it a time for going on walks or tending to the garden? Have you been reading books or doing jigsaws? Are you woodworking, knitting or reading to grandchildren over the phone?

Today I had a walk and coffee with a neighbour from a block away. It felt great to talk to a real person, even though we stayed masked and kept a 2 metre distance as we walked. I really encourage you to get out for safe walks, but do make sure you maintain

the distance and don't go inside if it is not absolutely essential.

A couple of weeks ago we took the decision to close the church site. Michelle Loxton is the ONLY person allowed to access the site until further notice. If you need anything, please email the church and we will arrange for anything to be brought outside for you at a mutually convenient time. This is because we are not continuing with cleaning while only one person accesses the building, but if anyone else enters for any reason, we are obliged to undertake extra thorough cleaning regimes of the whole site. The rest of us are working from home. We can be reached by email or mobile phone as found on the newsletter or website.

I am considered an essential worker and can make urgent pastoral visits, but I am required to stay masked, keep distance and try to stay outside as much as possible. I am also able to connect by phone or facetime or zoom and enjoy having a cuppa when talking with you.

If you are struggling on your own, please let us know. There are a number of people who need some mutual support and we can talk with you and also see if there is someone else to match you up with for some phone contact. Now is also a great time to pull out the blank cards or postage stamps... a tangible sign of life is pretty welcome for those whose great daily adventure is to the letterbox.

Be Covid Aware

- Do Not access the Church Property.
- If you need something from church, please email or phone for advice.
- Keep in contact. We will be having regular zoom drop-ins and chat and coffee fellowship times online.
- Please let us know if you would like 1 to 1 help on getting online and using smartphones, tablets, computers and getting onto zoom gatherings. We have a team of people happy to spend some time assisting you to feel more confident and get you connected. We can talk through on the phone with you as you 'have-a-go'.

When we do re-access Church

1. expect to wear a mask.
2. If you do not have a smartphone or other device and are not able to use QR codes, please let us know, so we can get other people to register you when you come onsite. [It will no longer be adequate for us to do a written sign-on, so we will need a way to register you digitally as soon as you enter the building.]

Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. ~ Isaiah 41:10

Pastoral Care in our community

Who are the people you can turn to for a listening ear, support and encouragement, sound advice, and a word of prayer? Who bears the hope of Christ for you?

Christian Community is built upon Discipleship (or followership) of Jesus Christ. Churches are not membership clubs, yet every person is valued and respected as having been created in the image of God.

We find our purpose as God's sacred creations. We are committed to valuing each person as if they were themselves Jesus Christ – the Holy One. Each person has a part to play. How can you pray for your neighbour as a Holy treasure?

We are not alone.

As a community, we are not to seek our own self-interests, but to live out the values of Jesus Christ – our leader.

Even as we turn to others to for support and help, we learn to become people who are models of the Christian life. None of us are perfect, but we seek to become people who are trusted to hold people in prayer and to companion people spiritually.

Many of our neighbours are anxious or isolated. Is now the time to drop a note in a letterbox? Perhaps a word of encouragement?

By three methods we may learn wisdom: First, by reflection, which is noblest; Second, by imitation, which is easiest; and third by experience, which is the bitterest. - Confucius

FIVE MARKS OF MISSION

To proclaim the Good News of the Reign of God
To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
To respond to human need by loving service
To seek to transform unjust structures of society
To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth



Home ▾ Beliefs ▾ Worship ▾ People ▾ Giving ▾ Mission ▾ COVID+ ▾



Warami Mittigar (Darug)

Welcome to

Eastwood Uniting Church

A community of faith

Have you been to our new Website?

www.eastwooduca.org

Please take a look and think about what you might add!

Fresh Expressions “FX”

“Creating new forms of emerging church, transforming the lives of people who currently have little or no connection with Church” – this is a working definition of the ‘Fresh Expressions’ movement, from Methodist and Anglican Churches in the UK.

Rev Nicholas had a strong interest in FX and this is continued with Rev Amelia, who has experience in FX's in Newcastle and Parramatta and overseeing FX's in Adelaide. Her doctoral research particularly looked at diverse communities engaging in new forms.

A fresh expression is a form of church, established primarily for the benefit of people who are not yet members of any church. It will come into being through principles of listening, service, incarnational mission and making disciples AND It will have the potential to become a mature expression of church shaped by the gospel and the enduring marks of the church and for its cultural context.

The Focus of *Fresh Expressions*:

- serve those outside church;
- listen to people and enter their culture;
- make discipleship a priority;
- form church.

Proposal to extend the Community Outreach Ministry for the next three years

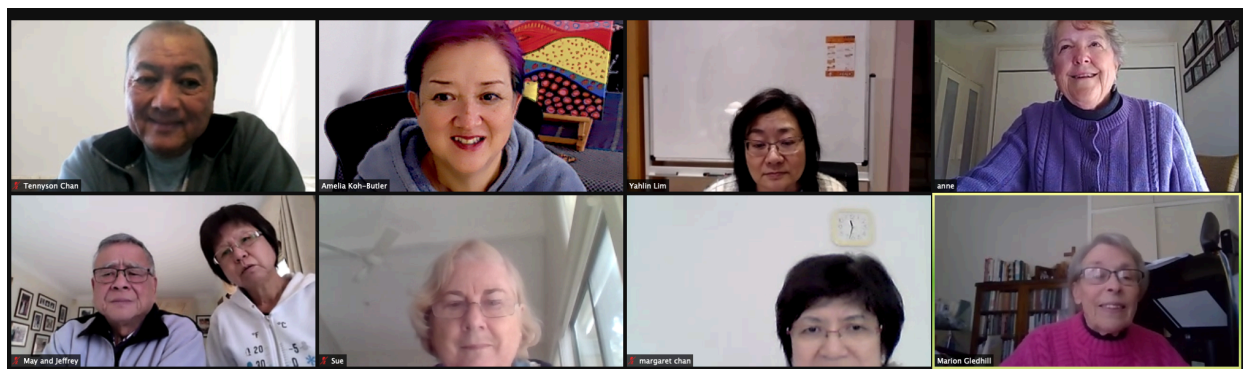
Eastwood UC called Rev Tennyson Chan to be our Community Resource Worker in 2016. It was a bold move, untried by others. Employing a Chinese-speaking Pastor from another denomination to research and start something new was an act of hope and faith. Prayers, ideas, a few experiments, false starts and resounding successes saw 'seeds' turn into 'sprouts'. Despite COVID and the sending back to other countries of many temporary visitors and students, we now have some 'seedlings'.

In the Uniting Church, we are able to 'borrow' ministers from other denominations for up to one term of employment, but extensions are restricted to those ministers who go through an 'Admission of Ministry to the Uniting Church' process. That is, for longer-term ministries they need to transfer and become a UCA Minister. The Admission process has a list of requirements and normally takes at least a couple of years to complete. Tennyson completed the requirements last year and it was agreed that finalisation of Admission be delayed until after your new Minister had commenced.

In order for Tennyson to be 'admitted', he now needs to be in a formal ministry 'Placement'. If we want Tennyson to continue at Eastwood UC, we will need to formalise the change from a general employment contract to a Part-time Ministry Placement. At this stage, we are still working on 50%, similar to what Tennyson has already been doing. As a UCA Minister, he would also qualify for housing. This represents our commitment as a Uniting Church congregation to supporting our ministers.

In 2018, 2019 and in 2020, it was flagged in Eastwood's Life and Witness consultation and Mission plans that such a Placement would need to be funded from Sales Proceeds. It is not automatic that congregations get access to Sales proceeds. However, Eastwood is in the enviable position of being rated highly as a missional priority and has demonstrated good results already. The application process is called NREMA – Non Real Estate Mission Application. We are applying to have the Placement recognised in conjunction with a NREMA application. The full costs of the Placement will need to be met by accessing the Sales proceeds. We have received encouragement and support from both Presbytery and Synod to proceed with this application.

The proposal would mean that the Community Resource Worker (which was able to be extended beyond initial funding due to COVID Jobkeeper) could now transition into a half-time Minister Placement. Rather than operate a deficit to fund this, the Sales proceeds would allow us to continue to grow relationships with particularly Asian members of the community in the Eastwood region.



From our Congregation Chairperson LINDA BRUNTON



Eastwood Uniting Church is a congregation that continues to engage with, and build relationships with, our local community. As established by our Mission Plan, our highest priority in mission is outreach to members of our community of Asian heritage. In order to achieve this goal, we decided to expand the ministry team by including a group of outreach/mission workers who could effectively communicate in Asian languages. Our first step was the employment of a Chinese speaking resource worker. Our intention was that we would pursue further initiatives to build the ministry team under the guidance of our new minister, Rev. Dr Amelia Koh-Butler.

Over recent years, financial grants from several Uniting Church organisations (especially Lane Cove UC) provided interim financial support for our initiatives, however this is no longer the case.

This congregation's mission initiative in the 1950's was the establishment of Denistone East Uniting Church. As Eastwood has been transformed over recent decades the focus for our mission has changed. The Mission Plan specifies that new mission initiatives will be supported by funds from the sale of the Denistone East church site.

In order to maintain and build upon the momentum of our work, by employees, members and volunteers, to achieve a 7 day a week multicultural church, it is now proposed to create the part time position of Community Catalyst Minister. This will enable us to together continue this engagement and relationship building with our community and to develop new leaders, **utilising funds from the sale of the Denistone East church site.**

Do you need some
help with
TECHNOLOGY?

Get in touch –
we would like to help!

