



Eastwood Uniting Church Newsletter



April 2023

8am Informal Worship
9.30am Multilingual Service
11am Korean Service

Calendar Dates for March 2023

02/04 Services at 8am, 9.30am & 11am
Mainly Music 4.30pm
03/04 Lenten Discussion 8pm
31, Epping Av & on Zoom
04/04 Lenten Discussion 7.30pm
24 Wood Street
04/04 Community Café 10am
06/04 Maundy Thursday 6pm
07/04 Good Friday 9.30am
09/04 Easter Sunday 9.30am
13/04 Basic Chinese Class 10.30
16/04 Services at 8am, 9.30am & 11am
17/04 Ebenezer Church, Windsor day
trip 9am
18/04 Community Café 10am
23/04 Services at 8am, 9.30am & 11am
27/04 Basic Chinese Class
30/04 Services at 8am, 9.30am & 11am
Mainly Music 4.30pm

If you attend any Church activities, **PLEASE WEAR A NAME TAG.** We have some new people, and it makes it much friendlier if you wear a nametag!



April Birthdays

Margaret Shannon	01/04
Eliot Parker-Lacey	09/04
Brianna Weatherburn	11/04
Barbara Horrocks	19/04
Caitlyn Weatherburn	21/04
Samantha Weatherburn	21/04
Janelle Dodd	26/04
Eddy Ganschow	28/04



Free Yoga Classes at Eastwood Uniting Church

Classes are held in the main hall on
Mondays, 11.30am—12.30pm

Vicki the instructor speaks both Mandarin and English

Loosely Woven

in



Bright Blue Rose

Eastwood Uniting Church is pleased to be hosting another free concert from the Loosely Woven team of 15 singers and instrumentalists.

‘**Bright Blue Rose**’ is a light-hearted, folksy sort of acoustic concert on **Friday 28th April** in the worship centre at 7pm.

Further information contact Robert Dive. Mob: 0415198475
rdive20@gmail.com

looselywoven.org

Ebenezer Church, Windsor Day Trip

Visiting the oldest church in Australia, Hawkesbury River, park and town centre and other places of interest. All welcome.

Participants need to wear comfortable clothing and footwear.

Morning tea will be provided in the church and lunch in the town centre at your own cost .

Date: **Monday 17/4/2023**

Departure & return time: 9am –5pm

Leaving from Eastwood Uniting Church

Cost: \$50 (incl transport and morning tea)

To book please call Jermaine 0411588102

Limited number (only 12 seats available).



Our **mainly music** program has received accreditation and is now ready to advertise and invite community to come along. Please let friends and family with pre-school children know about this programme that runs here at the church at 4.30pm on Sundays, fortnightly during school terms. See dates for April on first page of newsletter.

23rd March 2023 Church Council Meeting Update

- Sydney Central Coast Presbytery (SCCP) has accepted the EUC Congregation Profile and has been submitted to the next meeting of the Synod Advisory Committee on Ministerial Placements in April. This is the catalyst for the Joint Nominating Committee to receive and consider potential candidates to fill the ministerial placement.
- SCCP's call for members to nominate for Synod has been advertised to EUC members. Anyone with an interest in attending Synod can nominate.
- A proposal from Anglican Bishop Ross Nicholson for a forum/seminar later this year to facilitate debate about the proposed Aboriginal and Islander Voice to Parliament was supported. Details to be advertised when available.
- EUC office will open 4 days each week during April. Michelle Loxton has offered to work an additional day per week during Nilu's leave until 11 May.
- Following receipt of a request from the Dean of Formation at Uniting Theological College, it was agreed that Brendon Lukin would remain in his current role with Eastwood Uniting Church until the end of April 2023. The opportunity to assist the Dean, and for Brendon to gain further experience, also benefits the Congregation because Brendon makes a valuable contribution to its worship, witness, and service.
- Discussions with potential supply ministers for EUC from May 2023 suggested by the Presbytery office will be initiated.
- Current shortcomings in the operations of the EUC system of caring were discussed. COVID-19 and associated changes have disrupted the system that had effectively operated for many years. The differences between pastoral care and the activities of the lay caring network were discussed. Emma Jarvis as new co-ordinator will discuss the role and needs with Lesley Bradbury, previous co-ordinator.
- Property:
 - Treating and repairing the basement areas initially identified has been completed. Several additional areas require investigation and potential treatment. It is important for basement areas to remain vacant to allow adequate ventilation of spaces.

- Inspection of the basement areas and corridors has shown that Eastwood Uniting Church Musical Society (EUCMS) has not vacated areas as previously requested, or removed goods that constrain movement. Immediate action is necessary. Only goods such as props and costumes necessary for the next show should be stored on site, at the rear of the stage. Items that cannot be stored in this rear stage space must be removed to an external storage location. Another letter is to be sent to EUCMS requesting goods stored on premises to be removed as previously requested.
- The recent attention to several significant property matters which may compromise the operations of the property was noted. The actions of Stephen Kemp as Property Convenor to identify and resolve these matters is much appreciated.
- EUC Mainly Music is now accredited by the Mainly Music Organisation. The EUC team has been trained and will be outfitted. Recruiting pre-school children to participate will be initiated.

Next Church Council Meeting to be held Thursday 20th April 2023

If you have any comments/questions or issues you wish Church Council to address, please contact any member of the Council: Emma Jarvis (Chair), Janelle Dodd (Treasurer), Lesley Bradbury, John Brunton (minutes), Jermaine Yan, Jason Masters, Kerry Springett, Mark Leal, Rev. Tennyson Chan (Community Minister), Brendon Lukin (student Minister), Linda Brunton (Congregation Chair).

Linda Brunton, Congregation Chair.

Eastwood Uniting Church Basic Chinese Class

Are you interested in learning Chinese language and culture?



Thursdays 10.30-11.30am

April 13 & 27

May 11 & 25

June 8 & 22

Classes are free.

A gold coin donation towards printed material is appreciated

For more information 0405389910 (English/中文)

2023 Assembly Lenten Reflections

Week 6: New Life by Rev Erik Lennestål

As we contemplate new life, and as we approach Holy Week and Easter, I want to share with you one of my icons. It's a unique icon only produced in one copy that I conceived of and had commissioned with the help of an extremely talented iconographer friend. I like to call it 'Christ the Risen Gardener'. You can see it in the picture below. In your Bible, you can turn to read more about the Scriptures that inspired it in John chapter 20.

This is an icon which comes infused with ambivalence - imbued both with memories of a world that once was, while yearning for what can be. This is what Jewish faith calls 'tikkun olam', 'the repair of the world' - not just what happens one day when, but one which speaks of the struggle for justice, healing, reconciliation, and new life. For making things right also in the here and now.

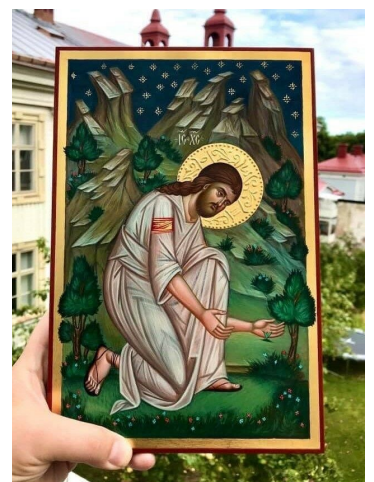
The icon also speaks of the dark night of the soul, when Mary Magdalene, crippled by unspeakable grief, had gone to the tomb to cry. Finding the tomb empty and the stone rolled away, she didn't quite know what to make of it all. In the bewilderment and disorientation that ensued, she manages a startled: "They have taken my Lord away... and I don't know where they have put him!" Of course, she was, understandably, suspecting grave robbery and desecration over resurrection, but the exchange that follows is beautiful in more ways than one. Meeting the Risen Christ, she mistakes him for the gardener!

I cannot help but wonder what it was like on that dark, starry and confusing night. Was he crouching in the dirt? Was he who had conquered death able also to make the earth spring to life again? Could he soften what was hardened? Could he make even the driest, most lifeless and stoniest of deserts bloom? Did he cradle a seedling, gently helping it reach for the light? Did this earthy Messiah have dirt under his nails? God himself, on bended knee, writing in the dust, as he had before while stones picked up in judgment and anger had fallen to the ground all around him. Was there something in his appearance, upon closer inspection, that made eternity shine through?

Or did it all make sense when he turned to her, called her by name and her heart sprung to new life at the sound of his voice? And she, grabbed a hold of him, and called out "Rabbouni"! This surely was no ordinary gardener!

Question: What new life is Christ tending in your place?

Prayer: Jesus Christ, risen gardener of all creation, dirty-handed Messiah, meet us today, speak our names, bring healing and wholeness, and kindle a resurrection fire in our hearts, reach out your hands and heal our world, gently turn the soil, make the desert of our lives bloom, and bring forth new life from the dust. Amen.



Eastwood Uniting Church Musical Society Inc. presents

The Sound *of* Music

Music by

RICHARD RODGERS

Lyrics by

OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II

Book by **HOWARD LINDSAY and RUSSEL CROUSE**

Suggested by "the Story of the Trapp Family Singers"

"The Sound of Music" is presented by permission of
ORIGIN™ Theatrical on behalf of R&H Theatricals, A Concord Theatricals Company

19 May - 3 June 2023

Eastwood Uniting Church

14 - 16 Lakeside Road, Eastwood

www.eucms.org.au or 80617195



Eastwood Uniting Church Office (Mon – Fri 9.30am—2.30pm)

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Contact Number: 98585732

Website: www.eastwooduca.org

Eastwood UC Bank Details: BSB 634 634 Account#: 100020668