

# Pitt Street Uniting Church eNews

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

Wednesday 12 April 2017



Dear Pitt Street People,

I've just spent five days with a Disaster Recovery Chaplaincy Team responding to the Northern NSW floods. I was based at the Lismore Helping Hands Hub, a community initiated welfare centre. From referrals made by SES, the Rural Firefighters and concerned neighbours, we went out in pairs to visit people in their flood damaged homes. The mud and mess were unbelievable. Many of the people we met were already struggling with issues of poverty, illness and family stress. The flood was an emotional tipping point. I had wondered if we might just be in the way. But every day there were powerful, deep conversations with people who were putting their lives and their homes back together. It was good to be able to offer a listening ear and a caring heart. We also provided people with information about how to get other support. The Hub was set up to connect volunteers with people who needed practical and material help. It was a profoundly encouraging place to be.

This Easter, I will remember these people as I hear again the story of Jesus death, and the impact of his life, on his friends and followers. Our liturgy will not claim that Jesus died for us. Instead we will honour Jesus' living and dying in ways that reveal the centrality of what it means to be human, pointing us toward a God who is the source of love, who holds us in all our imperfections and enables us to know ourselves as loved and included in the beloved community; a Divine Presence who is with us in injustice and suffering, working with and through us, to transform what is broken into wholeness and new life.

Peace, Margaret

## THIS WEEK AT PITT STREET...

### Friday 14 April

10 am Good Friday

### Sunday 16 April

10 am Easter Sunday  
(Communion)

3 pm Interfaith in Sydney

All welcome. Theme:

"Deliverance,  
Remembrance, Renewal"

### Tues 18 April

5.30 pm, With One Voice  
Sydney Choir

### Weds 19 April

5 pm Uniting Earthweb  
Fellowship Room. All  
welcome.

### Margaret will be on leave 17-25 April.

*The church office will be closed  
on Good Friday, Easter Monday  
and Anzac Day (25th April).*



**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



### EASTER SERVICES AT PITT STREET

GOOD FRIDAY – 14 April 10am (please note time)  
EASTER SUNDAY – 16 April 10am



### 2017 EASTER VOUCHER APPEAL – UNITING SOCIAL JUSTICE FORUM

As a community, we know that #WeCanDoBetter for refugees and people seeking asylum and making a difference in the life of someone this Easter through the Give Hope Voucher Appeal is a good place to start.

1. Purchase a gift card or voucher to the amount of your choice. This could be a supermarket or department store voucher or even a gift card for a pharmacy, cinema or sports store
2. Send the voucher to: Give Hope Team, PO Box 7137, Silverwater NSW 2128
3. Spread the word about the appeal, connect with us on social media and visit our webpage to learn more.
4. We provide the donated vouchers to Settlement Services International (SSI) who will distribute them to those in need in the community.



### LENT EVENT 2017

There will be a retiring offering on Good Friday for Lent Event, and then funds will be provided to Uniting World, the Uniting Church Assembly agency responsible for international aid and development.



### 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>



### PITT STREET UNITING EARTHWEB GROUP

Join the Pitt St Uniting Earthweb group to help with this and other strategies to help the planet – the next meeting is at 5pm Wednesday **19 April**. Contact Warren Talbot on 0458 852 882 for more information.



### 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.



### ASSEMBLY ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Sydney Alliance are organising this Assembly. NSW Planning Minister Anthony Roberts will be attending. Plans from the Greater Sydney Commission will be discussed. **Thurs May 4th, 6:30pm-8pm**, Venue: West Ryde/Eastwood (Note: Final venue will be within walking distance of station, dependent on numbers) [RSVP](#)

## Notices and Coming Events



### SHOAH MEMORIAL SERVICE

All are invited to a Service for Christians and all people of compassion to remember 1933-1945. St Mary's Cathedral Crypt, 6 pm, **Tues 9 May 2017**. Organised by The Council of Christians and Jews (NSW). One of the Service leaders is Jolyon Bromley, President of the Council of Christians and Jews.



### EAST AFRICA FAMINE: EMERGENCY APPEAL

Envelopes are available if you are able to contribute to this Appeal, being conducted by ACT FOR PEACE (the NCCA Agency which runs the Christmas Bowl). This is the first time that famine has been declared anywhere in the world for six years.



### 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.



### EQUAL VOICES LAUNCH AT PITT STREET – now on You Tube

You can view the recent launch of Equal Voices (an ecumenical organisation of LGBTIQ Christians and allies to recognise, celebrate and support LGBTIQ people in the church) on You Tube. To link to the playlist of 4 videos, including Michael Kirby, go to <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLe510OcGuk9Y-Z5BBBYWJbIMaamSjyg5u>



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### 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)

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# Notices and Coming Events

## 'WORK OF THE PEOPLE'

<b>Ministry</b>	<b>This week – 16 April Easter Sunday</b>	<b>Next Week– 23 April Easter 2</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Jeremiah 31: 1-6	1 Peter 1; 3-9
2nd Reading	Contemporary reading	Contemporary Reading
Gospel	John 20: 1-18	John 20: 19-31
Liturgist	Clare Brockett	Cathy Ashcroft
Reflection	Margaret Mayman	Paul Cotterell
Reader 1	Keith Walkerden	Trish Thorpe
Reader 2	Narelle Scotford	Joyce Page
Liturgy Curator	Margaret Mayman	Elizabeth Watson
Children's story	Margaret Mayman	Worship Team
Welcomers	Margaret Whelan Steve Walkerden	Jill Wright John Wright
Sound Operator	Geoff Maddox	Nick Armitage (L)
Camera Operator	Warwick Tate	Warwick Tate
Organist	John Aitchison	TBA
Flowers	Dawn Robson	John Thorpe
Recycler	Warren Talbot	Gerard McEvelly
Morning Tea	Lyn Corby	Lorrie Evans Sandra Hoffman
Set up/put away	Larry Keenan Chris Longfoot Katherine Lynch Jeanette Matthews Dawn Robson Lionel Robson	Bruce Irvine Liz Irvine Gerard McEvelly Sue McEvelly Joyce Page Norm Sandstrom
Worship Coordinators	Jolyon Bromley Helen Sanderson	Ruth Lambert Dawn Robson
Communion Team	Cathy Ashcroft John Floyd	

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