



## **EASTWOOD UNITING CHURCH**

***14 - 16 Lakeside Road, Eastwood***

**26th September 2021**

**WELCOME TO ALL WHO ARE WITH US FOR THE FIRST TIME.  
MAY YOU EXPERIENCE GOD'S PRESENCE AS WE FIND DIFFERENT WAYS  
TO WORSHIP AND BE COMMUNITY**

26th September 8.00am Worship online

Jason Masters

9.30am Worship online

Amelia Koh-Butler

<https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/5450786355> or

mobile/landline phone 80156011 and

meeting ID: 5450786355

Ruth 1:1-22, Acts 10

*'I've been meaning to ask' ...Where do we go from here?*

2.00pm Chinese Service via WeChat contact Tennyson

3rd October

8.00am Worship online

Amelia Koh-Butler

Creation Festival includes Communion

9.30 am Worship online

Amelia Koh-Butler

<https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/5450786355>

Meeting ID: 545 078 6355

*'Creation and Creativity'*

2.00pm Chinese Service via WeChat contact Tennyson

**The new church website is: <https://www.eastwooduca.org/>**

### ***COVID UPDATE DETAILS***

**All worship services remain online only.**

**Concerts, events and all activities are cancelled or suspended.**

欢迎所有第一次来参加崇拜的朋友们。

希望你们在和我们一起崇拜的时候感受到上帝的存在。

유나이팅 교회에 처음 방문해주신 모든 분들을 환영합니다. 함께 예배하는 가운데 살아계신 주님을 만나고 돌아갈 수 있길 소망합니다.



We are glad to have you with us today, to share in this online worship service led by Rev Dr Amelia Koh-Butler. We hope that you enjoy the time of worship as we explore the series 'I've been meaning to ask...', and that you feel welcomed and included even as we cannot meet in person.

**WORSHIP RESOURCES** are emailed before Sunday to those with email. Printed copies will be delivered to those without internet access.

To join the services any Sunday via Zoom please use the link below.

<https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/5450786355> Meeting ID: 545 078 6355

The Assembly website has a list of livestreaming and online worship services. <https://assembly.uca.org.au/resources/ministry-during-covid-19>.

Updates on services and news are also available on the Presbytery website: <https://sydneycentralcoastpresbytery.uca.org.au>

Synod has stipulated that **every group** that either meets in the name of Eastwood Uniting Church (including Bible studies in a home) or uses the Church premises for any activity, **must provide Church Council with a safety plan** that complies with regulations and guidelines set out by both the NSW Government and the NSW/ACT Synod. Chris Wakefield kindly agreed to be our contact person with Synod on behalf of Church Council.

**FOOD DONATIONS FOR CCA. Urgently needing** canned food, pantry staples and toiletries for emergency food packages. Contributions can be dropped off at CCA, 12 Lakeside Rd, Mon-Fri.

**PASTORAL CARE** Please continue to keep connected with each other by phone, email and text as we are in lockdown again.

**'PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS'**

Sue H

Merrill B

Jason M

Margaret S

Yvonne VE

Liz M's mother Katy

## **THIS WEEK'S DIARY DATES**

Friday 1 Oct Social Zoom

7.30pm

**No worship services or activities are able to be held at the church.**

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS.** The office team mostly work from home. Best contact is via email. Phone messages will be checked when someone is in the office. Contact details for the ministry team are on the back page of the weekly notices.

**CHURCH WEBSITE.** The office team are very happy to assist anyone needing help accessing online resources, or with meeting via Zoom. Here is the direct link to the page where resources are located: <https://www.eastwooduca.org/resources.html> You will find under 'Upcoming', the Zoom link for worship, order of service, weekly notices and the link to the recorded sermon. Simply click on the item you want to access. The video recordings of services are there to view.

**2PM CHINESE SERVICE** via WeChat. Please contact Tennyson 0411896274 for further information and the link to WeChat activities.

**URGENT REQUEST.** An opportunity to support refugees living in Australia personally with their settlement needs through the Group Mentorship Program. A group has just formed in this general area and urgently needs a couple more members – adults, any age, working or not working. For details contact Marion 0423355759.

**WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP** [with Amelia] Author - Rachel Held Evans NY Times best seller, RHE, was a young mum and easy-to-read people's progressive theologian. She tragically died a couple of years ago, but her books are so relevant for contemporary life and faith. Her books are available as print or audiobooks. If you are interested in joining a book discussion group, please contact the Office. Zoom and Facebook options.



### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Navan Niles	Today	26th September
Chris Wakefield	Monday	27th September
Kerrie Springett	Tuesday	28th September
Ben Ferris	Tuesday	28th September
Pat McLeod	Wednesday	29th September

## ***VISITS - A Note from Amelia***

Hello Everyone!

Although I have been with you for 6 months now, I have not had the chance to meet many of you in person. I would like to get to know you better, but I am also being super-cautious so that I do not place any of you 'at risk'. With that in mind, I am thinking about how to do some 'visiting'.

There are several options that I would be happy to explore with you.

1. I am happy to open up a ZOOM room for Drop in chat time. Byo cuppa.
2. I am happy to visit groups (or individuals) online in ZOOM or FaceTime groups (individual calls).
3. I am happy to meet physically IN-PERSON outside - at a park or in a front or backyard OR outside at church - the Property Committee are currently looking at how we make the most of our lovely outdoor spaces at Eastwood Uniting. We will have a few different spaces set up so that small groups of 2-8 people will be able to meet safely with distancing, shade and seating. We are committed to keeping our whole community safe and connected. These visits will currently need to be masked, but that restriction may lift in coming weeks.

Note. Online and Zoom options will be part of regular life for the foreseeable future, so I am very happy to offer getting to know how to use ZOOM sessions. Please let the office know if you are interested.

Finally - like many of you, I have been anxiously watching the roadmaps and research. There are many things we do not yet know. What I do know is that God loves us, unconditionally. When we feel a bit fragile or anxious, God is there. Please don't feel like you have to do this weird and crazy period of life on your own. Eastwood Congregation exists to be a companion to you in the life of faith. We are meant to be pilgrim companions on this journey. Please connect in or contact us to find out what options we might be developing to make new connections.

## ***THE LOST ART OF "VISITING"***

This past week I travelled to Florida to spend time with my aunt and uncle at their lovely beach home in Carillon Beach. I haven't seen them much in the past two years because of COVID, so being together was a particular treat.

For four days, we practiced the lost art of "visiting." We would get up in the morning, fix coffee, and sit on their back porch in comfortable chairs with magazines in our lap (a book in mine). We would talk for a little while, sit in silence for a little while, and then talk again and then silence again. We passed whole days this way, simply being together and enjoying one another's presence and company.

When I think back to my life before the pandemic, I remember myself as so busy with work that I'm reasonably sure I would not have allowed myself this time of simply being. I might have been physically present, but my mind would've been racing with all the things to do, emails to return, new ideas to generate. How much of life did I miss, I wonder?

Today, after the isolation we've been through, "visiting" seems like such a beautiful and simple gift. Visiting with those who have shaped us means sitting with a longer timeline of ancestors, past and present, who remind us that it's our connection to one another that matters in the end.

In his book, *Living Philosophies*, Albert Einstein notes, "Strange is our situation here upon earth. Each of us comes for a short visit, not knowing why, yet sometimes seeming to a divine purpose. From the standpoint of daily life, however, there is one thing we do know: That we are here for the sake of other people — above all for those upon whose smile and well-being our own happiness depends, for the countless unknown souls with whose fate we are connected by a bond of sympathy. Many times a day, I realise how much my outer and inner life is built upon the labors of people, both living and dead, and how earnestly I must exert myself in order to give in return as much as I have received and am still receiving."

I've always believed that we are designed by God for one another.

1 John 3:11 reminds us, "For this is the message you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another." Our seeing one another, knowing one another, caring for one another, and loving one another is THE point of life. The rest is entertainment.

If you have the chance to "visit" with someone today, I hope you say yes. It's nice to show up for what matters in the end.

We are in this together,

*Rev. Cameron Trimble*

*Author of Piloting Church: Helping Your Congregation Take Flight*

## We are all ministers in Christ's name

### Ministry Team:

Rev Dr Amelia Koh-Butler 美莉牧師 0427 955 157 rev.ameliak@gmail.com

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Kyounghee Cho Student minister 0410 559 687 (Monday)

**Congregation Leaders:** Linda Brunton

Emma Jarvis

Esther Shih 莊娜麗傳道 0411 128 069

**Office:** Michelle Loxton 9858 5732 secretary@euc.org.au

Nilu Thambimuttu P O Box 324 Eastwood 2122

Website: [www.eastwooduca.org](http://www.eastwooduca.org)

### Please send all notices to the Office

Mission: Witness to the gospel and spread the good news of Jesus Christ in word and action.



Vision: Engage and connect with our diverse community through active discipleship.

Values: Visible 可見的 비전을 가질 수가 있고

Inclusive 包容的 포괄적이 될 수있고

Relevant 相關的 적절하고

Active 積極的 역동적이 될 것이다

### LECTIONARY READINGS:

Sept 26 Pent 18: Est 7:1-6, 9-10;9:20-22, Ps 124, Jas 5:13-20,

Mk 9:38-50

Oct 3 Pent 19: Jb 1:1;2:1-10, Ps 26, Heb 1:1-4;2:5-12, Mk 10:2-16

**WEEKLY NOTICES**, and **SUNDAY SERVICES** for Eastwood are available for viewing on our website. So, if you are away on any Sunday you can catch up at [www.eastwooduca.org](http://www.eastwooduca.org)

**Banking Details for Direct Giving: BSB: 634 634**

**Account #: 100020668**