

# Pitt Street Uniting Church eNews

A progressive faith community of justice-seeking friends in the heart of Sydney

Thursday 23 March 2017



Dear Pitt Street Community,

It's time to register for the Equal Voices launch which is being held at Pitt Street on Monday 3 April at 6:30 – 8 pm. The Hon Michael Kirby will be the guest speaker. There will be music and finger food and drinks will be served.

Equal Voices is an ecumenical movement of Christians, LGBTIQ+ and allies, recognising, supporting and celebrating LGBTIQ+ people in the Church. Anglican priest, Rev Keith Mascord, former Moore College lecturer and marriage equality supporter is one of the key "ally" leaders. The event is free but you need to register. <http://bit.ly/EqualVoicesLaunch> There is an online apology which you are invited to read and sign. <https://equalvoices.org.au/apologise/>

At a time when the Uniting Church has shut down conversation about LGBTI inclusion, when UnitingJustice has been forbidden to speak in support of civil marriage equality (or even in opposition to the wretched plebiscite), it is good to connect with people from other churches who realise that being visible in public life in support of LGBTIQ people is crucial for the future of the church. Exclusionary treatment of LGBTI people has been shown to be one of the greatest turn offs to participation in religious communities. At Pitt Street, we can take a much bolder stance than the timidity of the UCA.

Our stance has recently attracted some negative attention. The pre-Mardi Gras parade gathering was infiltrated by three men who loudly denounced homosexuality (one of them having climbed up into the high pulpit) and our rainbow flags have been torn down several times. The interruption was distressing but it is a sign that we are making an impact, that we are known as a place where everyone is welcome.

Peace, Margaret

## Sunday 26 March

10am Sunday Gathering  
Morning Tea/Coffee

11:45pm-1pm

Pastoral Friends Meeting

## Tues 28 March

5.30 pm, With One Voice  
Sydney Choir

## Sunday 2 April

10am Sunday Gathering  
Communion  
Morning Tea/Coffee

12pm-1pm Communications  
Team

## Monday 3 April

6:30 pm

Equal Voices Launch with  
Michael Kirby.



**Pitt Street Uniting** is a congregation of the Uniting Church in Australia. The gathering at 10 am on Sunday is the heart of our community life but we are also a place of welcome and hospitality for the wider community of Sydney for spirituality, justice, ecology, arts, music, meetings and events.

## Notices and Coming Events

### PASTORAL NOTICE

Paul Pang's beloved father died recently and a private funeral was held on Monday. We remember Paul, his mother and sister, in our prayers and offer our support and care.



### EQUAL VOICES LAUNCH AT PITT STREET

An ecumenical organisation of LGBTIQ Christians and allies to recognise, celebrate and support LGBTIQ people in the church. The official launch will be held at Pitt Street on **Monday 3 April, 6:30 pm**. The guest speaker is the **Hon Michael Kirby**. We hope to fill the church so please come along, bring friends and share the invitation wide. Free, but please register for catering <http://bit.ly/EqualVoicesLaunch>

We also need a crew of people to **help on the night** with welcoming and serving the catered food and drinks. Please contact John Floyd if you can help. [jrcfloyd33@optusnet.com.au](mailto:jrcfloyd33@optusnet.com.au)



**PITT STREET VOICES FOR JUSTICE** is an initiative that arose out of the AGM. We will advertise rallies and marches that take place in Sydney and invite you to join us. These are positive public actions that protest our governments' treatment and actions (or inaction) about a range of justice issues we care about at Pitt St. The rallies are non-partisan, peaceful, and well-organised.

There are two upcoming events. If you would like to join us, please email me at [meredithknight255@gmail.com](mailto:meredithknight255@gmail.com) or speak to me at church and we will organise a meeting place and time. Meredith Knight (Convenor).

**MARCH IN MARCH - STAND UP AUSTRALIA** at Belmore Park on the **25 March 2017** 1 pm to 4 pm. There will also be speakers and entertainment including environmental choir, Ecopella. We have decided not to take Pitt St banners to this because the advertising is somewhat partisan, but we will be in good company with groups like our friends from Grandmothers Against Detention of Refugee Children.

**PALM SUNDAY RALLY FOR REFUGEES** at the Archibald Fountain, Hyde Park North, Sydney on the **9 April 2017** 14.00-16.00. Pitt St Banners definitely! Optional march to First Fleet Park, Circular Quay.



### HOLY WEEK SERVICES AT PITT STREET

PALM/PASSION SUNDAY – 9 April 10 am  
GOOD FRIDAY – 14 April 10 am (please note time)  
EASTER SUNDAY – 16 April 10 am



### LENT EVENT 2017

UnitingWorld is partnering with the China Christian Council to support the training of leaders in the Chinese church. Christianity may be losing influence in many parts of the West, but its shape and form are being decided right now in churches in Asia and Africa. The Uniting Church in Australia has a seat at the table through our relationship with the China Christian Council. Please hold the people of China in your prayers this week. To learn more visit [www.lentevent.com](http://www.lentevent.com) where you can also make a gift to support the work of the China Christian Council.



**EREMOS RETREAT DAY**, Saturday **25 March 2017** 10-4pm, Bundeena, \$70 or \$60 for members; \$10 less for conc. Incl. morning tea and lunch.

Register: <https://www.trybooking.com/OCGI>.

**EREMOS QUIET MORNING**, Saturday **8 April 2017**, 10-1pm, Reflections on Stations of the Cross with diverse Artworks, Northmead Creative & Performing Arts High School. Led by curator Doug Parnell & Bethany South. **More details:** [http://www.eremos.org.au/events/16\\_Feb/stations-of-the-cross-exhibiting-4-17-april-2017](http://www.eremos.org.au/events/16_Feb/stations-of-the-cross-exhibiting-4-17-april-2017). Booking essential, by emailing [council@eremos.org.au](mailto:council@eremos.org.au)

## Notices and Coming Events



Uniting Church in Australia  
ASSEMBLY

### UNITING CHURCH AT THE ROYAL COMMISSION

Uniting Church leaders recently appeared before the Royal Commission on Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. President Stuart Macmillan has issued a Pastoral Statement on behalf of the UCA. You can read it here:

<https://assembly.uca.org.au/news/item/2577-uniting-church-in-australia-at-the-royal-commission>



### CIVIL RESISTANCE WORKSHOP

The Australian Religious Response to Climate Change (ARRCC), of which Pitt Street is a member, is sponsoring a workshop on nonviolent direct action, to work for environmental and social justice. Co-facilitators: Justin Whelan and Gill Burrows (Pace e Bene). **Sat 8 April 2017**, 10am-4pm. \$50 or \$15 concession. Level 2, Pilgrim House Community Room, 262 Pitt St, Sydney. [www.arrcc.org.au](http://www.arrcc.org.au)



### SIGN UP FOR CLIMATE ACTION

Micah Australia is leading a countrywide campaign to deliver petitions to every single Federal MP. The Australian Religious Response to Climate Change (ARRCC) is driving this message through all its faith-group members, but this is a community-wide initiative. You can: Sign the Pitt St Petition to our local MP, if you are a local voter; Sign up as an organiser for your own electorate; Collect signatures from family, friends and community.

More Information: <http://www.micahaustralia.org/climate-petition>

Also, join the Pitt St Uniting Earthweb group to help with this and other strategies to help the planet – contact Pitt St office



### RACHEL COLLIS & HER FOUR PIECE BAND

Rachel Collis and her 4-piece band will be performing at Burwood Uniting Church, at 7:30pm on Friday **28 April 2017**. The evening will be opened by singer/songwriter James Donnelly. Tickets are available at the door.



### WITH LOVE TO THE WORLD – A DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

The next edition covering 6 February – 7 May 2017 is now available from Patricia Curthoys or the church office for \$5.00.

### UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA SYNOD WEEKLY NEWS

Subscribe online to keep up with news from the Synod.

<http://www.vision6.com.au/em/forms/subscribe.php?db=408936&s=144683&a=47004&k=83d7ec0>

### PITT STREET ONLINE

#### Sunday Reflections

Read the Reflection: [www.pittstreetuniting.org.au](http://www.pittstreetuniting.org.au)



Watch the Reflection: [bit.ly/PittStreetYouTube](http://bit.ly/PittStreetYouTube)

#### Connect/Follow us



Friend us on Facebook.... <http://www.facebook.com/pittstreetunitingchurch>



Follow us on Twitter... <http://www.twitter.com/PittStUniting>

**Subscribe to E-News**.... Email: [pittstuc@bigpond.com](mailto:pittstuc@bigpond.com)

If you do not have email, pick up a printed copy in the church foyer.

# Notices and Coming Events

## 'WORK OF THE PEOPLE'

Ministry	This week – 26 March Lent 4	Next Week – 2 April Lent 5
1st Reading	Samuel 16:1-13	Ezekiel 37:1-14
2nd Reading	Contemporary Reading	Contemporary Reading
Gospel	John 9:1-41	John 11:1-45
Liturgist	Sue Gehrig	Margaret Mayman
Reflection	Margaret Mayman	Elizabeth Watson
Reader 1	Nick Armitage	Ruth Lambert
Reader 2	Liz Nash	Des Perry
Liturgy Curator	Margaret Mayman	Margaret Mayman
Children's story	Margaret Mayman	Margaret Mayman
Welcomers	Sharon Wellfare Susan Nicholson	Sue McEvilly Gerard McEvilly
Sound Operator	John Floyd	Larry Keenan
Camera Operator	Warwick Tate	Warwick Tate
Organist	Peter Bennett	John Aitchison
Flowers	--	--
Recycler	Margaret Whelan	Meredith Knight
Morning Tea Set up/put away	Mae Cotterell Lyn Hartmann Dal Hartmann Trina Hodgson Ann Perry Roger Perry Helen Sanderson Alison Wishart	Rebecca Andrews Rebecca Bishop Cynthia Coghill Gillian Hunt Lynne Lancaster Phil Ryan Trish Thorpe Angela Williams
Worship Coordinators	Patricia Curthoys Sharon Wellfare Margaret Whelan (P)	Patricia Curthoys Ben Skerman
Communion Team		Robyn Floyd Meredith Knight

Office	264 Pitt Street, Sydney 2000, Tues to Fri 10:30am to 5.30pm	
Office Manager	Alison Fish: pittstuc@bigpond.com Phone: 02 9267 3614	
Minister in Placement	Rev Dr Margaret Mayman m.mayman@gmail.com	0408 690 800 (day off Friday)
Church Council Chair	Paul Cotterell	0434 921 874
Deputy Chair	Elizabeth Nash	0412 005 012
Minister Emerita	Rev Dorothy McRae-McMahon	